

Educational ride

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Jackie Gold-Irwin

Hanna Herald

They've ridden through the cold mountain tops, taped bags to their legs to stop the rain from soaking their feet, and eaten many peanut butter and jam sandwiches, all for a good cause.

On June 30 Ilan Levy road through Hanna on his way to St. John's Newfoundland.

Levy left North Vancouver B.C. on June 7 and plans to pass through 10 provinces in just over two months.

Why?

For starters Levy just likes to bike. A passion which began when he was just six has blossomed over the years and now Levy is an avid biker.

"I've biked all over the world," Levy said, though he notes his previous rides have not been quite so ambitious.

"I thought this would be a great way to see the country."

When he learned about the state of education in rural Nicaragua he decided to dedicate a bike tour to the cause.

"It's hard for us to imagine, but in Nicaragua many families live on less than a dollar a day and more than 51 per cent of children don't finish grade five," said Ilan, who is riding to raise \$100,000 for SchoolBOX, a Canadian charitable organization dedicated to empowering education for thousands upon thousands of underprivileged Central American youth.

"For these kids, the simple gift of a notebook and pencil can mean the difference between a future filled with learning and one with little hope."

"I hope Cycle 4 SchoolBOX inspires Canadians to take a moment and think about the importance of getting a basic education. A \$5 donation can literally empower a child to learn how to read and write," continued Ilan.

"Ilan isn't just a man of action, he's an inspiration," said SchoolBOX founder and president Tom Affleck. "SchoolBOX is committed to supporting the right of every child to a basic education and Ilan's incredible journey will bring this message to communities across Canada. We know that education and information are powerful forces. Our goal is to share the story of the children in Nicaragua with Canadians and motivate them to help us make a difference."

Cycle 4 SchoolBOX, is being supported by Sleep Country Canada.

A map of the full route can be seen at www.cycle4schoolbox.com, where donations can also be made.

The proceeds from his ride will buy packages of school supplies for each of the 8000 children.

Each package includes pencils, notebooks, an eraser, a pencil sharpener and a ruler. Proceeds will also be used to help build 8 classrooms in Nicaragua.