

A town so in love with Terry Fox warmly embraces his big brother

Fred Fox moved through the big crowd at Stouffville's Terry Fox Run Sunday undetected.

To the more than 1,300 participants and volunteers, he was just another middle-aged dude following the dress code of the day: ball cap, sneakers, shorts and requisite Terry Fox T-shirt.

Of course, he wasn't. Fred Fox is Terry's big brother. Terry's a pretty big deal around these parts.

Fred was eventually introduced to many of the participants and volunteers.

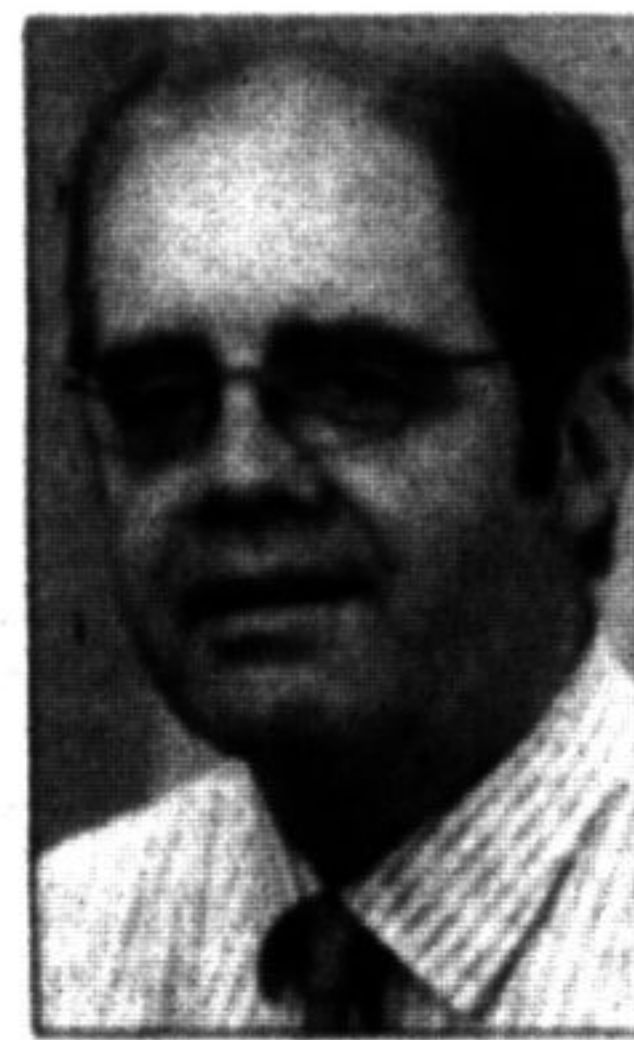
A buzz was created. You'll see many a photo of Fred in Stouffville on Facebook.

Terry's Big Brother had many fine things to say about this town, comparing it to the Vancouver-area community of Port Coquitlam, B.C., home town of the Fox family.

He thanked our community for setting such a fine example.

As a representative of the Terry Fox Foundation's national office in Vancouver, Fred fills his days with visits like this. He was at two of Ontario's other top money-making runs - Stouffville was No. 4 last year - earlier Sunday.

He flew to Saskatchewan



Off The Top
with Jim Mason

later in the day, where he was to speak to groups of students about the Terry Fox National School Run Day, Sept. 26, this week.

But not before posing for a special photograph.

Stouffville run co-ordinator Sandy Schell-Kennedy asked "the Red Shirts", the cancer survivors in the audience to step forward.

Terry Fox is most worthy of the kind of reception Stouffville showed Fred Fox Sunday.

The wave of dozens of the shirts moved to the stage - led by two small

boys. The moment wasn't lost on Fred who quickly pulled out his phone and captured an image of the lads.

The money raised at Terry Fox Run's is poured into research that saves lives.

Whitchurch-Stouffville gets that connection, turning our Terry Fox Run into a community celebration of lives saved and others remembered every September.

That doesn't happen everywhere.

The news last week was peppered with stories of runs being cancelled.

What a shame.

Terry Fox is a national hero taught in our classrooms and remembered on the names of schools and on monuments from coast to coast.

He is worthy of a national holiday.

Worthy of a local street name, given his impact on this town. (How about somewhere on the run's route, councillors?)

Terry Fox is most worthy of the kind of reception Stouffville showed Fred Fox Sunday.

Jim Mason is editor of The Sun-Tribune and a member of Stouffville's Terry Fox Run committee. Follow him on Twitter @stouffeditor

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