

Ride for Styles raises over \$20,000



By Jake Courtepatte

When cyclists from across York Region descended on the York Regional Police's Community Safety Village on Sunday for the annual Ride for Styles, some were sporting tops reading 'life is a beautiful ride.'

Unfortunately for Constable Garrett Styles, his was cut tragically short, though his legacy lives on through the charity cycle in his name.

Styles, a seven-year veteran with the force, was struck down by a minivan being driven by an underage driver in the early hours of the morning on June 28, 2011.

This year's ride raised just over \$20,000 for the Canadian Tire JumpStart program, Victim Services of York Region, and the Aga Khan Foundation Canada, a non-profit that supports social development programs in Asia and Africa.

A donation was also made to the Canadian Police Memorial Ride to Remember.

With the motto 'heroes in life, not death,' the Ride to Remember will take place in September to remember those like Styles who have fallen in the line of duty.

'We've raised a lot of money, but we always need more,' said Garry Styles, Garrett's father and a retired member of the force, who called his son 'a good man.'

'It keeps my son's legacy alive, and it's something my son would have supported.'

With humble beginnings in October of 2011 as a group of eight YRP cyclists, this year's event featured both a 50km and 75km ride starting from Bruce's Mill Conservation Area in Stouffville.

Now in its eighth year, around 150 cyclists came out in support of the event, many sporting the new 'Sockcess' YRP-themed socks, aiding in making this year's ride the most successful to date.

'I think it should be supported for a long time,' said Mr. Styles. 'There's no doubt it's helping a lot of people.'

YRP detective and event chief organizer Ken Bardai called the continued support for the ride 'proof of Garrett's impact on both his peers and the community.'

Since its inception, the Ride 4 Styles has raised over \$100,000 for charity.