

BACKGROUND

Terry Fox: Into the Heart of Canada – a Royal BC Museum feature exhibition

April 12–October 1, 2017

“This run is not for me. It’s for people like you who someday may have to fight what I have had to.” – Terry Fox

Terry Fox

Terry Fox was a young Canadian athlete who lost a leg to cancer and set out to run a “Marathon of Hope” across Canada to raise money for cancer research in 1980.

Terry ran for 143 days, 5,373 kilometres (3,339 miles) from St. John’s, Newfoundland, to Thunder Bay, Ontario. This is the same distance as running from Paris, France, to Cairo, Egypt (5,312 km). He was forced to abandon his run when his cancer returned. But Terry’s integrity, determination, courage and sacrifice won the hearts of Canadians—and indeed, people around the world.

Terry Fox’s story continues to be retold and re-enacted in annual fundraising runs, and he has come to embody the nature of true heroism for Canadians. In 2004, Canadians ranked him number two in the popular CBC TV show, *The Greatest Canadian*.

About the Exhibition (#RBCMTerryFox)

Developed by the Canadian Museum of History in partnership with the Terry Centre, the exhibition begins with the impact of Terry Fox on modern Canadian life—the numerous schools, community centres, and features of the landscape named for him, the Canadian coins, stamps, and passports bearing his image. The exhibition starts by posing a question: “Who was Terry Fox?” The rest of the exhibition is the answer.

“During the Marathon of Hope and the months that followed, Canadians filled our home in Port Coquitlam, BC, with scrapbooks, letters and gifts,” said Darrell Fox, Terry’s brother. “We’re honoured to share some of our collection and to help tell this important story.”

The story of the “Marathon of Hope” is told through maps and a wealth of contemporary photographs and newspaper imagery. The exhibition includes sections showing a day-in-the-life of the run, Terry’s “Marathon of Hope” T-shirts, cards and letters sent by Canadians, the heart-breaking end of the Marathon, and the thrilling story of Terry Fox’s ongoing legacy.



Visitors will be greeted by an iconic Ford E250 Econoline van that provided shelter for Terry while he was inspiring the nation on his “Marathon of Hope.” This is the only opportunity for Canadians to see the van as part of the exhibition, apart from its original display at the Canadian Museum of History.

Canada 150 (#Canada150)

2017, when the country celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation, is a year of celebration for Canada. To mark this milestone, the Royal BC Museum is pleased to present this unique and intimate account of a Canadian hero who grew up in British Columbia, one of the most renowned, admired and honoured people in Canadian history.

***Family: Bonds and Belonging* (#RBCMFamily)**

Terry Fox’s family set an inspiring example of the incredible strength of family bonds. They are the driving force behind keeping his dream alive and have raised over \$715 million for cancer research in Terry’s name.

This complimentary feature exhibition, open June 2 to October 31, 2017, created by the Royal BC Museum, looks at the bonds that keep families together. *Family: Bonds and Belonging* explores the concept of family, inviting interactions and emotional responses from visitors.

About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province’s human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.

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Media contact:

Royal BC Museum Media Inquiries
778-679-1379 news@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca
#RBCMTerryFox

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