



Terry Fox

Induction Year: 1980

Category: WAC Bennett Award

Highlights:



- As an athlete and student, Terry's initial prospects were not very encouraging. He was compact, devoid of talent, but crazy to prove himself worthy as a runner, basketball player and first-class student. He worked hard, made the Honour Roll and the basketball and track teams proving that with hard work, commitment and perseverance he could accomplish anything and he did.
- After losing his leg, Terry was recruited to play wheelchair basketball with Rick Hansen. (*see lesson six History and Heroes for Rick's story*)
- Two years after his operation, Terry started a running program. The first mile he ran in the dark, so no one could see him.
- Throughout his training Terry did not tell his family what he was up to. He claimed he wanted to run the Vancouver Marathon.
- Terry changed people's attitude towards the disabled, and he showed that while cancer had claimed his leg, his spirit was unbreakable. Certainly, he showed there were no limits to what an amputee could do.
- For 5,373 kilometres and 143 days, Fox battled wind and snow, then stifling heat and pain, before having to stop outside Thunder Bay, Ontario, because of a recurrence of cancer that eventually took his young life.
- While Terry accepted donations of food and lodging during his run, he was wary of being exploited by companies attempting to blur the line between charity and corporate self-interest. He wore a plain white T-shirt with a silk-screened "Marathon of Hope" message across the front, a pair of grey, nondescript shorts, and scuffed-up Adidas with plastic goo smeared on the underside to extend road life. Adidas donated the shoes, but Fox wouldn't wear the company's logo. No part of him was for sale.
- The first Terry Fox Run was held in September 1981 – more than 300,000 people walked or ran or cycled in his memory and raised \$3.2 million.



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- Terry's parents, Betty and Rolly Fox, keep Terry's diary of the run along with the glass gallon jug he filled at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean as mementoes from Terry's journey while other items are in storage or on display at the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum
- Just before he began his two-year, round-the-world tour for spinal cord research in 1985, Hansen was given a small statue or maquette of Terry by his parents, Betty and Rolly Fox. The maquette is a replica of the 2.7-metre (nine-foot) bronze statue just outside Thunder Bay that marks the aborted end of Fox's run. The miniature is kept on Hansen's desk as a motivating symbol in his personal and professional life. "I took that statue all around the world with me," he says. "Whenever I felt like quitting, Terry was there for me."
- So much has been done to help us remember Terry Fox; books, movies, coins, stamps, statues, monuments, schools, theatres, a mountain, but really Terry's legacy lives on because of who he was and what he did and the fact that the annual keeps Terry's dream alive in all of us for the great hero that Terry was.

