

## Riding the wave for community awareness

By Lindsay McPherson - Invermere Valley Echo

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Taking on a challenge is nothing new for Eily Sweeney. The Mount Royal College (MRC) student has been championing environmental awareness initiatives since her youth. In high school, Sweeney and her classmates fundraised over \$40,000 to equip their school with solar panels, which gained national media attention and caught the eye of renowned Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki.

Now in her early 20s, Sweeney decided to spend her summer cycling from Calgary to Vancouver Island, bringing with her a message of the impact of community based green initiatives.

“Acting locally can really make a difference,” explained Sweeney, who is promoting that message through her Ride the Wave tour this summer.

Prior to hitting the pavement on June 21, Sweeney began planning the trip, obtaining sponsorship and enlisted the help of fellow MRC student Alex Meyer to go along for the ride. Throughout the trip, Sweeney has 15 planned stops within municipalities to bring her message and local green projects. In Invermere, Sweeney is focusing on one of her sponsors, Stoneset Equities ecosustainable developments, Vista del Lago.

“Ride the Wave is really focused on community action,” she explained. “More than ever, there are people really interested in doing something.”

Sweeney noted that one of the best ways to start on a green project is to look at where you spend the majority of your time. Whether it’s at home, school or in the office, there are small initiatives that can make a big difference.

To learn more about Sweeney and Meyer’s 2,000 km cycling trip, visit their Web site at [www.ridethewavecanada.com](http://www.ridethewavecanada.com)

“The way things are going with environmental concerns, this is the most crucial thing I can do in my life right now,” she summarized.



Mount Royal College students Eily Sweeney and Alex Meyer are cycling from Calgary to Vancouver to promote green community projects.