

FUNDRAISER

Cyclist crossing Canada

Former triathlete from Summerland part of group planning to ride 7,000 km to benefit Kids with Cancer

By AMANDA HARRETT
Special to the Herald

Summerland resident Alan Davies will be one of 36 cyclists riding 7,000 kilometres across Canada to raise funds for Kids with Cancer.

Cyclists participating in the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride will depart from Vancouver on June 13 and arrive in Halifax on June 24. They will meet with kids, medical professionals and volunteers in cities and towns along the way.

"There are 17 different childhood cancer centres in Canada, and we're going to try and visit every one," Davies said.

Riders will be joined by others during their numerous stops.

"We have ride-along events scheduled throughout the ride," said Davies. "The first will be in Kelowna on June 14. They can choose to ride for 10 kilometres, 20 kilometres or all the way to Vernon."

Davies said he was inspired to participate after watching a news clip on last year's ride, which included Kelowna resident Jenn Davies.

"I was curious as to what they were doing and what it was all about," said Davies. "I started reading blogs on it and realized these were normal people who liked to cycle, and who take the time and the energy to help someone else."

Last year's ride raised

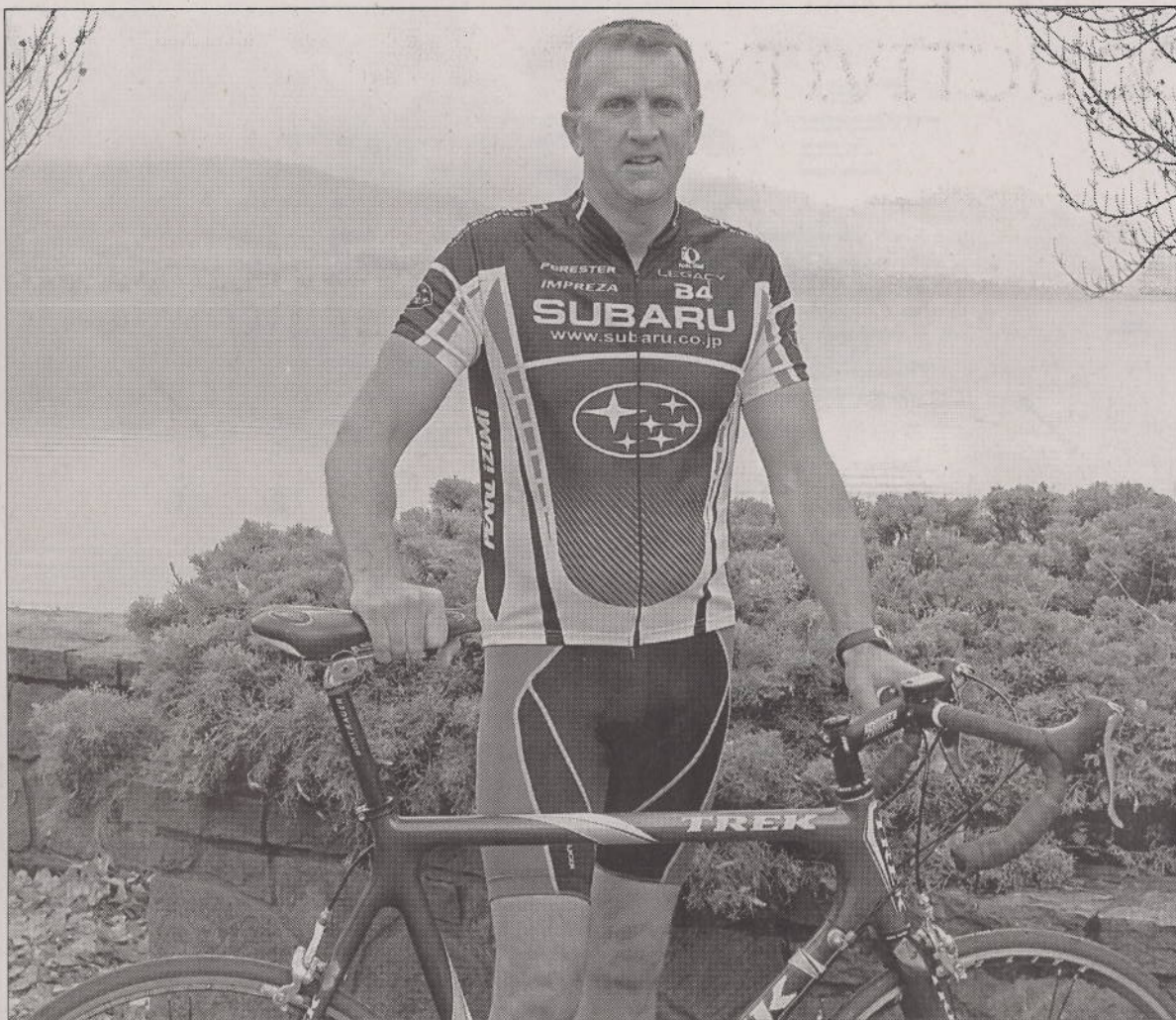


Photo contributed

Alan Davies of Summerland will be riding 7,000 kilometres across Canada to raise funds for Kids with Cancer

\$1.1 million, all of which was donated to the Canadian Council of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Directors as the single largest donation to that council.

Davies said the goal this year is to reach \$2 million. He has set a personal goal of \$100,000.

"One hundred per cent of the money we raise goes toward children's cancer charities."

Davies, a former Ironman

Canada triathlete, said the training has been ongoing for months.

"We've been cycling six days a week since last October. We're doing about 650 kilometres a week."

Davies said in order to cycle, you must be able to ride 350 km a day, or a pace of about 29 km/h.

Davies said he is one of two cyclists from British Columbia.

"We're trying to show that B.C.

can make a difference," said Davies. "Most of the cyclists come from Ontario, so we're trying to encourage someone local to ride next year."

"I'm very excited and very inspired. It's amazing to see how generous people are and willing to raise funds for a good cause."

Davies said a Las Vegas benefit show will take place at Martini on Thursday, June 11.