

A Farewell and a Welcome

I was really shocked and saddened a few weeks ago when I received the news of the tragic accident by one of our Rider Education leaders, Gary Ptolemy of Region K, the Central Canada Region. Most of you will be aware of how this unfortunate accident occurred so I won't take the time here to go into any further detail.

But I have to inform you that I have been very troubled by the untimely loss of such an individual as was Gary. I first met him during his visit to my province of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2000. Along with another one of our local GWRRA Members, we had a very enjoyable visit at one of the local Tim Horton's outlets and he left me with the strong impression that he was a very committed family man, he thoroughly enjoyed riding his Gold Wing, and he was very committed to Rider Education and GWRRA.

We met on a number of subsequent occasions and my admiration for Gary's commitment to Rider Education grew. So, I can't help a feeling of great loss for our mutual GWRRA friend. Adios, Gary, as you enjoy that great Gold Wing in the sky!

I guess Gary's accident serves to remind us once again that none of us are invincible when we mount our Gold Wings for a ride. We may be a superb rider like Gary or we may be a new rider just beginning our two-wheeled journey. But, while we can – and should – minimize our risks in riding, we cannot always predict what other drivers on the roads will do. However, in order to ensure we take the optimum actions to avoid serious injury, we should always ensure – just as Gary did – that we wear proper protective clothing. And we should take motorcycle training courses whenever one is offered in our area.

While those of us who knew him will miss Gary Ptolemy's presence in our Rider Education Program, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Charles Schultz (no, not the Peanut guy!) as Regional Educator for Canada's Region K, which includes the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

Having also met Charles and his good wife, Louise, on a number of occasions, and having observed firsthand Charlie's exuberance and commitment to GWRRA and our Rider Education Program, I know the REP and Region K will benefit immensely.

Again, adios, Gary. And welcome aboard, Charlie.