



# MOUNTAIN VIEW

APRIL 2020

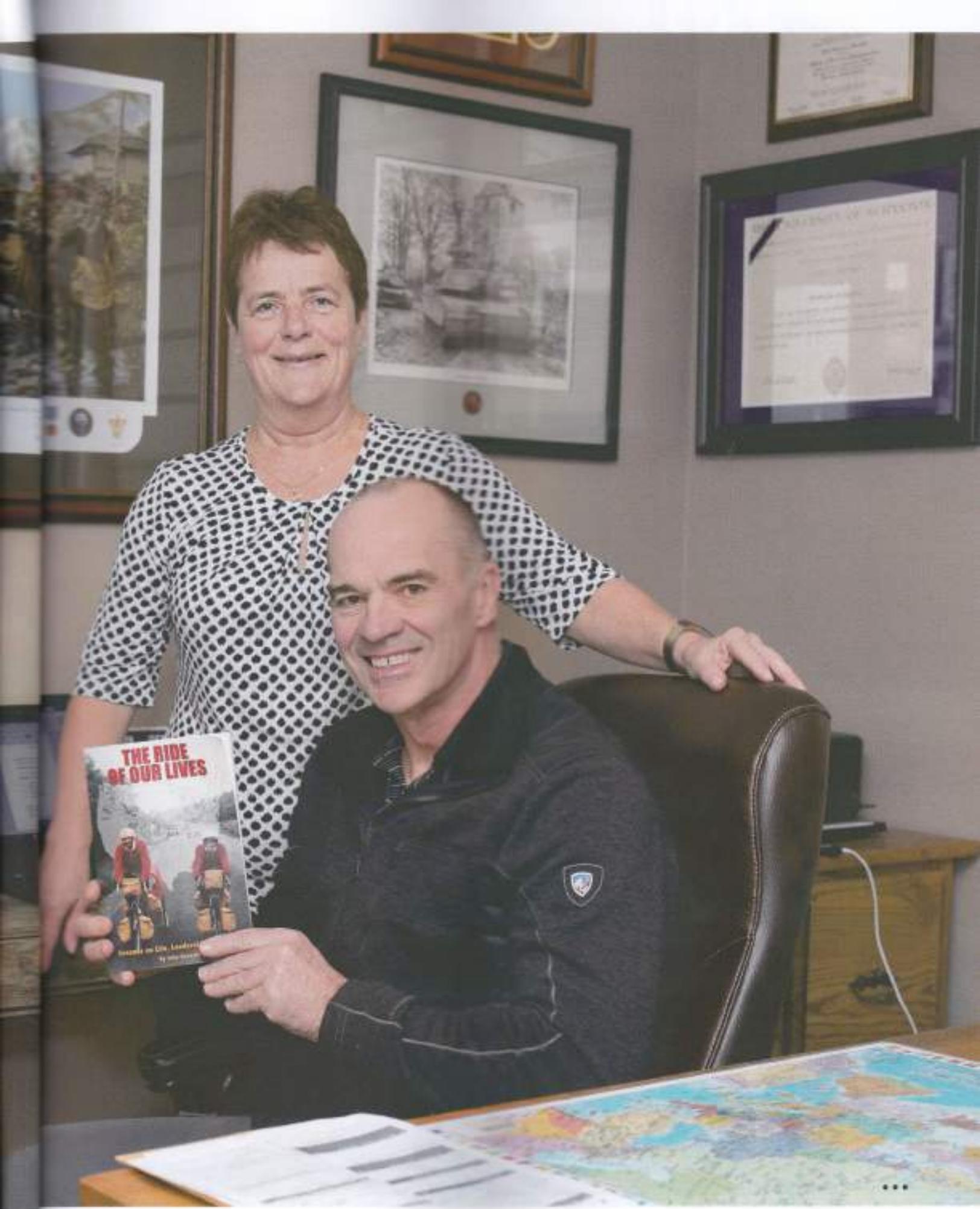
A Social Magazine Exclusively for the residents of Creekside,  
Shadow Creek, Country Club Estates, and Fieldcrest

*Living*

**JOHN AND BERTI GRONSKI  
ON THE RIDE OF THEIR LIVES**



**YOUR STORIES · YOUR PHOTOS · YOUR COMMUNITY**





John, Berti, and present-day Stephen, a little too big for the trailer!



Still riding!



Young Stephen

# THE RIDE OF OUR LIVES



Book cover.

"The Ride of Our Lives, Lessons on Life, Leadership, and Love" is an inspirational, true story about a man and his family on a transcontinental journey as they cycled across the United States. It is also a story about the leadership required to overcome challenges. This was 1983. No ubiquitous mobile phones, no internet, almost no roads, no gas, no hotels, no paved roads. The closest thing to connectivity was a payphone along a dusty road.

At 12:00 a.m. Pacific Time on May 28, 1983, John and Berti Gronski and their 15-month-old son Stephen began a bicycle tour across America. John pulled Stephen in a bicycle trailer that resembled a woman's covered wagon. They traveled through Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

They camped in a variety of places including farmer's fields, state parks, behind churches and schools, town parks, and farmsteads. Preferred locations were also a popular overnight stop. The trip was filled with adventures and life lessons.

Stories told up and over our two back teeth while looking the United States.  
By Gronski.



"John Gronski's *The Ride of Our Lives* engages readers with an inspirational and engaging story of a young family's cross-country bicycle trip that results in a life-long formation of character, family values, patriotism, service and citizenship, and unshakable faith."

-John J. Sank, Ph.D., Professor of Management and Organization, Penn State University, Grant Valley School of Graduate and Professional Studies, Malvern, PA



JOHN L. GRONSKI is a transcontinental cyclist. He has 35 years of operational experience at senior levels in both the military and civilian sectors and has led several teams and large complex organizations. John is a personal leadership philosophy is based upon character, competence and resilience. He believes that everyone should journey as a change leader. John is a multi-award-winning speaker and bestselling author. He has presented his books in numerous states and countries gained from his leadership experience and life experiences of others. John is the author of *The Ride of Our Lives* which is becoming a classic leaders through his mentoring and by his example.

Back cover of the book.

Let's go back in time to 1983. The start of an epic family adventure, a journey across America by bicycle, began in Tacoma, Washington one overcast and cool day and successfully concluded in northeast Pennsylvania. John and Berti Gronski started their cycling adventure with anticipation and confidence. They also conducted their cross-country bicycle trip with their 15-month-old son, Stephen. They spent three months on the road and covered over 4,000 miles. John pulled little Stephen in an orange bicycle trailer designed for transporting children. The trailer weighed about 25 pounds when it was empty. Stephen weighed another 30 pounds, and then the necessities for traveling across the USA with a baby weighed in at an additional 30 pounds. This extra weight that John pulled was an advantage for the traveling couple.

Berti told me it was much easier for her to keep up with John considering the weight he was hauling. John, Berti, and Stephen were unique, considering not many folks cycled across the United States, much less anyone pulling a baby. People were following their journey, and they were recognized in many states they traveled through. Local newspapers covered their story and took photographs to document the Gronski's journey. They also camped behind churches, state parks, behind roadside cafes, and behind schools. Many kind Americans offered places to stay the night and others offered a warm meal. The Gronskis experienced firsthand the kindness of average Americans. John, Berti, and Stephen traveled through a total of 12 states, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

They witnessed the wonders of nature, friendly people, and got an excellent tour of our great country in three months. Their wonderful trip, thanks to generous contributions from family and friends, benefited the Boys Club of America.

John and Berti love our community for the friendly good-hearted people and the proximity to walking and biking trails. The wildlife that resides near our community is also a treat to observe and enjoy from the Gronskis' living room.

John retired from the United States Army after serving on active duty and the Pennsylvania National Guard for over 40 years. John and Berti's sons urged John to write of the family's undertaking after hearing his parents reliving tales of the bicycle journey. What started as a journal for family and friends transformed into an inspirational story about resilience and a great family experience. In the book, John shares the life and leadership lessons he learned during the adventure that made a lasting impact on his leadership philosophy over the following decades as an Army officer, combat veteran, and business leader. I'm almost wishing I could have accompanied the Gronski family on their adventure of a lifetime. Oh, the stories we could tell!

If you would like to read about the Gronskis' inspiring adventure, the book, *The Ride of Our Lives, Lessons on Life Leadership, and Love*, can be found on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. Believe me, it's worth the read!

For more information about the author's books, articles, and speaking, email John Gronski at

[John@JohnGronski.com](mailto:John@JohnGronski.com) and visit the website [JohnGronski.com](http://JohnGronski.com).



Want to see your family or neighbor featured in an upcoming issue? Let me know at [Mary.Stoltzfus@n2pub.com](mailto:Mary.Stoltzfus@n2pub.com).