

City welcomes back Terry Fox runners



Photo by Joel Watson

By Samantha Quinn

Families and friends gathered to celebrate Belleville's 33rd annual Terry Fox Run Sunday.

The Terry Fox Run was held Sept. 15 at Lions Pavilion Zwicks Island from 8 a.m. to noon as a non-competitive, completely volunteer-driven event.

At the end of the day, Belleville's Terry Fox Run welcomed 186 participants of all ages, bringing in \$9,000 in donations.

After last year's Terry Fox Run in Belleville was cancelled because of a lack of volunteers, Vicki Samaras took over as organizer of the event, determined it would never happen again.

"I hope for volunteers to get the word out to more people for next year to make it more of a tradition in the community now that people know it is back for good," says Samaras.

This year's Terry Fox Run received funding and donations from many organizations around Belleville, such as Reid's Dairy, No Frills, Fresco, Starbucks, Walmart, and Culligan water for items such as food, coffee, water, gift cards and money donations.

"This is our first year. When Vicki came out to do the run last year, there was no one here, so it was cancelled. She walked the route by herself as a participant with no registration. It was so disappointing," said Demetra Samaras, Vicki's sister, "After Vicki having a cancer scare herself, and losing our father in August 2012, she started doing the Terry Fox Run every year since 1996."

Cancer survivor Barb Lloyd and her family attended their first Terry Fox Run this year to

support Lloyd and honour her mother who passed away.

"I raised \$250 this year alone, but all together we raised \$865," said Lloyd.

Lloyd's family members came from Picton, Gananoque and Toronto, as well as places as far as Buffalo, N.Y., to be together for their first Terry Fox Run.

"I think that this year was so successful because she has been very vocal; she has gone to city council, local radio stations, nationwide on CBC, local newspapers, drumming up support on her website and Facebook page, as well as word of mouth," said her sister.

"I believe the Terry Fox Run will always be there because unlike other charities, people have a special connection to Terry Fox as an inspiration," said Samaras.

The City of Belleville also provided much support by supplying picnic tables and offering the use of Zwicks Island for the event.

"For next year, I hope to put out posters and more awareness, get better at knowing who to contact sooner rather than later, such as the college, so they can put it in their planners," said Samaras. "I also hope to get student volunteers to set up a booth in the middle of the route to provide water."

On Sept. 15, bells chimed at Terry Fox Foundation's Ontario head office in Toronto every time a run site called in with their earnings.

On the last chime, the Terry Fox Foundation celebrated raising \$22 million across Canada.

"This experience has been amazing, overwhelming, and one of the best days of my life," said Samaras after the event.

Amy Karlin (right) and her brother Micheal Karlin (left) of Ottawa, Ontario are running together in the annual Terry Fox Run at Zwicks Park in Belleville. The Karlins ran for their grandfather who is dying of cancer.



Photo by Samantha Quinn

Amy and Michael Karlin attended Belleville's 33rd annual Terry Fox Run.

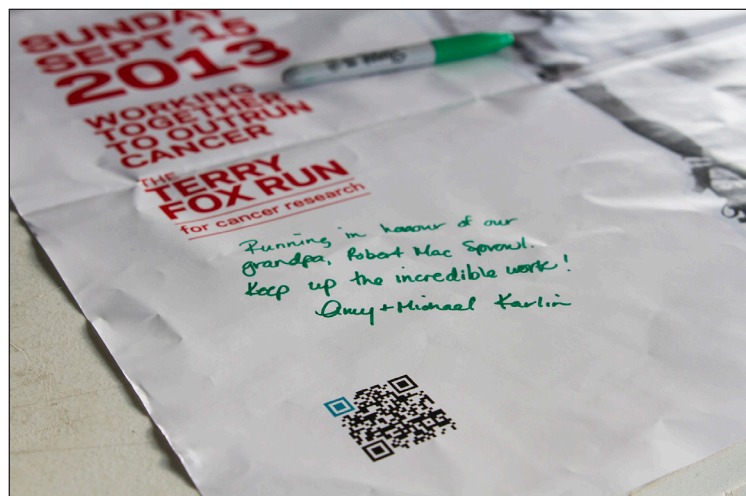


Photo by Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

After last year's cancellation of the Terry Fox Run, there were many supporters who attended this year's event. Michael Karlin and Amy Karlin drove from Ottawa to attend in honour of their grandfather, who is terminally ill.



Photo by Samantha Quinn

Thomas Lloyd, 2, sits on his aunt's shoulders while his family walks in the annual Terry Fox Run. This was the Lloyd family's first time and they successfully raised \$865 towards cancer research.



Photo by Justin Chin

A woman runs at the Terry Fox Run for Cancer on Sept. 15 at Zwicks Island. This was the 33rd year the Terry Fox Run was organized across Canada. The run raises awareness and gives support to cancer patients and commemorates those lives which have taken away by cancer.