

# It's About Ability!

SPRING 2018

## Million Dollar Ride



*Participants of February's Ride for Children's Rehabilitation Foundation spent two days riding the trails of Kenora, Ontario. This year's ride brought the annual event's fundraising total over \$1-million.*

### Children's Rehabilitation Foundation's 15th annual snowmobile adventure marks major milestone

Fifteen years ago a group of snowmobilers set out on the trails of Nopiming Provincial Park.

Since that initial ride, hundreds of riders have traveled thousands of kilometers across Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario and the United States for the annual Ride for Children's Rehabilitation Foundation.

"I remember the first year we went into the States, there were quite a bit of shenanigans from the riders," recalls the event's founder, Dave Watson, who started the event as a way

to combine his passion for snowmobiling with a cause he believed in.

"They stole deer heads and moose heads off the wall and those ended up in various people's rooms. Some of the evenings got to be quite fun. Lots of stories!"

While there are countless pranks to reflect on, it's the stories of the children who benefited from the event that resonate most with Watson.

"We had children who benefited

come along every year, so we got to meet the families. That is what galvanized the riders to the charity and to the event," he says.

"We met families from the Rehabilitation Centre for Children's Feeding Clinic over the early years, and also got to meet the kids who received the specialized bikes from the foundation. Those were big moments."

This past February, Ride for Children's Rehabilitation Foundation had its biggest moment yet, surpassing \$1-million dollars raised for the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation.

# Upcoming Events

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The \$1-million raised over the past 15 years has supported clinical services, research and programs at the Rehabilitation Centre for Children, as well as provided dozens of children with specialized equipment.

"This is a big milestone for the foundation," says Children's Rehabilitation Foundation Executive Director, Christine Schollenberg.

"The riders who attend this event return year after year and are incredibly devoted to our mission. We are extremely grateful for their passion and support, even if we were on the receiving end of a prank or two."



Ride for Children's Rehabilitation Foundation founder, Dave Watson (right), gives long-time riders Jason Sargent (left) and Paul Scharf (the ride's current chair) a sponsorship appreciation plaque at the 2013 Ride for Children's Rehabilitation Foundation held in Giant's Ridge, Minnesota.

## Volunteer Profile

Brenda Evans is a familiar face for anyone who has attended the foundation's A Night of Miracles.

For nearly a decade, Evans has been a driving force behind the gala as a member of the volunteer organizing committee.

"I was really impressed with the work being done at the centre and the joy that permeated the place," she says.

"When I was asked to join the A Night of Miracles committee it was an easy yes."

Evans has chaired the gala for six years, overseeing everything from the major decisions to the fine details that have made the event one of the foundation's highest-grossing fundraisers.

"I am inspired by the families that are clients of the centre. I have had the opportunity to meet a number of the children and their parents. Each time I come away from that encounter knowing that there is no place else I would rather volunteer," she says.

"I have so many great memories but a few stand out. One of the first galas that I was involved with our Child Ambassadors were twin brothers. After their mom had spoken to the dinner guests, one of the twins asked if he could say something. He got up and said 'Thank you helping me be the best I can be.' Needless to say the



Brenda Evans (right) with A Night of Miracles organizing committee member Kim Enright (middle), and CRF's Executive Director Christine Schollenberg (left), at the 2017 gala held at RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg

only sound you heard was all the Kleenex being pulled from pockets. I still get chocked up think about it."

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact [stephanie@crf.mb.ca](mailto:stephanie@crf.mb.ca) or call (204) 258-6706.

## RBC Cruisin' Down the Crescent Registration Open!



Join us on Sunday, June 10, as we walk, run and bike down beautiful Wellington Crescent in support of Manitoba children living with disabilities.

This pledge-driven event is one of the foundation's biggest fundraisers, bringing in \$135,000 in 2017. Every dollar you raise allows the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation to continue to provide life-changing equipment and programs to children and youth.

Please visit [cruisindownthecrescent.ca](http://cruisindownthecrescent.ca) and start your fundraising today!



Sunday, June 10, 2018

Andrew Currie Park  
1420 Wellington Crescent

Registration: 8 AM  
Opening Ceremony: 9 AM



### CHICKENFEST MAY 8, 2018

Rotary Club of Winnipeg West's annual Chickenfest is back for another year! Dine in, take out, or order your lunch delivery while supporting CRF!

Contact (204) 897-3690 or visit [chickenfest.ca](http://chickenfest.ca) to purchase your tickets today!

### RUN FOR WISHES MAY 26, 2018

Funds raised at the Headingley Fire Department's annual 5 km run/3 km walk will go towards purchasing adaptive bikes.

Registration available online at the Running Room.

### BIKES FROM BIKERS JUNE 24, 2018

Join us as past recipients of adaptive bikes funded by the foundation kick-off the ride and lead the way as our ceremonial leads! The ride will continue to Steinbach, then Beausejour, and return at 3 pm for a BBQ, tour of the SSCY Centre, prize draws and fun activities for children!

To register, contact Adell Gauthier (204) 258-6702 or [adell@crf.mb.ca](mailto:adell@crf.mb.ca)

FOR FULL DETAILS  
VISIT [CRF.MB.CA](http://CRF.MB.CA)

# Thoughtful Thank You



Mary Rollason-MacAulay gives CRF donor, Brent Prusak, a high five after receiving her new bike.

Dear Mr. Prusak:

There are many things our daughter can't do and many challenges she is faced with daily. Mary can't walk, she can't eat, she can't go anywhere without a caregiver with her at all times, and there are few activities available to her.

But there are things Mary can do.

She can laugh, she can be mischievous, she can grab things, she can be read to, she can be sociable, she can say capeesh and hap hap when she is happy, she can do a high five, and, thanks to you, she can ride her own bicycle.

Mary has gone to school longer than her peers in other parts of the high school. While those students graduate at age 17 or 18, Mary graduates when she turns 21.

During her many years in school, when other students in her classroom wrote math tests, completed essays, and worked on ever more complicated projects, Mary would be taken in her wheelchair to a therapy room where specialists and educational assistants worked on her muscles and joints in her arms and legs. They wanted to make sure her muscles were strengthened, she had a full range of motion in her limbs, and to give her a sense of balance, things which are tough when you spend many of your waking hours sitting in a wheelchair.

But, also as part of Mary's therapy, they would put her on a bicycle. The bicycle was one of the tools they used to not only help her extend her range of motion and increase her balance, but also to give her a chance to have some fun while working hard. To have a different way of moving through the school hallways or outside on a school running track or a nearby sidewalk.

Grant Park High School has a small fleet of bicycles of various sizes and shapes. They have ones where the child is upright. They have bicycles where the child is sitting with their legs stretched out in front of them. They also have bikes where the child is stretched out lying on their stomachs with the pedal mechanism behind them. Each have to have seats moved, handle bars raised, or straps changed to a different place whenever another child goes to use them.

But they all have something else in common: they are the school's bikes.

That always meant that when Mary finally graduates she would be leaving these bicycles behind and this important piece of therapy, and yes fun, would be left behind.

Until now.

Thanks to your generous donation, made through the Children's Rehabilitation Foundation, Mary now has her own bicycle. A bicycle she can take with her when she leaves school. A bicycle she can be put on to keep the strength she has in her muscles and ensure she still has the range of movement she has gained through years of therapy.

A bicycle Mary can call her own. And one that will probably be with her for the rest of her life.

From the bottom of Mary's heart - and also her parents - thank you very much for your generous donation. For seeing that our children, while living through challenges on a daily basis, can also have fun.

And from Mary: capeesh and hap hap.

Sincerely,

Kevin Rollason, Gail MacAulay, and Mary Rollason-MacAulay

 Children's Rehabilitation Foundation

1155 Notre Dame Ave Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 3G1 • p: (204) 258-6700 • f: (204) 258-6794

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