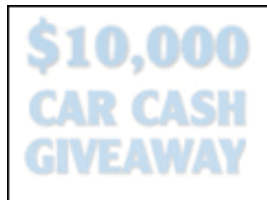




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One wheel, one goal

Unicycle team takes talent to international event

By Raquel Parks, Press & Guide Newspapers

PUBLISHED: July 9, 2008

DEARBORN HEIGHTS/REDFORD - Dearborn Heights resident Bryan Alexander has been a member of The Redford Township Unicycle Club (RTUC) for more than seven years.

But he has been unicycling for "a little more than eight years," Alexander said.

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"(Unicycling) is a lot of fun," he said. "It's different from what

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people usually see. It's unique."

Because of his experience with the one-wheeled bikes, Alexander decided to take his talents to an international competition — Ride The Lobster (RTL).

RTL is a five-day, 800km unicycle race that took place in Nova Scotia June 16-20.

This is the first year Nova Scotia has hosted the event, which featured 35 teams representing 14 countries.

Alexander heard about RTL while in attendance at last year's national convention.

He was nominated to be part of the Detroit RTUC Busters team after one member suffered an injury that prevented her from participating.

Before he could register for the race, Alexander had to do what's known as the qualifying ride.

He said the ride was on a point system in which he had to ride for 50 miles.

The 800km race required plenty of preparation for Alexander and his fellow team members.

"My team and I did long distant rides in the metro parks to prepare for the distance of the race," Alexander said.

RTL consisted of five stages conducted over the span of five days.

June 16 was dedicated to Stage 1, Annapolis; and June 17 was dedicated to Stage 2, Valley-Lighthouse.

Stage 3, Time Trials, took place on June 18. Stage 4, Glooscap-Sunrise, was held June 19; and stage 5, Cape Breton, was on June 20.

Detroit RTUC Busters finished in 29th place. Alexander is not certain if there will be a RTL race next year but anticipates another RTL competition.

"I'm looking forward to the next race," he said.

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RTL was created in order to attract a greater influence of tourism in Nova Scotia. Edward Wedler, Nick Cline, John Cranfield, Andy Cotter and Nathan Hoover were the members who headed the event.

RTL was set up and organized by the RTL Racing Society. There were five categories of sponsors for the event: Event, Stage, Team, Rider and in-King/Service.

Sponsors provided monetary, material, promotional or labor support to individual teams, riders, and the overall event.

Oak Island Resort and Cyclesmith are among the numerous groups that provided sponsorships.

The major supporters for the event were [FlyHalifax.com](#), Nova Scotia Tourism, Nova Scotia Economic Development, Colchester Regional Development Agency (CORDA), Destination Southwest Nova Scotia, and Britech.

For more information on the Ride The Lobster Race visit [www.ridethelobster.com](#).



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