

News



Photo by Emma Jackson

OUT FOR A PRESTON STREET STROLL

Eric Felipe Yopez-Huertas, left, walks with cousin Sofia Rahbar during the Italian Week festivities on Preston Street on Sunday, June 19. The annual event sees the main Little Italy thoroughfare become a pedestrian only promenade that allows residents to enjoy food, games, live music and other special events related to Italian culture.

THE OTTAWA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

In October 2009, Rhea Ferguson's father, Bill, was diagnosed with esophageal gastric cancer at age 59.

After successfully undergoing treatment at The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre, the family received some devastating news – the cancer was back, and this time, it was inoperable.

Ferguson also knows more about the need for cancer research than the average person. She recently completed her Master's degree in cancer epidemiology at McGill University, has worked with cancer researcher Dr. John Bell at The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) and is currently working as a database manager for the Hospital's ovarian cancer bank.

"Cancer research has always been a big passion for me," said the 26-year-old Ottawa native. "There's a history of cancer in my family. I lost all my grandparents to it."

Looking for a way to make a difference, she learned about Ride the Rideau, a 100 km cycling fundraiser from Ottawa to Merrickville to support cancer research at The Ottawa Hospital, and immediately signed up.

"It's raising money for where I work, and it's going to where my dad was treated," she said. "It was a perfect fit."

Ferguson's mother, Sheila, also got on board as a Ride the Rideau volunteer.

"My mom and I are involved because my dad is dying of cancer," she said. "We want to do something for him. It's a personal cause for both of us."

Ferguson, who is riding as a member of the Cancer Trailblazers, the OHRI Cancer Centre team, said she reached her fundraising goal of \$1,500 in just two weeks.

"People are so generous," she said. "Everyone knows someone who is affected by the disease."

"It would be amazing to have another treatment option that is... not so hard on the body," she said. "The research needs to continue."

With her father's health rapidly declining, she said she will be thinking about him when she does the ride on Sept. 10.

"I'm hoping to be able to tell him about it," she said.

To support Rhea Ferguson's ride, or to join her mother, Sheila Ferguson, as a volunteer, visit www.ridetherideau.ca



Ride the Rideau participant Rhea Ferguson with her parents, Sheila and Bill.



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TAKE ACTION, HEROES!



VOLUNTEER TODAY AT RIDETHERIDEAU.CA

You don't have to get on a bike to make a difference. We're looking for enthusiastic on-foot folks with the same passion as our cyclists. The success of Ride the Rideau will be directly related to volunteers like you.

Seize the opportunity to change the world for the better—support cancer research at The Ottawa Hospital. Every hero has a date with destiny: yours is September 10, 2011.

Our riders need your support. Are you in?

A 100 KILOMETRE BIKE RIDE TO FUND LOCAL
CANCER RESEARCH—WITH WORLDWIDE IMPACT

10TH SEPTEMBER 2011



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