



The Ottawa
Hospital
Foundation

La Fondation
de l'Hôpital
d'Ottawa

NEWS RELEASE

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NORDION CEO AND CANCER CRUSADER SHARES PERSONAL CANCER STORY

**Encourages community to support cancer research and care
at The Ottawa Hospital**

OTTAWA – Cancer has always been a cause close to Steve West's heart. Not only is he the CEO of Nordion Inc., a world leading provider of medical isotopes for diagnosis and treatment of the disease, the company he leads is also the title sponsor of Ride the Rideau, eastern Ontario's largest single-day cancer fundraiser.

Last September, just after participating in the 2011 event, cancer became personal for Steve when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma – a type of cancer that affects the body's immune system.

He received treatment at The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre (TOHCC), which, coincidentally, included participation in a clinical trial – the main fundraising focus of Ride the Rideau for 2011.

Steve credits his work and sports training regimen – which included cycling in Ride the Rideau – for getting him through his cancer diagnosis and treatment.

“It has been a tough few months and I was not expecting to 'train for adversity,’” said Steve. “However, with strong support from my family, my treating physician and my cycling coach, we took it one day at a time. I was able to maintain a training schedule that kept me both physically and emotionally strong enough to overcome this challenge.”

Today, surrounded by his family, Steve rang the ceremonial victory bell in the Chemotherapy Unit of The Ottawa Hospital Cancer Centre. Steve also highlighted the importance of supporting cancer care at The Ottawa Hospital and research at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute through events like Ride the Rideau.

In addition to returning as title sponsor for the third year of the event, Steve also intends on captaining his own team for the September 8, 2012 ride. While the company goal is

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\$70,000, Steve hopes to raise half of that with a personal goal of \$35,000.

“When I began supporting the efforts of The Ottawa Hospital to improve cancer care in our community, I never thought I would be a patient here myself. I am proud of the caring staff and the excellent care that I received which is why I hope others in the community will support my efforts to raise funds for this worthy cause.”

To support Steve’s Ride go to www.ridetherideau.ca and search for Steve West or Nordion Accelerators.

Ride the Rideau is a 100km bike tour from Ottawa to Merrickville-Wolford in support of groundbreaking cancer research at The Ottawa Hospital. In 2011, more than 715 people took part in the ride and together raised more than \$1.8 million for a two year total exceeding \$2.7 million. For more information, visit www.ridetherideau.ca

The Ottawa Hospital is a multi-campus, academic health sciences centre, serving 1.2 million residents of Ottawa and Eastern Ontario, both in English and French. It provides care for more patients than any other hospital in Canada, and boasts specialty centres in cancer, heart, kidney and vision care, as well as rehabilitation services. For more information, visit The Ottawa Hospital website at www.ottawahospital.on.ca.

The Ottawa Hospital Foundation’s mission is to inspire and enable people to support the highest quality health care at The Ottawa Hospital and lifesaving research at the **Ottawa Hospital Research Institute**. For more information, visit The Ottawa Hospital Foundation website at www.ohfoundation.ca.

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