

# Riding for dad and prostate cancer

**BOB TYMCZYSZYN**  
Postmedia Network



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About 250 riders get set to take part in the 2016 Niagara Ride for Dad with proceeds and awareness for Prostate Cancer research. The ride, which took place Saturday, started from the Royal Canadian Legion hall on King Street.

With the twist of the throttle, the crackle and burble of about 250 motorcycles filled the air as they started the sixth-annual Ride for Dad on Saturday.

Starting at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 24 on King St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the ride is a fundraiser to support prostate cancer awareness and research.

Riding near the front of the pack Fonthill resident Pierre Garneau said it's important to be out, spreading awareness.

"I love motorcycles, and I love the cause, and the cause is vital," said the 66-year-old who has been riding for the past 12 years.

"What Ride for Dad does, apart from contributing a lot of money is we give awareness to people."

Garneau was the top fundraiser this year bringing in more than \$5,300 himself.

While he said most of the money raised comes from online donations, he doesn't mind hitting the bricks and setting up an information table at his local Sobeys.

"People are interested, people are generous, so I'll spend five hours a day for two or three days during the campaign," he said.

"Two people came up last time I was at Sobeys with my table, and they said if it weren't for you I'd be dead by now."

He realizes it's the kind of medical test most men don't want to do, but he said it's absolutely important.

"Were telling people to get checked, which means and examination by your doctor and a PSA test.

"I do mine on my birthday," said Garneau.

"It's more embarrassing to die by something you don't need to die from than actually getting checked."

Garneau's donations were part

of more than \$32,000 raised by the ride.

Matt King co-chair of the Telus Ride for Dad Niagara said that money is going towards a program called SABR, Stereotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy, which is a new treatment for men with favourable-risk prostate cancer.

King explained that one of the

benefits of the new treatment means only five treatment sessions versus the normal 39 in other treatments.

The Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines is one of 14 cancer centres across Canada participating in the clinical trial.

"In Niagara we're putting some money where our mouths

are," said King.

"We have this (ride) on Father's Day weekend, for a reason. It's just as much about awareness, and what gets more attention than 250 bikes rumbling down the parkway.

"They call it an army of chrome and steel getting that awareness out there."

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