

IRONMAN Neil McIver raises over \$31,000 for Make-A-Wish®

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VANCOUVER, BC (September 12, 2007) - When West Vancouver businessman Neil McIver successfully completed the grueling Ironman Triathlon in Penticton (August 26, 2007), it was a dream come true for children coping with life-threatening diseases in BC and Yukon.

Neil, First Vice President and Investment Advisor with Richardson Partners Financial Limited, dedicated his race to Make-A-Wish BC and Yukon, and his determination to compete on behalf of those who are facing the most difficult challenge of all raised more than \$31,000 to make wishes come true for sick children and their families.

The Ironman is a challenging test of an athlete's endurance and abilities in three sports. The race begins with a 2.4-mile (3.8k) swim in open water, followed by a 112-mile (180k) bike ride and then a full-length marathon run 26.2-mile (42.2k). Neil ran an outstanding race, finishing in a time of 11h, 45 min and 24 sec - a full two hours and 15 minutes ahead of his target race time of 14 hours.

That extra effort paid off huge dividends for Make-A-Wish, as Neil encouraged his donors to make a "Performance Bonus" pledge to provide additional funding for each minute below his target time.

Just as Neil rose to the physical challenge, his donors rose to the financial challenge. "Some donors were as surprised as I was with my time, but they all stepped up to plate. They really felt it was for a great cause."

Neil's dream to run the Ironman took root when he witnessed a friend compete in the event. Accustomed to success in the business realm, he was eager to take on the demanding mental and physical challenges required to achieve success in the Ironman. Success meant discipline. And that meant a commitment to 18 months of intensive daily training, amounting to 20 - 24 hours of training per week.

Neil says that competing on behalf of Make-A-Wish provided added incentive to his training program, and an extra dose of motivation as exhaustion, hunger and pain took their toll on his body throughout the Ironman race. "Running the last 18 miles of the marathon was one of the toughest things I've ever done. But two things kept me going - my family cheering me on, especially my wife Tricia and step-son Mitchell, and knowing that my efforts were providing wishes for sick children. It's that simple."

To date, Make-A-Wish has granted more than 1,000 wishes for deserving children in our region. Foundation spokesperson Kim Heron said, "Neil displayed the same courage and determination that our kids show as they combat their illness. We're so grateful to Neil for all his fundraising efforts on our behalf. We simply couldn't do our work without events like this one."

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To set up an interview or for more details please contact:

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