

In 1999, Michelle Fuller was a regional sales manager with an international beverage company living in Calgary Alberta and celebrating her 30th birthday when she thought that life could not get any better. That same year was her first bout with cancer. She was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma and underwent chemo, radiation and an extensive surgery that removed most of the right side of her face. It took 5 years of treatments and convalescence to regain her strength and sense of self.

It was during this time that she reached out to The Terry Fox Foundation asking if there was a way that she could give back. Michelle had a special connection with the foundation as when she was 11 years old and a student at Eliot River Elementary school, there was a young man running across Canada to raise money for cancer research. He was coming to her school and she was chosen to present him with the money that her school had raised. It was the first time she had heard the word cancer and that young man was Terry Fox.



The foundation immediately met with her and in 2005 she became a Terry's Team Member, speaking at schools and businesses and doing the marketing and media for the Edmonton Terry Fox Run. Michelle remained cancer free and moved to Crossbow Place with her husband in 2011. In 2012, her cancer returned to her left lung and her brain. She underwent surgery to remove her left lobe, radiation to the brain and 6 more months of chemo.

She never missed a Terry Fox Run. Two of her doctors have received funding from the Terry Fox Foundation so she is a direct recipient of her fundraising. She continued to speak at schools and universities and to retreat settings. In 2015, she was an event organizer for a Canmore fundraiser for the foundation. Michelle and Henri completed the grueling Terry Fox Trek on Mount Terry Fox in 2018. In 2019, her cancer returned to her right lung and she had part of her middle right lobe removed.



In 2020, during the pandemic, Michelle began to walk and hike daily with her husband, Henri Ferguson. On June 4th, she decided to do Kilometres for Terry and track her mileage so people could sponsor her kilometres. When she looked back to see what date she started tracking, it was, by sheer coincidence, April 12th, the exact date that Terry started his run in 1980, forty years ago. To date, Michelle and her husband have logged over 1900km and raised just over \$14,000.

Although the run is over, Michelle continues to fundraise because the medical battle with cancer is far from over. If you are interested in donating, go to www.terryfox.ca/fullersfighters or www.terryfox.ca/michellefuller. Any donation of \$20 and over will receive an automatic tax receipt. Michelle is still followed closely by her cancer doctors but is, at present, cancer free and she thanks you in advance for any donation. Every dollar counts and 87 cents from every dollar goes directly to cancer research.

In 2018, Sue Anne Linde wrote a biography, A Fuller Life, about Michelle Fuller. Michelle and Henri have lived at Crossbow Point for nine years.

“I can be changed by what happens to me but I am not reduced by it.”

