

Cycling squad out to Conquer Cancer during summer rides

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Terry Eizinga loves to ride a bicycle. And not just for fun.

While the 50-year-old Stouffville resident was a club rider during his younger days, the competitive fire in him has resurfaced of late.

Only this time around, Eizinga is riding for a meaningful cause — in the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

The cause hits close to home as Eizinga's family has been hit by the dreaded disease.

One brother-in-law received treatments at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto and another is in the later stages of his own battle with cancer.

A family member asked him to take the Ride to Conquer Cancer.

"I knew I had to be involved," he said.

Eizinga was on a team of eight riders,

known as Purpose Driven Cycling, that completed a 200-kilometre trip to Niagara Falls raised over \$30,000.

"That was a great start," he said.

This year, Eizinga was asked to lead the squad.

After stepping down from his role as Whitchurch Stouffville Softball Association president and coach after last season, he juggled some personal responsibilities and jumped all in.

Establishing some rather high objectives, Eizinga noted they have already surpassed the number of riders they originally wanted.

That being 16 with a current total of 18, including 14 from Whitchurch-Stouffville.

They hope to more than double the amount of funds they raised last year by aiming for \$75,000.

In an effort to do that, he said their team will ride in three events in the next several weeks, with the big one being the Ride to Conquer Cancer from June 11 and 12.

As a means of tuning up for their schedule, Eizinga noted Stouffville Joint Venture allowed their team to utilize their training facility during this past winter.

To raise awareness of their objectives, Eizinga said their team will have a booth at the Stouffville Home Show at the Stouffville Arena this weekend, Friday to Sunday, where they will feature riders from their team along with spin bikes for the public to try and a contest.

From there they will continue their awareness efforts at the parking lot of Schell Lumber May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Terry Eizinga is leading a charity cycling team that has 14 Whitchurch-Stouffville residents on its roster.

The final event, he said, is an online auction taking place from May 1 to 15.

To learn more about the team, search for Purpose Driven Cycling on Facebook.

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