

Cyclists raising money to fight prostate cancer

BY KIM LAWSON

Twenty-six days, four blown tires, one blown knee and 2,400 km later, four “pedalers for prostate” arrived in Brandon late Tuesday.

Sam Wade, 21, Brian Tong, 20, Tevis Bateman, 21, and Fred Tsai, 21, have been cycling across Canada in support of prostate cancer research. The trip is in honour of Wade’s grandfather, Malcolm, who was diagnosed in 2008, but is on treatment and in recovery.

“My grandfather was diagnosed after he started having symptoms, so creating awareness is just as important as fundraising for us,” Wade said. “Awareness leads to prevention so that treatment doesn’t have to happen.”

The four students have raised

\$9,000 since they left Victoria, B.C., on May 22. They are hoping to raise \$25,000 before they arrive in St. John’s, N.L., in August. Donations will go to the Prostate Centre in Victoria, a community-based prostate health information centre.

While support and awareness of prostate cancer is the goal, Wade says the idea for the ride started as an adventure for the four, who met in high school and university.

And it has been an adventure.

They have encountered a lot of rain, wind and traffic, particularly on the steep, narrow paths through the Rocky Mountains.

At one point, they weren’t sure they would be able to make it to Alberta after Wade injured his knee outside of Keremeos, B.C.

“I was limping pretty badly, but

there was no hospital in Keremeos. We went to a motel, and after a few hours of sleep and keeping it elevated, I was good to go,” Wade said.

More than anything, the men say the trip has been a learning experience.

“You just can’t plan for a bike trip across Canada. We’ve ditched clothes and containers to lighten our packs, and we check the weather on the iPhone often, but otherwise we just take what comes and deal with it.”

After breakfast at Safeway and a tire change at A&L Get Active on Wednesday, the four headed to Portage, where they spent the night before going to Winnipeg.

Donations can be made at the group’s website: pedalersforprostate.ca.

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Friends Fred Tasi, Tevis Bateman, Sam Wade and Brian Tong are making their way across the country to help raise money for prostate cancer research, once they get a few repairs done at A&L Cycle on Wednesday. (Bruce Bumstead/Brandon Sun)