

BOURGOIN, Gerry

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June 9/90

# Rednersville cyclist pedals across Canada to fight disease

By JENNIFER READ  
Staff Reporter

REDNERSVILLE — When they've completed their journey, they will have cycled twice the distance around the earth.

And it's all for a disease that affects 1.5 million Canadians — juvenile diabetes.

Hazel and Gerald Bourgoin of Rednersville will be among a crowd of supporters who will gather in Belleville July 4 to cheer on the Trans Canada Cycling Classic team. Their son Gerry, 19, is one of 13 cyclists participating in the Canada-wide relay from Victoria, B.C. to St. John's Nfld. this summer.

Hazel said Gerry, a student at Grenville Christian College in Brockville, has been training for over a year for the event, which began June 18 and finishes July 16 with ceremonies in Ottawa.

The itinerary includes stops in Toronto, Quebec City, Moncton, and Gander but the cycling team is scheduled to pass through Belleville early July 4.

"We're going to get a big crowd together and cheer them on as they go by," said Hazel.



GERRY BOURGOIN

The 13 students — all from Grenville College — are cycling to increase awareness of juvenile diabetes and obtain pledges for the cyclists on behalf of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

During the relay, the team will host bicycle fitness and maintenance clinics that will be attended by local sports figures. Stationary cycling races will also be held.

Hazel said her son — "who's always been an athlete — is really looking forward to completing the relay.

"It's a great accomplishment."

The team is due to arrive in Belleville — they'll be travelling on Highway 2 through the city — between 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m.

And she and husband Gerald are anxious to see Gerry.

"We haven't seen him for about three weeks; but this won't be a very long visit. They're not even getting off their bikes."

This is the second Trans Canada Cycling Classic held by Grenville College.