

DUNNVILLE NATIVE CYCLING ACROSS CANADA

Posted By LAURA WIKSTON, THE CHRONICLE

Three thousand, five hundred and eighty-eight kilometres down, and 4,712 to go. As of last Sunday, that's where Kevin Glenney stood in his coast-to-coast ride across Canada to raise awareness and funds for two causes close to his heart.

Glenney, an aerospace engineer and former Dunnville resident, is riding to raise awareness and funds for Huntington's disease and Engineers without Borders. His Two Wheels and a Heartbeat ride began a three-month journey that started in Vancouver on June 4, and is expected to finish in Cape Spear, N.L. -the most eastern tip of Canada -in early September.

The 36-year-old was raised in Dunnville and spent the last 10 years living in Minneapolis, Minn., working with the Goodrich Corporation as an aerodynamics and systems engineer. Glenney is so committed to his causes, he resigned from his employment to complete his ride.

Glenney has a goal to raise \$30,000 for the Huntington Society. To date, he has raised \$5,855. Glenney chose Huntington disease as one of his causes because it runs in his family on his father's side.

Glenney has a comprehensive website that follows his progress with regular blogs, photographs, GPS tracking and more.

On the site he explains how Huntington's claimed his father's grandfather and father with both men suffering early deaths. An aunt, uncle and cousin have been diagnosed with the disease.

At 59, so far, Glenney's father has shown no signs. However, Glenney said his father recently expressed concerns he may have passed the dominant HD gene to his children.

Huntington's Disease (HD) is an inherited genetic brain disorder that causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. It affects about one out of every 10,000 people, and affects one in every 1,000 people whether at risk, as a caregiver, family member or friend.

The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death. Currently there are no treatments to slow down or stop the disease in humans.

The second cause Glenney is committed to is Engineers Without Borders -International (EWB-I). His career took him around the world to many communities without clean water, sanitation and sustainable energy. EWB-I members partner with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life through education and implementation of sustainable engineering projects.

Currently Glenney's route has dipped down into the United States. On Sunday he was near Minneapolis, Minn., making his way to Sault Ste. Marie where he will cross the border back into Canada.

Along the way he's had adventures and misadventures. On the website he relates his trials, such as when his progress was slowed near Medicine Hat, Alta., when heavy rains washed away part of the TransCanada Highway.

Along the way, Glenney keeps in regular touch with his mom Vonita.

"He just knows I'm a little anxious so he's very good to keep me up to date," said Vonita. "He calls me every two to three days and I can email him or call him."

Glenney has a scheduled stop in Dunnville planned for July 29. While here, the Dunnville Rotary Club will hold a luncheon for him.

So if you happen to see a blur of two wheels whizzing by and hear the pounding of a heartbeat, that will be Glenney riding towards making a difference in others' lives.

Donations to either or both of Glenney's causes can be made through links on the site. Through the website, donations can also be made to purchase meals for Glenney along his way