

Cycling Across Canada to Raise Awareness for Huntington Disease

(KITCHENER, ON) April 18, 2016 –When Marty Denonville’s sister-in-law found out that her three children had Huntington disease he knew he had to do something -something big! That’s when he decided to team up with long-time friend, Jim Stewart, and the two decided to cycle across Canada this summer to raise awareness and funds in support of families who are affected by Huntington disease.

Volunteers are at the heart of the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC). Our volunteers tell a powerful story of caring people who pull together to improve the quality of life for Canadians impacted by Huntington disease (HD). Marty Denonville and Jim Stewart are two such volunteers who are sharing their own story by cycling across Canada.

As Denonville describes it, “One of them started exhibiting symptoms of the disease and the other two were tested and diagnosed as well,” he said. “It’s a brutal disease and has a devastating effect not only on those who have the disease, but on their families as well. It’s just not fair.”

Two guys, four wheels, and one cause - with a goal of raising \$25,000 and ensuring that all Canadians know about HD and its ferocious impact. Many describe the symptoms of HD as having ALS, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s – simultaneously.

To start their cross-Canada tour the pair will host a kick-off bash at Royal Canadian Legion Branch #255 in Riverside, Ontario on May 1st, 2016 from 1 - 5pm. This coincides with the Huntington Society of Canada’s Light It Up 4 HD campaign, where the pair and their guests will travel to Caesars Windsor Hotel and Casino to see the venue light up in blue and purple, blue for Huntington disease and purple for Juvenile Huntington disease. #LightItUp4HD is an international event with several provinces and countries around the world participating. In Ontario, venues such as Niagara Falls, Guelph City Hall, the City of Welland Bridge and the CN Tower in Toronto will participate.

Tickets for this kick-off bash are \$25 per person and includes a meal by Donna’s Deli, and live music by Cross-Eyed Cat and The Aardvark Blues Band. Tickets are available in Windsor at The Running Factory, Bicycle World, Pursuit Massage Therapy and Recovery Centre, Windsor Chapel or by contacting Carrie Lee (519-890-7148) or Alex Denonville (519-995-9196). You can also purchase them from their webpage at www.Twofourone.org.

Departing by 9am on May 14 at Stanley Park in Vancouver, BC, the bike ride will wind through Canada with a goal to finish in St. John’s, NL on July 31, 2016. The pair expect that it will take them 79 days to complete the entire bike ride, covering an average of 120-125 km per day with a total distance of 7500 km.

Huntington disease (HD) is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. HD causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington's become less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with Huntington disease across Canada.

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