



JUSTIN GREAVES / METROLAND

BROOKLIN -- Brooklin resident Mark Halliday is taking part in the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer benefiting Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, in June. The event is the largest cycling fundraiser in Canadian history and is currently in its ninth year.

## Brooklin man Mark Halliday gears up for Ride to Conquer Cancer

This year marks the 9th annual ride benefiting Toronto cancer centre

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BROOKLIN -- When it comes to donating time or money to a worthy cause, Mark Halliday says he always gives what he can.

The Brooklin resident has supported various causes in the past, from food banks to hospitals to local charitable groups. This year he's continuing to give, but with an added spin -- he plans to travel a distance of more

than 200 kilometres by bike in the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer.

"Cancer is one of those things that affects pretty much everybody in some capacity, whether it's directly or indirectly," said Mr. Halliday.

"I just thought if I'm able to do something about it, then why not? I want to do my part to beat it."

His brother-in-law participated in the ride last year and recommended that he give it a try, he said.

"He said it's a really (well) organized event; you get to meet a lot of people, understand their experiences, where they're coming from and what they've dealt with."

This year marks the 9th annual ride, which takes place between Toronto

and Niagara over two days -- June 11 and 12. To date, the event has helped raise more than \$138 million for Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto.

So far, Mr. Halliday has raised about \$1,000, which is almost halfway to his goal of \$2,500.

Besides fundraising, which he says has been the hardest part so far, he's also training extensively for the ride. He works out at the gym six days a week and rides his bike up to 12 hours a week. Cycling is a relatively new activity for him, having just picked up the hobby last summer.

"I enjoy it," he said, adding he's still getting used to riding on the road.

"I try to stay away from the (high)

traffic areas. I like to go into the remote areas, up in Brooklin, and the side roads so I'm pretty comfortable."

Mr. Halliday says his ultimate goal is to raise awareness about the need to support the cause.

"I think if it's in people's faces enough, which I'm trying to do by getting the message out there, then I think that's the biggest thing -- the awareness side of it."

While the cut-off date to sign up for the ride has passed, he encourages members of the community to volunteer if they can. For more information, visit [www.conquercancer.ca](http://www.conquercancer.ca) or call 877.699.BIKE (2453).

To donate to Mr. Halliday, find his name on the ride website.

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