



GVCC Update

The GVCC is piloting a monthly electronic bulletin - to keep you up to date on current happenings in the cycling scene. We still intend to produce Cycle Therapy - but let us know what you think of this format.

New office in Centennial Square

As of Feb. 18th, the GVCC office is located at #12 Centennial Square - right across from Victoria City Hall. We are sharing the space - named the 'Sustainable Transportation Centre' - with the Victoria Car Share Co-op. This is a great



Cavalcade of bicycles prepares to relocate the CRC

partnership, as we are both non-profit organizations that are working hard to promote sustainable transportation in the Greater Victoria area.

This new location gives us much more space for our activities and is conveniently located in the center of town. As well, the joint tenancy saves the GVCC money!

Drop by and see us during our **Expanded office hours:**

Tuesday 1pm - 9pm

Wednesday 1pm - 4pm

Thursday 1pm - 5pm

Friday 1pm - 4pm

Saturday* 12:30pm - 3:30pm

Social Saturday 9:30am - 3:30pm

Social Saturday is usually held on the 3rd Saturday of each month. However, because **Earth Day** is Saturday, April 22, and the 'Earth Day Walk' will be starting from Centennial Square, we will hold our **April Social Saturday** to coincide with the Earth Day celebrations. Drop in for coffee and snacks and meet other cyclists!

Recreational Rides

Sunday May 7 - Gorge Artists Tour

An interesting bicycle tour of artists' studios in the Gorge area, organized in conjunction with the local Artists Tour.

Ride begins at 10:00 a.m. at Starbucks at Tillicum Mall.

Saturday May 27 - Sidney Picnic

What better than a bicycle ride and picnic! Cycle to Sidney exclusively via the Lochside Trail for the GVCC's annual picnic. Total distance is an easy 50 km. The ride starts on the Lochside Trail at Darwin (by Saanich Municipal Hall) at 10:00 am.

Most local bicycle shops have a poster with our 2006 Rides Schedule (and if you don't have one, let us know!).

GVCC General Meeting - downtown

Wednesday April 19, 7pm

The **April GVCC General Meeting** will focus on **multi-use trail issues**, with featured speaker Don Watmough, Park Planner for the CRD. The meeting is preceded by social time from 7:00 to 7:30pm

Location: Downtown Activity Centre, 755 Pandora.

Local Cycling Advocacy

Your volunteer **GVCC Board of Directors** has been very busy promoting cycling: more often, to more places. The following list highlights our recent activities.

Let us know if you would like a copy of any of the correspondence referred to.

- **Camden Avenue / Galloping Goose overpass:** the GVCC has submitted a letter of support to both View Royal and the CRD.
- **West Side Rail Trail:** the GVCC has lobbied the Island Corridor Foundation to provide for adjacent multi-use trails alongside rail tracks, and for the accommodation of bicycles on railcars.
- **Henderson Road Bike Lanes:** the GVCC restated our position (of 2003) in support of these bike lanes, with our letter to this effect appearing in the Oak Bay News.
- **UVic Sustainable Transportation Showcase:** The GVCC was represented at the Uvic campus event on March 1st.

Local Cycling Advocacy, *continued*

- **Interurban Rail Trail, Stages I & II: Extension and Surfacing.** Saanich Parks Dept. received a letter from the GVCC board, advocating for the replacement of the current coarse gravel surface on the Interurban Trail - with smooth pavement. Adding vital in-person energy, a group of GVCC members rode to and attended the Saanich "Open House" public meeting on March 7th.
- **Banfield Park Planning.** GVCC representatives spoke at the public Banfield Park Planning meeting, held in Vic West on March 14th. A variety of solutions to trail problems were presented, as outlined in the GVCC's report of Sept 2003.
- **Electric-assisted bicycles on multi-use trails.** Following a letter to the CRD in support of electric-assisted bicycles on regional multi-use trails, the GVCC attended the CRD's Mar. 15th Open House on the same topic.
- **Legal Education.** The GVCC has actively advocated for cyclists' rights for many years. The annual GVCC Christmas Lights Ride – a legacy of the Terry van Fleet Memorial Ride - continues to fund the GVCC Legal Education Fund. This fund has been used for obtaining transcripts of high profile judgements, funding Bike Sense, and for our newest project (to be launched this spring...read on). GVCC members have also demonstrated their support of cyclist defendants by consistently attending court events, often in full regalia, and by speaking out in their support.
The GVCC will be launching Victoria's first **Cyclist's Legal Education campaign** in May – which will help cyclists – and everyone - understand their legal rights and responsibilities. Watch for a new wallet card, brochure and poster!
- **Multi-use trail rules:** GVCC board *Letters to the Editor* appeared in the Times Colonist and other publications, that clarified rules on yielding and direction of travel for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, as they apply to multi-use trails.
- **Victoria Downtown Plan workshop.** GVCC board members attended the Victoria Downtown Plan workshop on March 25th, and provided valuable input on how the City can promote cycling in Victoria over the next 25 years.
- **DreamSeed Community Action Gathering.** The GVCC participated in this youth-focused event on April 2nd - which showcased groups and information that will help build a sustainable future for Victoria. And hey - we were a big hit!

Community News

Saturday April 22 - Earth Day

Join the GVCC as we march in the Earth Day parade – starting at noon at Centennial Square, our "front yard"! (Our office is #12 Centennial Square)

Tuesday April 25 - Bike to Work Week Launch

If you are organizing a team for your workplace, call Bike to Work Victoria at 920-5775 for an invitation. You will be able to mingle and lunch, pick up your Team Captain kit, and be inspired!

Saturday May 13 - MEC Grand Opening Day Event

Drop by the grand opening of Mountain Equipment Coop's new store downtown (1450 Government), where the GVCC – as one of four community groups invited - will be on hand to answer questions from the public about local cycling issues, and provide invaluable advice on cycling equipment, clothing & bikes.

Monday May 29 to Sunday June 4 - Bike to Work Week

The GVCC has offered to help with BTWW at trail-side support stations, and with pre-BTWW bike fit, inspection and maintenance sessions on Saturdays at our new location in Centennial Square. We will also be printing new runs of Bike Sense and the Victoria Cycling map.

The Bike to Work Week office is located at 550 Yates Street.

WOW! – I bet you didn't realize how much is going on behind the scenes, did you?

We welcome your ideas and input – and a helping hand if you have a bit of time. Please let us know :>)

Your GVCC Board of Directors:

Darren Marr (President), Susanna Grimes (Vice President), Tim Isaak (Treasurer), Anke van Leeuwen (Communications Secretary), Sam Macey (Recording Secretary), Patrick O'Connor, Bill Birney, Alex Jethas & Jim Grayson

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