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Peter Marshall Completes His Fundraising Expedition

By The Editor on July 16, 2013

Submitted. In 2010, North Vancouver athlete Peter Marshall was diagnosed with Wegener's Granulomatosis (WG), a rare autoimmune disease with no cure. A former nationally-ranked swimmer and Ironman Canada competitor, Peter suffered severe blood vessel damage in his upper airways and lungs.

After two years of intense medical treatment, including advanced biologic therapy, Peter is now in remission although it is difficult for him to continue his athletic pursuits as he was left with 60% normal lung function.

Refusing to give up on a lifelong love of adventure, Peter – an avalanche forecaster – took on the challenging fundraiser expedition to cycle, climb, and ski to the volcanic peak of Mount Rainier in Washington. The mountain features 26 major glaciers and a greater topographical prominence than K2 in the Himalaya.



All funds raised on this trip support The Arthritis Society and research into the prevention and treatment of diseases such as WG.

Peter is very close to reaching his goal of raising \$14,411, which is equal to the summit of Mount Rainier in feet.

The trip began on Wednesday, July 3, 2013. Peter, along with a team of family and friends, cycled 500 kilometres from Vancouver to the base of Mount Rainier. A small group climbed about 10,000 vertical feet to the summit of the mountain. The team skied back to their bicycles, and pedaled their tired legs on the return journey to Vancouver.

"I wanted to prove to myself, and to others who suffer from diseases such as WG, that it is possible to be active after diagnosis – to not only enjoy adventures in life but to thrive. I am grateful to be in remission after two years of treatment. I'm now ready to take on my next major challenge, and to make a difference in the lives of others at the same time. It's going to be a tough journey, but it will be an exhilarating one that I hope will inspire others." Peter explained before his expedition.

Peter was treated for WG by Dr. Jason Kur, medical director of Artus Health Centre in Vancouver. Dr. Kur supported Peter's journey by joining him on the first cycling segment of his trip departing from Vancouver.

"This is a remarkable undertaking for someone who has been diagnosed with WG," says Dr. Kur, whose rheumatology practice focuses on inflammatory arthritis and autoimmune diseases. "Peter is extremely determined to raise awareness of autoimmune diseases such as this, which, if left untreated, can cause permanent damage and may even be life-threatening. Peter underwent intense treatment based on the latest drug research, including corticosteroids, chemotherapy and biologic medications. The funds that he raises will help further this research and allow for better treatment and prevention of WG and related diseases."

A launch party took place on Wednesday, June 26 at the Showcase Snowboard Surf & Skate Shop

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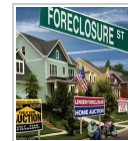
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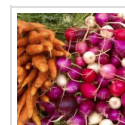
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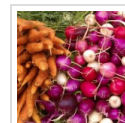
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in Kitsilano (1766 West 4th Avenue) to celebrate this incredible expedition and to wish Peter and his team members a successful journey.


For more information about the expedition or to donate, please visit:

- [Donation Link](#)
- [Peter Marshall's blog](#)
- [Facebook Page](#)
- [YouTube](#)

Editor's note: though Peter completed his challenge, you can still donate in order to help him complete his fundraising goal.

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Peter Marshall
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