

# Terry's Brother Cheers on his Local Heroes

**By Alan Gilday**  
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Canada's hero Terry Fox sat on the bench the first year he played basketball, but he never gave up. That was one of the insights Terry's brother Darrell Fox shared during a recent stop in Caledonia.

Fox, who serves as national director of the Terry Fox Foundation was in town to drum up support for the annual Terry Fox Run, which is scheduled to take place in Dunnville and across Canada this Saturday.

"He was average in every way," said Darrell, who was just 17 years old when he joined his brother on his Marathon of Hope." He was an average athlete and an average student."

Terry tried out for the school basketball team in Grade eight but the coach told him to give it up. Determined to make the team, Terry got up early and practiced basketball as often as he could. He eventually made the team and although he wasn't the best player, the coach liked having him around because he was an inspiration.

"Terry's coach said he was someone who would rise to the challenge and he did," said Fox." He didn't believe what

others said. Instead, he believed in himself."

Dunnville Terry Fox Run organizer Barb Sutcliffe said Terry's goal was to raise one dollar for every person in Canada. Her goal is to raise one dollar for everyone in Dunnville.

"It was very exciting to be able to meet Terry's brother Darrell," she said.

Run organizers on hand to greet Fox enjoyed listening to the stories he told about his brother.

During Terry's his first year at university; he started getting a pain in his knee. Thinking it was a sports-related injury; he didn't go to the doctor to get it checked. He waited until the pain was so bad; he couldn't put any weight on it at all.

"I remember it like yesterday," said Fox. "The doctor came in, said Terry had cancer in his knee and that they were going to amputate his leg in four days."

Terry was determined to be strong in order to overcome his illness-an illness he naively thought would be gone once his leg was taken.

According to Fox, the night before his operation, Terry saw a news story about a man with

one leg who completed the New York Marathon. His first dream was to run like the man in the marathon and his first efforts to do so were very painful.

He competed in a 17-km race but finished dead last, Fox said. "I can still see the smile on his face as he crossed the finish line," said Fox." I wasn't surprised when he said he wanted to run across Canada because he spewed confidence."

Terry started from Newfoundland on April 12, 1980 and ran up to 120 miles a day for 143 days. He covered 3,339 miles before he was forced to quit in Thunder Bay on September 1.

"Terry said,' If I can't finish, I hope others will do more for cancer research'," said Fox. "The Terry Fox run is a continuation of Terry's Marathon of Hope."

Fox said \$21.8 million was raised last year. He also said 90 per cent of every dollar earned goes directly to cancer research.

Reading from his brother's journals, he said,"I want to set an example which will never be forgotten."

Most would agree Terry got his wish.