

The Citizen

Voice of New Hampshire's Lakes Region ■ Citizen.com

www.citizen.com

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2016



ED PIERCE/CITIZEN

PARTICIPANTS DEPART from the Belknap Mill parking lot for a three-hour trip during last year's Roger's Ride, sponsored by the Laconia Kiwanis Club to benefit area charities. This year's event will start at the Belknap Mill at 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 28.

Roger's Ride gears up for historic run

By ED PIERCE

epierce@citizen.com

LACONIA — The charitable initiatives and volunteer legacy of Roger Ballantyne live on in the form of Roger's Ride, and the annual late-summer tradition is about to return to the Belknap

Mill, featuring what could be a historic number of participants.

As motorcycles and riders from throughout New England roar out of the parking lot of the Belknap Mill on Sunday, Aug. 28, Roger Ballantyne's widow, Betty, will recall her late husband's generosity and willingness to

help local children.

Roger's Ride is a Laconia Kiwanis Club fundraiser which helps fund dozens of children's charities in the area.

This year, participants have a chance

See RIDE, A2

RIDE

From Page A1

to win a two-night stay at the Wentworth-By-The-Sea hotel in New-castle, enjoy the company of motorcyclists from all over the state and a free continental breakfast, along with a three-hour trip to the Lake Sunapee region. The day will be capped off by a return to Laconia's Rotary Park and a barbecue picnic catered by Kevin Halligan of the Laconia Local Eatery.

Riders depart the Belknap Mill at 10 a.m., and a \$25 registration fee reserves a place for a single rider or \$30 for a rider with a passenger.

As in years past, participants don't have to ride a motorcycle to join

in the event. Non-riders also are welcome.

Roger Ballantyne died in 2008 after a battle with kidney cancer, and his wife, family and friends started the annual "Roger's Ride" to pay tribute to his memory, as he had dedicated years of his time and energy on behalf of Laconia's children prior to his passing.

His unselfish service to the community included time spent as a member of the Laconia School Board and as a member of Laconia Kiwanis Club over a 33-year span, including serving as Kiwanis Club president in 1986.

Roger's interest in helping others also included service as a member of the Lakes Region General Hospital Board of Trustees, and as a volunteer for

the Laconia Police Department's Crime Line program.

Many friends who knew Roger Ballantyne have said that if he were alive today, he would have been the first rider to sign up for this year's "Roger's Ride," as he loved taking trips on his motorcycle and spending time with his family and friends.

The goal for this year is to raise \$7,000 for children's charities in the Lakes Region, including Central New Hampshire VNA and Hospice; the Circle Program; Lakes Region Scholarship Foundation; Kiwanis KARES, an elementary school reading program; the Camp Mayhew Program; DARE and the Rich Valasquez Youth Sports Equipment Foundation.

Those who pre-register for Roger's Ride will receive a free gift by sending a check to Roger's Ride/Laconia Kiwanis, P.O. Box 757, Laconia, N.H. 03247.

Raffle tickets for the two-night stay at the Wentworth-By-The-Sea hotel can be purchased in advance by calling 581-2968 or 520-4383.

For more details about Roger's Ride online, visit laconiakiwanis.com.