

Spokelore

The Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition

A member of The B.C. Cycling Coalition

Time to Renew Your Membership!

Yes, everyone, it's that time again. We need you to renew your membership so we can continue to effectively represent you, the cycling community, in Nanaimo.

Membership Has Its Rewards!

What do you get out of it? A stronger voice in making this city and surrounding areas a better place for cyclists; fun, like-minded people to enjoy cycling with; a place to rant and rave and actually make a difference; this great newsletter and of course, discounts with our advertisers! So don't delay, see page 4 and send in your membership renewal today!



Photo: Rob McLean

***We
can't
wait to
join the
GNCC!***

Meeting Schedule

Inside...

***All meetings are held at Bowen Park, Activity Room I
at 7:00 pm***

Next Board Meeting is February 20

Everyone is Welcome!

Our next General Meeting is March 20

Guest Speaker: Jim Kipp, Coordinator for the City of Nanaimo Emergency Program will speak on the role of the bike in Emergency Preparedness.

FREEWHEEL P2

CHAIN GANG NEWS P3

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM P4

COMMENT FORM P4

HAPPENINGS P5

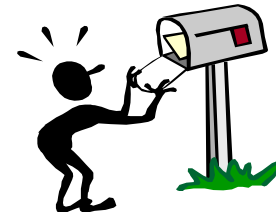
CNP UPDATE P5

PUBLISHER'S MUSINGS P6

E&N HISTORY LESSON P6

F R E E W H E E

O P I N I O N S & L E T T E R S



Musings of an Old Timer

I have been around for a while and have have seen lots of changes through the years and this process seems to be speeding up.

For instance, just when we thought that our railway passenger service was going to be improved after the infusion of millions of federal money, , things suddenly changed. There was to be the creation of an island run Railway Authority, talks were held about bicycle carrying facilities on the trains (like they have everywhere else) and so on.

I think I speak for most of us when I say that cyclists are environmentalists, it is therefore with great sadness that we now witness the cessation of

all the freight service on the island also. We will now see thousands of trucks carrying flammable and other dangerous goods on our highways and in the process worsening our pollution

I am already dreaming of cycling above the shore of Cameron Lake with my friends..."

problems, not to even mention compromising highway safety,

This however this is the only negative in the equation as far as I can see. The other side of the coin is a real win-win situation. The possibilities in the near future, are , as I see it:

We get an improved passenger rail service under local control. This possibility may be fairly remote under the present economic conditions.

The other possibility: The railway is totally abandoned, the tracks ripped up and sold and all that will be left is a world class recreational corridor that would really put Vancouver Island on the map. We, the environmental community must now go on high alert that this piece of real estate will indeed be preserved forever. I am already dreaming of cycling above the shore of Cameron Lake with my friends or standing on one those high trestles on the Malahat on my way to Victoria admiring the scenery.....

For a cyclist can it get any better than that ?

John C. Van Beek

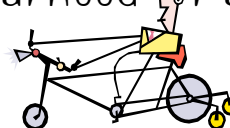
BCCC Representative Wanted

The GNCC requires someone to become our British Columbia Cycling Coalition representative. The BCCC meets one Sunday a month in either Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo and possibly Salt Spring Island on a rotating basis. Billeting is arranged for out-of-towners. As extra incentive, there is usually a ride and party before or after the meeting!

The GNCC needs a voice to represent us at the provincial level. If you are interested, please contact Gay at 722-4665 or any of the board members.

For Wheely Good Food
wheel into the Windward
Neighbourhood Pub

14-1588
Boundary
Crescent



Chain Gang News

All Chain Gang rides will begin at Tim Horton's on Bowen Road. Unless otherwise noted on the ride calendar the rides will begin at 10 am.

If you would like more information, or would like to be put on (or taken off) the Chain Gang's email list, call Bob at 753-5464.

Visit our ride calendar at: www.calsnet.net/GNCC

Robert Goerzen

Tour News (Book your holidays!)

Despite the current weather, the cycling season will soon be upon us. Heh...you might have already noticed that the first 100KM ride takes place the end of March. I have been busy at the computer putting together a number of options for Summer and Fall tours and would like to get together with anyone else that might be interested in joining us. I propose meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2002 at the Windward Pub to put things together. Be there at 6PM if you want to enjoy dinner or 7:30PM if you are only interested in the cycling activities.

Marg and I are planning our main tour from June 15 - 29, 2002. I have worked up a number of touring options for this period of time and will share with anyone that is interested in coming along.

The Fall tour...sometime in September...will of course be the Sunshine Coast Tour, done the opposite direction to last year with a couple of days added to enjoy some tourist related activities.

Hope to see you there and feel free to bring anyone that you feel would enjoy the adventure.

Robert Goerzen



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Fax: 390-2915
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6404 Metral Dr.
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Canada, V9T 2L8



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SpokeLore

is published nine times a year by the **Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition**

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web: www.thegncc.org

The purpose of the GNCC is to promote and improve conditions for cycling in the Nanaimo area, by:

- providing a unified voice for all cycling interests in the area
- operating as a citizens' advocacy group in cycling-related matters
- promoting more cycle-friendly roads and recreational riding opportunities

GNCC Board of Directors

Keith Brown, Gay Cunningham,
David Grey, Chris Hofstrand,
Debby Keith, Aaron McKean,
Odette Moreau, Don Oliver.

Questions regarding content or advertising may be directed to the publisher, Gay Cunningham, at the above address.

If you would like to contribute to *SpokeLore*, please call Gay Cunningham at 722-4665, or email "guardian@myexcel.ca".

Views expressed in SpokeLore are not necessarily those of the GNCC.



**GREATER NANAIMO
CYCLING
COALITION**
Hub City's Cycling Advocates!

4 YES! I WANNABEE

part of the GNCC!

Your contribution will help us (and you) take a pro-active approach to creating a more hospitable cycling environment in Nanaimo.

As a member, you will get:

SpokeLore newsletter nine times a year.

Find out what's going on and who's involved.

Better cycling facilities.

Get involved or support those who are working to make our region more cyclist-friendly.

\$15 per member, \$10 for students & seniors and \$5 for the unemployed.
25% off the total price for two or more members in the same household.

Make cheque or money order payable to the Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition and mail to:

GNCC Membership
Unit 130, #34-1150 N. Terminal Ave.
Nanaimo, BC V9S 5L6

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (h) _____

(w) _____

email: _____

Waiver

During GNCC activities, I will be responsible for my own safety and, if cycling, will obey all the rules of the road.

I will participate only in those activities for which I am physically fit enough and for which I have suitable equipment.

I release the GNCC from all claims made by me or my successors regarding death, injury, or loss or damage to my property during any event or activity for which I was a participant or a volunteer.

Signed: _____

Signature of parent or guardian if 18 or under: _____

Contact name/phone in case of emergency: _____

SpokeLore Feb. 2002

Cyclist "Beefs & Bouquets"

Ok, everyone, now's your chance to tell the city what you would like to see Nanaimo do for cyclists! They are looking for any comments and suggestions that you may have for both general improvements to safety and to convenience. An example of the latter would be a connection via a path between two points (as was done from the E&N trail to Labieux) that would encourage people to ride. All you have to do is fill out the following comment form and either snail mail it to us at **Unit 130, #34-1150 N. Terminal Ave., Nanaimo, BC V9S 5L6** OR email your comments to: **info@thegncc.org** and we will pass on your suggestions to Richard Harding at the city, which will then (hopefully) be duly considered and acted upon!

Comment Form

What improvements to roads, including traffic lights & signage, would you like to see in Nanaimo? Please give a description of the problem, location (including nearest intersection and what direction of travel if applicable)

What bike trail improvements would you like to see? Where would you like to see a bike trail?

What improvements or additions to bike facilities do you think are needed? (for example, bike lockers and racks, secure parking etc.)

Additional Comments: _____

Cycle Network Program in Jeopardy

Reprinted from the VACC website (vsu.bc.ca/vacc/)

The Cycling Network Program (CNP) is a \$2 million per year cost sharing program that has significantly improved cycling facilities in many of the communities in the Lower Mainland.

These improvements have increased the numbers of people cycling while reducing cycling accidents. Regular exercise such as cycling can dramatically improve people's health thus saving the government money.

More information can be found at on the Ministry of Transportation's web site: www.th.gov.bc.ca/bchighways/cycling/cyclingnetwork.htm

As in all provincial government programs, the Cycling Network Program (CNP) is under review.

Given the great benefits of the CNP and its low level of funding, the province would be wise to increase funding for cycling, not decrease it.

What Can I Do?

It is critical that the CNP continues. Please contact Premier Campbell and your local MLA tell them to increase funding for the Cycling Network Program. Check out the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition website (vcn.bc.ca/vacc/) for a sample letter.

Hon. Gordon Campbell
Premier
PO Box 9041
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9E1

premier@gov.bc.ca
Phone: 250 387-1715
Fax: 250 387-0087

The December 2001 issue of CycleTherapy has a good article on the CNP. You can get it online at gvcc.bc.ca.



Happenings

Victoria's ownCycling Resource Centre is open!

The GVCC's has its own storefront at **1056-A North Park Street**, just off Cook St (across North Park from the Do-It Centre).

Our new office will make it easier for members and the public to find information on cycling in the Capital Region. We hope that you will drop in to have a look around.

Ride Leader Workshop

Saturday, Apr. 27, 2002, 9:30 am - 2 pm. FREE. Pre-register by calling (604) 519-1442 or email

bruce@gonecycling.com

Organised by the VACC and New Westminster Parks and Rec

Some topics include:

- How to plan a ride event
- Common accident scenarios
- Create an emergency plan
- Responsibilities of leader
- Where to find leader resources

Bring bike and helmet

See the VACC website for more information. (vcn.bc.ca/vacc/)

Royal BC Museum Pedal Power Exhibit

Saturday and Sunday, March 9 & 10, 2002.

"Pedal Power" display is an event to show the variety, history and versatility of bikes.

Snow to Surf Race

Sunday, April 28, 2002.

Mt. Washington to Comox. Teams of 8 compete in an Alpine skiing, Nordic skiing, running, mountain biking, road biking and canoeing race. Register NOW as the entries fill up by the first week of March. See the website snowtosurf.com for more info.



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Reminder.

**GNCC members receive a 10%
discount at the bike stores that
advertize in *SpokeLore***

Publisher's Musings

Hello everyone, trying out a bit of a new look for Spokelore....give me some feedback on how you like it. It will keep evolving, no doubt!

John Van Beek sent me an article from the Daily News. Seems that Bogota, Colombia, declares one day a year "car-free". People take to the streets on bikes, in-line skates and walking. Anyone caught driving receives the equivalent of \$40.00 Cdn in fines. What a great idea! Like to see Nanaimo City Council try that!!

Lots of ideas about the E&N rail system. Can it be viable as a passenger rail system? (See the article below for a mini history lesson on the E&N Land Grant). Some think so. As a recreational corridor? Definitely! Any scenerio must include accommodating cyclists - all public transportation should.

The GNCC has sent letters of support to our local MLA and MP in favour of keeping the E&N rail service, and one to BC Ferries asking for better bicycle facilities at their ferry terminals. No reason some secure Bike Lockers can't be put in at Departure Bay since they're renovating anyway. And how about a bike rack or *something* on the actual ferry?! Just a note, our activism has more impact if we have the membership numbers behind us - so remember to renew your membership, and convince a friend to join.

Just a note to thank all those who volunteer their precious time and effort to the GNCC cause, especially the board members. And, hey, this is a "pet picture-free" Spokelore! Thanks, everyone, for the submissions!

Gay Cunningham

Cathedral Grove Slideshow

Author Jan Peterson's careful chronicling and documentation of a century of community efforts to "save Cathedral Grove from the saws" in her history book, **Cathedral Grove**, will be an important feature of the upcoming Public Meeting and Slideshow titled, **Cathedral Grove: Keep or Cut?**

The Public meeting and slideshow starts at 7:30 pm, at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, on Thursday, Feb.21. Everyone is welcome.

- for further information call
Annette Tanner, 250 752-6585 -

....and a little history lesson, pertaining to the E&N

By Pacific Rainforest Adventures

We've been getting a lot of questions regarding "private forest lands" so here is a very brief history about the "private land issue". In 1886 a consortium of businessmen, headed by Robert Dunsmuir, completed a railway from Esquimalt to Nanaimo. The Provincial Gov't of the day gave them \$750,000.00 and 8000 square kilometers of land on the east side of Vancouver Island (about 1/5 of the entire Island) - see attached map, the light shade is the land grant. In 1905 Dunsmuir was Premier of B.C. and he sold the railway and the land to the CPR. The C.P.R. subsequently sold parcels of the land to B.C. Forest companies. In recent years the majority of the lands have been bought by Weyerhaeuser (U.S. based, largest Forest Company in the world) and ImberWest (Australian owned by Fletcher Challenge). At the same time

these two companies also bought tree Farm Licenses that are long term licenses on the majority of "crown land" on the rest of the Island and huge areas on the Mainland. The E. & N. Railway is now owned by RailAmerica, a Florida based Company. This is a very condensed version of how it happened that Cathedral Grove is now owned by Weyerhaeuser.

