

# Completing the 251 Club journey in the city where it began

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**WINOOSKI, Vt. (WCAX)** Winooski-native Dave DeVarney, 61, finished his goal of running through all 251 towns and cities in Vermont and joining the 251 club on Sunday.



DeVarney currently lives in Rhode Island, but over the last 19 months he traveled back to his home state of Vermont and worked on his goal which took 172 days of running and over 1,600 miles.

"There is more around here than just Lake Champlain as I've discovered. There's lakes I never knew existed," said DeVarney.

He had over a dozen friends and family cheering him on at his finish line of town 251. Most of the people there supporting DeVarney have been helping him along the way offering rides to his next community.

"I have appreciation that they took the time out to come see me through it," said DeVarney.

The 251 club was established in 1954 and according to their website they have over 6,000 members. The website describes the adventure as "Travel at your own pace, in a season or in a lifetime, by car, on foot, or whatever conveyance suits your style. There are no rules, no records to keep, no requirements."

DeVarney chose to run through each city and town.

"Visit your state there is so much to learn. Get out of the house, if you have health limitations just take that one extra step every day," said DeVarney.

That message is something that his supporters have taken away from helping him on his journey.

"You can try more than you think you can I think it's been the biggest message for him," said Susan Lemieux, a childhood friend of DeVarney's.

As for what's next for DeVarney now that he completed running through every town and city in Vermont.

"Looking for my next challenge, I've been thinking about doing a Long Trail. I'm still looking maybe 10 years from now running around the United States as part of the Year 250th celebration," he said.

DeVarney said he had many memorable moments along the way. He was chased by dogs, crossed paths with a bear and even ran into an old friend who recognized him running on the side of the street. And that's the goal of the 251 club, to get people to visit each town not just drive through.