

# Luncheon raises more than \$4,000 for Kevin Glenney's ride

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In lieu of its regular Thursday meeting, the Dunnville Rotary Club hosted a luncheon July 29 to raise funds in support of Kevin Glenney's Two Wheels and a Heartbeat cross-country ride for Huntington's disease.

The luncheon held at the Glenney farm raised more than \$4,000, bringing Glenney's total funds raised for Huntington's to \$13,677. Giant Tiger, McIntyre Automotive, Vic Powell Welding Ltd., Watertite Roofing and the Rotary Club made generous donations, as did individuals from the community.

"It's a great cause and we're pleased to support it and to be invited to the Glenney farm for this great luncheon," said Rotary President Rob Taylor.

After the meal, Glenney gave a slide show presentation that included pictures of his trip so far, and spoke about the disease that has affected his family through his father's side.

Over 50 people attended the event, including Mayor Marie Trainer and councillors Lorne Boyko, Buck Sloat and Don Ricker, and members of the Rotary Club, the Lions Club and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Also in attendance was Wayne Greenway, Manager, Chapter Development, Huntington Society of Canada National Office in Kitchener, Ont., and Jo Anne Watton, Director of Individual and Family Services, National Office.

"We are so thrilled with what Kevin is doing," Greenway said. "It takes incredible courage and endurance to ride across the country. Many people with Huntington's live in silence because of the stigma of the disease, and because it can affect employment and life insurance. Since Kevin began his ride, we've had all kinds of people calling and asking us about Huntington's."

Greenway went on to say that coming forward about having the disease could help researchers advance treatment.

"Many people don't realize that more than 1,500 people will be needed for clinical trials for drugs. This is the first time there are so many drugs coming through the research pipeline. Huntington's is now starting to get more support than it ever has."

Watton said it's great that Glenney has been able to touch base with Huntington's chapters as he makes his way across the country.

She added, "Huntington's is such a rare disease and is so impactful on families and individuals. Kevin's ride across Canada instills hope in so many families dealing with the disease."

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One local family who knows the trials of dealing with Huntington's is the Hartery family, who attended the luncheon. Debra Hartery said it was very difficult to find a placement for her daughter Rachel, who suffers from Huntington's, as the disease progressed.

"I have seven rejection letters from places that couldn't accommodate her. Dr. Reza Kazemi worked very hard to get her into Grandview Lodge where she's been for two years now."

Hartery praised the care her daughter receives at Grandview, saying the compassionate nurses have allowed her grandchildren Hannah, Seth and Xavier to keep a relationship with their mother.

For Hannah, the luncheon was a chance to spend time with her mom.

"I've never been to an event like this. It's really good to see my mom here."

The luncheon was catered by Shelley's Catering, and sponsored by KLS Engineering.

Tom Snyder provided corn on the cob.

To donate to Glenney's ride go to [KevinGlenney.com](http://KevinGlenney.com). To learn more about Huntington's go to [www.huntingtonsociety.ca](http://www.huntingtonsociety.ca).