

Media Release



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THE VICTOR DAVIS MEMORIAL RIDE CYCLES THROUGH NINE COMMUNITIES

Greg Davis rides from Guelph to Montreal to raise awareness for organ and tissue donation

Guelph, ON – Greg Davis, brother of the late Olympic swimmer Victor Davis, is embarking on a seven-day cycling tour in memory of Victor and to raise awareness of the dire need for organ and tissue donation.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of Victor’s death. He died after being involved in a hit-and-run accident in Montreal.

“Vic’s death was a jarring tragedy for our family, but we felt some good could come from our loss. We decided to donate Vic’s organs and tissues so that through his death he could save the lives of others,” says Greg. “Organ donation is something that has always been important to my family. Before Vic died, we talked about it with Dad and we all decided we wanted to be organ donors.”

Victor won a gold and two silver medals at the 1984 Summer Olympics and a silver medal at the 1988 Summer Olympics. He retired from competitive swimming in 1989 shortly before his death.

“I applaud Greg and the Davis family for their continued support in raising awareness for organ and tissue donation,” says Frank Markel, President and CEO of Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN). “Greg and his family represent the values we all aspire to, selflessness, courage and compassion. When faced with the loss of a loved one, they chose to reach out to those in need and make the decision to donate. We hope Ontarians will show their support for this family by registering their consent to become an organ and tissue donor.”

Greg will begin his seven-day cycling tour in Guelph. From there he will travel to Hamilton, Toronto, Cobourg, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville, Ottawa, Hawkesbury and will finish in Montreal.

Greg won’t be riding alone. Three years ago Grant Hagerty required 24/7 oxygen support, could barely walk up a flight of stairs and, in his words, “was at the end of the road.” But, thanks to the generosity and courage of one family he got a second chance at life. Double lung recipient Hagerty will cycle alongside Greg on his incredible journey from Guelph to Montreal.

“Life is a series of choices. You can choose to make a difference and you can choose to be part of solution. Through this ride I am trying to make a difference by raising awareness for organ and tissue donation and honour those whose choice made a difference to me and my family. Without families like Greg’s, I would not be here today.”

You can register your consent to donate your organs and tissue by visiting your local Service Ontario Health Card Services – OHIP office or outreach centre where you renew your health card. You can also register by downloading and filling out a Gift of Life Consent Form from www.giftoflife.on.ca and mailing it to the address on the form.

If you’ve already signed your donor card, please also register your decision so that this information is accessible at the time of your death and talk to your family about your decision.

For more details on the Victor Davis Memorial Ride please visit the event website at www.victordavismemorialride.com.

For more details on Trillium Gift of Life Network, please visit our website at www.giftoflife.on.ca. You can also call 416-363-4001 or toll free 1-800-263-2833.

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