

Caribbean Fairtrade Bananas Fuel 2011 Santa Cycle

20 March 2011

Comber, NORTHERN IRELAND: Through the partnerships of Bowel Cancer UK, Andrews Memorial Primary School, Connswater Community Greenway, Titanic Quarter, East Belfast Partnership, and the Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland, the 2nd annual sponsored Santa Cycle was held today with participants in Santa outfits to raise funds for bowel cancer.

Due to unprecedented weather before Christmas the event had to be rescheduled. The cycle started in Belfast's Titanic Quarter with 500 cycling Santa's, of all ages and abilities, along the Comber Greenway finishing at Andrews Memorial Primary School in Comber. The aim was not only to raise awareness and funds for bowel cancer but to register the record breaking event to the Guinness Book of World Records.



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Dr Christopher Stange, Hon. Consul of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland and Chair of Fairtrade Belfast with Connswater Duck and cycling Santas

The half-way point in Tullycarnet cyclists were treated to refreshments and Caribbean Fairtrade bananas sourced from the Dominican Republic, instead of the Windward Islands (Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent) due to Hurricane Tomas, through the Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland and WINFRESH, previously WIBDECO.

Bananas are a perfect part of your diet being one of the most popular items consumed around the world. They are available all year and they are a great source of instant energy whether you are watching your diet or just trying to eat healthy. Bananas contain no fat, sodium or cholesterol, which fits well into a low fat, balanced diet. A diet rich in vegetables and fruit has been proven to reduce the risk of heart disease and certain types of cancer. Bananas contain high levels of vitamin B6, vitamin C, magnesium, potassium and fibre.

The event is the brainchild of local ICT Sales professional, mother and bowel cancer survivor Rosi Kirker from Bangor. All sponsorship will go directly to Bowel Cancer UK to support their educational work in Northern Ireland and the need for early detection in the prevention of this deadly disease.

Dr Christopher Stange, Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Chair of Fairtrade Belfast further commented: "The Consulate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which is based in Comber due to historical Caribbean links, is delighted to be involved in this worthy cause and attempted record breaking event. Thank you to everyone that made this occasion such a success as we look forward to future engagement on such initiatives. We would like to take this opportunity to provide a special mention to Andrews Memorial Primary School for the already established links with the Caribbean, specifically St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Fairtrade."

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