

## From sea to sea: one-legged runner aids cancer research

Steve Fonyo, the determined young man from Vernon, British Columbia, who lost his left leg to cancer when he was 12 years old, has completed his cross-Canada, 7 924-kilometre "Journey for Lives" run to raise money for cancer research.

Having experienced every variation in Canada's geography and climate, Steve Fonyo dipped his artificial leg in the Pacific Ocean in driving rain on May 29, 14 months after starting his run on March 30, 1984, during a snowstorm in St. John's, Newfoundland, where he dipped his leg in the Atlantic Ocean. (See *Canada Weekly*, January 23, 1985.)

During his run, Steve Fonyo met numerous challenges and overcame many hurdles. Until he passed the point near Thunder Bay where Terry Fox's "Marathon of Hope" came to an end, he was compared to the first young man who attempted the run across Canada. Terry Fox was forced to quit his run in 1980 because of a recurrence of cancer. He died on June 28, 1981.

### Many artificial limbs

Using seven manufactured legs for the run, Steve Fonyo often experienced medical difficulties including bleeding, blisters, pain and infection in the stump of his left leg. Over the last few weeks, his run slowed to a walk as he endured the pain of tendonitis in his right leg.

Arriving in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on January 31, after logging more than 5 000 kilometres, he had raised about \$600 000. As he crossed the prairies and especially after he entered his home province of British Columbia, enthusiasm for his efforts increased dramatically and he was met and encouraged by supporters along the route as well as the influx of donations for cancer research.

By the end of the run, Canadians from coast to coast had contributed about \$5.8 million to the Journey for Lives run and the Alberta government, which had announced that it would match all contributions made in the province, donated an additional \$1.8 million. The British Columbia government announced it would contribute \$1 000 for every kilometre he travelled in the province.

### Fund established

At the official ceremony celebrating the end of Fonyo's cross-Canada run in support of cancer education, services to cancer patients and cancer research, the federal government announced that a grant of \$1 million would be given to the Canadian Cancer Society for the establishment of the Stephen Fonyo Fund.



Canapress

*Steve Fonyo dips his artificial leg in the Pacific Ocean after completing his 7 924-kilometre Journey for Lives run across Canada to raise money for cancer research.*

"The Fonyo Fund is one way the people of Canada can recognize the tremendous will and drive of this young man and the hope he has given to us all," said Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp. "He is an outstanding example of what the youth of this country can do to surmount seemingly impossible obstacles. He is indeed a fitting ambassador for Canada's youth in this International Year for Youth," he added.

The Stephen Fonyo Fund will focus on two sides of cancer control: supporting families of children with cancer and helping primary care physicians to better their skills in cancer prevention, early detection and treatment.

Half of the fund will be used to establish a national co-ordinating secretariat to provide encouragement, direction and support to local self-help groups across Canada for parents with children who have cancer.

The other half will provide Stephen Fonyo Training Fellowships to some 125 general practitioners over the next five years. The doctors will be given a month's specialized training at cancer control and treatment clinics in each province, with special attention to pain management as well as palliative and rehabilitative care. They will also carry back to their practices a greater emphasis on healthy life-styles, cancer prevention and early diagnosis.

## Student business centres

The Ontario Ministry of Industry and Trade is creating innovation centres for business development at York University, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Centennial College, George Brown College and Humber College. Each of the Toronto area universities and colleges will match the funding received from the government.

Industry and Trade Minister Andy Brandt said the on-campus innovation centres "will strengthen the links between the university and the private sector and encourage development of entrepreneurs within the post-secondary environment".

The facilities are part of a network of innovation centres at universities and community colleges across the province being funded through the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Mr. Brandt said that "these centres are a \$6.725-million component of the Enterprise Ontario program, which seeks to ensure that we have a healthy small business community, that our companies have the latest technology and that our schools and training programs provide the right skills and entrepreneurial spirit".

The role of the centres will be to provide business advice and counselling to students and faculty wishing to commercialize products and processes; to provide a brokerage service between post-secondary entrepreneurs and the private sector; and to market the universities' and colleges' resources to help industry develop new products and processes.

## Distinguished entrepreneur

Paul G. Desmarais was presented with the first International Distinguished Entrepreneur Award recently at a dinner in his honour in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The award was established this year by the University of Manitoba to honour a business executive who has achieved international stature, outstanding entrepreneurial success and made an exemplary contribution to the economic life of Canada at an international level.

Mr. Desmarais, who was born in Sudbury, Ontario, in 1927, is chancellor of Memorial University of Newfoundland and is chairman of the fund-raising campaign for the University of Montreal. He has received honorary degrees from seven universities and in 1984 was named an Officer of the Order of Canada. He is chairman of Power Corp. of Canada and director of a number of firms. In 1978, he led the first Canadian senior businessmen's mission to China.