

CHAINMAIL

The Newsletter of Citizens for Safe Cycling

Volume 29 Issue 3 – Fall 2013

Our 'Lights on Bikes' initiative is recognized by MTO

Citizens for Safe Cycling received a *Road Safety Achievement Award* from the Ministry of Transportation for Ontario (MTO) at a ceremony held on August 6. Our 'Lights on Bikes' event in November of 2012 was nominated for the award, in the category of Road Safety Partnership.



Photo: Supplied by City of Ottawa

For 'Lights on Bikes', we collaborated with RightBike, Pathway Patrol, and the Ottawa Police Service, and these organizations were also honoured. The initiative was designed to emphasize proper night-riding safety at a point in the year when commuting home in darkness becomes an issue—just after we 'fall back' to standard time. Free bike lighting was handed out at dusk at a busy downtown cycling location. Two hundred lighting sets were all distributed within about 45 minutes! Volunteers from all the partner groups even helped with the set-up and attachment of the lights to the lucky recipients' bikes.

We are planning to repeat 'Lights on Bikes' this November. Watch for it! ♦

GET INVOLVED WITH CfSC's ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP! E-mail info@safecycling.ca and include "AWG" in the subject line.



Photo: Supplied by Sarah Craig

Bicycle entrepreneur to speak at upcoming CfSC meeting

On October 7th, Citizens for Safe Cycling will be pleased to present Sarah Craig as keynote speaker for its 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Sarah founded and operates I Heart Bikes ("[i♥bikes](http://i♥bikes.com)"), a Halifax bicycle rental and touring company. She earned a B. Comm. degree at university with a concentration in environmental issues, and decided to follow a passion in setting up this venture.

The company began by renting bikes along the Halifax harbour front. Since then, the operation has branched out into other related areas. Come out to hear Sarah tell her experiences of the past two years, working to promote cycling and to build community.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
and
ANNUAL MEETING:

MON OCT 7, 2013

TOM BROWN ARENA
141 BAYVIEW ROAD

6:45 PM

(Doors open 5:45 PM)

All welcome!

Book your attendance on EventBrite

Chain Mail is published by Citizens for Safe Cycling (“CfSC”), the non-profit association that promotes cycling as a viable means of transportation in Ottawa by advocating:

- Acceptance of the responsible cyclist as a legitimate road user.
- Education of all cyclists to improved riding and traffic skills as part of their normal driving skills.
- Improved engineering to facilitate cyclist traffic, such as proper traffic control systems, adequate lane width, and sufficient parking.
- Legislation that is effective and enforced.
- Representation of cycling issues to all levels of government.

Opinions expressed in *Chain Mail* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of CfSC, its board, or its members. Reproduction is permitted, provided that both author and source credits are given.

Citizens for Safe Cycling

P.O. Box 248, Station B

Ottawa, ON K1P 6C4

Telephone: (613) 722-4454

E-mail: info@safecycling.ca www.SafeCycling.ca

Contributors to this issue: James Birtch, Paul Clarke, Hans Moor, Mark Rehder, Simone Rivers, Peter Sloan.
Printing by Harvest House.

Contributions are welcomed. Text may be edited for style, length, and clarity. Please send submissions to editor@SafeCycling.ca (Paul Clarke)

ISSN 1201-9809

The 2012-2013 board of directors of CfSC is composed of:

President: Hans Moor **Vice-president:** Alex deVries

Secretary: Nancy Biggs **Treasurer:** Lorne Berndt

Directors-at-large: Paul Clarke, Schuyler Playford, Simone Rivers, Risa Sargent, Jessica Wells.

For inquiries about CfSC membership, please send e-mail to Membership@SafeCycling.ca, or join on-line through our website or by using the form on page 4.

This newsletter contains hyperlinks in the PDF version, which is available on the safecycling.ca website.

We're looking for your photos

As you may know, CfSC produces a report card on cycling in Ottawa each year. We are looking for good photos to use in the next issue, and you can help. If you have a great shot in 2013 of bikes in action in the city, or perhaps of an impressive bike parking area, or even of a road detail that presents a problem, please send it to us, by next February, at info@safecycling.ca. Put ‘2013 Report Photos’ in the subject line. Be sure to identify where the photo was taken and to provide the name of the person who should be given the photo credit. ♦

#CycleON is name for new provincial cycling strategy

The Ministry of Transportation for Ontario (MTO) recently unveiled [#CycleON](#), its new strategy to promote cycling.

As part of the media release, the MTO stated, “More and more people are choosing cycling as their preferred way to get around. Ontario’s Cycling Strategy provides a route map to support and encourage this growth in cycling over the next 20 years.”

The strategy is the product of a public consultation last winter and from dialogue carried out with partners/stakeholders in the spring and summer. The province’s Minister of Transportation, Glen Murray, is a cyclist, and so this certainly helps when the person in charge can champion a cause from firsthand knowledge.

#CycleON is looking for action from all partners to work on its five strategic directions:

1. Design healthy, active, and prosperous communities
2. Improve cycling infrastructure
3. Make highways and streets safer
4. Promote cycling awareness and behavioural shifts
5. Increase cycling tourism in Ontario.

CfSC has long subscribed to all of these goals, and particularly to the first four. We will support the MTO’s efforts in convincing other provincial ministries—and of course our own city—to get on board through their legislation and funding. However, thus far, not even the MTO has earmarked specific funding to the strategy! ♦

DISCOUNTS FOR CfSC MEMBERS

Bicycle shops that offer discounts to CfSC members:

NOTE: “P&A” means bike parts and accessories.

Bushtukah	10% off P&A and clothes
Fresh Air Experience	10% off P&A and clothes, and 5% off bikes
Full Cycle	10% off P&A
Joe Mamma Urban Cycles	10% off P&A
Kunstadt Sports	10% off P&A and clothes
McCrank’s Cycles	10% off P&A
Orleans Cycles	10% off P&A
Rebec and Kroes	10% off P&A and clothes
Tall Tree Cycles	10% off P&A
The Cyclery	10% off P&A
Tommy and Lefebvre	10% off accessories and clothes

Take the Sustainability Tour

By editor, with contributions from Jim Birtch

The Ottawa Biosphere Eco-City (OBEC) Initiative officially launched its new Ottawa Sustainability Tour on September 14 at the Sugar Shack in Riche-lieu Park in Vanier.



Photo: Clarke/CfSC

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson cuts the ribbon to kick off the Tour, while OBEC's Jim Birtch (green shirt), City Councillor Mathieu Fleury (red jacket), and little helpers watch.

This self-guided tour, of about 40 km in length, is a way for you to visit ten shining examples of sustainability in an urban location. It was designed to be enjoyed by bike, bus, or car. The tour book is available on the organization's website (at obec-evbo.ca). The book explains how each site contributes to sustainability, and mentions some of the things to see or do there. Sites are all free and interesting to any age group. Special care has been paid to giving detailed cycling directions. You don't have to do the whole tour in one outing. Split it up over several rides, if you prefer.

Here are the sites and their themes, from east to west:

1. Richelieu Park (Natural Capital)
2. Major's Hill Park (Sense of Place)
3. Corktown Bridge (Transportation)
4. Vanier Building, University of Ottawa (Energy)
5. Children's Garden at Robert Legget Park (Food)
6. Playground for Children of All Abilities (Health)
7. Mooney's Bay (Recreation)
8. Fletcher Wildlife Garden (Habitat)
9. Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence (Design)
10. terra20 (Waste Reduction).

OBEC hopes that, when people see these “ten exceptional places”, they are given ideas that they can apply at home, at work or in their neighbourhoods.♦

Local push for expansion of provincial tire recycling program

A core of volunteers at the community bike shop called ‘re-Cycles’ is banding together to bring about change at Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS). Since 2009, OTS, an industry-funded organization has run the Used Tire Program in the province. The set-up of OTS was prompted by a new Waste Diversion Act and bad experiences of massive blazes at old tire dumps. (Remember Hagersville?)

The Used Tire Program is funded by a Tire Stewardship Fee that is levied on importers/wholesalers for each automotive tire supplied into the Ontario market. (When you buy new tires, you may or may not be assessed a fee to recoup this, depending on the retailer.) Residents of Ontario are permitted to drop off up to four tires at no charge to any collector that is registered with OTS. The catch is: they can only be automotive tires.

Make bike tires and tubes eligible

The re-Cycles folks think that bicycle tires and tubes should also be included in this program. The shop's coordinator, Mark Rehder, says:

“For the past five years we've been paying Eco Tire Recovery to get our tires recycled. And it's not cheap—the current price is \$1.50 per tire and, while we share this cost with our shop mates Cycle Salvation, it can come out to \$2000 per year between us. Eco Tire would also charge the same per inner tube (!), and so that's why we hang onto those for folks to use with art projects, etc.

“MEC also takes tires from its members, and uses the same company. As far as I know, pretty well every other bike shop in town tosses its tires and tubes in the trash. This must really add up, and is a needless waste. While bike tires need to be separated into their three properties of rubber, metal and cloth, inner tubes just need to have the brass valve cut out.”

The team of volunteers will explore how to bring about an amendment to the Used Tire Program. A similar change was made to the equivalent recycling program in British Columbia. ♦

Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/CfSC_Ott.

See an article by CfSC President Hans Moor: “Safe Cycling: A Capital Activity” in the Fall 2013 issue of Healthwise Ottawa.

City now up to the gold standard – will update of OCP let us maintain our momentum?

By editor, including quotes from SRCC press release

The Share the Road Cycling Coalition honoured the City of Ottawa as Ontario's first Gold-level Bicycle-friendly Community in August.

"The Bicycle Friendly Communities Award judging panel chose to recognize Ottawa with a Gold award for its year-over-year commitment to cycling—a commitment that includes funding for infrastructure, a network of on- and off-road bike lanes that connect people to places they want and need to go, thoughtfully integrated transportation plans and innovative approaches to improving cyclist safety and convenience," said Eleanor McMahon, CEO and Founder of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition. The Coalition manages the provincial program which currently has honoured 22 cities with the designation, representing 53 per cent of the population of Ontario.

The Coalition brought the Bicycle Friendly Communities Program to Ontario in 2010 in partnership with the Washington-based League of American Bicyclists, the largest cycling advocacy organization in the U.S. Ottawa was first honoured by the Program in 2011, when it received a Silver award.

With this feather in our cap, are we in Ottawa completely satisfied with the state of cycling? By no means! If we hope to see further progress, to challenge major cycling cities elsewhere in Canada or the world, more needs to be done.

One big factor that will steer our cycling future is the Ottawa Cycling Plan (OCP). The OCP, first issued in 2008, was established with the intent to be updated every five years. Accordingly, the city has been undertaking its scheduled review of the plan this year. The draft update of the OCP is due for public release on September 23, and so by the time you read this issue of *Chain Mail*, the draft will be available for citizen comment. Of concern, there is, in parallel, a report due to be tabled on the "Affordability of the Transportation Master Plan, Ottawa Pedestrian Plan, and Ottawa Cycling Plan".

We encourage all Ottawa cyclists to do a careful review of these documents and let CfSC (and the city) know your opinions. ♦

JOIN / RENEW

Go to safecycling.ca and choose the menu item Participate / Join CfSC / Join/Renew.



Web registration enables you to pay membership fees via PayPal™.

No Internet access?

Then complete this form and send it with your payment to
Citizens for Safe Cycling
P.O. Box 248, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 6C4

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: 1: (____) _____ - _____ 2: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail: _____

Are you... Joining or Renewing?

Please select one membership option:

Individual: 1 Year (\$25) 2 Years (\$45)

Household*: 1 Year (\$30) 2 Years (\$55)

Low Income: 1 Year (\$10)

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities

Please send newsletters by e-mail when possible

My additional contribution of \$ _____ to assist CfSC volunteers with their work is enclosed

Any cycling comments/concerns? _____

*Household Memberships Only:

2nd Member's Name: _____

2nd Member's E-mail: _____

2nd Member's Phone:(____) _____ - _____



Organizer Dick Louch assists an entrant at the annual Capital Vélo Rally, held this year on Sept 14. Ten teams of cyclists competed for the trophy, seen at lower left.

Photo: Clarke/CfSC

Find us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/safecycling