

Cycling for pancreatic cancer

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Craig's tour arrives in Kentville July 28

Topics : [Litton Systems Canada](#) , [Kentville](#) , [Atlantic Canada](#) , [New Glasgow](#)

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People are willing to help Craig's Cause once they understand the impact pancreatic cancer has, and the resources and supports the non-profit initiative represents.

The cycling relay jumps this year from a one-afternoon event in Metro to a multi-day Maritime cycling adventure. Leaving Halifax's Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Center at 9 a.m. July 28, 16 cyclists will arrive at 3 p.m. in Kentville for a presentation to Valley Regional staff, family doctors and pancreatic cancer patients and survivors.

"My brother died at age 48 in 2008. One girl's dad died a week after his diagnosis," says team member Lynn Butler. "We're really trying to bring awareness of the disease, and educate patients of things to ask their healthcare providers."

Craig's Cause, in just a few years, has assembled a deep on-line resource for patients and their families, from video descriptions of procedures and treatment options to support networks, a discussion board and more.

"We have access to physicians at hospitals - contact us and we'll help get the information you need. The key to our campaign this summer is to let people know we exist."

After the Kentville stop on Day 1, the team splits into groups of three, and each will tackle similar road trips to hospitals around the Maritimes, relay-style.

Funds raised from the Craig's Cause events help support pancreatic cancer research, including a project underway now to build a familial registry for Atlantic Canada.

"We have the highest incidence of pancreatic cancer in Canada," Butler says. "We're hoping to find a genetic component why, isolate that DNA and go after early detection.

"There are stories of hope."

In Craig's name

Craig Schurman Condon passed away at 63. He had just completed a bike tour for another charity and wasn't feeling great, but thought he may have just overdone it. Six weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he died.

Respected by all who knew him as a supporter, cheerleader and best friend, he taught the importance of never giving up.

Condon was born in New Glasgow and raised in Yarmouth. His 36-year career with Litton Systems Canada included many accomplishments, taking him internationally.

Condon's family and friends remember an avid outdoor enthusiast, whose passion for a healthy lifestyle included cycling and boating. He created beautiful pieces of woodwork and landscaped his property. Foremost in Condon's life was his family.

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Cyclists are ready to hit the road promoting Craig's Cause, a pancreatic cancer awareness and support network.