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Ducks swim for Terri Faces AND Places

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The plight of a little girl, thousands of kilometres away, inspired a group of swimmers in Aurora to wade across the English Channel Sunday. Or at least the equivalent of the 35-kilometre swim.

Members of the Aurora Ducks Swim Club swam laps at St. Andrew's College to raise money for Terri Calvesbert, a little girl in England who was severely burned in a house fire before her second birthday five years ago.

Aurora's event was one of 70 fundraisers as countries around the world took part in a Swim for Terri.

About \$2,600 was raised from Aurora, said Master Ducks Swim Club president Nancy Black, who spearheaded the event.

"I have an eight-year-old daughter of my own," Ms Black said. "To know (Terri) was a burn victim overwhelmed me."

Ms Black learned of Terri's hardship through a forum with colleagues.

Also, Terri's story was made into a documentary that ran on British television last June.

She suffered burns to 90 per cent of her body. After losing her hands, toes, ears, nose and much of her skin, Terri, who is now seven years old, has already endured 16 operations and there will likely will be many more.

What began as a small fundraising idea among friends was quickly embraced around the world. Swims were held in Fiji, Ireland, France and



Staff Photo/Bill Roberts

About 42 members of Aurora Ducks Swim Club took part in the Swim for Terri fundraiser Sunday, each swimming 80 lengths of the pool to raise money for Terri Calvesbert, an English burn victim. Local swimmers raised about \$2,600. Front is Eva Najemnikova, Lori Haws (left) Susan Allen and Jim Talbot.

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Australia, to name a few.

A trust fund for Terri was set up in 1999 in the hopes of raising about \$12,000.

As of October 2003, more than \$360,000 has been raised worldwide.

While only swim club members and local councillors participated this year, members of the public were invited to come out and cheer on participants.

For more information about the Swim for Terri and the Master Ducks Swim Club, visit www.masterducks.ca or www.swimforterri.org

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