

Last updated at 12:12 AM on 08/06/09

City native riding for her father and to support the pancreatic cancer foundation

CORNER BROOK
CLIFF WELLS
The Western Star



Meghan Ferguson is taking part in this year's Give to Live ride. She's riding for Craig's Cause for Pancreatic Cancer. — Submitted photo

Meghan Ferguson is taking a bike ride in October — a really long bike ride.

The Corner Brook native is riding in the Give to Live relay from Vancouver to Austin, Texas.

Ferguson, a genetic counsellor at the IWK Health Centre in Halifax, is riding for Craig's Cause for pancreatic cancer — the only pancreatic cancer foundation in Canada.

She heard of the ride last year that went from Halifax to Austin but wasn't ready to take part.

"It's one of those things where you have to be comfortable telling your story, telling people why you're doing it and I wasn't there yet," Ferguson said. "When I found out this year it was going down the West Coast it appealed to me even more.

"Now's the time when I'm ready to tell people what I went through and give back to people who have been through losing somebody in their family to cancer."

She has a reason for taking on the gargantuan task of the ride — her father Dr. Duncan Ferguson died of pancreatic cancer May 20, 2006.

Her father was a popular psychology professor at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College who had a penchant for smoking his pipe in his office long after smoking was banned in the Arts and Science building. He kept an ashtray stuffed with tobacco and ashes as a cover for the smell.

Three years after his death, Ferguson is in a place where she can do the ride in memory of her dad.

"It's always going to be emotional having to tell people about this," she said. "People in Corner Brook who knew him, worked with him, took classes from him ... I love hearing their memories about him, us and things we did. Still it never gets easier. It always draws a lot of emotion, that's for sure."

The long ride runs from Oct. 12-23. She said there are about 10 teams of five doing the ride. She said one person drives the support van while the rest bike along. She said most team rotate driving, so she expects to drive 20 per cent of the way.

Ferguson said the ride requires some \$5,000 in pledges and sponsorships and she has the support of a yoga studio in Halifax where she now makes her home.

She has a Facebook site called Meghan's Ride: Vancouver to Austin October 2009. She said anyone can join and she'll post updates and photos along the way.

Ferguson said the ride's aim is to give 80 per cent of the money raised to three cancer charities, Craig's Cause, the Lance Armstrong Foundation and Ovarian Cancer Canada.

She said most fundraising nets about 50 per cent for the charity, so 80 per cent is an outstanding goal.

At the end of the trail waits another ride, this time with Lance Armstrong at the Austin LiveStrong weekend.

2009/06/09

"I think he'll be riding well ahead of me," Ferguson said. "Theoretically, I'll be on the same road as Lance Armstrong trying to ride with him. I don't know if I'll be successful, but I'll be there with him."

She is passionate about Craig's Cause and raising awareness of pancreatic cancer. She said it's not one of the common cancers that get a lot of media attention.

"The things about colon cancer and breast cancer are everywhere," Ferguson said. "I felt really strongly about wanting to raise awareness and raise money for a cancer that is more rare, but also the most deadly form of cancer you can probably get."

08/06/09



Comments:

This Conversation is Semi-Moderated. [What is moderation?](#)
[\(Post a comment\)](#)

Joanna from Corner Brook, Newfoundland writes: Good luck Meghan! Your father inspired me more than I can ever explain! He was an amazing professor and an even more amazing man. I think of him often and was thankful to be home in time to attend his memorial service. I'll be watching your updates via facebook!

Posted 08/06/2009 at 5:02 PM | [Alert an Editor](#) | [Link to comment](#)

NOTE
The management of this site emphasizes that it is in no way liable for persons, physical or legal, who are hosted here. Moreover, the managers of this site may not be held liable for errors and omissions that may slip into the information displayed in these reader comments. Everyone who submits a comment should read, understand and agree to the [Terms of Usage](#) for this section.

Post a comment:

First Name:

Last Name:

City/Town:

Province:

Email:

Use of an invalid email address may result in removal of the comment.
Your email address will not be publicized.

Comments:

- I have read and agree to the [Terms of Use](#)
- Remember me?
- Check here to receive email updates on contests, promotions, and other important information from The Western Star.

Past local :

June 2009	May 2009	April 2009	March 2009	February 2009	January 2009
December 2008	November 2008	October 2008	September 2008	August 2008	July 2008
June 2008	May 2008	April 2008	March 2008	February 2008	January 2008
December 2007	November 2007	October 2007	September 2007	August 2007	July 2007
June 2007	May 2007	April 2007	March 2007	February 2007	

Think you have what it takes to be an E-Reporter... [Click Here for Details](#)

Submit your breaking news video, audio or pictures to TheWesternStar.com