

OakBayNEWS

Cyclist starts cancer-cure journey from Victoria

By Kelly Howard
News staff

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The dream of 18-year-old Tim Harriman is kilometres away from the average teenager's - literally.

Launching his Spokeman Tour for Childhood Cancer last week, Harriman departed Victoria on an 84-day cycling trip across Canada.

The Calgary native will visit cancer-fighting kids across the country, collecting messages and artwork to be presented to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"I just want to get the message out that kids fighting cancer are not alone," Harriman said.

Diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia when he was 14 years old, Harriman made the decision to bike across the country when he recovered from years of treatment.

"I know how cancer affects kids and families," he said. "I wanted to show that there is hope for them."

He has already raised \$30,000 of his \$100,000 goal. His Spokeman website (www.spokemantour.com) is set up for donations and to collect names for a petition to designate September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Accompanied by a support team of medics, family and friends, Harriman is looking at an estimated 412-hour, 7,738-kilometre journey to St. John's Nfld.

"My focus is to take it one day at a time and not to focus so much on a deadline."

Harriman is looking forward to the long road ahead, but he expects a few challenges.

"B.C. will definitely be a push, but the biggest struggle is definitely the wind," he said.

Susan McLennan of Babble On Communications, who flew out from Toronto to join Harriman on the tour, expressed deep admiration for Harriman's character.

"He is the most articulate young person I have ever met," McLennan said.

Near the end of July, Harriman plans to meet with the prime minister to present the messages of hope from Canadian children.

"We don't have a date set up yet to meet, but the tour has been announced in the House by my local MP, Myron Thompson," said Harriman

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