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THE WINDSOR STAR

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Motorcycle cruise to aid angioplasty services

The Windsor Star

If you've got a hawg and a heart, Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital and CAW Local 444 would like a word with you.

The hospital and union, along with the Canada South Blues Society, kicked off their awareness campaign for the Bluesin' 'n' Cruisin' Ride for the Heart, which for the second year will be held to raise funds for the angioplasty program at the hospital.

"We understand that there is about another two years before we actually have another angioplasty bed in the city of Windsor and we're trying to do everything we can do get it quicker," said CAW Local 444 vice-president Dino Chiodo.

"In the city of Windsor we have about 100 individuals that have heart attacks every year that have to be rushed to Detroit with regards to angioplasty service," said Chiodo.

"The reality is it costs \$40,000 for every one of those people that are being transported there. So that's the tune of a provincial expense of \$4 million."

Chiodo said that extra money could be better spent in other areas of health care.

Dr. Amr Morsi, an interventional cardiologist at Hotel-Dieu, spoke about the need for expanded angioplasty access in the area.

The event takes place June 20 with registration beginning at 9 a.m. on Ouellette Avenue outside the hospital.

The ride embarks at 10 a.m. and will make several poker run stops throughout Windsor and Essex County before wrapping up at Place Concorde.

Early registration takes place until June 13. The cost is \$30 for each rider and \$20 for each passenger. After June 13 the fees rise by \$10.

To register early and print out pledge forms visit www.hdgh.org/events, or call 519-973-4443.

Last year 100 participants raised \$8,500. Chiodo said this year's target is in excess of \$10,000.

ILLUS: Colour Photo: Nick Brancaccio, The Windsor Star / It didn't take Mike Wells long to find a few prospective riders during Bluesin' 'n' Cruisin' Ride for the Heart kickoff at Place Concorde Wednesday. Joining CAW Local 444 event co-ordinator Wells on his stationary Harley-Davidson were Hayley Morgan, left, Christine Mitchell and Kim Dendiuk, right, all of Hotel-Dieu Grace Hospital.