

# New babies get pedal power

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**Riders in a storm.** Cyclists pedalled their way to the Trillium Health Centre on Sunday from Muskoka in a torrential rainfall. The ride raised more than \$400,000 for the hospital. Staff photo by Dan Ho

Cycling is a great way to exercise — and it's proving to be a great way to raise money for a great cause.

Mississauga residents gathered yesterday afternoon at the Trillium Health Centre's administrative building in Cooksville to cheer on more than 35 cyclists as they completed the last leg of the fifth annual Tour de Bleu charity race.

The cyclists pedalled from Muskoka to Mississauga in less than 12 hours to raise funds for Trillium's Intensive Care Nursery (ICN), which provides care to newborn babies.

With the support of lead organizer Mattamy Homes, more than \$400,000 was raised.

"We can't say thank you enough," said Trillium President and CEO Steve Hoscheit. "This gives hope to the entire ICN team."

Trillium delivers more than 4,400 babies a year and provides treatment through all stages of pregnancy, including after-delivery and follow-up care.

Mississauga's growing population guarantees that the ICN's services will be needed more than ever, said Norman Hill, Trillium's vice president of medical affairs.

Sunday's event was important not just for the hospital, but for the community as well, said Mattamy Homes CEO Peter Gilgan. He founded the Tour de Bleu five years ago as a way to support children in need. Since 2005, the event has raised more than \$1 million for charities in Halton and Peel.

Cycling is a very sociable sport, and a charity race provides an opportunity for people to get out with their friends and raise money for an important cause, Gilgan said.

"When you have an event like this, and combine it with a great cause, it's something we can all feel good about," said Gilgan. "An event like this just doesn't happen very often."

The ICN needs new monitoring equipment for a quicker diagnosis on premature births.

The money raised will go a long way towards positively affecting families across the city, said Trillium neonatologist Katherine Taylor, who works in the ICN.

"As our population grows, we need more space," she said. "It's very crowded for both the babies and families who come in to visit."

For more information, visit [www.trilliumhealthcentre.org](http://www.trilliumhealthcentre.org) or [www.mattamyhomes.com/tourdebleu](http://www.mattamyhomes.com/tourdebleu).