



**For Immediate Release**

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*Media Advisory: Here are the stories of Nashua-area residents who are preparing to again participate in the Prouty Cancer Fundraising ride July 12 in Hanover. For more information, see our Media Guide: <http://theprouty.org/about/media-guide/>*

### **Nashua family pits Flamingos against cancer**

It wasn't the tragic frequency of cancer in their family that first got the Gaudettes of Nashua, New Hampshire, noticed at the Prouty cancer fundraiser in 2013. While two brothers and a sister with cancer is startling, the disease is all too common among the more-than 5,000 people who participate each year.

Instead, it was first the jerseys and then the team name that brought attention to the seven team members as they cycled a 35-mile route in the Hanover area. The jerseys that seven team members sported as they rode together were hot pink. When other participants were drawn to the island of pink in the sea of riders, they often chatted long enough to learn that the team named The Flamingos was raising money in memory of deceased sister Liane and in honor of her brothers, Leo and David—both cancer survivors who were along for the ride.

"This was a moving experience for all of us," said Leo's wife, Cherie, also a member of The Flamingos. "Folks would pull up next to us and chat for a moment before moving on."

Named for cancer patient Audrey Prouty, the Prouty was founded in 1982 by four nurses who pedaled their way across the White Mountains of New Hampshire to raise money and awareness for cancer research. The Prouty now includes one-day bicycling events ranging from 20 to 100 miles, a two-day 200 mile Prouty Ultimate ride, multiple walk routes, rowing on the nearby Connecticut River and a golf event that filled up its first year in 2013 and is adding tee times for 2014. *The Prouty has raised more than \$20 million since its founding in 1982, when four nurses rode their bikes 100 miles to honor an inspiring cancer patient, Audrey Prouty.* For more information, see the Prouty website: [www.theprouty.org](http://www.theprouty.org).

The Flamingos raised \$4,000 in 2013, their first time around and have set their sights on exceeding \$5,000 this year. They're returning in July with two more members from the Nashua area and plans to ride 50 miles, instead of last year's 35.

This year's team of nine includes:

- Brothers and cancer survivors Leo, of Nashua, and David, of New York City, joined this year by their sister, Emilie Picard of Nashua, and a third brother, Marc, also of Nashua.
- Leo's wife and children: Cherie and Evan Gaudette and Carly Matthews, all of Nashua. (Carly's husband, Patrick, provide support to the cycling team.)
- Friends Kim Landry, of Nashua, and Colette Murray of Derry.

"We have other family members who have recovered from or are dealing with other cancers," said Cherie. "It's our hope that more research will provide new treatments to extend and save lives."

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## **Brought together by cycling, Merrimack couple spins to give back—and remember**

When Bob Horne of Merrimack, New Hampshire, rides his bicycle 100 miles for each of two days in a row for the Prouty Ultimate cancer fundraiser July 11 & 12, he'll be thinking about how both cancer and cycling have changed his life.

First there are the family members struck down by cancer—his father, his aunt, his grandmother—in whose memory he rides.

Then there are the things cycling has brought him. Cycling introduced him to his wife, Julie, who also rides the Prouty. (Their honeymoon was a Prince Edward Island bike tour.) And cycling has introduced the couple to the satisfaction of raising funds for a meaningful cause.

"I love that this event supports our only comprehensive cancer center. I think that's important," says Horne. Cancer touched my family a lot. I want to do what I can to make a difference."

Horne's first year, he rode the Prouty's one-day "century" (100 mile) ride. The second year, he decided to try the "Ultimate"—which requires two centuries in two days, and—more daunting to Horne at the time--\$2500 in fundraising.

"It's a lot of money, that's for sure. But I've seen some of the research and I know all of the money stays right here in New Hampshire at Norris Cotton Cancer Center," Horne says. "That first year raising \$2500, Julie was worried about how I'd do it, but now she's a believer!"

How did Horne do it?

"When I asked, people gave. It wasn't a problem. And everyone would share their own stories," says Horne. "Everyone is touched by cancer."

This year, Horne is taking on his third Ultimate and Julie will serve as a volunteer.

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*Founded as a cycling event, the Prouty has grown into a weekend of athletic events—walking, rowing, golfing and cycling—with the common purpose of supporting Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center. The Prouty weekend now draws more than 5,000 participants and 1,300 volunteers each year, with additional participants climbing mountains or creating their own "Virtual Prouty" on a bike, on a tennis court, or in an arm chair. Organized by the Friends of Norris Cotton, the events contribute nearly 87 cents of every dollar raised to support research or patient support services at the Cancer Center. Learn more about The Prouty at [www.theprouty.org](http://www.theprouty.org).*