

Long-time Riders Welcome Third Generation in Tbaytel Motorcycle Ride for Dad



Three generations of Lyle Knudsen's family will be riding in this year's Tbaytel Motorcycle Ride for Dad in support of prostate cancer. Lyle (2nd from right) will be joined by (L to R) son Kai, father Peter and brother Scott. The event takes place Saturday, June 17th.

BY GRAHAM STRONG

Lyle Knudsen and his father Peter have been riding in the Tbaytel Motorcycle Ride for Dad together for several years. But this year will be extra special. Lyle's son Kai will join

his father and grandfather on June 17, as well as "Uncle Scott" (Lyle's brother), which means three generations of the Knudsen family will be riding together in the event for the first time.

"It was my Dad's idea," said Lyle Knudsen. "My son Kai just got his motorcycle licence, and my Dad said, 'Why don't we all ride together?'"

Lyle said motorcycles have been part of family life for decades. He and his father took the training course together and got their licences when Lyle was 16. Today, Peter is 84 and still riding his two Harley-Davidsons.

"It's nice that we are still riding and creating memories together particularly that we are now into the third generation," Lyle said.

Lyle said that the family is always ready to jump in and help the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation. They have supported local healthcare for decades both individually and through their business, Equipment World.

"We're strong believers in supporting the community where we live and work," Lyle said, who rode in the first Tbaytel Motorcycle Ride for Dad back in 2001. "It started as a group of friends who wanted to ride together and support a great cause."

Sadly one of those friends, Peter Pascuzzo, collapsed after the ride in 2003 and succumbed to cancer himself days later. Since then, friends Lyle, Arto Pouru, John Jurcik, and Michael Comuzzi along with Peter's brother John put together a special Peter Pascuzzo Prize in his honour. It is awarded annually after the ride in partnership with the Health Sciences Foundation.

Lyle said that he appreciates the work the Foundation does in Northwestern Ontario.

"The Foundation does a great job of community networking. That's so important when it comes to raising funds for our Hospital. Governments are much more likely to fund projects when they see the community get behind it," Lyle said.

He added that it's easy to see the impact the community has had over the years. "The diversity of services we have now in Thunder Bay compared to where we were several years ago – you can see how important that community support and events like the Tbaytel Motorcycle Ride for Dad have been. The advancements we've made here are pretty amazing. Without that community support, I don't believe we'd have the level of services at our Hospital that we have today."

The Knudsen family will take to the road along with all the other event riders on June 17, 2023 starting from the Victoria Inn parking lot.

Registration is open for the Tbaytel Motorcycle Ride for Dad, Presented by PDR Contracting. For more information, please visit: <https://www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/for-dad> or email Haley Werbowetski at haley.werbowetski@healthsciencesfoundation.ca

Women In Action Spring into Action

The Emergency Department (ED) at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) has the support of a special group of dynamic and dedicated women.

Formed in 2016, Women In Action (WIA) has a membership of over 100 women who share a philanthropic interest of improving healthcare at the Health Sciences Centre – in particular, its ED.

TBRHSC's Emergency Department is one of the busiest in Canada, treating 100,000+ patients each year.

Over its seven years, WIA has raised \$380,940 for ED projects such as upgrades to both the Trauma and Resuscitation Rooms, upgrades to the waiting room and medical equipment, and creation of a De-escalation Room for patients having mental health issues to calm down in before treatment.

At its recent spring social networking and recruitment event, WIA announced its new three-year corporate sponsor – Alterna Savings.

"We know our investment and sponsorship of Women In Action will create tangible, positive change for the betterment of healthcare in the community," says Rob Paterson, CEO of Alterna Savings. "As a credit union, giving back to our local communities is at the heart of what we're about. Being the Corporate Sponsor for Women In Action is something very meaningful to our employees and our valued members across Northwestern Ontario."

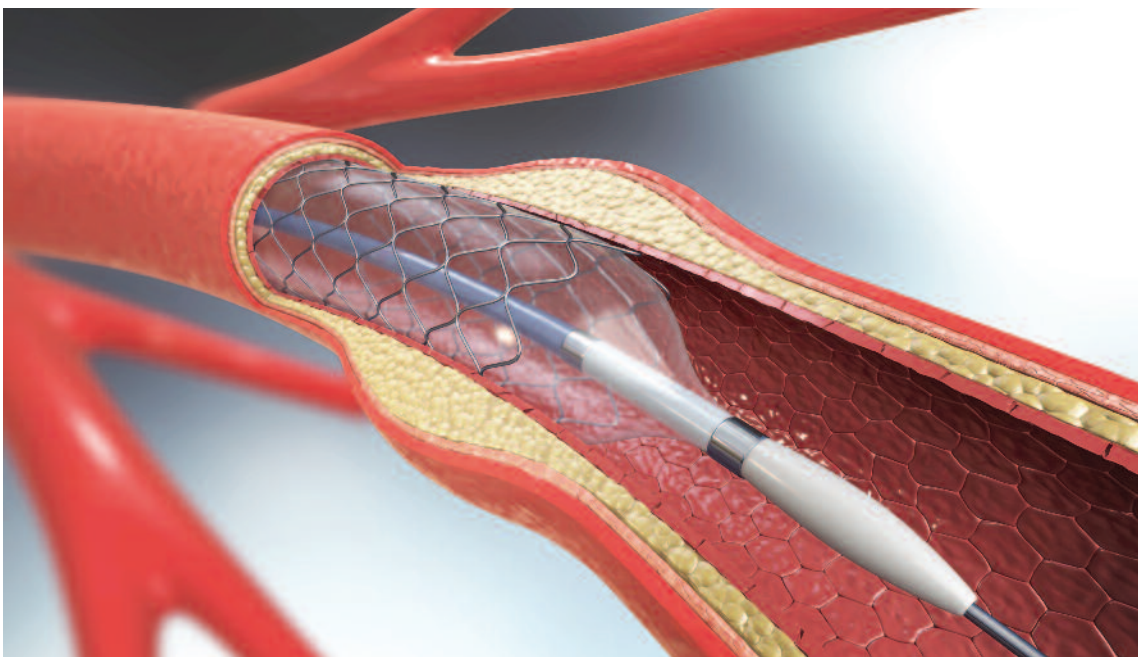
"Being a part of Women in Action is so rewarding," says Sharon Bon, WIA Chair. "Not only do we enjoy great events, but knowing that our membership donation is supporting a great cause is wonderful. Having Alterna Savings on board as our major sponsor guarantees that all membership fees will go to improving local health care."

For more information on joining Women In Action, visit [healthsciencesfoundation.ca/women-in-action](https://www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/women-in-action) or call Anne Antenucci at (807) 684-7106.



Pictured left to right: Haley Werbowetski, TBRHSC Events Officer; Sharon Bon, Chair, Women In Action; Rob Paterson, CEO & President, Alterna Savings; Natasha Zeleny, Alterna Savings; Frugina Ball, Region Head & Member Experience, Alterna Savings; Terri Hrkac, TBRHSC Director of Philanthropy; Glenn Craig, President & CEO, TBRHSC; Anne Antenucci, Development Assistant, TBRHSC & Selena Owen, TBRHSC Events Officer.

Advancements in Stroke Care include Endovascular Thrombectomy (EVT) in Northwestern Ontario



Endovascular thrombectomy (EVT) treatment uses a small tube, a guide wire and stent to remove large stroke-causing clots from the brain.

SUBMITTED BY THE NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL STROKE NETWORK

In Canada, there is one stroke approximately every five minutes. For the best patient outcomes, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and hospitals need to be ready to ensure patients receive the right care in a timely way. In Northwestern Ontario, EMS and Emergency Departments have enhanced stroke assessment by using screening tools to identify severe stroke. These tools identify patients who may benefit from endovascular thrombectomy (EVT).

EVT is a treatment for acute ischemic stroke that uses a small tube, a guide wire and stent to remove large stroke-causing clots from the brain. The EVT procedure requires specialized equipment and a coordinated team approach to ensure success. Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC), one of 11 EVT centers, strives to continuously optimize stroke care by improving and upgrading equipment. In September 2022, an aspiration (suction) system was upgraded at TBRHSC to assist when removing a clot from the brain.

The next goal is to purchase an anesthesia machine and monitoring equipment for the EVT suite.

"Stroke is the most feared complication after cardiac surgery," remarks Dr. Bebedjian,

Interventional Neurologist and EVT provider at TBRHSC. "And as our cardiac care grows at TBRHSC, preparing for the opening of the cardiovascular program, it is vital to continue with our progress in stroke care."

"The additional equipment we have received and the upgrades we hope to obtain in the future mean faster and more efficient treatment for patients, ultimately giving the patient the best opportunity for recovery," adds Dr. A. Hassan, Neurologist and Medical Lead, Northwestern Ontario Regional Stroke Network.

While more strokes are happening, with advancements in stroke care, more people are surviving. The need for stroke treatment, prevention and recovery systems is crucial.

Donations supporting stroke care and EVT initiatives can be directed to the STROKE FUND through the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation at [healthsciencesfoundation.ca/donate](https://www.healthsciencesfoundation.ca/donate) or by calling 807-345-4673.

For more information on stroke care in Northwestern Ontario, visit www.nwestroke.ca or email nwestroke@tbh.net.

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