

## Determined runner braves winter hazards in cross-Canada trek

Steve Fonyo, the 19 year old one-legged runner from Vernon, British Columbia, who is running 7 190 kilometres across Canada to raise money for cancer research, is determined to continue his run despite possible health hazards and dangerous road conditions in winter on the Canadian prairies.

"If I can run in Vernon in five feet of snow, I can run across Canada in winter," the optimistic runner said. "It's another challenge, I want to beat that winter," he added.

Mr. Fonyo's left leg was amputated above the knee when he was 12 due to bone cancer. After learning to walk again with his artificial replacement, he became almost as active as he had been before surgery. At recess in school, he played baseball and football with the other children, ran and could kick a ball with his good leg.

Two years ago he began working as a volunteer in a rehabilitation centre for the mentally handicapped at Surrey, British Columbia. Although he was driven to the centre each day, he had to find his own way home and he chose to run.

He continued his volunteer work when his family moved again to Vernon, and during this period took up running seriously.

The Journey for Lives cross-country run by Mr. Fonyo started on March 30, 1984 during a snowstorm in St. John's, Newfoundland where he dipped his artificial leg in the Atlantic Ocean.

### Passed Terry Fox

On December 1, after running about 5 000 kilometres, Steve Fonyo passed the point where Terry Fox was forced to give up his run for cancer research. Mr. Fonyo spent a quiet moment at the granite and bronze monument of Terry Fox that overlooks Thunder Bay and placed a spray of holly from his hometown in honour of his predecessor who was also from British Columbia.

This northwestern Ontario city marked the last stop for Mr. Fox's Marathon of Hope in 1980. He was forced to quit his cross-Canada run because of a recurrence of the cancer that took his right leg above the knee. He died on June 28, 1981 after raising millions of dollars for cancer research.

At the Terry Fox memorial in Thunder Bay, Steve Fonyo said he was thinking about what Terry went through as well as his own run. He said "I'm not following in Terry's footsteps, I'm making my own trail now" but he maintains Terry was his inspiration for the run.

Mr. Fonyo's Journey for Lives has raised more than \$500 000 for cancer research, patient service and public education. A Cana-

dian Cancer Society official has predicted his movement into western Canada may bring a surge of donations as he tries to complete the remaining 2 175 kilometres. None of the pledge money is being spent financing the run; it is being paid for by donations.

After a short break to return home for Christmas with his family Mr. Fonyo resumed his run on January 3 near Dryden, Ontario.

Doctors have warned him of the winter hazards and that he will be risking pneumonia, frostbite and strain on his heart by running in arctic conditions on the barren prairies. He has vowed to continue the run, however, saying "I won't be back to British Columbia until I run there".

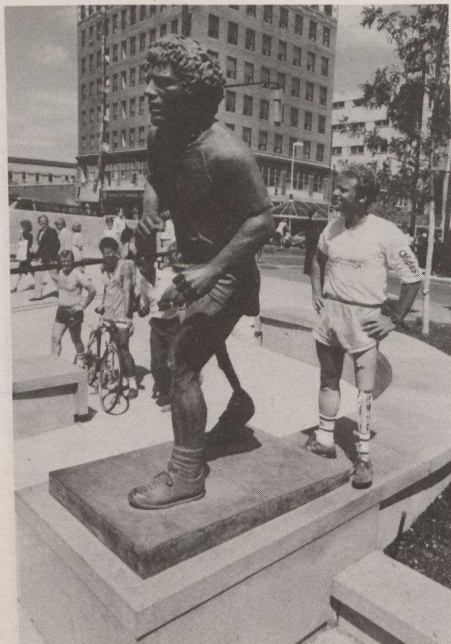
Mr. Fonyo runs on the paved shoulder of the highway, but will occasionally move to the gravel to let traffic pass. With him is a trailer, a police car, and usually members of the Canadian Cancer Society.

### Long hours

He begins his run at 7 a.m. each day and runs up to ten hours. "I listen to music and, when I'm not, I just try to get a concentration going, following the white line. Your mind wanders, sometimes you don't know where you are," he says.

When he stops, he says, he is tired and sore. He averages about 30 kilometres a day, but once, in New Brunswick, he did 46 kilometres.

Every few weeks, at the insistence of the



Steve Fonyo stands by the statue of Terry Fox in Ottawa when he stopped there in August during his cross-Canada run to raise money for cancer.

Canadian Cancer Society, he has a complete medical examination. He has suffered from a bleeding foot, an irritated stump, shin splints (which pulled him off the road for a week in Montreal) and exhaustion.

While en route, he has been experimenting with the spring-action artificial leg as a substitute for his \$2 000 hydraulic leg. The spring leg is supposed to take up much of the shock of the road but he still feels more comfortable with the hydraulic leg which he has worn for seven years and on which he learned to walk again.

Mr. Fonyo's greatest concern now is to find the proper clothing and to guard himself against the -40°C temperatures he can expect across the prairies. He expects to arrive in Vancouver, British Columbia in April.

## Junior hockey heroes

Team Canada came back to tie Czechoslovakia 2-2 in Helsinki, Finland on New Year's Day and the result gave Canada its second gold medal in the world junior championship since the competition began in 1977.

The Canadians and the Czechs finished with identical records of five wins and two ties, but the Canadians won the tournament's gold medal on the basis of a goals-for-and-against differential of 30 compared to 19 for the Czechs. Team Canada achieved this chiefly as a result of its 5-0 win over of the Soviet Union earlier in the three-week tournament.

The success of the team was attributed to a combination of excellent penalty killing, solid goal-tending by Craig Billington and strong checking by the forwards and defencemen.

Canada will defend its championship next season when the world junior tournament will be held in Hamilton and neighbouring Southern Ontario cities.

## Canadian sharp-skaters

Canadians won three of the four titles at the world professional figure-skating championships in Jaca, Spain at the end of December.

Brian Pockar of Calgary, Alberta took the men's gold medal. Karen Taylor of Sarnia, Ontario and Robert Burk of Ridgeway, Ontario captured the dance event. Barbara Underhill of Oshawa, Ontario and Paul Martini of Woodbridge, Ontario, won the pairs' championship.

Brian Pockar compiled 69.424 points to finish ahead of runner-up Adam Leib of the US. Daniel Beland of Montreal took the bronze medal. Karen Taylor and Robert Burk compiled 72.870 points for the dance title.