



**Salam Toronto**

*The explicit voice of the Iranian - Canadian community of Toronto*



Riders line up at the starting line of the bike ride at Edwards garden in Toronto before taking off for the 11 kilometer journey.

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The Tirgan Iranian Festival held its final fundraising event before the July 21 kickoff by having a bike ride through the Don River Trail starting from Edwards Garden, leading to a barbecue at Riverdale Park.

Tirgan public relations director Behrouz Amouzgar estimated between 150 to 160 people took part in the event while \$850.00 (after subtracting the costs) was raised towards the festival.

"This was by far the largest fundraising event," said Behrouz Amouzgar, in an interview with Salam Toronto.

About 60 people between the ages of 2 and 55 took part in the 1.5 hour bike ride which started at 10 a.m. at Edwards Garden in Toronto. An additional 70 people waited at the finish line for the riders to complete the route to enjoy a barbecue. The Iranian Students Association of Ryerson

University (ISARU) had initiated organizing the barbecue at Riverdale Park, the final destination of the 11 kilometer bike ride.

"They were very enthusiastic from the beginning and many of their members joined the Tirgan team some time ago. They have been very active in the operations department and have always wanted to contribute more. When this opportunity came up they offered to throw the barbecue after the bike ride. ISARU is a truly unique team and it was an absolute pleasure to work with them on this event," Amouzgar told Salam Toronto.

The eventful day was to serve three purposes according to Amouzgar. "The main purpose was to raise awareness among the Iranian community and the Toronto community at large. The second purpose was to fundraise for Tirgan."

"The third purpose was to provide an opportunity for the volunteers who have been working tirelessly to make this festival happen to get together and enjoy their time and participate in a volunteer activity that's a bit different," he said. This was the last event of its kind before the festival kicks off.

The Tirgan Iranian Festival will be taking place between July 21 and 24 at various locations of Harbourfront Centre in Toronto.