

# Hundreds of riders hit the road for resear



By Mehreen Shahid, Orillia Packet & Times  
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SUBMITTED Participants in Saturday's Huronia Motorcycle Ride for Dad are pictured leaving the Orillia legion at the start of the event.

This year's Huronia Motorcycle Ride for Dad fundraising total is expected to top last year's event.

"For a one-day event, it's pretty significant," co-chair Colin Wackett said of the estimated \$74,000 already raised. "We know there's more ... money to come in. We expect to be around \$80,000 from the riders, which will put us well over \$100,000 with our sponsors."

More than 600 riders -- not far from last year's numbers -- came from across Ontario to participate in the event, which raises money for prostate cancer research.

One of the features that makes the local ride unique is the chance for participants to interact with the specialists who are conducting research into reducing radiation cycles for prostate cancer treatment.

"The whole purpose of the doctors coming is for them to tell the riders who raise the money how their money is going to be used in the particular research they're working on at that time," Wackett explained. "So, the riders can feel comfortable that the research going on is significant research. It makes riders understand what research is going on using the dollars they have raised."

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre specialists Andrew Loblaw, Will Chu and Urban Emmenegger were in attendance Saturday.

Chu shared the progress of his work on reducing the number of radiation cycles to five from 39. Loblaw talked about wanting to further reduce the number of cycles to only two. Emmenegger is working on decreasing the side-effects of radiation therapy.

"We -- the Ride for Dad in Huronia -- funded a trial at Sunnybrook hospital to reduce it to five, and that was successful, locally," Wackett said. "That's what drives it to become an international trial, and all those results are published and spoken about in public."

When international trials are able to replicate local results, Wackett said, five radiation cycles will become the new standard of treatment for prostate cancer around the world.

The ride started at the Royal Canadian Legion on Mississauga Street at 10 a.m. Using non-highway routes, participants headed for lunch at the Creemore legion and returned to Orillia for a steak dinner at 5 p.m.

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