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The Return of the Downhill Warriors

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Cycle for Wishes

BY SKY MITCHELL



This summer, I (Sky Mitchell), a member of Team H&R Block, will be riding my bicycle from Victoria, British Columbia to St. John's, Newfoundland to raise awareness and money for the Children's Wish Foundation. The Children's Wish Foundation works with the community to provide children living with high-risk, life threatening illnesses the opportunity to realize their most heartfelt wish.

Nathaniel, a grandson of a family friend, was diagnosed with a nasopharyngeal tumour when he was three years old. Upon diagnosis of this cancerous tumour in his nasal cavity, Nathaniel underwent extensive radiation and chemotherapy treatment. In January 2008, at the young age of four and a half, Nathaniel suc-

cumbed to the disease.

Three months prior to his passing, Nathaniel was granted a special wish by the Children's Wish Foundation. Nathaniel, his parents and two older brothers were sent to Disney World for a week. Together, the family enjoyed sunny beaches, Disney characters and endless amusement rides. During such trying times, they were able to experience laughter and joy, a much needed relief from the stresses they had back home.

For a child whose wish is about to be granted, the pain and discomfort of the illness, and often harsh treatment regimes, somehow become more bearable. For many, the excitement of planning and anticipating their dream has a dramatic effect on their healing. These courageous youngsters often experience a renewed sense of energy and hope as they see a different kind of light at the end of the tunnel.

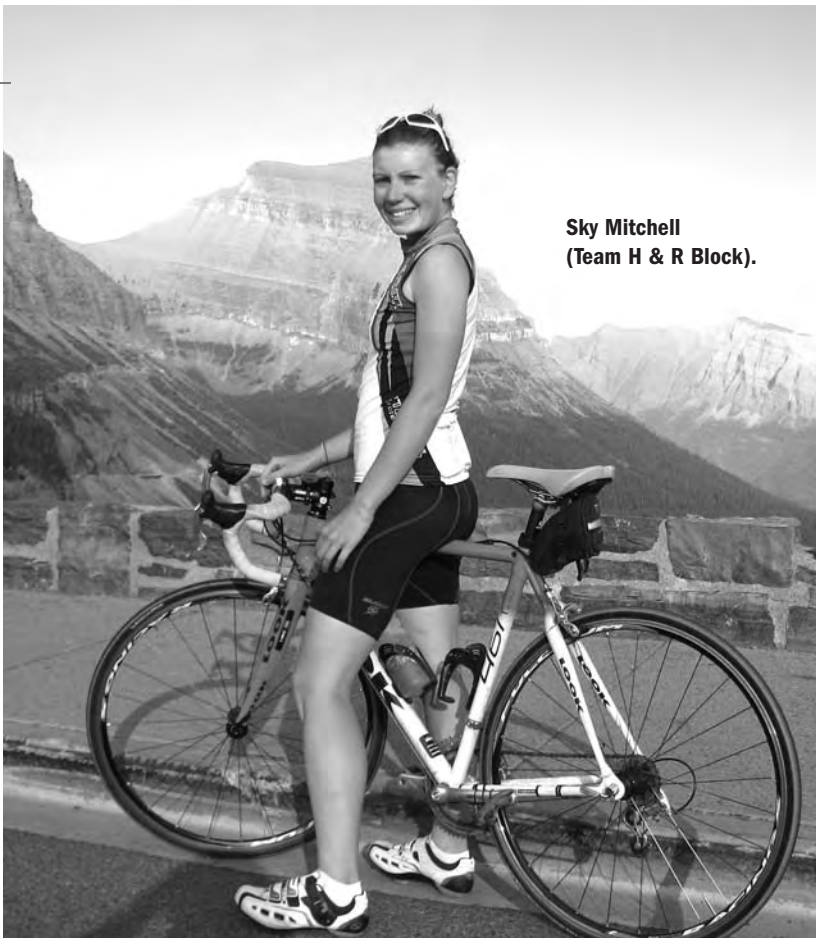
I was born in Toronto and raised in Richmond Hill, Ontario but currently reside in Calgary, Alberta. Since adolescence I have been passionate about riding a bicycle across Canada. I can think of nothing more meaningful than to give back to the community by dedicating this journey to The Children's Wish Foundation.

I will be cycling from Victoria, British Columbia to St. John's, Newfoundland. This 8,000 kilometre trek will take approximately two and a half months and will start in June. Currently, I am the only rider cycling the complete distance; however, there will be other cyclists and supporters joining her for various legs of the ride. I will be taking longtime friend, Tory Farr, will be driving the support vehicle for the entire duration of the ride.

In addition, there will be various events along the way. I am currently working with the Talisman Centre in Calgary to organize a group ride from Banff to Calgary in order to involve local cycling enthusiasts. This ride will take place mid-June and more detailed information will be posted on her website www.crosscanadasky.com.

For further information or if you are interested in joining any leg of the ride or sponsoring any part of the event please contact Sky at: skymitchell@gmail.com or call (403) 978-6161.

Donations can be made online at www.crosscanadasky.com or a cheque made out to "Cross Canada Sky Mitchell" can be mailed to Suite 101, 3016 19th St. NE, Calgary, AB, T2E 6Y9.



**Sky Mitchell
(Team H & R Block).**