



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ride for Sight in Central Ontario gives hope to families affected by blindness



May 29, 2009, Toronto, ON – On Saturday, June 20th, Jim Caruk, host of HGTV's Real Renos, will ride with hundreds of motorcyclists in the 31st annual Ride for Sight in Central Ontario, in support of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. They will depart from the International Centre at 10:00 a.m. and parade to Collingwood, for the Ride for Sight festival which runs from June 19th to 21st.

Motorcyclists will be joined by:

- Dale Turner, 22, has LCA, a degenerative eye disease and is the first Canadian to have some vision restored by a new treatment.
- Gary and Ida Flinsenber, grandparents of nine month old, Livya who was diagnosed with LCA this year. Her grandparents ride because they are hopeful Livya will one day regain her sight.

This year's festival highlights include entertainment from legendary rocker, Kim Mitchell on Saturday night, and activities running all weekend long, include: Bike Games, Show n' Shine, Motorcycle Demo Rides, and Vendor Marketplace. In addition to all of the great entertainment, participants will enjoy new Ride for Sight activities on the streets and waterfront of downtown Collingwood. Both motorcyclists and non-motorcyclists are encouraged to come out and enjoy the weekend festivities for a great cause.

"Now more than ever is an exciting time in vision research, scientists are making breakthroughs," says Dale Turner. "The money raised by Ride for Sight is making a real difference in funding vision research that could potentially restore vision to other forms of retinal dystrophies."

All money raised by Ride for Sight goes to fund groundbreaking vision research across Canada to find treatments and cures, including The University of Toronto, Ottawa Health Research Institute and the University of Ottawa.

"I wanted to show my support for Ride for Sight because vision health is very important to me, it's my sight that enables me to do so many things that I take for granted, like driving, reading, writing and one of my greatest passions – motorcycling," says Jim Caruk. "All of the money raised through Ride for Sight goes to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, a national leader in vision research discoveries."

Parade Kick-Off, Saturday, June 20th, International Centre

Join **Mississauga Mayor, Hazel McCallion**, at the Ride for Sight kick-off parade at the International Centre on Airport Road, Saturday, June 20th. Breakfast and registration will be from 7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. At 10:00 a.m. sharp engines roar to life with the Peel Police beginning the escorted parade along scenic Airport Road up to Collingwood Waterfront.

Join Ride for Sight...because you can!

To take part in Ride for Sight, motorcyclists and non-motorcyclists, collect pledges online at www.rideforsight.com or by requesting donor books at 1-800-461-3331. Those who collect a minimum of \$75 in total donations are invited to Ride for Sight weekend, known to the thousands who attend as "the best party of the summer." The weekend is organized and run by a dedicated committee of volunteers who spend months preparing the weekend.

Ride for Sight Nationwide

Last year, Ride for Sight participants nationwide raised \$1.2 million in donations for the Foundation Fighting Blindness. Central Ontario supporters accounted for more than \$700,000 of that money. Ride for Sight takes place in eight regions across the country and is the longest running motorcycle charity fundraiser in Canada. Since it began 30 years ago in Central Ontario, it has raised more than \$17 million.

About The Foundation Fighting Blindness

The money raised goes to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, which is dedicated to funding research into the causes, treatments and cures for retinal diseases that cause blindness such as retinitis pigmentosa, Usher syndrome (deaf-blindness), Leber congenital amaurosis, age-related macular degeneration and other retinal diseases that lead to blindness. More than two million Canadians suffer from retinal diseases.

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