



JUNE IS BIKE MONTH

See pages 7 and 8 for a pull out listing of some of the many events in your community.

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The Urbane Cyclist

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition Quarterly

www.vacc.bc.ca

Make cycling an integral part of the transportation culture of the Lower Mainland

Port Moody Pedestrian/Cyclist Overpass Open by John Seinen

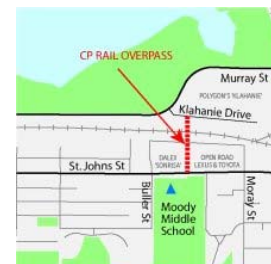
The Tri-Cities chapter of the VACC was proud to participate in the recent grand opening of the City of Port Moody's new CP Rail Pedestrian/Cyclist Overpass linking the Port Moody downtown with the waterfront park system and the new housing developments at Suter Brook and Klahanie. Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation, and Mayor Joe Trasolini welcomed city councillors, cyclists, pedestrians, project supporters, and neighbours to the official dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, Nov 12, 2005.

There is a lot happening in Port Moody in the next few years with two of the major projects being the Evergreen LRT line down the middle of St. John St, and the Murray-Clarke route upgrade which is just two blocks north of the LRT line. The Evergreen Line will link Coquitlam Centre / Douglas College and the Lougheed Mall with a new rapid train system including several stops in the Port Moody downtown area. The Murray-Clarke connector involves a new bridge over the railway tracks and will become the main east-west automobile/bicycle commuter route through Port Moody. It includes 1.5 metre wide cycling lanes on all new construction including the bridge. Both of these projects are planned for completion just before 2010. The VACC is represented on the Murray-Clarke Task Force and we are continuing our efforts to improve the connections leading to the new bridge and new roadway as these are not part of the new construction project itself.

The CP Rail Pedestrian/Cyclist Overpass is a key part in the upgraded access for cyclists as it is the first safe rail crossing in the area that includes consideration for cyclists – it will connect the two new construction projects. The previously existing crossings at Ioco Rd (1 km east) and on Moody St (1 km west) both are bare minimum widths and are a major deterrent to cyclists. On Moody St specifically, only a few of us diehards are willing to ride on the roadway - many ride on the narrow sidewalk instead. The new overpass will be a key link from the bike route on Murray-Clarke and the LRT line on St. John St. Access to the new span is not well marked yet, but that will improve as the rest of the infrastructure is built – come look for it and let us know what you think. The Tri-Cities VACC meets 7:00 pm the first Wednesday of the month at the Coquitlam library – Guildford Way and Pinetree.

Further information: <http://www.cityofportmoody.com/City+Hall/Media+Releases/2005/20051114mf.htm>

Some technical specs for the overpass: 172.7 metre total length, \$1.7 million cost partially funded through the Province's Cycling Infrastructure Partnership Program.



The Urbane Cyclist

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Cycling Coalition (VACC)

The views in this publication are not neces-
sarily those of the VACC

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Member of the
(Canadian) Coali-
tion for Active Living
[http://
www.activeliving.ca/](http://www.activeliving.ca/)

MEET US

The VACC Board meetings are open to all
interested in bicycling in Greater Vancou-
ver. We generally meet on the second
Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
Phone **604 878-8222** for details.
info@vacc.bc.ca

INTERNET

Keep up on the latest cycling issues and
events, Join one of our e-mail lists at
www.vacc.bc.ca/lists

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

We welcome articles (300 words or less)
about cycling in Greater Vancouver.

Submissions may be sent to:

The Urbane Cyclist
Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition
Box 0074 641 Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 1A8
Or e-mail: newsletter@vacc.bc.ca

We reserve the right to edit submissions
for clarity and length.

Next deadline: Friday, July 21, 2006

President's Message by John Fair

Hello fellow cycling advocates. I'm looking forward to an exciting year in my first term as president. When I was initially asked to take on the task, I have to admit I was very reluctant. Like most folks who experience the euphoria of cycling, I try to share this feeling with everyone around me. You run out of time and energy very quickly! But I know I have a wonderful support group in all the VACC members and especially the coordinators and fellow board members who are as dedicated to cycling as I am.

I feel the VACC has a key role to play. The best way to make cycling a way of life is to work from within the system. We can do this by communicating with our elected officials and encouraging their support staff to make cycling safe and enjoyable for everyone.

It is vital that members encourage their friends to not only join the VACC, but also to become involved in our advocacy events. Every member is a valuable resource in our mission of "Making Cycling an Integral Part of Our Transportation Culture"

But it's not all about work. We should have fun too. Isn't that the main reason we cycle? The recent St Patrick's Day Parade was a good example. More than twenty cyclists, many of them children, showed a crowd of several thousand people how much fun cycling can be. There are opportunities to meet other cyclists and make friends at any of the VACC-sponsored rides. I encourage everyone to take part in a route exploration ride in your area this summer. You'll learn a lot more about your community, while you're getting some fresh air and exercise.

Remember, June is "Bike Month" and this year will be extra-special. Vancouver will be hosting the UN-HABITAT World Urban Forum - a key international event that will bring the global community together to find real solutions to the challenges facing cities and communities across the world.

I look forward to meeting more cycling friends in the upcoming year.



Happy Tailwinds

The Urbane Cyclist

City of Vancouver's 2001 Downtown Transportation Plan: From Vision to Advocacy to Plan to Reality by Jack Becker

On a cold January morning in 2000, I stepped onto a plane in Calgary for a five day home hunt in Vancouver. I had some doubts whether I would like the living here. I was used to reaching any part in Calgary off-road through the massively extensive bike path systems along the rivers within the city. Cycling to the airport was a dream. I had also been spoiled by getting around Toronto in the extensive bike path systems in the ravines and on the bike lanes on main and secondary arterial roads.

Now, what was downtown Vancouver offering - a short piece of bike lane on Pender, a relatively short unconnected bike path along the seawall, a dream of cycling on what was called the Central Valley Greenway? But least there are the mountains, the ocean, and the cyclist activated traffic signals for crossing major roads.

On Tuesday, April 18, the City of Vancouver Council approved bike lanes on Dunsmuir St. and Kerr St, continuance of cycling on the Granville Mall, phases two and three of the Central Valley Greenway, and more pedestrian / cyclist traffic lights.

As I am writing, I look out of my den upon a bike path across the street by the water, bike lanes at the foot of this condo, and more bike lanes a couple of blocks away.

Five years since approval of the 2001 Downtown Transportation Plan, the cycling network envisaged for the downtown peninsula has become a reality. There are northbound bike lanes on Hornby, Homer, and Pacific; southbound bike lanes on Burrard, Richards, and Expo, and three streets with partial lengths of bike lanes (Beatty, Georgia, and Pender). This summer the Dunsmuir bike lane will be installed. A coloured bike lane on Burrard will be in place within about nine months. The Robson bike lanes and the Comox / Helmcken bike routes are to come. A continuous seaside bike path is almost in place.

While it would be nice just to sit back and enjoy the ride, advocacy is still needed. The Burrard Bridge is still without an adequate cycling crossing, and movement on this seems to be almost at a standstill. Implementation of the Canada Line along Cambie Street and over Cambie Bridge, will need advocacy for bike lanes.

Then there is the City's target of 10% cycling mode share by 2010. Reaching that goal will require changes to the design of cycling facilities to attract motorists to cycle instead. Coloured bike lanes, bike boxes for left turns are good starts, but more advocacy will be needed to reach the target.

Cycling advocates wonder at times if the effort is worth it. Well, I do thank those that had the foresight for the Downtown Peninsula.

MEET YOUR BOARD

MEMBERS



Marion Orser

Marion is a grandmother and a retired nurse who didn't own a bike until her mid 40s. Starting out unable to manage more than three gears, Marion worked her way up to commuting to work, then took up cycle touring (including a Pacific to Atlantic trip in 2003) and randonneur riding (long distance riding with a time limit). In 1992, realising she was no longer using it and that it was a financial drain, Marion sold her car.

With very little prior experience as an advocate, Marion began working with the VACC at its inception in 1998 as a gift to her grandchildren.

Legislative Slumber by David Hay

The introduction of Bill 50 (the Motor-Vehicle Amendment Act #2) in 1995 was at the time a great coup for the cycling community. The Bill's primary design was to save lives and make roads safer for the rapidly growing bicycling community. It contained legislation intended to modernize our bicycle laws, most of which dated back to 1957. Clearly the legislation was laudable and represented a major milestone in the transition towards a more cycling friendly society. Since 1995 education, public awareness and infrastructure programs have clearly resulted in harm reduction. However, the question I am often asked in my practice, (at least enough that I would remark on it) is: "What has the legislature done for cycling lately?"

Over the last few years I have been studying legislative change related to mountain biking on Crown land. The essence of my effort in that regard is to keep the North Shore free of buzz crunching regulatory control. Where that goes is anybody's guess. For present purposes let me confine my comments to the streets.

The introduction and designation of bike lanes throughout the Province was obviously a positive development for cyclists. From a legal perspective the bike lane was thought to be a sanctuary. If one were riding in the bike lane and involved in a collision with a car, no one questioned the motorist would be liable. However, recently insurers have started to question the sanctity of the bike lane. In my view, these questions arise naturally from the Motor-Vehicle Act's silence around bike lanes.

Let me provide an example. A client of ours was proceeding westbound on Pender Street in a bike lane. The location of the bike lane on Pender changes, depending on the time of day and whether or not parking is allowed. In any case, the cyclist continued in a straight line and as he entered the intersection of Pender and Nicola he was struck by a car, also westbound but turning right onto Nicola.

In the old days, when a smoke was a smoke, groovin' was groovin', and bike lanes were sacred, liability would never have been a question. But the insurance adjuster in this case thought that the cyclist was passing the vehicle on the right, contrary to Section 158 of the *Motor-Vehicle Act*. He also was not convinced that the bike lane constituted a "unobstructed lane of travel", and as such as an exception to the passing on the right prohibition. The adjuster also questioned whether or not the bike lane extended into the intersection. Fortunately, this story had a happy ending but only after significant stick handling and persuasion. Much angst might have been avoided by easy reference to a provision of the Motor-Vehicle Act which

Continued page 13

Headwinds and Tailwinds

"May the wind be always at your back."

Headwinds

- To the City of Vancouver for not retaining the meter posts for bicycle post and ring parking on Dunsmuir after the parking meter heads are removed with the bike lane implementation. Bike post and ring parking has been used in Toronto, Montréal, New Westminster, and other municipalities for years. Now even Seattle is getting onboard, but not the City of Vancouver.
- To whomever put the chains up across the entrance to Helmcken Park from Helmcken St. Not only are they annoying (and potentially dangerous) to cyclists, but also to pedestrians, those with carts or strollers, and those in wheelchairs.

Tailwinds

- To VACC members in the 3rd annual Celticfest parade, for demonstrating all the different ways you could use your bicycle: commuting, grocery shopping, running errands, getting married (!) or recreational cycling.
- To the Vancouver City Council for approving bike lanes on Dunsmuir St. and Kerr St. for 2006 implementation.

Queensborough Bridge: Re-joining a Community by Marion Orser

First the news flash: The east sidewalk of the Queensborough Bridge is now open for use by pedestrians and cyclists. It is such a joy to ride on a wider facility separated from the traffic with a good railing. Pedestrians do not need to squeeze against the railing upon meeting each other, or cyclists. Construction on the west sidewalk has begun, and when completed, will allow cyclists to travel in the direction of motor vehicles. Pedestrians will be allowed two-way travel on either side.

When the VACC first formed in New Westminster in 1999, the group quickly identified that bridges, the Pattullo and Queensborough, although not a part of New Westminster per se, were one of the biggest obstacles for cyclists.

The Queensborough Bridge is unique, in that although managed and owned by the province—the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) - it is totally within the City of New Westminster. When the Alex Fraser Bridge was built approximately 20 years ago, this narrow bridge became a part of the major roads network. The east sidewalk was closed. Cyclists and pedestrians were directed to use only the west sidewalk. There was no railing to separate the user from the motor vehicle traffic. The bridge sidewalk was so narrow that pedestrians regularly squeezed themselves sideways against the railing to allow a cyclist to pass. The New Westminster Quay and the Downtown, are in reality just a kilometre or two away from Queensborough but there was no straightforward, comfortable route without access to a motor vehicle.

When the MoT announced in 2003 that the north end of the bridge was being upgraded as part of the Border Improvement Project for movement of motor traffic (trucks), but did not include changes to the sidewalk, the VACC New West was ready to begin an advocacy effort to change that decision.

Much of that advocacy effort has already been reported, but in summary:

- VACC and pedestrian advocates met with Joyce Murray, MLA for New Westminster. She agreed to work with her government to

recommend adequate structure for pedestrians and cyclists as a part of the infrastructure changes.

- Neighbourhood residents' associations joined the plea for adequate facilities.
- Many individuals wrote to the province requesting improved facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
- There were numerous local newspaper reports regarding the issue.
- During the summer of 2004, a motorist lost control of his vehicle and it jumped onto the unprotected sidewalk, killing a pedestrian.
- New Westminster City Council wrote to the province, followed by neighbouring municipalities.

The ultimate result was agreement to include a separated facility, on both sides of the bridge as a part of the upgrade. Additionally the local cycling community and pedestrian advocates met regularly with the consultants hammering out acceptable designs of both the bridge deck and access routes.

There are still a couple more years of construction, and various detours will continue. Changes at the north end of the bridge for motorists have not yet begun. However residents already have the option of a more comfortable crossing of the bridge as a pedestrian, cyclist and even now by wheelchair.



Bill Whelen enjoys the new sidewalk. Photo: M. Orser

Evergreen LRT Line Open Houses by John Seinen

Translink is holding several series of open houses for the new Evergreen Light Rapid Transit Line that will be built to serve Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Moody and neighbouring communities. The recently completed series in early April showed many more details than were available late in 2005, so things are moving along quickly. For design and review purposes, Translink has divided the line into 5 segments: Lougheed Mall to Foster; Foster to Elgin (includes tunnel), Elgin to Ioco Rd, Ioco to Johnson, and Johnson to Coquitlam City Hall. The last round of the currently scheduled open houses (one for each segment) are set for June 13, 15, 20, 22, and 27. So far the project overviews say all the right things about cycling access, and the project team has acknowledged receiving some cyclists' input, but the plans are still very short of specifics. If you have concerns or input about the cycling components included in the line, from train car design, to bike parking facilities, to connections and community preservation, make sure that you get out to the open house nearest you. Check out the current state of published plans at www.translink.bc.ca/Plans_Projects/Coquitlam_Line. The Tri-Cities VACC will be ad-



Your Board members at work. Photo: J. Becker

vocating for the best access and facilities, but it is important that we make our voices heard. Visit the website, submit comments online, attend the open houses and make your presence known. Getting people out of their cars and onto bicycles for all or part of their commute has many benefits to the cyclist and the environment in general, but it can also be a boost for Translink, this could be a significant revenue source for them. To follow the progress of Tri-Cities VACC advocacy with Translink and other work with Coquitlam, Port Moody and Port Coquitlam, check out the website www.vacc.bc.ca/tricities, sign up for the tri-cities email list, attend our monthly meetings at the Coquitlam Town Centre Library 7-9 pm on the first Wednesday of the month – everyone with an interest in cycling is welcome.

VACC Surrey Summer Calendar

Meetings:

1st Tues of the month, as announced by list-serve and local papers;

Advocacy rides as discussed at meetings and posted on the list-serve vacc-ds:

vacc-ds@yahoogroups.com (To join this list-serve, send an e-mail to vacc-ds-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Bike Month Events:

3 June 2006 Sat

VACC Commuter Cycling Skills Program* *Surrey, Newton* - To register, go to the Surrey Parks website or call 604-501-5100

7 June 2006 Wed

Cloverdale Family Bike and Safety Fair,
Cloverdale **Recreation Centre**, 184 st/62 av,
5:30 - 8:00 pm

1 July 2006 Sat

Bike Safety Skills Event

Official City of Surrey Canada Day Celebrations
Cloverdale Amphitheatre, 176 St at 64 Av, Surrey
10am - 5pm

Info: surrey@vacc.bc.ca

Bike Month 2006 Event List*



For further information, contact:

Richard Campbell

Ph: 604 669-2860 Fx: 669-2869

Bikemonth@best.bc.ca

www.best.bc.ca

May 13 to June 10	Stanley Park Bike Festival Safe Cycling Workshops at local community centres	Various Community Centres around Vancouver	New this year! Get ready for the car-free Stanley Park Bike festival and for Bike Month by learning how to cycle more safely at a workshop in your community centre. Workshops are for teens and adults that already know how to ride. Bring a bike and helmet.	For more information and for volunteer opportunities as a workshop instructor, visit http://www.stanleyparkbikefest.ca/ or e-mail Polly at polly@interchange.ubc.ca .
May 22	New West Bike Fest	Queen's Park New West	Children's Bike Parade, Children's Bike Skills Rodeo, displays and activities 11am – 4pm	Info: 604-323-5763 ftom@langara.bc.ca
May 26	Pedal Fusion Film Screening – You Never Bike Alone	Venue: ANZA Club, 3 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver	Description: A 40 minute documentary about Vancouver's Critical Masses. 8pm (after Critical Mass) Price: \$6	See www.youneverbikealone.com for more details
June 1-30th	Cycling Passport	Guilford Community Rec Centre, 15105-105th Avenue, Surrey BC.	Come to 8 spin classes (registered or drop in) in the month of June and enter to win a fitness prize pack!	Info: Call 604-502-6363
June 1	Port Coquitlam Healthy Kids Fair			
June 1-3	Surrey Children's Festival	Bear Creek Park and Surrey Arts Centre	PP 2 day zoo (GA)	Festival Hotline, 604-502-6351, Volunteer line, 604-502-6323, #111-10277-135th Street, Surrey, Email Natasha.nrajoo@surrey.ca
June 1-2	Bike To Market Day	Trout Lake Farmers Market		Call Roberta @ 604-879-3276 info@eatlocal.org
June 2	Green Screens presents Taken for a Ride and EASY ROLLIN'		Green Screens is a monthly event featuring activist films, discussions & socializing	check www.worklessparty.org under 'Events'
June 3	Newton "Commuter Cycling Skills" Challenge	Newton Town Centre 13730 -72 Avenue.	One day course to build traffic cycling skills.	Info: Call Scott 604-501-5103
June 3	Musical Lantern Ride			Lee Henderson 604-255-2102 lhenderson@vcc.ca
June 4	Different Spokes	Burnaby Village, 6501 Deer Lake Ave.		Info: 604-293-6501 Greg.robinson@burnaby.ca
June 4	The 6th annual "Island City, by Bike" tour	Steveston Richmond Britannia Heritage Shipyard in Steveston	9:30am – 2:30 pm	www.richmond.ca/services/tp/cycling/news.html Joan Caravan
June 5- June 11	Get There by Bike Challenge	Newton Town Centre, 13730-72nd Ave., Surrey	Bike your way to work. Lots of prizes to be won.	Call Scott 604-501-5103
June 7	Cloverdale Family Bike and Safety Fair	Cloverdale Recreation Centre. 6220-184th Street.	A Great family event. Obstacle Course and bike demo, plus some safety information.	Call Sherri at 604-502-6420 Email: slgosse@surrey.ca
June 7, 14, 21 and 28	Wednesday Night Rides	Location: Century House at Moody Park, New Westminster (620 Eighth Street)	Dates: Wednesday June 7, June 14, June 21, and June 28 Time: 6:30 PM	ftom@langara.bc.ca or 604-323-5763

The Urbane Cyclist

June 10	World Naked Bike Ride	Sunset Beach	Starts at 1pm at Sunset Beach	Conrad Schmidt: ninemonkeys@blaze.ca
June 10	Family Bike Safety Event	Fleetwood Community Recreation Centre		Info: call Suzanne 604-501-5036
June 13	Bike Movie Night	Pacific Cinematheque 1131 Howe St.	Watch bicycle-related short films at Pacific Cinematheque Doors at 7pm, show at 7:30 pm \$10.00	Info: email bike.shortcuts@gmail.com
June 16 - 18	Alcan Dragon Boat Festival			http://www.adbf.com/
June 17	Stanley Park Bike Fest	Stanley Park	Races start at 8am Has bike parking	Gwendal Castellan stanley-parkb03@stanleyparkbikefest.ca
June 17th	Whalley Community Festival- Bike Rodeo	North Surrey Recreation Centre (Arena #2), 10275-135 th Street.	1:00pm-3:pm – Registration and display 3:00pm-4:00pm Parade and Judging	Info: Corrinne 604-502-6342
Date TBA	Sapperton Bike Fest	Cap's Bicycle Shop, 434 East Columbia, New Westminster		Info: 524-3611 or http://www.capsbicycleshop.com
June 18	Commercial Drive Festival	Commercial Drive	Commercial Drive will be car-free; noon to 6pm.	
June 18	Newton Bike Day			jhuston@surrey.ca
June 18-23	University Town Bicycle Tours'		Pedal the relatively flat terrain of the UBC campus for 2- ½ hrs. Dates after June 18 to be confirmed.	contact Lisa Slakov at lsakov@telus.net . www.universitytown.ubc.ca
June 20-23	IMBA Summit and World Mountain Bike Conference	Whistler, BC	Mountain biking leaders and land managers from around the world will gather for a combined IMBA Summit and World Mountain Bike Conference.	www.worldmountainbikeconference.com Richard Juryn richard@shoreevents.com
June 24	Surrey Bike Fest	South Surrey Bike Park – 24 th Ave. & 148 th St., beside Softball City	11am-3pm	jerichardson@telus.net Jim at 604-538-5716
June 25	Trans Canada Highway Challenge	Lower Fraser Valley	Trans Canada Highway Challenge. For Cyclists, Walkers, Runners and Equestrians.	http://www.trailsbc.ca/southwest_region/
June 25	Pedalheads Every Kid Needs a Bike	Jericho Hill Centre - 4196 West 4th Ave, Vancouver	between 2-4pm	For details, visit www.pedalheads.ca or call 604-874-6464
June 25	Vancouver's 5th Annual Vintage Bicycle Swap Meet & Show - Skate-	Location: 215 E. 17th (off Main St.) Vancouver	Date and time: Sunday June 25th - 9:30 am - 3pm	For more info: Dave 604-779-7170
June 23-24-25	Earth Int. Festival			Katrina Driver Judith Marcuse Projects katrina@judithmarcuseprojects.ca
June 28	BEST's Annual Pancake Breakfast	Granville Plaza		Meghan McCrea
June 30	Critical Mass	Vancouver Art Gallery (by the fountain)		www.bikesexual.org/cm
July 1	VACC Canada Day Bike Safety Skills Event	Cloverdale Amphitheatre, 176th Street at 64th Ave.		Info: www.vacc.bc.ca/surrey
July 1	Celebrations at Granville Island			

**This list is not complete, and all information provided should be confirmed.*

VACC Urban Sustainability Bike Tours by Lisa Slakov

The VACC spotted an opportunity to encourage more cycling in the city and jumped on it. Vancouver is hosting the World Urban Forum (WUF) this June and the main theme of the forum is: Our Future: Sustainable Cities - Turning Ideas Into Action. The VACC figured that it could create some action this spring by supporting bike tours in the city connected to WUF or other 'sustainability' oriented venues.

The VACC put together a pilot project program in which it can offer various services to tour organizers. These services include assistance such as bicycle route planning, access to rental bikes, insurance coverage for the tours and cycling ex-

perts to ensure that the cycling component of the tour is conducted safely and well.

Consequently, the VACC is now assisting with bicycle tours of UBC University Town and may be helping out with tours of the Central Valley Greenway, Science World vicinity and a number of Vancouver's 'green' buildings.

For more information on the University Town Bicycle Tours please contact Lisa Slakov at lsakov@telus.net. For more information on the VACC Urban Sustainability Bike Tours please contact Eric Lorenz at eplorenz@go.com or at (604) 739-7861.

Bike Shorts: International Cycling Cinema

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

Pacific Cinematheque
1131 Howe Street
Vancouver

Doors at 7 pm
Show at 7:30 pm

\$10



for more info:
www.bikeshorts.blogspot.com



VACC New Westminister Wednesday Night Rides

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition - New Westminister leads Wednesday Night Rides in June, July, and August. All rides begin at 6:30 PM from Century House (620 8th Street, New Westminister) and are suitable for novice cyclists. Rides are typically 20-30 kilometres in length along major bike routes in the region and end at a local coffee shop. Helmets are mandatory. There is a nominal fee for non-VACC members. For more information, e-mail ftom@langara.bc.ca or call 604-323-5763.

UNIVERSITY TOWN BICYCLE TOURS

Want to know more about The University of British Columbia?

By Lisa Slakov

The University Town Office, in partnership with the UBC TREK Program Centre, the UBC Sustainability Office, UBC Community Affairs, the UBC Bike Kitchen and the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition will be hosting 'University Town Bicycle Tours' during the **World Urban Forum in June 2006**.

Opting for 'sustainable' transportation, participants will have the opportunity to explore the UBC Vancouver campus to learn more about UBC's new University Town while pedaling the relatively flat terrain of the UBC campus and enjoying the fresh air.

Bikes will be provided by the UBC Bike Kitchen

or you are welcome to bring your own. The tours will be 2-1/2 hours in duration, require basic cycling abilities and will proceed rain or shine (please wear appropriate attire). Areas of focus will include academic and green buildings, new residential neighbourhoods, and prominent landscapes and vistas.

If you would like more information on these tours, or would like to sign-up for the June tours, please contact Lisa Slakov at lslavkov@telus.net. Program details will be updated as June 2006 approaches. Please check back at www.universitytown.ubc.ca for details and updates.

Treasurer's Report

With the new accounting software in place you will have noticed that a paid invoice was sent to you on renewal of membership, acknowledging receipt. New and renewal membership cards will now be sent out quarterly with the Urbane Cyclist Newsletter. This will simplify the paperwork at this end.

Sometime later this year you will be able to update your membership information via the Internet. You will also have an electronic option for

applying for, or renewing membership, although the membership fee will still need to be sent by mail. You will also have the option of receiving your membership renewal notices through e-mail.

Occasionally people ask that their membership information not be shared with others. Rest assured, the VACC does not share the membership list with any other organization, and only on a "need to know" basis within our organization.

Upcoming Event, Plan on Attending

During the week of the World Urban Forum, the VACC is pleased to announce that it will hold an evening session featuring Dr. Jeff Kenworthy from Australia, and Vancouver's own Gordon Price. Dr. Kenworthy is an Associate Professor at Murdoch University in Perth. He has co-written "[Sustainability & Cities: Overcoming Automobile Dependence](#)".

Disappearing Traffic, Redistribution of Traffic—
Reallocation of Public Space
Wednesday, June 28, 7 to 9 pm
SFU Vancouver, 515 West Hastings St
Co-sponsored by the VACC and SFU City Program with
Financial support from TransLink

Municipal Bike Buses by Jack Becker

Some places in Europe have them. Sometimes one uses a rear door to get up to six or eight bikes on the buses. Other jurisdictions just let people bring their bikes inside buses on restrictive or on all runs.

Now a student at the Emily Carr Institute, Scott Staniland, has undertaken a study of modifying the interior layout of TransLink type low floor buses for accommodating bikes. Using fold

down seats and automatically bringing a bike stand out from the wall to a 30 degree setting, cyclists would be able to roll their bikes through the front door and then exit by the rear door.

Take a look at Scott's concept starting May 7th at the institute's Graduation Exhibition 2006 at its Granville Island location. If you like the concept then let TransLink and the VACC know.

Vancouver Committee Update by Jack Becker

Active is a mild word to describe the activities undertaken by the group so far this year. Cyclists have been called upon many a times to help out by advocating at open houses and sending e-mails with their thoughts to the City of Vancouver Council. They have been asked to participate in assessment rides for potential new bike routes. So far this year, advocacy has been undertaken for:

- Implementation of the Downtown Transportation Plan (DTP)
- Canada Line design
- Proposed and potential Bike Routes and Bike Lanes
- Designs affecting traffic on Bike Routes
- Developments affecting Bike Lanes or Bike Routes
- Olympic venues

DTP advocacy has included Pender / Dunsmuir bike lanes and Granville Mall and Street.

Canada Line advocacy has included open houses, the bridge deck over the Fraser River, train care layout, movement within the stations, bike parking at stations, bike lanes on Cambie St., and station precinct plans. (In other words getting from home or from place of work to the stations.)

Bike Route and bike lanes advocacy has included moving forward on bike routes along 44th

and 45th Avenues , 29th Ave , the Arbutus Corridor design process, and Kerr St. ,

Developments advocacy has included the Oakridge Development on 41st Ave and Cambie St., and St. Vincent Lands

Olympic venues development advocacy has included Riley Park

Assessment rides have included 44th and 45th Ave., Heather Bike Route extension, Kent Ave and S.W. Marine Drive

A cyclist has proposed an elevated crosswalk as a deterrent for motorists to entering bike routes off arterial roads. Concept and imagery was developed. Work was started on a position paper on stop signs on bike routes.

Work was undertaken on a VACC – Vancouver position paper on “Bike to School” program.

On the fun side, the VACC, including children participated in the Celtic Fest Parade.

The VACC also participated in the 30 Days of Sustainability Marketplace.

As you can see, we have a very active volunteer list. If you wish to get involved, come out to our monthly meeting usually on the last Wednesday. Check the web site for date and location. <http://vacc.bc.ca/vancouver/>

The Urbane Cyclist

Your Bike = Transportation by Bonnie Fenton

The VACC's Commuter Cycling Skills Program is up and running! Offered throughout the Lower Mainland, the one-day course provides basic cycling knowledge to new and less-experienced cyclists. Classes are and are free to participants (with a \$50 deposit to reserve your spot).

The VACC thinks it's important to get as many people as possible riding bikes safely and confidently on the roads of the GVRD and so have made the course accessible both financially – it's free – and geographically – classes are offered in **Burnaby, New Westminister, Langley Township, North Vancouver, Port Moody, Richmond, Surrey, and Vancouver.**

The combination of classroom and on-road training is intended to build traffic cycling proficiency and confidence for adults who want to cycle for transportation. You'll learn some basic traffic skills, gain confidence in the abilities you have, and pick up some handy tips.

If you'd like more information on class dates and locations, check out www.vacc.bc.ca/



Raised Crossing at Bike Route—4th & Cypress.

Produced by: H. Groen

[bikeskills](#) or contact Bonnie Fenton at bike-skills@vacc.bc.ca or 604-734-1385.

Many thanks go to our funders: Vancity, TransLink, and the cities of Vancouver, Burnaby, and New Westminister.

Cycling Around Greater Vancouver



Lock & Ride

Bike lockers are available for rent at most Millennium and Expo Line SkyTrain stations, Park & Ride lots, and Transit Exchanges. Cost is \$10 per month.

For more information on how to rent a locker, email us at: bikelockers@translink.bc.ca or call us at 604-453-4500.



Try a Combo

Bike & Bus – Many buses are bike rack-equipped; each rack holds two bikes.

Bike & SkyTrain – Take your bike on SkyTrain anytime and in any direction except Monday to Friday 7-9am in the peak direction (toward downtown Vancouver) and 4-6pm (away from downtown Vancouver). Load through any door but not more than two bikes per car.

Bike & SeaBus – Take your bike on SeaBus anytime. SeaBus can carry six bikes per sailing.



Map it Out

It's easy to get around on two wheels with your TransLink Cycling Map. Pick up a copy at retail locations throughout the Lower Mainland. For a detailed list of vendors visit: www.translink.bc.ca/files/pdf/van_cyclingmap_locations.pdf



The Urbane Cyclist

Continued from page 4

relates directly to bike lanes. Of course, there is no such provision.

Such a provision would effectively allow cyclists to pass on the right, whether in an intersection or not, in circumstances where the cyclist is found to have been in a bike lane. Another means would be to characterize a bike lane as "an unobstructed lane on the side of the roadway" in keeping with the present exception to the passing on the right prohibition. Complete legislative silence allows for confusion on the roadway and unnecessary debate after the fact.

If the foregoing considerations are at all thought provoking, consider the new bike lanes. Take Richards Street, for example. As I look out my window and watch motorists change lanes back and forth across the bike lane, I can't help that think the 90s are beginning to look like the 50s.

David Hay is a litigation lawyer and partner at RBS Lawyers. RBS Lawyers is a full service downtown Vancouver law firm delivering legal advice and solutions in all areas of practice. The information above is not legal advice. Anyone seeking legal advice should call David directly at 604-661-9250, or send an e-mail to dhay@rbs.ca.

Work with the VACC

To become involved, please contact:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burnaby | Mike 604 444-4068 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta | Marion 604 520-7636 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | Fulton 604 526-3585 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Vancouver | John 604 986-9220 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Westminster | Andrew 604 521-2742 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Shore | Dave 604 988-5454 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Transit | Jack 604 681-5744 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Surrey | Mary 604 535-2513 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TransLink | John 604 986-9220 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tri-Cities | John 604 469-0361 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vancouver | Jack 604 681-5744 |

- I want to contribute to the VACC by doing the following:

Did you know...?

The more letters written and the more phone calls made, the more likely cycling conditions will improve.

Who to write about issues in The Urbane Cyclist:

Hon. Gordon Campbell
Premier
PO Box 9041
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E1
Phone: 250 387-1715
Fax: 250 387-0087
premier@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Kevin Falcon
Minister of Transportation
PO Box 9055
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Phone: 250 387-1978
Fax: 250 356-2290
Minister.Transportation@gems5.gov.bc.ca

Mayor Maxine Wilson & Council
Coquitlam City Hall
3000 Guildford Way
Coquitlam, BC
V3B 7N2
Phone: 604-927-3001
mwilson@coquitlam.ca

City of Port Moody
Mayor Joe Trasolini and Council
100 Newport Drive
Box 36
Port Moody, BC V3H 3E1
Phone: 604 469-4500
Fax: 604 469-4550

City of Vancouver
Mayor Sam Sullivan and Council
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4
Phone: 604 873-7273
Fax: 604 873-7750
mayorandcouncil@city.vancouver.bc.ca

TransLink
Chair Malcolm Brodie and Board of Directors
1600-4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2
Phone: 604 453-4500
Fax: 604 453-4626
www.translink.bc.ca/

VACC Values

You're holding in your hands the quarterly newsletter of the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition. This newsletter, along with everything else done by the VACC, is entirely the work of committed volunteers, and is based upon a set of core values. If these values speak to you, we hope you'll consider supporting us by purchasing an annual membership and/or becoming actively involved.

The VACC advocates for better conditions for cyclists and the removal of barriers to cycling. We achieve our objectives by meeting with governing agencies at all levels, writing well researched, proactive letters and reports, working constructively with the media, and encouraging more people to cycle more often. The work of the VACC is grounded in the following values:

- ***We support a variety of styles and approaches to cycling.***
- ***We value education and role-modelling of safe cycling.***
- ***We respect those who choose or need to use other forms of transportation.***
- ***We value cycling as a community building tool and as healthy for both individuals and our environment.***
- ***We avoid funding or support that could compromise the integrity of our mission, purpose, or values.***
- ***We seek positive legislative and policy change to make a lasting difference.***
- ***Our membership is open to all who share our goals and values.***

THANK YOU!

The VACC wishes to acknowledge the support provided for the VACC's participation in the Sustainability and You Marketplace by:

The Bike Doctor located at 163 West Broadway, Vancouver and 4093 Kingsway, Burnaby

Reckless Bike Stores located at 110 Davie St. and 1810 Fir St. in Vancouver

JOIN THE VACC!

Yes, I want to cycle for a better community

1st person _____
2nd person _____
Address _____
City/Postal Code _____
Phone _____
E-mail: _____

The VACC does not sell or give out address information. The VACC reserves the right to contact individual members through the above information.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail <i>The Urbane Cyclist</i> to me | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 Individual |
| I heard about the VACC: | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Fixed/Student/Low Income |
| <input type="checkbox"/> through the media | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00 Each additional |
| <input type="checkbox"/> from this newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$80.00 Corporate/Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> from a friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5.00 additional per person to also join the BC Cycling Coalition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> via the website | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation (Sorry, we can't provide tax receipts.) _\$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> from another cyclist | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> at a community event | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | |

Please make cheques payable to:

Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition

And mail, along with this application to:
VACC Memberships
City Square, P.O. Box 47068
15-555 West 12th Ave.
Vancouver BC V5Z 4L6

May 2006