

Johanna's Ride the Boot

The weekend of August 28, 29 and 30th was an exceptional, emotional time for our family. We, The Whalen Family had the privilege of attending The Heritage Riders, "Johanna's Memorial Ride the Boot". This event has been taking place for the last four years, in honour of Johanna Noseworthy, who, along with her grandmother was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident on July 2, 2005. Johanna's parents, Reuben and Barbara have kept her memory alive in many ways, two of which we got to experience this weekend. First, her parents have dedicated a playground in their hometown, Garnish, Johanna's Day Spa For Kids. It is a must see for anyone visiting the Marystown area. It is simply spectacular. The other event that her parents do in her memory is a bike ride around "the boot". This event my family and I attended and what a time we had. It was amazing. We arrived in Marystown around 5 on Friday 28. We met up with Reuben and Barb and we became instant friends. They welcomed us with open arms and made us feel so comfortable and at home. We met up with some of the other bikers at the Meet and Greet on Friday night. C.J. had some of her pictures from previous camp years and we talked a lot about camp and what it meant to our family and all of our Candlelighters children and families.

The main event was Saturday the 29th when we, along with 50 or so bikers, left the Marystown hotel and began our "ride the boot". We stopped at a couple of Nursing homes along the way and had a couple of coffee breaks and by the way, Barb's tea buns are THE BEST!!!! Our evening ended off with a delicious BBQ in Garnish community hall. Steaks, salads, desserts, what more could you ask for! There were prize giveaways and ticket draws, I do believe everyone left with something, the outpouring of support and community spirit was simply amazing. To finish off the BBQ C.J. gave a speech, just a little about her journey so far and most importantly about what camp means to her and how it has impacted her life so positively. She got a standing ovation, something for which she is very proud of and to say the least we as parents were beaming. Well although a hard act to follow, after C.J. I spoke with the group and told them about the Candlelighters and about Camp and how camp is such a tremendous means of support and "normalcy" for our children and their families. The evening continued for the heritage riders with a dance and social, however we were tuckered out after our day's excursion and retired to our room.

Sunday morning ended our weekend with a beautiful send off by Reuben and Barb and some of the riders, it was great. I really don't have words to express how much we enjoyed our weekend with the Noseworthys and the Heritage riders; they are an exceptional group of people, whom we are pleased to now add to our circle of friends. The heritage riders have committed to support the Candlelighters for the next 4 years and we can't thank them enough for their tremendous donation this year and their continued support to our group. Their donation goes a long way in helping to offset our camp expenses.

Having said that their fundraising has begun already and they have a 2010 Suzuki Boulevard M 109 Limited edition valued at \$18,500.00 up on a ticket draw. The tickets are \$10.00 each and it will be drawn for on Aug. 29th, at Johanna's Ride the Boot 2010, which our family does indeed intend to attend again. If you would like to sell some tickets, buy some tickets or help us with this fundraiser in anyway, please call me at 598-0034 or e-mail me at christinewhalen@ymail.com.

Again to Reuben, Barb and all the Heritage Riders **Thank you so very, very much** for an exceptional weekend. Thanks for your continued support for Camp Delight and we look forward to seeing you all in 2010!!!! God Bless you all...

On Behalf of the Whalen Family, Christine