

Club News

August 2018



TOURING NEWS

Steve Juniper, VP Touring

Helen Bick Memorial Ride

The BCC's annual Helen Bick Memorial Niagara Ride is coming up on Saturday August 18th with the start scheduled for 9:30 am. We'll be riding on some beautiful roads through the Niagara wine region with a spectacular lunch stop at the Henry of Pelham Estate Winery. Members participating should try to arrive early at the QEW/Casablanca start location (parking lot in front of Tim Horton's) so we have time to organize our riding groups. The Events Calendar currently shows a Classic group riding a 115km route and an Easy Rollers+ group riding a 101km route. The shorter route skips the Roland/Hollow Rd loop. Last year we had enough participants for 3 tour groups. If you plan to attend be sure to register for one of the rides so we have the correct number for our lunch reservation at Henry of Pelham.

Blue Mountain Tour

The BCC's second annual Blue Mountains Tour is coming up on the weekend of September 8th and 9th with all rides starting from the parking lot entrance to Blue Mountain Village. The rides on Saturday September 8th will start at 10:30 am which will provide sufficient time for participants to drive to the start from their GTA homes. From my place in downtown Brampton the drive is 120 km and takes about 1h 40m. Our Sunday morning rides will start at 9:00am which assumes Sunday's participants will spend Saturday night somewhere in the Blue Mountain region. Last year I booked a block of rooms at the Collingwood Holiday Inn Express but only a couple were used as most members found other accommodation. I wasn't able to book the rooms this year, but for those needing accommodation Saturday night there are many hotels and motels close by in the Blue Mountain, Thornbury, Collingwood, Meaford area. You can also book accommodation at Blue Mountain Village but this is likely more expensive.

If you plan to attend the Blue Mountain Tour please register for the rides you plan to attend (Saturday and/or Sunday) and include a comment indicating your preferred riding group. Based on the number and desired group of the participants I'll be selecting appropriate routes and tour leaders. There are many beautiful and scenic route options in the region but be prepared for a little more climbing than our typical GTA routes!

WEBSITE NEWS

Steve Maxwell, BCC Webmaster

Since moving to our new website, things have been running smoothly with no issues. Our current hosting provider has been nothing but super. Club member registration on the forum is now permanently turned off. Starting next year, we will streamline the process of registering club members, and provide the option of creating a forum account during the registration for club membership on CCN. If you are a current club member and you do not yet have an account on the forum and need one, please contact me at webmaster@bramptoncyclingclub.

BCC RIDE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Steve Maxwell, BCC Webmaster

At the end of year social, we will be issuing certificates of accomplishments to notable achievers in the ride achievement program. Photos taken by John Bachmann on the morning of August 11, will be used to create personalised certificates for members. If you are selected for a certificate and you were not photographed, you will get a chance to submit a different photo if we do not have another photo session. Certificates will be issued for the overall top achievers as well as top achievers in each touring group and perhaps for each month. Please keep registering for rides – it is a good way for the leaders to measure interest and to plan for additional pack leaders. However, if you register for a ride and did not attend, please cancel your registration to avoid being credited for the ride. Tour leaders always have the option to remove non-participants from a ride.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Bachmann, President

A Big Opportunity for the OCA to Step Up for Recreational Road Riders

That there is an alarming level of hostility between Ontario motorists and cyclists is hardly news to us, but apparently it was newsworthy enough for the front page of the July 21st edition of the Toronto Star which featured a photo of an OPP officer handcuffing a Collingwood CC cyclist.

What caught my attention when I read the piece were two quotes that raise issues on which actions can and must be taken. The first was one from a local “self-described cycling activist” quoted as being “outraged at the insolence and arrogance of some of the riders.” He “noted that the area’s hilly terrain ...is also a safety hazard for cars ... forced into the oncoming traffic on blind hilltops as they try to manoeuvre around the slower bikes.”

Let’s stop right there! We don’t yet, thank goodness, have autonomous motorized vehicles on our roads, so today no car is ever “forced into oncoming traffic”! If it happens, it is the result of a motorist consciously and deliberatelychoosing to do so.

While motorists will only very rarely pass a wide farm vehicle climbing up a hill without being able to see approaching traffic over the crest, an unfortunate number are willing to

jeopardize the lives of a group of cyclists by passing them – very often without slowing – in the same situation.

The second quote and issue for potential action came right at the end of the article. One of the riders stopped by the police contended that: “Police are charging people just riding two-abreast when there’s no traffic, no hills, no curves.”

He continued: “What we really need to do is to try to force one of these (tickets) to go to trial ... and get a precedent ...”

This is very frustrating to read, because two-abreast by-laws have been challenged successfully, in Ottawa and Waterloo. And, according to the Collingwood Cycling Club, Ontario’s Attorney General has stated that two-abreast cycling does NOT contravene the Highway Traffic Act. Unfortunately, these outcomes and this statement don’t seem to have been communicated to the police and certainly not the driving public.

Given that these issues are provincial, it makes sense to ask the OCA to act on them.

Regarding two-abreast riding the OCA can issue a press release highlighting the Attorney General’s statement and distribute it to:

- all cycling clubs in Ontario
- the OPP head office with a request that it be forwarded to all OPP detachments in Ontario
- active transportation contacts at all municipalities.

The problem with unsafe passing is a larger nut to crack, but we have to start somewhere. One suggestion would be for the OCA to work with the Share the Road Coalition to prepare a proposal for a pilot project in Halton Region that would involve putting up three new kinds of signs in a few strategic locations:

1. Popular Cycling Area. Please note 2-up riding is allowed. This can be communicated graphically with a silhouette of two riders side-by-side enclosed in a green circle.
2. Cyclists single up when traffic is being impeded. Motorists pass with care. Again an appropriate graphic will be the best way to communicate this.
3. No Passing signs at the foot of some climbs, e.g. 15 Side Road approaching Hwy 25, with a graphic showing a car passing a single cyclist surrounded by a red circle with “no” bar on it.

These two initiatives will go a long way to making the OCA more relevant to recreational road riders and make the roads safer for everyone. We will be forwarding these suggestions to the OCA and following up with them.

TIME TO REFRESH THE CLUB EXECUTIVE

At our AGM this October (exact date still to be set) we will be looking for volunteers to fill vacancies on our Executive for 2019. The following positions will be open:

- President
- Membership Secretary
- Events Director

If you are interested in taking on any of these positions, please contact John Bachmann at president@bramptoncyclingclub.com for more information.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Helen Bick Memorial Ride Saturday, August 18th

Blue Mountain Tour Saturday-Sunday, September 8th and 9th