

Motorcyclists ride to raise funds for RP research

If the number of pledge books picked up by riders at recent motorcycle shows is any indication, this year's Ride for Sight in mid-June promises to be the most successful yet!

This year marks the 18th year that motorcyclists have participated in the Ride for Sight to raise funds to find a treatment—and ultimately a cure—for Retinitis Pigmentosa, also known as RP.

RP affects more than 100,000 Canadians.

It is the major cause of blindness in people between

the ages of six and 60; most people are diagnosed as young adults.

One of the earliest symptoms experienced by people with RP is difficulty seeing at night or in dimly-lit places (night blindness). This is followed by a reduction in side or peripheral vision, leaving only a small central portion of vision as

if a person were looking through a tunnel. In many cases the person is left with no vision whatsoever.

The Ride for Sight was initiated in 1979 by Jim Bentley and the York Wing Motorcycle Club. Bentley had a friend with RP and suggested the club ride in support of research efforts. The Ride for Sight has

grown steadily ever since, and has become one of the largest annual motorcycle events in the world.

Participating motorcyclists begin to seek support from donors in the early spring.

Funds raised go directly to the RP Research Foun-

ation, which administers the funding to scientists conducting research in Canadian universities and teaching hospitals.

The Central Ontario Ride for Sight takes place June 13 to 16 in Fenelon Falls, Fenelon Township, Ont. The Northwestern Ontario

Ride for Sight takes place June 14 to 16 in Atikokan, Ont.

Detailed information on both of these rides is available from the RP Research Foundation, at 1-800-461-3331. Pledges may also be made by calling the same number.

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