

# Miltonian going the extra mile so all kids can enjoy sports

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Randy Wnek is going the extra mile so that local youth don't have to miss out on the opportunities he did as a child.

"I grew up in Montreal and Kingston, and for the most part I was the only kid on my block not playing hockey," said the Milton Minor Hockey Association Vice President. "In Kingston Township, the kids would always wear their blue Centre 70 hockey jackets and I always felt out of place. The reason I didn't play was purely financial. My parents didn't have the resources.

"My dad passed away two years ago and for the past few years of his life he was able to watch my son Thomas play. Often he would comment how he regretted not being able to place my brother or I in the sport."

Determined to make sure other families don't experience this roadblock, Wnek has been a strong supporter of Canadian Tire's Jumpstart program since its inception.

Now he's taking that a step — to put it mildly — further with full-scale participation in the program's sixth annual Pedal for Kids ride.

"Last year I only did the first of five legs, 110km (on ride from Kanata to Quebec City), but I felt the next day I could have gone on."

With that in mind, he's now ready to do the full five-day, 500km journey from Huntsville to Toronto September 11 to 15.

"I'm training four or five days a week now, so yeah I feel pretty confident I can do the whole ride this year," said Wnek, who through his job as Toronto Operations Training and Lean Manager of Canadian Tire oversees a fundraising program at the Brampton warehouse where old sports equipment is sold to employees and the money goes to the Jumpstart program, which enables families in need to register their children in organized sports. "One of the highlights of my week is seeing my kids (Thomas and Abbey) compete in sports. Through my involvement with the MMHA I've witnessed not only the benefits that the kids realize, but also the joy that parents get watching their kids participate on the ice. That's why I'm doing this."

Wnek raised \$2,800 during his Pedal for Kids campaign last year and is hoping to boost that to \$5,000 this time around.

He's about a third of the way to that goal, and all proceeds will go directly to Milton families. Those interested in donating to his ride can do so at <http://bit.ly/1BALF2T>.

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Randy Wnek is gearing up for a five-day, 500km Pedal for Kids ride, benefiting Jumpstart. *supplied photo*

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