

Pedalling the Cycle Tour News

2023 – EDITION 3

Monday, August 28

It was a very full week of riding. "Those shirts are everywhere", we heard one gentleman say as we gathered at the Lochside/Blenkinsop Connector on Tuesday morning. As a result, our km count is up to **10,883** and perhaps not coincidentally our fundraising total is at **\$95,118.00**. Wow! A pat on the back to all 50 participants for your efforts this week.



Monday riders at the Emporium



Thursday riders engage with the public



Tuesday riders at the Fickle Fig



Thursday riders on the 3 ferry ride



Wednesday riders arrive at the Social



Friday riders led by Tracy

Meet Jjaja Margaret Waziko and the MISS GRANNY PAGEANT

Phoebe Education Fund for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (PEFO), Uganda



In Jinja, Uganda, the Stephen Lewis Foundation partners with a community-led organization called Phoebe Education Fund for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (PEFO). Director Justine Ojambo describes a problem common to many such groups – the struggle to get media attention and community support because grandmothers are invisible in society. “You can’t talk about solutions for HIV and AIDS and not talk about grandmothers. They are the ones who are left and who care for the orphans. They are the guardians of the future and also the ones doing the work right now.” PEFO’s solution? The MISS GRANNY PAGEANT!

Contestants are trained for months in communication skills and helped to shape their personal story. When the media flocked to cover

this unusual and fun event, the grandmothers had the platform they needed to promote serious issues such as the value of grandmothers and their crucial role in society.

Pageant winner Jjaja Margaret Wazimbo was happy to create awareness that older people are able and useful. “Just imagine,” she said, “after the death of all my sons I was a woman who couldn’t even talk, but there I was now talking on the radio two times. Everyone was saying how much I had changed since joining my PEFO granny group.

The day of the competition, I remember, I went on the stage and started walking how they had taught us. I was nervous but when I was waving to the crowds, I wasn’t shy. I looked up and smiled and looked right at everyone. People were making noise, clapping and encouraging and I was cheering up. I felt so good and confident.”

During her reign, Margaret’s responsibilities included training people for farming and food security, to make sure all the grannies had enough food. “I used to tell them about what to grow and how to apportion their harvest for eating, selling and planting. Now you can say that everyone knows me in this community. No longer they are thinking of me as the lady who buried all her sons, but as MISS GRANNY.”

Excerpted from **Powered by Love: A Grandmothers’ Movement to End AIDS in Africa** p.172-3

by Lisbie Rae

Some interesting 2023 Cycle Tour facts:

*50 riders * 23015 kilometres pledged *Average participant age 69.5

Rides this week are as follows:

Monday, August 28: Meet at 8:00 at the Lochside/Blenkinsop connector for a 52 km ride. Coffee at the Roost. No lunch stop.

Wednesday, August 30: Cow Bay 60 - A 55 kilometre route for stronger cyclists. Meet at the Brentwood Bay ferry terminal in time to board the 8:40 ferry. Some parking available in streets close by. Register on line at vg4a.ca/events.

Wednesday, August 30: – **One city ride** is offered this week. Meet up at 9:30 at the Lochside/Blenkinsop connector.

Thursday, August 31: Tackling the Serpentine - Meet up at 9:30 at the Switch Bridge for this approximately 30 km ride. Register on line at vg4a.ca/events. Moderate pace (15-17 km average per hour) to suit all cyclists.

Friday, September 1: – **Friday Gentle Ride**. Meet up at 9:30 at the Saanich Municipal Hall.

A heads up for next week's rides: On **Tuesday, September 5th** a group will head out **EARLY** to meet up with the Galiano Riders in Sidney for coffee. Please be in touch with Cynthia at VG4Acycleregistrar@gmail.com to get details if you are interested to participate.

Please send your pictures and stories from the road to
vacationlauren@gmail.com



Photos in this edition by Laurie Wilson and other tour participants

Don't forget to send your kilometre count each Saturday to
vg4acycledistance@gmail.com.

36 out of 50 reported in this past week 😊 – 12,132 km to go to reach our collective pledged amount!

Watch for an edition of **Pedalling the Cycle Tour News** each Monday
We also encourage you to check www.vg4a.ca often for current news and information