

APRIL 2010

Waterloo County Wanderers



We think spring has arrived, but . . .

OBSERVATIONS OF AN EARLY SPRING RIDE

This past Saturday morning dawned clear, if cold, but it wasn't raining or snowing, and therefore opportunity not to be missed. So I took my newly tuned bicycle off its rack in the garage, rummaged around the house collecting, ear muffs, full fingered gloves, tights and shoe covers and headed out to meet up with Teresa.

My first observation was that it was cold and I was glad to be dressed warmly but before long I noted that my newly tuned bicycle was running like a charm and that my body had a lot of work ahead but it sure felt good to be out on my bicycle once again. I soon warmed up, everywhere the birds were singing out their joy of spring and the occasional old farm dog was stretched out in the sun soaking up the rays and didn't so much as twitch an ear as we sped past.

My next observation was the number of cyclists on the road. Even though the temperature hovered near the freezing point for most of the day, there were more cyclists out there Saturday morning than I've ever seen on an early spring jaunt before. Every country road and every regional road with bike lanes had cyclists on it. We were everywhere! (I sure hope our Regional and Municipal Planners are noting that too) Every warmly dressed cyclist I passed on Middlebrook Road as I peddled along was wearing a great big smile. With everyone you saw greetings were exchanged, either a helmet nod or a cheery wave and shouts of "Good Morning" or "Beautiful Day" could be heard everywhere.

We finished off the ride with a stop at the West Montrose covered bridge where the neighbourhood association was serving free coffee and hot chocolate and selling freshly made apple fritters with maple sauce.

Does it get any better than this?
Joan

Membership

1. Season Membership - \$40.00 per person, same as last year.
2. Each person riding with us must become a member before riding.
3. Each person joining our club will, as in past years, need to fill in a Club Registration form and to sign the Insurance Waiver.
4. Registration forms and waivers can be downloaded from our website so you can fill them out ahead of time. We will also have blanks available at the rides for people to complete.

Pre-Season Pot Luck

Our March 20th Pot Luck was, as usual, a resounding success. Everyone had a good time catching up, reflecting on recently finished cross country ski season, sampling copious quantities of excellent food and desserts.

Thanks to Larry Cummings we had two interesting speakers, Dr. Trevor Hall, a specialist in sports medicine and his associate John Holman, a level 3 coach involved in training the Canadian National Cycling Team.

Ziggy's 25th Anniversary

A number of our group attended the very nice 25th anniversary party at the store on March 25th, and enjoyed music, refreshments and a chance to look at a whole bunch of new bikes.

As part of this anniversary celebration, Margaret and her staff are starting a project to try and get 25 people in the community to start cycling. Perhaps you have a friend or acquaintance that might be eligible. Details from Ziggy's handout are:

"In honour of their 25th anniversary, Ziggy's Cycle and Sport Ltd. has imagined a bold and unprecedented community initiative. The store will be giving away 25 custom-fitted commuter bicycles free of charge to 25 enthusiastic citizens.

The central ambition of the project is to create meaningful change in the community through the promotion of physical fitness and environmentally sustainable lifestyles.

The staff and management of Ziggy's Cycle & Sport believe that commitment, in combination with a quality bicycle and the proper accessories, can truly change a person's life for the better and anyone who shares this conviction is welcome to apply to participate. Applicants will be expected to write a 300-word essay on the question "how would a new bicycle change your life?" Successful applicants would be expected to use the bicycle for the entire season and blog about their experiences for the benefit of the public at large. Applications will be due at the end of April, fitting will take place in May with bikes being handed over at a ceremony in June.

Please visit www.ziggycycle.ca for further contest details. Essays can be submitted to info@ziggycycle.ca.

Your Bicycle and Store Discounts

Your trusty steed has likely spent the winter tucked away waiting for spring. Don't forget that it will need a little bit of TLC, such as lubrication, chain cleaning, tire inflation and perhaps a tune up. For those that can do it themselves it may be time to start. However, for those that can't please keep in mind that there are 2 stores in the area that will be happy to look after it for you professionally, Ziggy's and McPhail's. Their discounts are detailed on our website.

Adopt a Week – This is Really Important

We still need volunteers to "adopt" a week's worth of rides and to hand out maps at the ride start locations. We will provide the maps for you in advance. It's not a lot of work, but it really helps your organizers. Not to mention that it's a great way to meet your fellow riders. Please email Hans, Joan or Peter at the email addresses below and let them know which week or weeks you would like to adopt.

An up to date ride schedule is on the web site which shows all of the weeks crying for your adoption.

Don't forget to keep the club webpage in your list of favourites for easy reference. You can download and print the WCW Application Form and CCA Waiver from the home page (as well as the current newsletter). Prior current year newsletters are posted on the Links page. At the top of the schedule page are hyperlinks for the local weather as well as a pdf document showing the monthly calendars for the local sunrise and sunset times (April to September).

www.intown.net/wcw

Happy and Safe Cycling (very soon)

Your Organizers

Joan Sketchley JLSketchley@sympatico.ca
519-577-8935

Hans Pottkamper HansP@golden.net
519-669-2281

Peter Walesch PWalesch@intown.net
(Web Master)

2010-03-30