



# Is the Landscape Changing ?

This month's newsletter focuses on some of the recent positive changes to cycling in the Comox Valley including invitations for participation in the various municipalities.

For anyone who enjoys cycling in the Comox Valley, changes have come which are very positive. In the physical landscape, Comox, Courtenay and Cumberland have made motorists more aware of their responsibility to share roads with pedestrians and cyclists. It has begun with the addition of sharrows and signage on our roads. Designated cycling lanes have been added and, most recently, the 5th Street Complete Streets Project in Courtenay. This provides a "Best Practices" model of how streets should be designed to meet the mobility needs of all citizens. It sets out the minimum requirements and provides new guidelines for all future development and renovations for the City of Courtenay.

There has been a growing awareness in local municipalities about the importance of including cycling in the overall master transportation strategies of this growing region, and in including cyclists in the planning process. The Comox Valley Cycling Coalition has become recognized as an important source of expertise and a voice for all valley cyclists.

Help us to support our elected officials in their vision of more livable communities by joining or renewing your membership with the Comox Valley Cycling Coalition. Simply go to [CycleCV.com/membership](http://CycleCV.com/membership)



Making motorists aware of their responsibility to share the road with sharrows and signage



Designated cycling lanes in Courtenay and Comox



The Recently Constructed 5th Street Complete streets project



### COMOX VALLEY CYCLING COALITION (CVCCo) INVITED TO JOIN COURTENAY CITY COUNCIL RIDE

On November 19, 2018 we joined the new Courtenay Council as they cycled to their inaugural meeting down the new 5th Street Complete Streets Project.

### COMOX VALLEY CYCLING COALITION RECEIVES GRANT FROM CITY OF COURTENAY

The CVCCo will receive \$2800 from the City of Courtenay to support our Safe Cycling Workshops for adults. These four hour workshops are taught by trained instructors, and include two hours of cycling on the road through busy intersections and on the bridges. The funds are specifically for marketing and promotion of these workshops so that we can reach as many cyclists as possible, new and seasoned, who may benefit from the sessions. The workshops increase the number of confident commuting and recreational cyclists, improve the flow of traffic, and show the community that cyclists are following the rules of the road and behaving in a predictable manner. The funds are specifically for marketing and promotion of these workshops so that we can reach as many cyclists as possible, new and seasoned, who may benefit from the sessions. The workshops increase the number of confident commuting and recreational cyclists, improve the flow of traffic, and show the community that cyclists are following the rules of the road and behaving in a predictable manner. If anyone would like to help with the marketing and promotion project, please contact Jude Loukras at [CycleCV@gmail.com](mailto:CycleCV@gmail.com)

### COURTENAY CITY COUNCIL APPROVES REQUEST TO SEEK FUNDING FOR INCREASED BIKE LANES

The Comox Valley Cycling Coalition and City staff made a presentation to the City of Courtenay council asking the council to see grant funds to extend two sections of the city's bike lane network. Council adopted the proposal unanimously. These were on the Fitzgerald Avenue lane, 5th Street to 26th Street, with an extension running east along 19th Street to the Courtenay Riverway, and a route in east Courtenay from Ryan Road to Hawk Drive, via Hobson Drive. The Fitzgerald expansion is expected to cost \$310,000, while the Hobson route is estimated at \$150,000. Grant funds from Bike BC will match funding provided by the city of Courtenay.

### A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARG HARRIS

It has been an exciting and encouraging start to 2019! Since late 2018 we have been invited to participate in several meetings with the Courtenay Engineering Department and the Consultant from Urban Systems to contribute to the Transportation Master Plan development. The Courtenay Council agreed to advance the cycling component of this



Courtenay City Council, RCMP officers & CVCCo members

endorsed by Council. Comox also prepared their Bike BC grant application for a further component of their cycling plan within which was approved by Council. Both the municipalities requested letters of support for these applications from the CVCCo. We will continue to engage with both municipalities as well as the Village of Cumberland and the Regional District. Currently we are taking a detailed look at the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with a focus on trails which promote connectivity within the trail system and between trails and roads and will provide our input by February 22, 2019. We have met with MoTI along with Mainroad Contracting to discuss road sweeping as it affects cyclists. Both have been supportive and are willing to work with us to keep cycling routes cleared and swept as much as possible. Within the weather and time constraints. We have provided them with information regarding the major cycling routes and major cycling events that occur during the year. They have provided the contact information for individuals to inform them of specific issues on the roads, with location details and photos wherever possible.



President Marg Harris