

Bayview Auto Towing Shows Support for its Community



This year's Ride 4 Hope raised close to \$37,000.

WHEN FORMER CANUCK JEFF BANDURA retired from hockey, he took up cycling. He noticed that several charity bike races were cropping up, so one year he and his friends decided to enter the "Ride to Survive," a 400km bike ride to raise money for cancer.

Of the sixteen men who qualified to enter the race, only eight of them actually finished. Jeff, being one of them, realized he needed to come up with a charity race that was doable as well as profitable. Eight years ago, he started the Ride 4 Hope.

The 200 km bike ride between Hope and South Surrey has raised close to \$500,000 for the Canucks for Kids fund — a charity close to Bandura's hockey roots, especially since he was the first kid to ever be drafted from White Rock Minor Hockey (now Semiahmoo) to the NHL.

So when Jeff lost his main sponsor for this year's Ride 4 Hope, his longtime hockey buddy, Dennis Rushinko and Dennis' cousin Cory Rushinko, co-owners of Surrey's Bayview Auto Towing, stepped up to the plate. They sponsored "Team Bayview Towing," including riders from JBan Racing and a few Canucks alumni.

"We knew it was a big investment going in, but you can make more of a difference as a big sponsor for one event, than you can just giving a hundred bucks here or there to multiple charities," said Cory. "There are a lot of good people behind this, and a lot of our staff members have young families, so it seemed like a great fit. I've been really impressed with the work they've done this year, and we're looking forward to next year's race already."

Unlike other events that have to delegate a large part of their funds to administration costs, 100% of all proceeds raised for Ride 4 Hope go directly to the Canucks for Kids fund. Bandura credits that to his team of good Samaritans. "People are always surprised when I tell them there is no payroll for this event. Everybody here is a volunteer. They're taking sick days and holidays, and we're all just here to give back."

This year's Ride 4 Hope took place on July 9, 2014. This was the second year the race ran east to west, and after battling 29 km/h head winds for most of the five and a half hour race, riders were welcomed



Canucks' mascot Fin poses with the Bayview truck.

into Morgan's Crossing in South Surrey. This year's event looks to have raised almost \$37,000.

But Bayview Towing wasn't finished yet! Two days later, they were involved in another bike race: the Tour de White Rock, which ran from July 11-13, 2014.



A few members of Team Bayview Towing have their picture taken with Fin.

Traditionally, the towing company that holds the City contract will move all the cars for the entire weekend as a Bronze Sponsor. Last year, Bayview moved the cars and the stage. When the Mayor of White Rock mentioned that, although the Tour de White Rock is the longest and one of the more scenic of the "Tours," the winners receive the lowest amount of prize money, Bayview lent their support by moving up to the Gold Sponsorship level in order to increase the purse for the 2014 race.

For more information about the Tour de White Rock, visit tourdewhiterock.ca, and to support Team Bayview Towing in next year's Ride 4 Hope, please visit jbanracing.com. 🍀