

Police ride helps to support local family

By Dave Lazzarino - Invermere Valley Echo

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A family has benefitted from the hard work of a couple of local police officers. Constables Steffler and Balderston of the Columbia Valley RCMP detachment were part of the Cops for Kids ride last summer. The ninth annual bike ride had them travel 1,000 km in 10 days with a stop at Kinsmen Beach in Invermere. Each rider had to raise \$2,000 to participate and locally they did even better with sponsors like Greywolf Golf Course donating \$5,000 and the Windermere Valley Kinsmen Club and Rotary Club of Invermere each donating \$1,000.

Money was pooled by all the riders to be used to help local families in need and last week one such family got a little support as a result.

Cayden "Li'l Bucky" Schuck was born with bilateral clubfeet, with both feet turned inwards and pointed down. He got his first set of casts to help correct the condition when he was only nine-days-old and has since undergone a handful of surgeries and casts to help him walk without trouble. Today, Cayden is cheerful and energetic but he will be returning for treatment until he is 16-years-old.

Cayden and his family has gotten some help in past from organizations like Verge for Youth and when the Cops for Kids money was available, they decided to apply for help.

His mother, Nicole Dalke, was happy to receive help from the police and said that the \$2,500 will assist with travel costs most of all. All of Cayden's procedures have to happen at the Alberta Children's Hospital and she remarked that when fuel costs went up a few years ago it had a big impact on their finances.

The local RCMP said that they are still accepting applications from families who could use some help in the area and encourage all those interested to contact the local detachment or look for the Cops for Kids website at www.copsforkids.org.