

When the going gets tough The tough get going



## **Robert Stewart** His Personal Fight with Cancer

Born December 13, 1949

Bob joined our club in 1999 along with his son, Jacob and played until 2004 and finished that year with a 24.6% average.

2004

He planned to return in 2005, but while visiting his son Jacob in Saskatchewan, he started having stomach cramps, Jacobs's father-in-law being a doctor diagnostic him on March 8<sup>th</sup> with having colon cancer, on March 9th his granddaughter was born and on March 10th Bob had an operation to remove a tumour from his colon.

During his recovery, due to infection he lost over 50 pounds and left him in a weaken state. Three months later Bob and his wife, Amber returned to Toronto. Bob was referred to a specialist, who advised him to take it easy and no strenuous activities. Bob, who had been very active and still is, in all of the sports, started an exercise program, which included cycling and an exercise bike. In June he returned to work, and began to play hockey.

He took a year to train for long distance bike riding and rode in the 2007 Tour the Kawartha Lakes Ride, a four day, 500 mile track, along with 450 riders, to raise money for kids worse off than he was, "Kids for Cancer", a non-profit organization. Some of the inspiring stories came from children who had cancer. One little boy said his cancer was like a rainbow. On the day he passed away his parents saw a double rainbow in the sky. One poem written by a girl who had leukemia was: zephyr, she whispers, it's me. She looked at her cancer as a wind or a shadow that was always with her but never controlled by the disease.

In 2008 while out visiting Jacob in Saskatchewan, he cycled with 50 riders on a century ride, which is 50 miles.

After dropping by the park in late summer of 2009, Bob asked if he could return in 2010 and of course we welcomed him with open arms. He continued where he left off comprising an average of 24.9%. He also participated in a Brampton fundraiser where each member of the 5 member team rode a stationary bike for 1 1/2 hours.

In July of 2010 after suffering with kidney stones, he was diagnosed with colon cancer that had metastasized to the lungs, and was told at that time he had 9-12 months to live. He has been taking chemo therapy every two weeks, which leaves him in a weaken state, but that never stopped him from coming out each week, sometimes barely able to walk. He also continues to play hockey and trains by riding his bicycle 2 times a week, covering 100 km each day. The cancer has spread and they have increased his chemo, to try and slow it down.

He had planned to do a 67 mile ride through the mountains from Vancouver to Whistler, and even drove the course, the doctors advised him against it, and his son Jacob without even training, signed up for his Dad and completed the ride. A trained rider would have taken 5 hours, which is how long it took Jacob to complete the ride. Bob's grandchildren, Jacob's daughters were there to cheer Jacob along

The most money he raised at one event was over \$2000.00, the one thing I never knew about most fundraising races is that the rider has to submit the money in order to enter the race. "All this for the Cancer Society"

Bob's plans are to retire in December and move to Vancouver, for 2 months to see if they like living there so he will be closer to his kids and grandchildren. He still plans to start our 35<sup>th</sup> season next year. His ultimate dream would be to bike from Toronto to Vancouver.

Bob has spoken with many members of the club that have been touched by cancer and this has given him courage and strength to carry on and fight this disease that effects so many people, cancer.

## Bob has been very competitive as a player in all the sports he has participated in, and he is showing us all, how he is fighting to win his latest challenge. He is thankful to his Lord for each and every day.

The picture above is how, some of the long-time members remember Bob, that is before he shaved off the handlebar moustache.