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Joining FORCES for bike rally

Tour de FORCE participants start pedaling this weekend

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Local cyclists, headed up by Gwen Todd of Carlisle, are gearing up for the second annual Tour de FORCE Bicycle Rally this weekend - and Flamborough riders are encouraged to join the fun.

The event, which last year attracted 200 cyclists from Burlington, Brampton, Hamilton and Oakville, aims to raise awareness of the route surrounding the proposed St. Marys quarry site in northeast Flamborough that includes rolling hills, winding roads and the Niagara Escarpment as a backdrop. Designated as a provincial Natural Heritage Site, the area regularly attracts cyclists.

These same roads, according to organizers of the ride, would become treacherous if the quarry application is approved, with upwards of 1,100 truck trips estimated on the route each day. Spilled gravel, exhaust fumes and fast moving 38-tonne trucks would pose a risk of health issues, injury, and possibly even death for riders.

This Sunday's event will include two routes: a 100 km ride, and a 50 km ride; both will kick off at Courtcliffe Park in Carlisle. Both routes will wind along country roads, up the escarpment and past the proposed quarry site. All rides will finish at Courtcliffe Park.

But the fun doesn't stop there. Registration fees (\$25 advance; \$30 the day of the ride) include the ride, a goody bag, Tim Hortons coffee, a Harvey's barbecue and a chance to win one of several raffle prizes, including a bike from Newworld Cycle in Burlington, coupons from Brick Brewing Company, a Jackson Triggs gift basket and a Four Season bathrobe, to name a few.

Sign-in and bib pick-up for the 100-km ride is from 7:30-8 a.m.; 50-km ride sign-in and bib pick up is from 9:30-10 a.m.

To view the ride routes and/or to register, visit www.Stop-TheQuarry.ca and click on Community Spirit/Calendar of Events. For information, call 905-689-3654.



PEDAL PUSHERS Riders enjoy the scenery at last year's Tour de FORCE Bicycle Rally in Carlisle.



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