

JULY 2013

Waterloo County Wanderers

Water Cycle was not all wet



"Water Cycle", held during the June 11th ride, was a great success. Groups of 2 or 3 followed clues to bike around the West Montrose area trying to find the required photos to answer the 10 questions asked by Kevin & Ed. As you might have guessed most members had more laughs than lactic acid buildup. They took digital pictures of such things as a castle, a bridge member and a house with waves painted on the side. A clue sheet from a clue box strapped to a water wheel on Hans' front yard had to be retrieved. A memorable moment was when an inflatable shark was discovered at a country road crossing with only a tiny muddy puddle for it to wade in. What do the local Mennonites think?

A new member, Victor Kratochvil, posted this the Facebook page: *"Excellent intro to the WCW."*

After all the points were totaled it seems most everyone was ready for more than water at St Louis Bar & Grill. So who won? Who cares? That's water under the bridge. Everyone at the awards ceremony received a treasured heirloom from the Dollar store!

WEAR YOUR COLOURS - July 11th

What do many of our members have in common? They wear Waterloo County Wanderers jerseys! You can too! And now, to make wearing a jersey even MORE exciting.....

For the July 11th club ride, if a member wears a club jersey (any colour), their name will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a \$20.00 gift certificate from Ziggy's. Second and third prizes will be an 8x10" photo of all the shirt wearers taken before the ride that day.

To buy your club jersey see Christine Brown on any ride night or send her an email at CBrown@WPL.ca.



2005 White · 2007 Yellow · 2009 Blue · 2012 White
Jerseys are only \$75 (taxes included)

Check with Joan or Hans for available colours and sizes

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. The two weeks still waiting for adoption are: Aug. 13, 15, 20 & 22 in St. Clements. Please email Peter, Hans or Joan at to let them know if you can adopt any of the remaining weeks.

Your Bicycle Store Discounts

Don't forget your discounts are available at Ziggy's and Braun's in Kitchener and McPhails in Waterloo with your 2013 membership card. For discount details check our website.

The MVPC's of Safe Bicycle Riding

CAN-BIKE promotes four key elements for riding safely.

Maneuverability

Ride one metre from curb

- To allow room to maneuver
- To avoid many hazards such as sewer grates and debris
- Ride in a straight line to decrease the need to swerve to avoid hazards
- Ride at least one metre to the left of parked cars, preferably the width of a car door

Visibility

Cyclists need to do what they can to be seen by drivers.

- Ride 1 meter from the curb to increase visibility
- Ride in the driver's field of vision; avoid riding in driver's blind spot
- Wear bright colours during the day
- Wear reflective gear when riding at night
- Always have a white light on the front and a red reflector, preferably a red light on the back, for use in low light conditions

Predictability

Riding in a consistent, predictable manner allows drivers to better anticipate a cyclist's intentions

- Ride in a straight line
- Avoid weaving in and out of parked cars; rather ride in a straight line one metre from the cars, even when riding past empty parking spaces
- Avoid making sudden changes in direction or lane changes without signaling

Communication

Always communicate your intentions to other cyclists, drivers and pedestrians.

- Plan early so that you have time to shoulder check and signal
- Shoulder check before you signal and again before you make lane change or change in direction
- Make eye contact with drivers as much as possible, particularly at intersections

For more safe cycling information see:

Cycling Skills, Ontario's Guide to Safe Cycling

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/pubs/cycling-guide/safecycling.shtml>

July 20th Memorial Bike Ride

Below is an invitation extended to all members of WCW to join the larger cycling community, as so many did last year, in a memorial ride.

My dear friends and family,

As you recall, May 6, 2012 my husband Barrie Conrod was killed by an inattentive driver. It was a clear day, we could see for miles. There was no justifiable reason for the crash. We did everything right that day. The accident was horrific, catastrophic and it has changed my life forever.

On July 20, 2013, there will be a memorial ride to honour those who have been killed, injured or affected by bicycle motorist collisions. I hope you will join me in this short ride around downtown Waterloo. Our ride will serve as a reminder to motorists and cyclists to respect each other and remember those who have been affected. Please wear a helmet and white shirt to show your support.

The ride will leave Caroline and Erb St, Waterloo (CIGI Parking Lot) at 5:30 pm. Registration begins at 4:30 pm. The ride is 3 km long and all ages are welcome. Volunteers and donations to cover the cost would be gratefully appreciated.

The community has been so supportive to me. I can't begin to thank everyone. I hope we can continue to remember and honour until the time comes that we don't need to promote safety on the roads. Safety for all. Please pass this information on to anyone you think may be interested. It would be amazing to have a show of support similar to last year!

Sincerely

Heather Caron



(photo from Memorial ride on 13-May-2012)

Share the Road Ontario Bike Summit

We are always reminding our members about safety on the road, as anyone on a bicycle is quite vulnerable. Lorna Boratto, a member of the organizing team, was at a cycling summit and wanted to share some of the points she learned there.

“At the Bike Summit I attended in May, a lot is going on behind the scenes to advocate for support of cycling in this province. Here are some highlights of a few announcements.”

Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and the Waterfront Regeneration Trust are planning a cycling route through the Greenbelt area around the GTA. They hope to have it open in 2015.

Ministry of Transportation Driver’s Handbook

The revised and soon to be released Driver’s Handbook will have more information on sharing the road with cyclists. Bike information has been increased from a half page to 2½ pages. Information will include bike lanes, sharrows, bike box, distance from cyclist, intersections, children on streets, roundabouts, interaction with pedestrians and bike adjacent to parking. I am told that the picture on the front cover will have a cyclist in it.

Book 18

The final draft for comment of the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18 was released at the conference. This gives wide-ranging concise guidelines to engineers for bicycle infrastructure support. Comments are being accepted up to June 30, 2013. Book 18 can be found at www.otc.org

Ontario Bike Strategy

Last November the Ministry of Transportation released a draft of the proposed Bike strategy for Ontario. They received 1115 submissions, far exceeding the responses that they have ever been received for any other strategy. 95% of the submissions were in support of cycling, 5% against. 6% of the responses came from citizens. The rest were from stakeholder groups (9%), municipalities (4%) and business (1%). Comments included improved cycling networks, highway crossings & dedicated funding. 68% supported mandatory helmet legislation for all ages and 11% opposed it. 11% support the one meter passing law. There was desire for better clarity of ebikes and mandatory side guards on trucks. Several expressed interest in better education for both cyclists and drivers.

Before the Ministry staff gave their report on the Bike Strategy, the Minister of Transportation, Glen Murray, spoke. He said that he was directing his staff to re-work

the strategy and that he wanted it to be stronger and with more specifics than had been in the last draft. And, he wanted it to be completed by September 1, 2013. So stay tuned for what comes next.

Woolwich **On-road Cycling Group** is hosting *free* summer rides.

Wednesday July 17 at 6pm

39.6 km long ride Elmira-Hawkesville-Yatton-Floradale

Ride starts at Woolwich Memorial Centre (WMC) 24 Snyder St. S. Elmira (free parking and washrooms available). All paved route through Mennonite countryside. Look for horses either on the roads, in the fields or farm yards. Easy ride with light traffic.

25 km short ride Elmira-Hawkesville-Yatton

Ride starts at Woolwich Memorial Centre (WMC) at 24 Snyder St. S. Elmira (free parking & washrooms)
All paved route through Mennonite country side. Look for horses either on the roads, in the fields or farm yards. Easy ride with light traffic.

For more information on these July rides, please contact the ride organizer and leader, Patrick Gleeson at 519-669-2317 or email gagleeson29@gmail.com

Wednesday August 14 at 6pm from Breslau

Both 20 km and 25 km rides starts at the Breslau Recreation Centre, 100 Andover Drive, Breslau (free Parking). These rides, at the southern part of Woolwich Township, go through tranquil pasture land on quiet roads and are mostly flat. The roads are paved with the exception of 2 km of gravel.

For more information on these August rides, please contact ride organizers and leaders, Matt and Inga at 519-742-8750 or email matt@kermis.com



Warm Weather Riding

We're back into the hot, humid weather when proper hydration becomes very important. Please ensure that you have enough water with you to keep you property hydrated. As a rule of thumb, one bottle per hour is the minimum you should be drinking.

YOUR ORGANIZERS

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See Peter for your free laminated WCW name card.

www.intown.net/WCW

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