

# Ewings Cancer Foundation's biggest fundraiser in 7th year

By Paul Hayes and Tina Pernica

It's wheels up for the Ewings Cancer Foundation of Canada's 7th annual fundraiser, the 2016 Rally For The Cure!

This unique, not-to-be-missed air and car rally is happening on September 11, 2016 in the York region of Ontario.

Pilots will take to the air from five participating airports while those who prefer their wheels on the ground will start their car engines in Richmond Hill. Participants will receive a "treasure map" locating markers along their routes as they compete for the coveted first-place trophies in their categories.

Cars and planes alike will gather at the finish line at Buttonville Municipal Airport (CYKZ) in Markham where they will be treated to a "Smokin' Hot BBQ" at Hangar 17 provided by Ice Cream Co.; live music by Glenn Reid and Boogaloo, along with Tom Corrigan and Dou-

bleShott; sensational silent auction; 50/50 draws and an awards presentation.

It's a family fun event that attracts more than 200 people and raises more than \$70,000 for cancer research!

Rally For The Cure wheels and wings event raises awareness of aggressive childhood cancer and funds for research

Retired Royal Canadian Air Force Brigadier General and Buttonville's COPA Flight 44 former Flight Captain, Paul Hayes, along with Anna Pangrazzi, Sales Manager at Leggat Aviation, jointly design the Air Rally, every year volunteering their time to create new and interesting routes.

The Rally registration fee includes an official \$50 tax receipt.

Registration is \$100 per team consisting of pilot and co-pilot. At their chosen starting airport, pilots will be provided with a choice of two alternate routes, route instructions and a colour-coded questionnaire.

The starting instructions will specify two designated immediate stops and the final stop at Buttonville. At each intermediate stop, pilots are required to pick up a questionnaire for the next flight leg, which are printed on coloured paper. Pilots must bring back three different coloured questionnaires to complete the rally. These are collected upon arrival at CYKZ.

The Pernica Family from Richmond Hill, Ontario started this "Wheels and Wings" event seven years ago, as a way to help fund much needed research into Ewing sarcoma, an extremely aggressive childhood cancer and the second most common cancer of the bone and soft tissue, affecting anyone at any age but most are kids, teenagers and young adults.

This little known cancer took the life of their son, Reid, changing their lives forever. Reid dreamed of becoming a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force so during high school he took a job at Buttonville Municipal Airport to learn everything he could about aviation.

Derek Sifton, president of Million Air Toronto FBO and Toronto Airways Limited, is a big supporter of the ECFC's Rally efforts. "This disease has touched us rather personally. Reid Pernica was a member of our line service team. He also learned to fly with us here at Toronto Airways. He had two big loves in his life - aircraft and cars. His dream was to get his pilot license and take his mother flying. He managed to achieve that and then sadly we lost him at age 19 to Ewing sarcoma. The members of our Buttonville Airport family are still affected by this loss and have happily volunteered their time and effort to help fund the research needed that someday may detect and cure this lesser known, very invasive and threatening cancer. I hope our flying community gets behind this event to help fly for Reid".

Loretta Lau-Lowerison worked with Reid at Buttonville before moving on to become executive



Air Rally For The Cure designers Anna Pangrazzi and Paul Hayes.



Reid Pernica, working at Buttonville airport in 2007.

manager of the Waterloo Air Show. During his funeral, she and her husband Ryan performed a flyover at Elgin Mills Cemetery in their Cessna, tipping their wings as Reid was laid to rest.

There is no known cause of Ewing sarcoma and there is no cure. It mimics growing pains or sports injury-like symptoms and can be very hard to detect, often delaying diagnosis.

This year in Canada approximately 400 people will get Ewing sarcoma, 220 of them will be between 0-14 years old and 50-70% of them will survive. Unfortunately, relapse happens far too often, lessening their chances of survival significantly to 10-18%.

New treatment options are desperately needed for those patients when the cancer has spread to other parts of their bodies.

The Ewings Cancer Foundation of Canada (ECFC) proudly

support scientists and researchers through fundraisers like the Rally For The Cure, researchers like Dr. Adam Shlien, PhD and Dr. David Malkin, MD at Toronto's Sick Kids hospital.

Dr. Shlien and his team are applying cutting-edge techniques to paint a genetic picture of Ewing sarcoma. Finding unique genetic "markers" will hopefully lead to precision or personalized cancer medicines to target drugs or new ideas for drug development.

This is vital if we are to offer these young people more effective treatments, better survival rates, and hope.

This event is one of a kind in Canada and is not to be missed. For more information, go to: <http://www.rallyfortheure.ca> or contact the Ewings Cancer Foundation of Canada by email at [contact@ewingscancer.ca](mailto:contact@ewingscancer.ca) or by visiting [www.ewingscancer.ca](http://www.ewingscancer.ca)

Questions? Phone 519-857-7639 or visit [www.secandco.com](http://www.secandco.com)

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