



Ten Years After...

This year marks a decade of activism by the Comox Valley Cycling Coalition (CVCCo). The vision of our founders has been integral to our continuing efforts. Here is a summary of activities for 2018.



Students at a Bike Safe Rodeo



Adults taking the Ride Right Course



Volunteers at a Bike Safe Rodeo

Education— We have continued to teach road cycling skills to the children of the Comox Valley. This year 510 children participated in the Bike Safe Rodeos at the 6 elementary schools we worked with.

In May we did a session with a Brownie pack for their “Wheels badge” which was very successful – A mother send us this thank you, “*my daughter – who explained to you that she really couldn’t ride a bike – came home afterwards and started riding up and down the cul-de-sac! It was nothing short of a biking miracle to see this! She has never felt confident enough to pedal anywhere but our lawn in very short bursts and now she is outside far past her bedtime, riding up and down the street at increasing speeds and changing the gears, feathering her brakes as explained tonight and practicing her shoulder checks! She says she will never ride a scooter again. She is so proud of herself and I’m quite sure the confidence came from your passion for riding and all the truly practical safety tips you shared tonight*”

Forty adults took the “Ride Right” course this year and once again we have received very positive feedback – “*Although I’ve been riding for years I learned several techniques that will help me in the future – great presentation,*” “*More confident on the busy streets,*” “*Would highly recommend,*” “*Professional,*” “*Gives me more confidence.*”

In order to have more instructors for the “Ride Right” courses, three CVCCo members participated in the two-day “Train the Trainer” course in Victoria in March. They have subsequently taught or assisted with the “Ride Right” four-hour bike safety for adults course. We are accepting applications from those who would be interested in taking the “Train the Trainer” course. This will qualify you to teach or assist with the “Ride Right” courses we provide. Please contact us at cyclecv.com.

Volunteers—We are very appreciative of the hours of time and work that our many volunteers donate. Angela Dawson, continues to coordinate the educational events. Many thanks go to Garry Olinek and Chris Bowman for all their efforts on bicycle repairs and trailer upkeep and for transporting our equipment to and from events. To all the Volunteers, without whom our educational programs and special events could not happen, we express our gratitude. A special note of appreciation goes out to Brenda Olinek who has coordinated several of the rodeos this year. We are seeking funding to create a paid Coordinator position for the Education Programs



CVCCo members cycle with Courtenay City Councillors

Building Networks— The CVCCo has continued to advocate for safe cycling in the valley, and is now regularly being invited to act as a stakeholder group in discussions regarding cycling infrastructure. We provided input to the consultants hired to create the Courtenay Transportation Master plan which included all forms of transportation. They advised that the cycling plan be approved first, in order to qualify for the provincial funding which is available for cycling infrastructure.

Currently, we are engaged with the Engineering and Planning Department of the City of Courtenay to work on the priorities for cycling infrastructure which will enable the City to apply for Bike BC funding. As a result, in the December 17, 2018 Courtenay Council meeting, Mayor Bob Wells advised the MyComoxValleyNow.com newsroom that “the city’s approach to the transportation vision will be “fairly multi-pronged,” with a first priority being the approval of a plan for cycling infrastructure.”

The local Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) invited us to meet with them, along with Mainroad Contracting, in early December in order to clarify the road clearing/sweeping needs for cyclists. They have agreed to increase the frequency of sweeping and will take into account specific cycling events such as the Farm Cycle Tour.

This year we worked with the provincial organization Bike BC. We received a grant to organize the first local “Go By Bike” event in October to promote cycling as transportation in the Fall and Winter. During the two weeks of the event we held two seminars on “*Cycling in the Fall and Winter.*” We utilized Facebook and the local newspaper to promote and encourage safe cycling especially in the off season months.

The CVCCo is now in partnership with the Comox Valley Economic Development Society and will continue to assist them with the organization and promotion of the annual Comox Valley Farm Cycle Tour. This partnership will include guidance on the future stewardship of the E-Z maps and materials with the possibility of a 2019 reprint. These maps, first presented in 2016, were created through a collaborative effort of the Cycling Task Force, the CVCCo and hundreds of volunteer hours put in by local cyclists in collecting routes both on and off of main roadways.

We have a CVCCo Board member sitting on the Integrated Regional Transportation Select Committee. This group is currently focused on safe cycling along the Comox Road. This is a surprisingly complex section of highway which passes through four very different jurisdictions, all of whom require input and agreement on any cycling path way which is to be developed. We are hopeful that the final plans will be adopted soon. For a link to the page with the committee and its minutes, please go to: <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/about/board-directors/committees-and-commissions>

The BC Cycling Coalition (BCCC) has provided significant



Advertising for this year's Go By Bike Campaign



Cycling in the Fall and Winter Seminar



Comox Valley E-Z cycling Maps

8TH ANNUAL COMOX VALLEY FARM CYCLE TOUR

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

Another successful Farm Cycle Tour!



Vancouver Island Rail Corridor



CVCCo Secure Bike Lock up at Filberg Festival

ad·vo·ca·cy

/ˈadvəkəsē/

The act or process of supporting
a cause or proposal:

synonyms: support for, backing
of, promotion of, championing of;
argument for, push for

Advocacy, it's what we do!

support to our local Coalition. They received a grant to study cycling in the Comox valley. The resulting report "*Mid Vancouver Island Cycling Feasibility Study*" has provided excellent data for the four jurisdictions in our valley. To review the study go to: https://www.bccc.bc.ca/mid_vancouver_island

The "Friends of Rails to Trails" is a group who are working to convert the existing railroad within the Vancouver Island Corridor north of Langford into a non-motorized, multi-use recreation trail. This would provide enormous potential for economic development especially in the area of cycling tourism. The representatives working for the section of the corridor running north from Nanaimo presented to CVCCo Board. They have received our support in requesting that the Provincial Government (Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure) complete a study on the potential economic benefits of a multi-use corridor between Courtenay and Nanaimo.

Special Events—In 2018, members of the CVCCo have staffed a secure bicycle lock-up at the Filberg Festival utilizing the Coalition's bike racks. We have also provided the racks to several community events such as Music Fest, Snow to Surf relay, YANA Ride, and the Petite Fondo.

Membership—This year there has been an increase in membership. We are promoting membership, and although many of our members participate as volunteers in many of our activities, this is not obligatory.

Any funds received by the Coalition are used to fund the volunteer education programs, to cover insurance costs, and for the maintenance of equipment used for educational programs. This funding has also been used to purchase new bikes and helmets for the children's programs.

Due to the generous funding by the Cross Canada Cycle Tour Society (CCCTS) of several educational events for adults and children, we have been able to reduce membership fees.

Advocacy—Although membership has provided money that supported our volunteer programs, it is most important for our advocacy work.

Our mission statement is "To create a safe environment for cycling in the Comox Valley and encourage cycling as an effective, economical, health and environmentally friendly mode of transportation." This includes teaching cycling road skills, encouraging the creating of cycling lanes as well as the maintenance of those roads and shoulders where cyclists travel. We can do this most effectively when we can claim to be representing a sizeable membership. So, if you are already a member, please renew your membership and if you are not yet a member, consider joining.

**The Last Word: A reminder that AGM 2019
will be held on February 28, 2019**