

Ride for Dad hits new high



Motorcycle riders cruise down the street during the Ride for Dad motorcycle ride that started at the WFCU Centre and continued through Windsor on May, 30. The event raises money for prostate cancer research. Photograph by: Ben Nelms, The Windsor Star

By Chris Thompson, The Windsor Star May 31, 2010

WINDSOR, Ont. -- The rumbling ribbon of chrome and rubber that is the Motorcycle Ride for Dad wound its way throughout Essex County Sunday, with motorcyclists raising more than \$75,000 for prostate cancer research in the process.

"We've had more riders this year than ever, over 1,100" Chris Libby, co-chair of the Ride for Dad.

"I think we'll raise over \$75,000."

It's the sixth local edition of the event, which drew 950 riders last year and raised \$70,000.

The funds raised go to the Windsor and Essex County Cancer Foundation and to national cancer organizations.

The ride took place with ideal conditions under sunny skies with the temperature reaching 30 C.

The motorcycles, everything from large Harleys to racing-style bikes and even motorized tricycles, amassed at the WFCU Centre before hitting the road, taking half an hour to clear the arena's parking lot.

From there it was on to Riverside Drive and to St. Clair College, then Meadows by the Lake in Amherstburg, and venues in Kingsville, Leamington and Essex before a gathering at the end of the day at the Ciociaro Club.

Gary St. Denis, 53, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2008, and had surgery in London in March 2009.

On Sunday he rode on the back of his friend Mike Wrafter's Harley Davidson Heritage Classic.

"I thought I was in a Cadillac," said St. Denis, to which Wrafter adds: "He was."

St. Denis said his cancer diagnosis was devastating at first.

"You feel like your life's been turned upside down, and you don't know which way to go," said St. Denis, who also endured radiation treatment.

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