

Mother's ultimate sacrifice inspires brothers

BY NICK LEES, EDMONTONJOURNAL.COM AUGUST 27, 2010



From left, brothers Sine and Jake Chadi congratulate each other after their ride with Lance Armstrong.

Photograph by: Shaughn Butts, The Journal, Edmonton Journal

Sine Chadi and his brother Jake immediately wrote cheques for \$25,000 when they heard in the spring that Lance Armstrong was coming to Jasper to support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation by leading a bike ride.

"In 1964, our mother was newly pregnant with Jake when she was diagnosed with breast cancer and doctors advised her to abort Jake and begin chemotherapy treatment," Sine said Friday.

"She declined their advice and Jake was born. But she died soon afterwards."

Sine underwent a quadruple bypass 18 months ago and was looking for a way to get fit again when it was announced the seven-time winner of the Tour de France was to lead a ride through the mountains for 45 cyclists who had each donated \$25,000 to help fund breast cancer research.

"I thought Sine was joking when he suggested we ride," Jake said. "We used to ride for hours as kids, but I haven't really cycled since then and didn't have time to train."

But they were there pumping their legs up and down with Armstrong Friday as the world's best known cyclist led a peloton up Highway 93A toward Marmot Basin ski hill and then over to Athabasca Falls.

"This is a great bunch of people and the scenery is incredible," Armstrong said.

Sine, 54, slipped to the back of the group on a couple of steep hills, but Jake had a tiger in his tank and took no prisoners the entire ride.

"I'm just stubborn," said Jake. "I used to play hockey and was pretty fit a few years ago, before I was in a bad car crash."

Sine flew over the finish line, where an outdoor barbecue awaited at Jasper Park Lodge, and grabbed his cellphone.

"I promised cardiac surgeon, Dr. Dennis Modry I'd call him as soon as the ride was over," he said. "He thought I'd recovered well from my bypass surgery. But I think he will probably sleep sounder knowing I made it safely."

UNTIMELY TUMBLE

Watching cyclists head off with disappointment in her eyes was lawyer Arlene Reid, who had raised \$31,500.

"I was mountain biking two weeks ago and while training I slid into a trough full of water," she said. "I thought I'd have a soft landing."

She broke her right arm.

"I went to four doctors to see if one would put it in a cast so I could ride. They said no. I cried each time. Riding with Lance Armstrong is a once-in-a-lifetime thing."

Bruce Harries, 59, a health-care consultant, was one of several riders who has beaten cancer.

"I was diagnosed with testicular cancer in 1981."

Cancer returned in 2005. "But I think I have beaten it again. I have made a deal with my doctor. I promised I wouldn't see him for another 25 years."

Harries, whose ride was sponsored by the Butler Family Foundation, rides up to 5,000 kilometres each year in training.

A TOP FUNDRAISER FLIES IN

Breast cancer survivor Kristin Crowe, 43, flew in from Belleville, Ont. to ride.

"I'm a runner, not a cyclist," she said. When she returned home last October from the Long Beach Marathon, she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I found Lance Armstrong's books to be inspiring during the toughest days of my treatment and I decided I had to make this ride."

Crowe raised \$43,300. As one of the top five fundraisers, she earned a spot at the dinner top table Saturday night with Armstrong and the voice of the Tour de France, Phil Liggett.

Top fundraiser was Dawn Payne, 39, a St. Albert physiotherapist, who collected \$56,202.

"My mother was hospitalized for six months with a rare form of cancer and she found Lance Armstrong to be an anchor and inspirational during her toughest days," Payne said.

"I was fortunate in that so many people were generous when I approached them about backing my bid to help rid the world of cancer. But they knew I wouldn't ask unless I was really serious about trying to make a difference."

A TALE FROM NOVA SCOTIA

Brian Tomie, 51, a physiotherapist from Nova Scotia, said he was motivated to help because of the cause, the charisma of Armstrong and fond memories of Edmonton.

"It was quite a while ago that I came to see an Oilers hockey game and then stayed on for another night when we heard Wayne Gretzky was coming back to play his first game against the Oilers as an L.A. King," he said. "We were surprised the Rose and Crown bar, in what is now the Hilton, was empty and were told they were waiting for a private party."

"When we said we were from Nova Scotia, they told us to stay. And in came Wayne Gretzky and the rest of his team. We enjoyed a beer with Wayne, who was very gracious."

A DYNAMIC DUO

A couple of women who met while training in Spain were Teresa Melton, an asset manager with a real estate company, and dentist Melonie MacDonald.

“We kept in touch and Melonie encouraged me to join the LinkPink breast cancer riders and we fund-raised together, and trained with Alex Stieda,” who competed in the Tour de France

The training worked. The duo were lead riders in the peloton for large portions of the ride.

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