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Doug Lewis Named Honorary Chair for 32nd Prouty Bike, Walk, Row, and Golf to Fight Cancer

Fifth-generation Vermonter is long-time Prouty supporter, participant, and innovator

Hanover, N.H. (February 11, 2013) – For Doug Lewis, the 2013 Honorary Chairman of the 32nd Annual Prouty, The Prouty has always been deeply personal. “For someone who has lost a loved one to cancer, The Prouty is much more than an event that raises money for cancer research and patient services,” he says. “The Prouty keeps their memory alive, and supports a cause that helps prevent other families from experiencing such a loss. For me, The Prouty is therapeutic.”

Historically, The Prouty honorary chairs have been selected in part on the basis of their association with Norris Cotton Cancer Center: the event's founding nurses, survivors, directors of the Cancer Center, or leaders in the State of New Hampshire, the Upper Valley community or at Dartmouth or Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Yet beyond credentials, honorary chairs are always strongly committed to The Prouty and to making a real difference in the fight against cancer and to Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

Doug, a fifth-generation Vermonter who grew up on a dairy farm in Pomfret, founded Team Hoss in 2006 to honor his brother, Dale "Hoss" Lewis, who died the previous year of cancer at the age of 41. That first year Team Hoss had 73 members and raised \$14,800. Right from the start Doug and his family began to think of innovative ways to remember Hoss and keep the spirit of The Prouty ever-present: first there were Hoss Hats, knitted by Doug's and Dale's mother Theresa and Aunt Ann Bassett, that are still on sale to benefit [NCCC](#); then came the end-of-day party to celebrate the team's Prouty experience and to issue challenges for the coming year. In 2012 Doug hosted the first "Half-way to The Prouty" party at Long Trail Brewery in January to get teammates thinking about The Prouty early in the year. Also added in 2012 was an additional challenge for teammates to ride not just the 200-mile Ultimate but tack on an extra 100 for a 300-mile ride. In October Doug introduced the Vintage Prouty.

"I wanted to keep the energy of The Prouty going," Doug said, "so we started the Fall Vintage Prouty with Team Hoss and guests cycling the original century route through the White Mountains." Team Hoss finished the 2012 year with 139 teammates who raised an astounding \$90,540 for cancer research and patient care.

"We can hardly keep up with all Doug does for The Prouty," says Jean Brown, executive director of the [Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center](#), the event's organizer. "What's so special about him is that all his Prouty energy is threaded through his deep love for his family, his brother Hoss, his community, and Norris Cotton Cancer Center. Doug has a special ability to move the people he touches -- certainly the world could use many, many more like Doug Lewis."

Hosted by the Friends of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center and presented by the Jack & Dorothy Byrne Foundation, this year's Prouty will take place on Saturday, July 13, in Hanover, N.H. The money raised by The Prouty funds world-class research, state-of-the-art equipment, critical education programs, and innovative [clinical trials](#) that affect the lives of cancer patients around the world. These dollars also fund quality-of-life patient services such as massage, transportation assistance, writing-for-healing workshops, [support groups](#), and patient libraries. Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center is one of only 41 federally designated [comprehensive cancer centers](#) in the country and the only one in northern New England.

The Prouty History

The Prouty was started in 1982 by four Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center nurses of patient Audrey Prouty, of Warren, N.H., to honor her courage in fighting ovarian cancer. "It was the sight of Audrey facing her cancer everyday with such incredible courage that inspired us to challenge ourselves with a 100-mile ride," said Patti Carney, one of those four nurses. That first year they raised \$4,000. Since then, the event has raised more than \$17 million.

About Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center

The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center combines advanced cancer research at Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Medical School with patient-centered cancer care provided at 17 locations throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, is the largest facility. Other regional facilities are at Dartmouth-Hitchcock locations in Manchester, Keene and Nashua, N.H., and St. Johnsbury, Vt., and at 12 partner hospitals throughout the two-state area. Norris Cotton Cancer Center is recognized and designated by the National Cancer Institute for its breadth and depth as one of just 41 Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the U.S. Learn more about Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center research, programs, and clinical trials online at cancer.dartmouth.edu.

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