



Kyle Braatz - Typically Canadian Tribute Tour Rider

Honours bachelor of commerce student-Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa.

In the year his Grand-dad died, Braatz struggled to make sense of his tremendous loss. He wanted to honour a person who in his lifetime had strived to make a meaningful difference in other people's lives. When faced with the fight of his life against terminal cancer - his Grand-dad didn't wallow in self pity or defeat but rather embraced all those around him with affection, a zest for life and a genuine sense of gratitude that lifted their spirits.

"If my Grand-dad's life and fight with cancer can so inspire me, I can't be alone," says Braatz. "There are thousands of Typical Canadians who in their fight against cancer are inspiring their friends and family. By joining in our Tribute Tour, we can honour them and inspire others with their example."

Born in London Ontario, the 23-year-old grew up playing competitive organized sports including hockey and lacrosse, while enjoying golf and the great outdoors. When, in his early twenties, he discovered long-distance cycling, it became a quick passion. "The bike gives me the opportunity and freedom to clear my head and think about all the people who mean so much to me," he says. "It helps me keep my Granddad's spirit alive."

Braatz's TC journey began over a year ago: while sitting on the dock at the cottage, he came upon a decorative pin. It was a pin from St. Andrew's College, a school his Grand-dad had attended. None of his family or friends had seen the pin before and did not know where it came from. Braatz took it as a sign that his Grand-dad, a Typical Canadian, wanted Kyle to take him on one last adventure. "Who are you riding with?" became TCG's slogan.

Kyle will be riding with his Grand-dad, Frank Duff Moores. He will keep the pin with him on this tour and in those moments when he may feel weak or tired, he will remember how his Grand-dad lived when faced with adversity and he'll find the strength to carry on. Braatz is moved by the many stories of brave and courageous Typical Canadians and hopes this Tribute Tour will inspire us all to join the cancer community and rally to beat cancer forever.

Kyle is available for interviews

Website: www.typicallycanadian.com

Contacts:

Kyle Braatz – President – (613) 296-1417 kbraatz@typicallycanadian.com

Al Hoffman – PR & Publicity analyst – (905) 922-1354 or
(905) 342-3133. mediainquiries@typicallycanadian.com

Who are you riding with?



Steve Coleman - Typically Canadian Tribute Tour Rider

Honours bachelor of commerce alumni-Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa.

When Steve Coleman decided to join the Typically Canadian team to cycle across Canada to honour those who have inspired him, he did so without hesitation.

“It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity to show my appreciation for all of my family members and fellow Canadians who have shown strength, determination and perseverance in their battles with cancer, as well as to spread that message coast to coast with my friends,” says the 23-year-old Coleman.

When Coleman’s grandparents were battling cancer, he saw how important it was to support them and he believes that sharing inspirational stories across the nation will help Canadians who are currently battling the same disease.

Coleman comes from an athletically-inclined family and has always surrounded himself with energetic people. Hockey, golf, fishing and snowboarding have been his passions growing up but since getting on a road bike for the first time last summer, he is enjoying the challenges that each ride presents.

Coleman is overwhelmed by the support that family, friends and sponsors have given to him and the Typically Canadian team. “Without the help and guidance we have received from all of our supporters, we certainly would not have come this far,” he notes. “This has been an amazing learning and life affirming experience.”

Steve is available for interviews

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Who are you riding with?



Alex Gray - Typically Canadian Tribute Tour Rider

Honours bachelor of commerce student -Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa.

Alex Gray, whose family has never been directly affected by cancer, is proof that a love for life and a passion for sport can go hand-in-hand with a good cause.

“My goal for this tour is to show people that they don’t have to be personally affected by disease to make a difference,” says the 24-year-old. “Cancer does not discriminate – it can have an impact on any one of us or on our family at any time and in times of adversity every little bit helps.”

Born and raised in Cornwall, Ontario, Gray spent his youth in hockey rinks and on soccer fields. His time spent playing for the Seaway Valley Rapids Hockey Club sharpened his competitive edge and set the stage for his current involvement in cycling, rock climbing and golf.

Gray is currently working to complete his undergraduate degree in Finance at the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa. Upon making the decision to attend school part-time and dedicate the year to fulfilling the Typically Canadian dream, Gray will graduate in winter 2008.

“I expect this will be a life changing experience,” he says. “The passion and dedication that it took to develop this ride is reflected in my decision to jump on board. Delaying graduation by one semester is a small price to pay on behalf of the Typically Canadian team and the people we will ultimately help to support and inspire.”

Alex is available for interviews

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Who are you riding with?



Andrew Hopkins - Typically Canadian Tribute Tour Rider

Alumni, University of Western Ontario.

After returning from a recent journey to South America, Andrew Hopkins says he has a new appreciation for travel, adventure, and a noble cause. For Andrew, the Typically Canadian tour marks the culmination of three important aspects of his life.

Hopkins, whose grandparents passed away from cancer before he was born, says the loss has left a permanent imprint on his family. “I will never know how much their presence would have enriched my life, and it is for that reason that I will dedicate my ride across Canada to my late grandparents,” he says.

Although they never had the chance to meet, Hopkins and his grandparents have something in common. Hopkins and his grandfather, who battled liver cancer, share a nickname – ‘Hoppy’. And Hopkin’s grandmother, who left behind a husband and four- year-old daughter, was only 24 at the time – the same age that Hopkins will be as he undertakes the Typically Canadian journey.

Hopkins was born in Mississauga and moved to London, Ontario, shortly after where he has spent most of his life. Most recently, Hopkins has relocated to Ottawa where he is focusing on the Typically Canadian initiative as well as training for the Boston Marathon. Hopkins values the element of family support and is the second of three brothers. His recent interest in cycling is an example of his lifetime commitment to athletics, including competitive hockey, soccer, football, running and snowboarding.

Andrew is available for interviews

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