



Sarino Genovese, marketing consultant for Cing 108 FM (left), and Gary Cutler, general manager for The Deacon's Bench (right), hold a \$1,555 cheque from a woman who won two Cabbage Patch dolls in raffles over the air. The proceeds, and any other donations, are being forwarded to the Barbara Turnbull Fund.

(Staff photo by Tim Chevlier)

Full-time fundraiser walking for Barbara

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By SUE BOCK
Staff Writer

The man walking across Canada for Barbara Turnbull has quit his government job to devote all his time to full-time fundraising.

Bill Mole, 35, had planned to take a six-month leave of absence to raise money for the paralyzed girl but resigned his Department of Veterans' Affairs post when he reached Calgary from British Columbia. He hopes to reach Toronto by March 6.

Mole has been raising money for various Canadians across the country since 1979, the International Year of the Child. A visit to his hospitalized sister started it all.

Mole said his 22-year-old sister has been completely paralyzed since she was 10 months old.

"I saw her lying there — never to speak or walk or talk again — and I mentioned to the nurses that mercy-killing might be an option," Mole said.

"Boy, did I get a good lecture from them. They told me to look closer and then I could tell that she was trying to communicate with the children with her eyes."

Mole then decided to raise money for her care. He said he later realized that people all over the country needed help the same way and has been involved in walkathons ever since.

He's helped organize and raise \$150,000 in Toronto's Terry Fox Run. got together \$10,000 for a Filipino boy

with a hole in his heart and has raised thousands of dollars for about 25 other people he thought needed help, he said.

Mole hopes to raise \$500,000 for Barbara in his walk across the country. He's already collected \$100,000 in pledges from the western provinces.

Mole will meet mayors of 42 towns, villages and cities during his walk. He said he tries to average 35 miles a day.

"It's also a good way to see the country at the same time. I'm also taking pictures for greeting, Christmas and get-well cards to help raise money for the Barbara Turnbull Fund."

Mole said that he wasn't a very religious man when he began his trek but several incidents have strengthened his faith.

"It seems like I'm always in the right place at the right time. I would get in to see the mayor of some town and would then be informed he was starting his vacation the next day."

"When I was in Regina I became very tired and thought, 'If You're up there, a car will be waiting for me at the second telephone pole.' Then I got there and there was a car."

Mole said he would be living on donations of free meals and accommodation during the walk.

"I'm not a professional fundraiser — I don't get paid. People have just been helping me out along the way."