

## **Journey for Julie rolls into Saskatchewan**

**By Tracy Holmes**

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Twelve hundred kilometres down, 3,200 more to go.

Cyclists-with-a-cause Greg Kotlowski and Russ McCann are well on their way to reaching their cross-Canada goal.

As of Tuesday, the pair had traversed 1,188 km on their Journey for Julie, a six-week trek to raise awareness of the meningococcal vaccine, and generate funds for The Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada.

The ride is in memory of Kotlowski's daughter, Julie, who died 21 years ago, at the age of four, after contracting meningococcal septicaemia, a dangerous blood infection. At the time, there was no vaccine against meningitis.

Riding up to seven hours per day, McCann and Kotlowski hope to raise \$200,000 for the cause.

Judging by e-mail updates from Kotlowski's wife, Susan, the pair's effort is opening eyes and hearts as they cross the country.

People have donated lodging and campsites along the way, as well as meals and cash. "People along the way give you \$5, \$10, \$20, which is really great to see," McCann's wife Cheryl said from Saskatoon Wednesday.

They've done two television interviews so far, one in Edmonton, and another in Maidstone, Sask.

Cheryl said the guys are in good spirits, despite their sore bottoms. They logged an impressive 278.5 km Tuesday, thanks to a tailwind. It made up for the 50 km they fell behind the day before, courtesy of a strong headwind.

McCann and Kotlowski are on track to reach Winnipeg today (Aug. 6), where they'll rest for a day before setting off for Clearwater Bay Monday.

To follow their progress, visit <http://www.journeyforjulie.ca>.

Donations to the cause can also be made on the website.