



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Friday, July 16, 2010

17-YEAR-OLD CANCER SURVIVOR TRADES IN WHEELCHAIR FOR RECUMBENT BIKE IN EPIC CYCLING EVENT

Calgary, AB – Seventeen-year-old **Stephen Radu** of Lacombe, Alberta will demonstrate the **triumph of the human spirit, July 16 to 18, 2010**, when he takes part in **Tour for Kids – Alberta**, a three-day annual cycling ride that raises money to send children with cancer to camp.

Stephen was diagnosed with an **aggressive brain cancer** when he was 13 years old. After undergoing intensive brain surgery and radiation, five rounds of chemotherapy and four stem cell transplants, Stephen was left with **cerebral mutism**, a side effect from the surgery that **robbed him of all movement and speech**. After years of physiotherapy and speech therapy, Stephen is now on the road to recovery. He's traded in his wheelchair for a recumbent bicycle, which he will ride on the three-day cycling tour. Stephen calls the bike a Bentley.

"It was definitely scary," said Stephen of his cancer journey, "but what I took from it is that nothing is impossible."

Stephen will be joined by two other childhood cancer survivors, **Taylor Wheatley (21) of Calgary, Alberta** and **Adam Fedosoff (16) of Barrie, Ontario**. Both Stephen's and Adam's fathers, **Richard Radu** and **Jason Fedosoff** are joining their sons on the ride, bringing the total number of cyclists to 110. The cyclists will be pedaling between **100 and 224 kilometres per day** through the Rocky Mountains. Those who choose the longest route will have cycled **512 kilometres** by the time they ride into Calgary at 2:20 pm Sunday afternoon.

"Stephen's been working with a trainer for the last four months to get his strength up," said Stephen's father Richard. "He wants to do the full ride, but he isn't able. We've been collecting pledges and we'll ride 25 kilometres per day. Then we'll volunteer the rest of weekend." Stephen's goal is ambitious considering that only last May he was still using a walker.

Organized by the **Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation**, the annual cycling tour is poised to raise **\$250K** for the **Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta (KCCFA)**, bringing total ride revenue over four years to **\$850K**. Stephen has experienced first-hand the benefits of fundraising events like Tour For Kids. He and his sister Lara have been going to KCCFA camps for three years. "It's just good to be around kids who accept you completely," said Stephen. "Camp is a great place."

"Partnering with Kids Cancer Care and seeing them create Camp Kindle, partly through funds raised from Tour For Kids, is a dream come true," said Jeff Rushton, volunteer founder of Coast to Coast Against Cancer. "It's an emotionally and physically intense weekend for the cyclists, but it's worth every second and every saddle sore, just knowing you're bringing smiles to Alberta children living with cancer. And it's a lot of fun."

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Helping young people and their families affected by cancer by providing unforgettable camp experiences, opportunities through scholarships, enhanced care at the hospital and by providing hope through research.

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MEDIA AVAILABILITY

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Adam Fedosoff (16), cancer survivor & cyclist
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BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE SURVIVORS

Stephen Radu

Stephen is a 17-year-old high school student from Lacombe, Alberta. When he was 13, Stephen began experiencing headaches and was generally listless, unlike his regular soccer-loving and guitar-playing self. After several visits to the doctors for tests, a CT scan revealed a mass the size of an orange in his brain stem. The mass was identified as a primitive neuroectodermal tumour (P-NET), an aggressive brain cancer.

After undergoing brain surgery, radiation, five rounds of chemotherapy and four stem cell transplants, Stephen is now cancer-free. A side effect of the surgery, however, left Stephen with cerebral mutism, which affected his speech and fine motor skills, initially robbing him of all speech and movement. After years of physiotherapy and speech therapy, Stephen is now on the road to recovery. He's traded in his wheelchair for a recumbent bicycle, which he will ride on the three-day ride.

Stephen and his family first encountered the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta during one of their many trips to the Alberta Children's Hospital. He and his sister Lara have been going to KCCFA camps ever since.

Taylor Wheatley

Taylor Wheatley is a 21-year-old nursing student at Mount Royal University in Calgary. An avid swimmer, for years Taylor swam with the Glenmore Seals and taught swimming while working as a lifeguard. Today, she spends her summers working as a clerk at the Foothills Hospital and spends her spare time training for Tour for Kids.

Taylor was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia when she was five years old. One of the most devastating aspects of the disease for Taylor was not losing her hair to chemo, but rather losing her best friend to cancer, when she barely understood what it meant. Now in remission, she appreciates the simple things in life: friendships, family and giving back. An active volunteer, Taylor has a tremendous passion for helping children with cancer. She began her journey with KCCFA 16 years ago at summer camp and is now an active volunteer with the Foundation. She says KCCFA helped her to connect with a strong and diverse group of people—cancer patients, survivors and those who strive to improve their lives. She believes she will always share a bond with this community and plans to become a pediatric oncology nurse.

Adam Fedosoff

Adam has always been known for his athleticism, especially in minor hockey. He was known as "Feddy" and had an uncanny sense of where to be on the ice. In April 2007, Adam competed against many talented boys to land a position on the Barrie Minor AAA hockey team. En route to the tryouts Adam's doctor advised him not to lace up his skates. He had recently undergone blood work during a visit to his local hospital's emergency to investigate the cause of dark, purple bruising on his legs and back. On May 4, 2007, Adam was sent to The Hospital for Sick Children, where he was diagnosed with high risk acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

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Adam completed eight months of intense treatment and, in 2008, remained on maintenance chemotherapy. But, while Adam was still on treatment in May 2009, his leukemia returned in his central nervous system. The only option was for him to undergo a risky unrelated bone marrow transplant. For months Adam received very high doses of chemotherapy, cranial and full body irradiation to free his body of this relentless disease. In December 2009, Adam received the precious gift of a bone marrow transplant and is currently on the road to recovery.

Adam's new ambition is to become healthy again and to someday ride in the 7,000-kilometre Sears National Kids Cancer Ride. His goal is to be an inspiration to kids and teens affected by childhood cancer.

ABOUT TOUR FOR KIDS—ALBERTA

Tour for Kids—Alberta is one of several regional fundraising events hosted by the Coast to Coast Against Cancer Foundation, an Ontario-based charity dedicated to helping children with cancer across the country. One hundred and ten cyclists will follow a spectacular route through the Rocky Mountains—from Calgary to Banff, Lake Louise, the Saskatchewan River Crossing, Brazeau, Caroline, Sundre and back to Calgary. Cyclists each pay \$329 to register in the event. Their registration includes hearty meals, snacks and drinks, camp accommodation, mechanical support, first-aid, entertainment and plenty of cheers and support from Alberta families along the way. Forty volunteers will be on-hand to oversee event logistics, so cyclists are free to enjoy the ride. Monies raised from the ride go to KCCFA's Camp & Community programs, so children with cancer have a chance to go to summer camp.

ABOUT THE COAST TO COAST AGAINST CANCER FOUNDATION

Coast to Coast Against Cancer is Canada's only national charity devoted to fighting childhood cancer. The foundation is committed to ensuring that 100 per cent of receiptable funds raised go toward improving the survival rate and quality of life of children (and their families) impacted by cancer. Coast to Coast raises funds by conducting memorable events that encourage active and healthy lifestyles, from cycling rides to team-building activities. Children across the country benefit from the fundraising activities of Coast to Coast and their generous sponsors, donors, participants and volunteers.

ABOUT THE KIDS CANCER CARE FOUNDATION

The Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta is a charitable organization that helps Alberta families facing childhood cancer by providing programs and funding in four areas: camp; research; hospital programs; and scholarships. Through the generosity, hard work and dedication of community friends like Coast to Coast Against Cancer, the Kids Cancer Care Foundation has been able to send thousands of Alberta children affected by childhood cancer to camp.

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