

Believe anything is possible



By [Taylor Hermiston](#), Lloydminster Meridian Booster
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Photo courtesy of the Rolfes.

Duo sets out to cover over 1,000 kilometres by snowmobile in 10 days to spread awareness.

Through their love of snowmobiling, a husband and wife duo have aspired to travel 1,100 kilometres, from one side of Saskatchewan to the other, to spread awareness for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and give people the ability to believe anything is possible.

Beginning in Goodsoil, Sask. and ending in Yorkton, Sask., the anticipated 10 day ride, along the Trans Canadian Skidoo Trail System, is what will be remembered as the first annual Believe Sled Ride to End MS, created by Nicole and Wally Rolfes of Lloydminster.

“We are doing it to raise awareness and funding for the MS Society. We did a lot of snowmobiling before this event, in the past couple of years and we really enjoy it, and we thought it would be a fun and exciting event,” Wally said.

Each as a child, the Rolfes grew up with a passion for snowmobiling. Nicole, specifically, loved the freedom and joy it created, taking every chance she could to get on a snow bike.

The feeling of freedom was soon snowballed, as she was diagnosed with MS in 2012, which made cause for some adjustments. With the help of her husband, the duo found a snowmobile, the GSX 900 Ace, which has a newly designed motion suspension, assisting her symptoms and prolonging her ability to enjoy her shared childhood activity, going as long as 250 kilometre runs.

With the event almost five times longer in length, Nicole said they have listed off a couple of preparation to accommodate her illness.

“The big thing we had to think about is my medication. So we have a spotter that will be on the truck and trailer, (which will follow them throughout the trip),” Nicole said. “They will be carrying all of that stuff. I’ll also have some, because I deal with vertigo.”

“If all of a sudden I become fatigued, and I can’t do any portion of the ride. Wally will continue on, and I’ll jump into the truck and take a break.”

Since her diagnosis, living with MS prompted the Rolfes to hold the Lloydminster MS Society close to their hearts, which sees Nicole sit on their board of directors. She also tries to immerse in a number of their initiatives, including the Cruzin' to End MS event at A&W and the annual Jayman Built MS Walk.

“The MS society has been very supportive, I believe they think it’s a great idea,” Nicole said. “It’s a new event that hasn’t been done yet and they are excited to see the result of it for sure.”

With 72 days until the official start date, Wally said there is little time to waste, since they are still in the planning stages, but are happy they have secured a number of sponsorships for the event.

“We just secured our full fuel sponsorship for the whole ride from Hancock Petroleum Inc. on Tuesday,” Wally said. “We already received raffle prizes for our raffle coming up in the New Year and we’re getting lots of great reviews on it, and people seem pretty excited about it.”

Wally also said there are a lot of small moving parts to get things rolling, but was excited to announce their social media platform is live, and is frequently updating their progress.

The Rolfes can be followed via Twitter and Instagram @believeride4ms, on Facebook, under their page Believe Ride to end MS, or their website www.believeride.ca.

Through their website, people are welcome to donate to support their event and the MS Society, and early next week, Wally said they will be selling Believe Ride for MS vehicle decals and “bunny hugs or hoodies, depending on which province you are from, those will be available on our site too, with a portion of the sales going towards the MS Society.”

The decals will also be available for purchase at the Lloydminster MS Society, 4419–52 Avenue, Dynasoft Communications Inc., 4602–50 Avenue, and Diamond International Trucks (Lloydminster) Ltd., 5901–44 Street. The site’s donation option is also linked to the MS Society, according to Wally.

While no official goal has been set by the Rolfes, Nicole said would like to see \$15,000 raised, while Wally has kept a financial goal off the table.

“If we raise that, that would be wonderful. If we raise more, that would be even better.”

An exciting addition to the site, which will be added closer to the event, is a live tracker. The tracker will track the Rolfes’ movements every 10 minutes, allowing involved parties to be with them every step of the way.

With that in mind, the Rolfes are looking for volunteers in Meadow Lake, Prince Albert, and Yorkton to help them kickoff their event at each location.

Interested persons are asked to contact them through their website or believeride@gmail.com.

The official start date for the Believe Sled Ride to End MS is Feb. 21, 2016, and is expected to end on Mar. 1, 2016.

Wally and Nicole echoed each other’s excitement of the event, and having the opportunity to do the event is what Wally said he is looking most forward to.

Nicole is once again, excited to be out in nature and “doing something I enjoy, while living with MS, and being able to meet with people along the road, and help the MS Society out.”

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