

July 6, 2015

***Nobody Does It Alone* supports cancer centre at RVH**

Midland resident Michael Dupuis recently donated proceeds from his *Nobody Does it Alone* cycling fundraiser to the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) in Barrie. Dupuis was inspired to complete the seven-day, 750 km bike ride because of a family member's recent battle with cancer. During that time, Dupuis and his family received support from not only the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program, but also from the Simcoe Muskoka community.

The ride took place in honour of his mother's recent battle with cancer, which she was able to beat and conquer. She could not have done it without the ongoing support that she and her family received during this hard time. Dupuis wants to make sure that anyone who is battling cancer, or is supporting someone who is battling the disease, knows there are support services available to them within their own community.

"Life is awesome," says Dupuis. "On the other end of the scale, helping a family member do battle with cancer is a devastating blow to the patient, as well as the surrounding family and friends."

On June 19 – during the second last stop on his ride - Dupuis visited RVH to present Tracey Keighley-Clarke, operations director of the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre and Mental Health and Addictions Program with a \$2,500 cheque. The funds were raised from the purchase of sponsor tags. Tags could be purchased for \$10 a kilometer and the amount of kilometres sponsored by an individual or organization was shown on the tag. The tags were attached to his bike and rode with Dupuis for the duration of his ride. Now that the ride is complete, all of the tags will be returned to donors. This is Dupuis' sixth year fundraising money for cancer research. To date he has raised a total of \$65,000.

The most unique element of Dupuis' ride across central and southwestern Ontario was that he completed it on his 37-year-old tandem bike outfitted with OTTO Pilot - a copper pipe companion which, placed in the second seat, represented all of those who were unable to participate but supported the cause. *Nobody Does it Alone* started on June 13 in Toronto, making stops in Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Simcoe, Stratford, Orangeville, Barrie, and finished June 20 in Balm Beach, outside of Midland.

Outline: Michael Dupuis stopped by the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Centre at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) to deliver a cheque to Tracey Keighley-Clarke, operations director for the Simcoe Muskoka Regional Cancer Program and Mental Health and Addictions Program for \$2,500. The money was raised during *Nobody Does it Alone* - a seven-day, 750 km ride across southwestern and central Ontario inspired by watching Dupuis' mother courageously battle cancer.

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About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH's team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca