

# urbane cyclist

THE VANCOUVER AREA CYCLING COALITION QUARTERLY

[www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)



Making cycling an integral part of Metro Vancouver's transportation culture

SUMMER 2010 #45

In this issue:  
Celebrate Bike Month with the VACC

## **Bike To Work!**





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MEET US  
The VACC Board meetings are open to all interested in bicycling in Greater Vancouver. We generally meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm  
Phone 604 878 8222 for details.  
[info@vacc.bc.ca](mailto: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](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/lists)

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?  
We welcome articles of 400 words or less about cycling in Greater Vancouver. Submissions may be sent to **Urbane Cyclist: [newsletter@vacc.bc.ca](mailto:newsletter@vacc.bc.ca)**

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

NEXT ISSUE OF URBANE CYCLIST:  
September 2010

Opening the Georgia Viaduct to Cycling: Councilor Ellen Wordsworth, Mayor Robertson and Arno Schortinghuis. Photo by Jean Chong



## New Advisory Group Connects Cyclists and Municipalities

### Central advocacy council will strengthen local bike committees

by Rob Brownie

The Urbane Cyclist asks VACC President Arno Schortinghuis for details. Arno has been a major contributor to the on-going development of VACC programs and advocacy campaigns.

*The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition now has an "Advocacy Advisory Council." Why was this set up?*

In 2008, the VACC invited participants from throughout Metro Vancouver to attend a workshop where it was decided that a central advocacy body would be important. In 2009 the VACC formally established the Advocacy Advisory Council and thanks to all those who have helped form the AAC and move it forward.

*What are the goals of the Advocacy Advisory Council?*

To ensure that local advocacy committees exist in all parts of Metro Vancouver, to help local committees by sharing common information and providing centralized support, and to address advocacy issues that span municipal boundaries.

*What would you like to see the Advocacy Advisory Council accomplish in 2010?*

We plan to develop an online archive which could be used to store advocacy documents, letters and meeting minutes. We will attempt to get active committees formed throughout Metro Vancouver. And we will ramp up our advocacy efforts by having focused campaigns on key issues.

*What are the biggest challenges facing the VACC in the coming year?*

To engage more volunteers – especially in the suburban municipalities.

*How can readers get involved in the AAC or VACC campaigns?*

Good question! If you (dear reader) are interested in improving cycling in Metro Vancouver, participate in the advocacy committee meetings in your area, call our office at 604-878-8222 or visit the Advocacy section of our website at [www.vacc.bc.ca](http://www.vacc.bc.ca)

### IN RECOGNITION:

The VACC Board of Directors would like to extend their gratitude to Leslie Love for her many years of dedication as Editor and Designer of The Urbane Cyclist! Thank you!

# Ring Your Local Cycling Hotline

by Karen Larsen

Several municipalities in Metro Vancouver have Bicycle Hotlines that provide service information for cyclists. Depending on the municipality, you can either call the hotline or the civic engineering department to report potholes to be filled, glass on a bikeway, or fallen trees. You can also ask for updates on cycling related issues such as new bike routes, maps, and current bicycle projects.

Keep in mind that the hotlines are not for emergencies! If you want to report an unsafe motorist, call the police. Try to give as much information as possible to help the police track down the dangerous driver. If the situation was a near miss, call the non-emergency police number to report the motorist. Dial 911 in case of an emergency.

Translink has a great website with cycling maps and a handy route planner for all local municipalities: [www.translink.ca/en/Cycling/Cycling-Routes.aspx](http://www.translink.ca/en/Cycling/Cycling-Routes.aspx)

## HOTLINE NUMBER LIST

*Keep this handy for future reference!!*

Use this list to check out some of the hotline, service numbers and cycling maps and related web pages of different municipalities in the lower Mainland. The local non-emergency police numbers are also listed.

### VANCOUVER

BICYCLE HOTLINE: 604-871-6070  
(or 311 within the city limits)  
BIKE ROUTES: [www.vancouver.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling/index.htm](http://www.vancouver.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling/index.htm)  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-717-3321

### BURNABY

BICYCLE HOTLINE AND ROUTE  
MAINTENANCE REQUESTS: 604-294-7441  
BIKE ROUTES: [www.city.burnaby.bc.ca/admin/AssetFactory.aspx?vid=9051](http://www.city.burnaby.bc.ca/admin/AssetFactory.aspx?vid=9051)  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-294-7922

### COQUITLAM

CITY SWITCHBOARD: 604-927-3000  
BIKE ROUTES: [www.coquitlam.ca/default.htm](http://www.coquitlam.ca/default.htm)  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-927-6400

### LANGLEY

STREET MAINTENANCE: 604-514-2825  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-514-2870

### SURREY

CITY BICYCLE COORDINATOR: 604-591-4214  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING INQUIRIES (ROADS/  
SIDEWALK/CYCLING): 604-591-4853  
CITY ENGINEERING: 604-591-4431  
ROAD & SIGN MAINTENANCE: 604-590-7250  
TRAFFIC LIGHT PROBLEMS: 604-591-4338  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-599-0502

### NORTH VANCOUVER

TO REPORT A POTHOLE: [ahudson@cnv.org](mailto:ahudson@cnv.org)  
BIKE ROUTES: [www.cnv.org/c//data/3/268/Bicycle%20Master%20Plan%20Map.pdf](http://www.cnv.org/c//data/3/268/Bicycle%20Master%20Plan%20Map.pdf)  
REQUEST A BIKE RACK ON CITY PROPERTY:  
[dwatson@cnv.org](mailto:dwatson@cnv.org)  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-985-1311

### WEST VANCOUVER

ROUTE MAINTENANCE: 604-925-7101  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-925-7300

### COQUITLAM

CITY SWITCHBOARD: 604-927-3000  
BIKE ROUTES: [www.coquitlam.ca/default.htm](http://www.coquitlam.ca/default.htm)  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-927-6400

### DELTA

BICYCLE HOTLINE: 604-946-3260  
ROUTE MAINTENANCE: 604-946-3245  
BIKE ROUTES: [www.corp.delta.bc.ca/assets/engineering/pdf/alt\\_trans.pdf#search=%22cycling%20map%22](http://www.corp.delta.bc.ca/assets/engineering/pdf/alt_trans.pdf#search=%22cycling%20map%22)  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-946-4411

### RICHMOND

CYCLING HOTLINE: 604-276-4035  
ROUTE MAINTENANCE AND STREET SWEEPING: 604-244-1262  
REPORT VEHICLES PARKED IN A BIKE LANE TO RCMP: 604-278-1212  
BIKE ROUTES: [www.richmond.ca/cycling](http://www.richmond.ca/cycling)  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-278-1212

### NEW WESTMINSTER

ROUTE MAINTENANCE: 604-526-4691  
BICYCLE RACK LOCATION: 604-527-4592  
NON-EMERGENCY POLICE: 604-525-5411

## ONE STRONG VOICE!

Help us get Metro Vancouver's Cycling Infrastructure up to speed!  
Sign-up for or renew your VACC membership and for an extra \$10 get a one year subscription to Momenum Magazine!  
[momentumplanet.com/onestrongvoice](http://momentumplanet.com/onestrongvoice)

# Cycling Together for Bike Month VACC and BEST Join Forces

by Rob Brownie

This year Bike to Work Week will once again take place during June Bike Month. It is all part of an effort by the VACC and organizers at BEST (Better Environmentally Sustainable Transportation) to strengthen their shared goal to get more people riding their bikes for work and pleasure safely and with confidence.

In addition to our popular Bike To Work Week events (see Erin's article on the opposite page) the VACC will continue to offer weekly Streetwise Cycling Skills

courses throughout May and June. A full schedule can be found in the Bike Education page of the VACC website.

The VACC will be supplying bike valet parking for opening/closing events and will be organizing a ride to MEC BikeFest during Velopalooza.

Steve Beck of BEST sent us a list of events he has been coordinating in preparation for Bike Month and here are the highlights:

**Clean Commuter Breakfast**  
Wednesday, May 2nd (details tba)

**Safe Cycling Promotion** in bus shelters and through posterage

**Safety Flashcards** will be handed to drivers who exercise safe and courteous driving practices (safe cycling tips will be listed on the reverse)

An online **Best Routes to School** resource is under construction and should be available in time for Bike Month.

For further information about these BEST initiatives you can visit their website at [www.best.bc.ca](http://www.best.bc.ca)

## Headwinds | Tailwinds

### Headwinds

From Port Coquitlam  
by Peter Stary

Port Coquitlam has narrowed Kingsway Avenue at the south foot of the new Coast Meridian Overpass without leaving adequate space or providing an alternative route for cyclists. This has spoiled an informal and practical east-west bike route across Port Coquitlam.

### Tailwinds

To Katimavik and Karina Stickle  
by Ron Richings

Katimavik is a federal youth work program (which I had thought ended long ago – but no !). The coordinator of one project thought that it would



Riding safely on the new separated bike route on Dunsmuir Viaduct. Photo by Jack Becker

be better if those involved rode bikes rather than taking transit or driving to the Animal Rescue operation in Burnaby where they would be working for three weeks

Following a Craigslist plea for bikes, VACC member Ron Richings was able to lend them four, with several more from various other sources. And indeed they rode back and forth through February – slowly at first but with increasing confidence and speed as time passed.

### Tailwinds

To The City of Vancouver  
by Jack Becker

Congratulations to City of Vancouver staff for the two-way bike lanes on Dunsmuir Viaduct with separation from car traffic.

Vancouver staff should be congratulated for their excellent work with respect to cycling during the Olympics, except for the Seaside stretch from Nelson to Quebec and on to 3rd Ave.

# Bike To Work Keeps On Growing

## Program Manager Erin O'Melinn shows us the numbers

I joined the VACC as the Bike to Work Program Manager in February 2009 and people get a little confused when I tell them what my job is: "I bike to work." Then they ask, "But what do you do once you get to work?" I tell them getting people to cycle to their jobs is my job – and one I enjoy a lot!

I am very happy to be involved in promoting awareness, education and motivation to help transition people into using healthy, sustainable and fun transportation.

In 2009, Bike To Work:

- Set up 9 new commuter stations (for a total of 61)
- Welcomed 4 new participating municipalities (for a total of 11)
- Staged 2 additional "Share the Road Challenges" (with 11 out of 14 cyclists winning over personal vehicles and transit in terms of time, cost, and enjoyment)
- Generated over 120 instances of media coverage around the region
- Presented 37 Workplace Workshops, increasing safety and skill awareness in employers and employees



Erin brakes with style on the way to work.  
Photo by Bill Hamilton

Since 2007, Bike To Work has recorded:

- 3,808 new commuter cyclists
- 1,426 new winter commuter cyclists
- 77,938 trips by bike in event weeks alone
- a 39% increase in Bike to Work registrants
- a 54% increase in Bike to Work teams
- a 102% increase in cyclists at commuter stations

For 2010's Spring Bike to Work Week (May 31 – June 6) we expect up to 8,000 registered participants and at least 800 new commuter cyclists! Plus we will be working even closer with the Bike to School program to include students of all ages this spring.

How can you get involved?

Help us collect route data before the event, set up commuter station and celebration sites during the event, and collect data after the event. To learn more, visit:

[www.biketoworkmetrovan.ca](http://www.biketoworkmetrovan.ca)

email us at [volunteer@vacc.bc.ca](mailto:volunteer@vacc.bc.ca)

or call 604-878-8222.

### IN RECOGNITION:

The VACC Board of Directors would like to honour the incredible work of Sean McKibben, our tireless Director of Programs. Sean has managed a massive expansion of the VACC organization over the past couple of years. We wish Sean all the best as he heads back to England with this family!

## TO BECOME INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT:

Burnaby: Luis 604 431-6658

Delta: Carol 604 943-3412

Langley: Dan Millsip / Richard Edge  
thelangleys@vacc.bc.ca

Metro Vancouver: president@vacc.bc.ca

Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows:  
mapleridge-pittmeadows@vacc.bc.ca

New Westminister: Andrew 604 521-2742

North Shore: northshore@vacc.bc.ca

Bikes on Transit: Jack 604 681-5744

Surrey/White Rock: surreywhiterock@vacc.bc.ca

Tri-Cities: Alexi alexi@swiftpower.ca

Vancouver/UBC: vancouver@vacc.bc.ca

## Who to write about issues in 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

Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation  
PO Box 9055  
STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria BC V8W 9E2  
Phone: 250 387-1978 Fax: 250 356-2290  
Minister.Transportation@gov.bc.ca

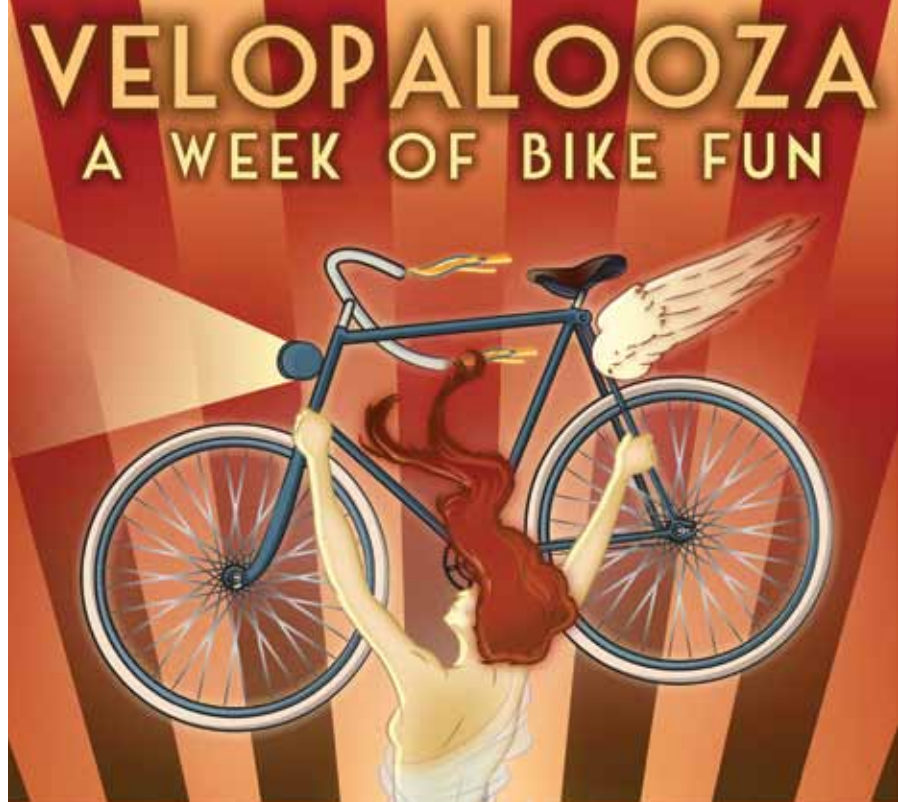
City of Burnaby – Mayor Derek Corrigan & Council  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2  
Phone: 604 294-7340 Fax: 604 294-7724  
postmaster@city.burnaby.bc.ca

City of New Westminister – Mayor Wayne Wright  
511 Royal Avenue  
New Westminister BC V3L 1H9  
Phone: 604 527-4522 Fax: 604 527-4594

City of Vancouver – Mayor Gregor Robertson & Council  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4  
Phone: 604 873-7621 Fax: 604 873-7685  
Gregor.robertson@vancouver.ca

TransLink – Chair Dale Parker & Board of Directors  
1600-4720 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2  
Phone: 604 453-4500 Fax: 604 453-4626  
www.translink.bc.ca

**vacc.bc.ca** for more contact information.



# Vancouver's Velopalooza Festival Ready To Roll

by Ron Richings and Terry Lowe

Have you ever wanted to guide your own bike ride? Share your knowledge of Vancouver's best bakeries? Are you an historian who'd like to do an architecture appreciation ride? A locavore who knows where to gather indigenous food? Or do you just fancy an old-fashioned pub crawl – by bike, of course?

You can play an important role in the new Velopalooza festival. Inspired by Portland's wildly successful Pedalpalooza festival (see [shift2bikes.org](#)), Vancouver's own Velopalooza starts June 4, 2010, just before VACC's Bike To Work Week wraps up June 6.

The fun will begin with a Friday night kickoff party at the WISE Hall, continue throughout the following week, and conclude June 13 with the

Velopalooza Finale: a Sunday afternoon bike festival in Strathcona Park.

Use your knowledge of the city and the interesting spots that cyclists might want to visit to create and lead a Velopalooza ride!

It's very simple to set up – go to the Velopalooza website at [velopalooza.ca](#) and you will find an easy to use online form that will put your ride on the calendar.

Planning for the "Week of Bike Fun" is underway, and many volunteers (and ride leaders!) are still needed – **contact [info@velopalooza.ca](mailto:info@velopalooza.ca)** if you are able to help. You can also join the Velopalooza Facebook group at: [tinyurl.com/velopalooza](http://tinyurl.com/velopalooza)  
Hope to see you at Velopalooza!

# Busy Maple Ridge Pitt Meadows Committee Wins Award

by Andrew Cuthbert

Just over a year old, the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Cycling (MRPC) committee has already seen numerous accomplishments. The initial goal was to raise awareness of cycling by participating in local events. This has been a great success and the committee has done so much in their first year that they have been awarded the Golden Spoke Award by the area’s Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC).

The MRPC committee has been diligent in providing volunteers and info booths for events, helping staff bike valet tents in partnership with B.E.S.T., and participating in numerous events:

- The Silver Valley Spring Festival
- Earth Day
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Home Show
- Pitt Meadows Day
- Bike to Local Farmers Market Day
- VACC’s Inaugural Great Ride

- The Golden Ears Bridge Opening Ceremony

The committee’s agenda for the coming year includes maintaining their presence at public events and raising awareness to promote cycling for better health.

**Getting Involved:**

To learn more about the MRPC committee and to get involved, e-mail Ivan Chow at [mapleridge-pittmeadows@vacc.bc.ca](mailto:mapleridge-pittmeadows@vacc.bc.ca)

# Big Improvements in New Westminster

by Marion Orser and Fulton Tom

We are pleased to announce that the City of New Westminster now has a Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC). Andrew Feltham is the official VACC representative on the committee.

After years of effort, improvements to cycling infrastructure are taking place! The City of New Westminster is developing Westminster Pier Park, a critical component of the Brunette-Fraser Regional Greenway. This route was part of the original concept for the now completed Central Valley Greenway (CVG). New Westminster is also in the final stages of completing its first official bicycle map.

The Province of BC has made funding available for a greenway between Hope and the mouth of the Fraser River. Just imagine a flat bike

route from the New Westminster Quay to Vancouver or Coquitlam!

This year the City is planning to complete the London Street Bike Route. A particularly difficult section is at 22nd Street, where London Street is off-set and where a new retail development is expected to increase vehicle traffic and conflicts with cyclists.

The VACC-NW also envisions changes this year to the Transportation Plan to include more cycle friendly routes connecting Uptown and Downtown that cyclists of any ability can use.

**VACC-NW’s immediate goals:**

- Ensure that the signage around the Queensborough Bridge is completed.
- Ensure that all new infrastructure is bicycle and pedestrian friendly. A recent example where this did not take place was the 5th Street and 5th Ave intersection.

**How you can help:**

- Attend meetings, workshops, and open houses to ensure the currently planned Greenway waterfront developments lead to a high quality route, similar to Sapperton Landing Park, with separate cycling and pedestrian routes.
- Attend monthly VACC-NW meetings and work with the current active members.
- Write Mayor and Council with a cc to the VACC-NW when you have concerns.
- Provide input via email to the VACC-NW discussion list.
- Send an action request form to the City when you note deficiencies and needed repairs on cycling routes

For additional information on our goals and successes, check out the VACC-NW web page at: [www.vacc.bc.ca/advocacy/advocacy.php?pageID=17#new](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/advocacy/advocacy.php?pageID=17#new)

# VACC Membership Benefits



## NEW! Discount Plan at Metro Bike Stores

In partnership with bike stores throughout Metro Vancouver, when you join the VACC, you will get THREE one-time discounts or special offers per year at any of the participating stores below:

**DISCOUNT 1:** 5% off a new bike

**DISCOUNT 2:** up to 10% off a tune-up/service

**DISCOUNT 3:** 15% off accessories

Take your new VACC Membership card into one of the following bike stores to redeem

your discounts and get your card stamped (check our website often as participating bike stores and businesses are updated all the time: [www.vacc.bc.ca/membership](http://www.vacc.bc.ca/membership))

Bike Doctor (Van/Burnaby), Bikes on the Drive (Van), Dream Cycle (Van), Different Bikes (Van/N. Van/W. Van), Experience Cycling (Maple Ridge), Local Ride (Maple Ridge) Maple Ridge Cycles (Maple Ridge), Mighty Riders (Van), Obsession Cycles (N. Van), O'Hagan's Cycles (Surrey), On Top Bike

Shop (N. Van), Ride On Bikes (Van), Reckless Bike Stores (Van), Steed Cycles (N. Van)

### Plus...

Get Discounts on Services provided by: Co-operative Auto Network, Zip Car, Green Zebra, David Hay of Richards Buell Sutton LLP

### Plus...

Get a Discount on a One-Year Subscription to Momentum Magazine

*We would like to thank the following corporate members for directly funding the publication of the Urbane Cyclist:*

Life Cycle, Giant Bicycles, C-Media Outdoor (or Urban Racks) and Vancouver Coastal Health



## Membership Form

[vacc.bc.ca](http://vacc.bc.ca)

FIRST MEMBER NAME

(or corporate/organization name)

FIRST MEMBER E-MAIL

ADDITIONAL MEMBER NAME

ADDITIONAL MEMBER E-MAIL

ADDRESS

CITY

POSTAL CODE

PHONE NUMBER

I would like to get the Urbane Cyclist Newsletter

- by e-mail (to save paper)  
 I need or prefer it by mail

I would like to volunteer with the VACC

- yes

I can contribute by:

(please note your skills)

### MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

- Individual \$30
- Individual + Subscription to Momentum Magazine \$10
- Fixed/Student/Low Income \$15
- Each additional member at address \$10
- Joint Membership with BC Cycling Coalition (additional per person) \$5
- Corporate/Organization \$150
- Additional Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Tax Receipt available if over \$100)

**Total Enclosed:**

\$

Please mail this form and a cheque (payable to Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition) to:

**VACC Memberships**  
**PO Box 47068, RPO City Square**  
**Vancouver, BC V5Z 4L6**