

Police sign up for charity bicycle relay to Edmonton

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Constable Wayne Currie is looking forward to the day when he can trade his police uniform for Spandex.

"I've been psyched up for a long time," he says.

He trains on his bicycle for about 20 hours a week, whenever he gets the chance. He even rides to work.

Constable Currie is one of 20 officers from the Metropolitan Toronto Police who will participate in the 1990 Ride for Sunshine, a bicycle relay from Toronto to Edmonton in July.

The ride will raise money for the Sunshine Foundation, a charitable organization that tries to make dreams come true for handicapped or gravely ill children.

Constable Deborah Harper is trying to get her "you-know-what accustomed to the seat."

The adventure will not end when the officers climb off their bikes each day. At night they will rough it, using tents and camp gear from the Canadian Forces. Constable Harper has mixed feelings about that part of the trip.

"You never know about bugs and things like that," she says.

The Metro police are hoping to raise at least \$50,000 to pay for a special event for the children, such as a trip to Disneyland.

The Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will escort the cyclists along the way.

The Metro force also hopes municipal forces will join them during the rides through the cities.

The police hope their relay will do more than raise money. They would also like to show the public a "more approachable" image of the police.

"They see you in a good mood and not in your uniform," Constable Currie says.

The Sunshine Foundation was founded in 1976 by a Philadelphia police officer. Since that time, it has fulfilled the dreams of thousands of handicapped and dying children in Canada and the United States.