

CHAINMAIL

Fall 2006

The newsletter of Citizens for Safe Cycling
Volume 22 Issue 4

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CfSC Survey Council Candidates on Cycling Issues

CfSC has sent a survey to mayoral and councillor candidates to find out how they will vote on cycling-related issues if elected. About 40 candidates replied – a very good number, given how many surveys candidates receive!

Most candidates were very supportive of cycling. Almost all said they'd vote in favour of the cycling plan, year-round bicycle parking, and cycling safety and promotion programs. Most also said that they would ensure that Light Rail plans work with, and not against, cycling.

A number of candidates were, understandably, hesitant to support items that might cost money. We'll need voters like you to remind your candidates that more people cycling mean less wear and tear on our roads.

Of the candidates who replied, there were only two that were troubling. Andrew Haydon, who is running in Gloucester-South Nepean, said, "I am not in favour of trying to blend bicycles into major roads," and said that bicycle lanes on Prince of Wales in South Barrhaven were "an open invitation to an accident."

Bay Ward candidate Sherril Noble, who is running against incumbent Alex Cullen (who also replied) and former mayoral candidate Terry Kilrea (who did not reply), said, "As soon as it snows bicycles should not be used." Most candidates, however, said that they support secure, year-round bicycle parking.

Of the three mayoral front-runners, only Alex Munter replied to our survey. (Barkley Pollock and Piotr Anweiler both responded quickly to our survey.) He supported all of the suggestions in CfSC's survey, but added disclaimers that he would support them only in ways that are "practical, affordable and realistic."

Though Mayor Bob Chiarelli did not respond to our survey, he did roll out a plank of his platform that he would spend \$3 million over four years to build pathways to rural areas. However, neither his press release, nor the post on his website makes any mention of the Ottawa Cycling Plan, cycling promotion programs, or road or pathway maintenance.

CfSC is not endorsing any candidates in this election. "We don't have answers from all candidates, and we feel that Ottawa voters are smart enough to make up their own minds," said CfSC President Charles Akben-Marchand in the press release announcing the survey. "Instead, we've done the hard part and gathered the relevant information in one place – www.SafeCycling.ca/Elections – for cyclists to make up their own minds."

CfSC has posted the full survey, as well as its own press release in response to the Mayor's proposal, at www.SafeCycling.ca/Elections.



AGM brings new members on Board

On October 12, CfSC members met to learn of the group's activities over the past year, and to elect the Board of Directors to carry us forward into the next year.

This past year was a resounding success on many fronts, including exceeding our targets for cycling courses by 50%.

Eight of the nine board members last year were new on the Board, and had a very steep learning curve. This year, the new board (including four members who are staying on from last year) are starting from a very solid position. In addition, there are more members on committees and volunteering in other roles than there were this time last year.

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Chain Mail is published by Citizens for Safe Cycling, the non-profit association that promotes cycling as a viable means of transportation in Ottawa by advocating:

- **Acceptance** of the responsible cyclist as a legitimate road user,
- **Education** of all cyclists to improve riding and traffic skills, and of other road users to accommodate cyclist traffic as part of their normal driving skills,
- **Improved** engineering to facilitate cyclist traffic, such as proper traffic control systems, adequate lane width, and sufficient parking,
- **Legislation** that is effective and enforced, and
- **Representation** of cycling issues to all levels of government.

Opinions expressed in *Chain Mail* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of CfSC, its board, or its members. Reproduction is permitted provided both author and source credits are given.

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The 2006-2007 board is:

President: Charles Akben-Marchand
Vice-president: Tom Trottier
Secretary: John Calvert
Treasurer: [vacant]
Directors at Large: John Stevenson, Ian Bickis, Will Hallam, Peter Sloan, and Dave Yarker

Board members can be reached through CfSC at (613) 722-4454 or Info@SafeCycling.ca.

The CfSC Board meets monthly on Monday nights at 19:00. All interested members are welcome to attend. Contact secretary@SafeCycling.ca for time and place.

For inquiries about CfSC memberships, contact CfSC's Membership Administrator at Membership@SafeCycling.ca.

CfSC operates the Cycling Promotion and Cycling Education Programs from the office at 251 Bank Street, Suite 504, Ottawa, ON K2P 1X3

For cycling promotion information, call (613) 567-1288 or Promo@SafeCycling.ca.

For CAN-BIKE course information, call (613) 567-1288 or education@SafeCycling.ca





CfSC's New Logo!

Watch for this new logo on CfSC's new volunteer t-shirts at cycling events around town!

Bike Store Discounts

These stores give discounts to card-carrying CfSC members. Some restrictions may apply.

| | |
|--|--|
| The Cyclery 1073 Bank Street - 10% off parts and accessories | Joe Mamma Urban Cycles 216 Pretoria (at Bank) - 10% off parts and accessories |
| Westboro Sports Centre 327 Richmond Road - 10% off parts and accessories | Full Cycle *NEW* 427 St. Laurent Blvd - 10% off parts and accessories |
| McCrank's Cycles 889 Bank Street - 10% off parts and accessories |  Valiquette's Source for Sports *NEW* 1740 Carling Avenue - 20% off in-stock accessories |
| Tommy & Lefebvre Stores 464 Bank Street, 2206 Carling Ave, 499 Terry Fox Drive, 2615 Lancaster Road, Unit 107B, 250 Centrum Blvd (Orleans) - 10% off regular price cycling clothing and accessories |  Fresh Air Experience 1291 Wellington Street - 10% off parts, accessories, and clothing; 5% off bikes |
| Orleans Cycles *NEW* 2404 St. Joseph Blvd 10% off parts and accessories | <i>Note: MEC and CycleLogik are CfSC corporate members, but are unable to offer discounts.</i> |



climbing | snowsports | camping | cycling | hiking
 366 Richmond Road, Ottawa

President's Report

by Charles Akben-Marchand

My goodness, how busy a time it is!

Of course, I say that every issue. There are always tons of things going on at CfSC and in the Ottawa cycling community.

This time of year is the craziest though. Not only did we have our AGM in mid-October, but also the municipal elections follow our AGM by only a month!

That left a very narrow timeframe for us to put out this issue of Chain Mail.

There are other articles on the election and the AGM in this issue, so I'll discuss some of the other important topics.

Promotion & Education Programs

At this point, the City's draft 2007 budget has no money for cycling promotion programs. This is an absolute disaster, considering how much politicians say they support active transportation and a healthy Ottawa.

CfSC's contracts with the City of Ottawa run out at the end of this year, and so the City will have to first approve funding for new programs, and then decide how to contract the programs out. They will have to run a long process to decide to whom to give the funds. The funding issue is further complicated by the fact that this is an election year.

Luckily, most of the respondents to our elections survey said they'd support programs that encourage people to cycle. So our fight may be (as usual) with upper-level City Staff who draft the budgets.

Some people have raised questions about whether CfSC should be

running these programs. After all, they are a big drain on our volunteer resources, and we have to fight to get the funding every year. This year, however, those questions aren't even at the forefront, as the programs may not exist at all next year – whether run by the City or by a contractor like CfSC. We'll need your help to ensure that the incoming Council votes to have that money stay there.

New Board of Directors

Our new Board of Directors is starting to get into full swing.

John Calvert is doing an excellent job as our new Secretary, and we've already had one meeting of the Advocacy & Membership Committee.

We have some new online tools to help the Board discuss issues, and retain some corporate memory.

With a number of past board members staying on in other volunteer capacities, I'm happy to see that our volunteer base is growing.

Staff in and out

Katherine Kitching who was brought aboard to develop and promote CfSC's 2 Wheels 2 Work commuter cycling program has finished her contract. She is completing her great work for the program on a volunteer basis.

Katherine McAvoy was hired back in March to be our Membership Administrator, which was my very first position at CfSC. She has the important job of processing CfSC memberships.


Susan Dallin O'Grady was hired in September to take over the Safety & Promotion Program Coordinator's position until the beginning of December. She has put her excellent skills to work promoting CfSC's programs.

Anne Duggan was contracted to produce the Fall 2006 edition of Better Bicycling. Considering the tight schedule she had, she did an excellent job!

Growing our membership

We must spend effort on growing our membership. Ian Bickis brought a draft membership brochure to the Advocacy & Membership Committee meeting on October 23rd. When the brochure is finished and printed, we will be able to distribute them at bicycle stores and at our booths.

We're also printing new volunteer T-shirts to replace the old ones, which have run out. They have the new CfSC logo that was also inspired by Ian.

If you'd like to help us grow, consider coming out to one of the meetings, or tell your cycling friends about CfSC and give them a copy of our newsletter to let them know about the important work we do. 



Who are the 2006-2007 CfSC Board of Directors

Who's on the Board of Directors?

Here's who:

Charles Akben-Marchand – President

I first joined CfSC with my dad in 1998, and got involved as CfSC's first Membership Administrator in October 2000 while still in high school.

Since then, I have progressively increased the amount of volunteering I have done, winning the Volunteer of the year award twice, once in 2003, and a second time in 2004.

I resigned that paid position in 2005 to run for President, and am now in the second year of a two-year term.

President is a big portfolio, and oftentimes, requires doing lots of administrative work that can get stressful. I look forward to working with the new Board of Directors, as well as those outgoing Board members who are staying on as volunteers, and to represent the interests of Ottawa's cyclists.

Aside from volunteering nearly full-time for CfSC, I study Criminology at the University of Ottawa, and volunteer at other places.

I live in Centretown.

John Calvert – Secretary

I am a regular commuter cyclist, April to November, since moving to Ottawa in 1995, and prior to that a winter cyclist from 1989 to 1996.

I bought a car after the 1996 OC Transpo strike and stopped winter cycling.

I am a former CfSC board member and interim Vice-President in 1996-

1997. In the past, I worked for BEST (Vancouver) and the City of Kingston on cycling facilities.

Over the years, I have volunteered for and served on the boards of various non-profits.

I am currently dreaming of a fancy new bike, either a folding and/or recumbent, but I keep spending all my money on travel and food.

Ian Bickis – Director at Large

I am a little new to CfSC, but I bring with me lots of experience from throughout the cycling world.

I've done a month-long solo tour of England, bike-commuted through three winters in Halifax, raced mountain bike, road and cyclocross.

I have been involved in the Kingston and Halifax equivalents to Ottawa's re-Cycles Bicycle Co-op, as well as the transportation division of the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax. I am also a member of the Ottawa Bicycle Club and work at a local bike store.

I look forward to the coming year with CfSC.

Peter Sloan – Director at Large

I have enjoyed cycling life-long for recreation and commuting (to Tunney's Pasture from Beacon Hill, Manotick and my present Hunt Club location) as well as other fitness activities. My last seven years at work I rode in the winter too.

In my youth, I did cycle hostelling in the UK. I was in OBC for several years and rode three Rideau Lakes.

Now retired, I have more time to devote to CfSC and I feel my cycling background in the city gives me a good perspective (plus three "close calls" caused by other road users).

I have been in CfSC for about six years and have been on the boards of rugby organizations for many years, so I have experience of what being on a board entails, and what CfSC does and advocates.

Dave Yarker – Director at Large

Resident of Centretown (-ish) for the past three years.

I have been a life-long cyclist, and have generally commuted by bicycle year round.

I have been a member of CfSC for the past three years, including an active summer this year as a CANBIKE instructor.

My other passions in life are similar to others in the group and include running, cross-country skiing, hiking, canoeing and travel.

John Stevenson – Director at Large

I joined CfSC in 1994, and was a Board member from 1997 to 2000. By then I had been a commuter cyclist for 46 years.

In 2001 I started cycling with the Cross Canada Cycle Touring Society on their day runs, and joined Active Living (run by the City Parks and Recreation) and cycle with them (both groups are primarily retirees, 55 plus).

I became a CfSC board member again in the Fall of 2005, and am starting the second year of that term. I do both recreational and transportation cycling, which keeps me fit.

I coordinate the mailings for CfSC, primarily Chain Mail.

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Board Members


(Continued from page 4)

Will Hallam, Director at Large

Will provided bookkeeping services for CfSC over the past few years, and has done cycle travelling internationally.

Tom Trottier, Vice-President

Tom is returning from his position as Director at Large last year.

This past year, Tom served as CfSC's representative on the City's Roads and Cycling Advisory Committee, and as Chair of the Promotion & Education Program Management Committee, and is a frequent contributor to the newsgroup list. 

CfSC Volunteers

CfSC would like to congratulate the following volunteers of the month for their great work helping CfSC achieve its goals.

July: Catherine Woodgold's contributions including volunteering at Sunday Bike Day booths, assisting Chain Mail mail outs, contributing to team e-mail lists, and commitment to volunteer for future projects.

Keep up the good work Catherine!

August: Jennifer Allen was tremendous help with the Blues Festival Bicycle parking.

We'd also like to appreciate all those who have volunteered for CfSC since the last Chain Mail came out, including everyone who contributed to the newlist and our publications, Folk Festival volunteers, everyone who came out to the AGM and other meetings, and our instructors, board members, and those who have taken the initiative to promote safe cycling on their own!

Volunteer Opportunities

Get involved, learn the issues, and make a difference! Here is a selection of the wide array of volunteer opportunities.

Join the CfSC Newlist

For over 10 years, CfSC's public e-mail list is where cycling news and upcoming CfSC events and discussions on current cycling issues have been posted!

View past discussions at www.flora.org/flora.cfsc/

To join the current discussions, visit www.safecycling.ca/news/newsgroup.html

Host a CfSC Booth

CfSC has booths all the time! The best way to learn about CfSC and cycling issues is by hosting a booth with someone who knows lots about them!

Contact Education@SafeCycling.ca to find out when upcoming booths will be.

Advocacy & Membership Committee

Come to an Advocacy & Membership Committee meeting.

Come help out the committee that works to get more CfSC members to make CfSC fun! This group coordinates projects to raise awareness of cycling issues. There are many little tasks that come up that we can use your help with!

The Advocacy & Membership Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 19:00 at the Bridgehead coffee house on Bank & Albert. Email Info@SafeCycling.ca to confirm the date, time and location.

Board meetings

Come to a Board meeting. CfSC's Board discusses the highest level of

CfSC business, but also a wider variety of subjects than the committees.

The Board usually meets on the second Monday of the month at 19:00. Check out the Newlist or email Secretary@SafeCycling.ca to confirm the time, date and location.

Treasurer

Know someone who's good with numbers? We're looking for a new Treasurer for CfSC to oversee CfSC's financial matters. Brett, our last Treasurer has left things in excellent shape, and will be able to help the new Treasurer learn the ropes. Treasurer is a position on the Board of Directors.

Contact President@SafeCycling.ca if you know someone or are interested in this position.

Promotion & Education Program Management Committee

This important committee manages all aspects of the Safety & Promotion program and Education program, including staff, grants and courses.

If you are interested in helping out on this committee, contact Info@SafeCycling.ca to find out more, and when the next meeting is.



The new **Ottawa Cycling Map** is available from CfSC for only \$2. Get your copy from our office or from a CfSC booth today!


Change of Seasons, Change of Staff

With Patrick Wray leaving the Safety and Promotion program this summer for another opportunity, CfSC welcomed Susan Dallin O'Grady to the team.

Susan is working with CfSC this fall and will be with CfSC until December. (The reason for her departure at that time is no secret to those who have met her – she is expecting her second child at the end of December!)

Susan normally is a commuter and recreational cyclist but ironically is currently not cycling (although she is enthusiastically promoting others to do so!) due to her "condition".

She brings many years of experience working in non-profit organizations and particularly enjoys, and is experienced in, fundraising and marketing.

During her brief stay with CfSC, Susan hopes to be able to secure additional funding and partnerships with funders for the many valuable programs that CfSC offers the Ottawa community. 

2 Wheels 2 Work Ready to roll for 2007

In the spring of 2006, Citizens for Safe Cycling was excited to receive an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to develop a workplace commuter cycling program.

During this year, CfSC staff members have been consulting with employers, developing and fine-tuning this program - now known as **2 Wheels 2 Work**.

2 Wheels 2 Work is a workplace commuter cycling program that assists organizations to prepare and encourage their employees to cycle to work more often.

Organizations are offered a choice of lunchtime seminars or seminars and on-road traffic skills training, delivered by certified instructors.


The seminars cover equipment and bike fit, traffic skills, cycling and the law and basic maintenance. The three tiers of **2 Wheels 2 Work** (Silver, Gold and Platinum) allow organizations to make different levels of commitment to the program depending on their interest, budget and time factors. Employers, employees and the

environment all reap benefits from the **2 Wheels 2 Work** program. It can help to increase productivity and decrease absenteeism by reducing employee stress and improving employees' health; it reduces resources spent on car parking, with savings for employer and employee alike and more commuter cyclists on the road improves Ottawa's air quality.

We are now geared up for "Phase Two" of this initiative and are eager to roll it out in the spring of 2007.

If you would like your organization and co-workers to benefit from the **2 Wheels 2 Work** program or would like more information, please contact the CfSC office at 613-567-1288 or Workplace@SafeCycling.ca.

The CfSC Website also has information and the registration form on-line at <http://www.safecycling.ca/programs/2wheels2work.html>

*Citizens for Safe Cycling gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the **2 Wheels 2 Work** workplace commuter cycling program.* 

CfSC's AGM brings new members on Board


(Continued from page 1)

The new Board had an orientation session on October 30, and will have its first meeting on November 13th at 19:00. You can read a bit about each member in this issue.

In addition to electing its Board of Directors, the membership passed a few motions. One motion (presented by the Board) changed the President's term from one year

to two years, to be in line with the other Board positions. Charles Akben-Marchand was elected to serve the second year of the now two-year term.

A second motion from John Calvert and Dave Yarker thanked the staff from 2005-2006 – Susan, Linda, Katherine and Patrick – for their hard work and dedication in achieving a banner year, meeting

or exceeding many of our performance targets, in some cases by more than 50% above target. A third motion from Jon Calvert and Will Hallam was passed to recognize and thank Brett Delmage for his extra effort in coming forward to fill the role of treasurer mid-year, at a critical time, just ahead of our most busy time of year, and ably handling several major issues including the implementation of a new accounting and payroll system. 

Exciting New Partnership: MEC and CFSC

Citizens for Safe Cycling is pleased to announce an official partnership with Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC). With MEC's goals and values similar to CfSC's, we see this as an ideal match.


Previously, CfSC and MEC have had a very successful working relationship. For example, in the past MEC has hosted our cold-weather cycling seminar at their store and has also provided funding for our Better Bicycling newspaper.

Our new partnership agreement formalizes this relationship and as official partners, MEC and CfSC will

more frequently promote and support one another.

MEC's members gain from this agreement with a new \$5 discount off the CfSC membership rate (new members only).

Of particular benefit to CfSC is that three of MEC's staff members are currently being trained to be CAN-BIKE instructors, increasing our roster of instructors.

*Thank you **Mountain Equipment Co-op** for your continued support of CfSC!* 



CfSC's New Bike Kit Arriving at a bike store near you!

A dozen bike retailers in Ottawa now have CfSC's **New Bike Kit** in store as part of a new initiative developed by CfSC and funded by the Ministry of Transportation.

The New Bike Kit is intended for customers when they purchase a new or used bicycle or helmet and it contains useful bicycle tips to improve their safety.

5,000 copies of the Kit have now been printed and we have begun distributing them to bicycle retailers.

Not only will the Kit assist Ottawa cyclists to cycle more safely, it is also a great promotional tool for CfSC that helps strengthen our relationship with Ottawa cyclists and bike retailers.

Already, bike retailers have expressed their appreciation and three new retailers are now offering discounts to CfSC's members!

*Citizens for Safe Cycling gratefully acknowledges the support of The **Ministry of Transportation** for producing the New Bike Kit.*

Join/Renew Today!

If your membership has expired or expires in the next 3 months, you should renew soon. Member cards for renewing members are sent out with each mailing, usually every two months. You can send updated contact information to Membership@SafeCycling.ca

Send your completed form with payment to:

Citizens for Safe Cycling
Box 248, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 6C4

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone: H: _____ W: _____

E-mail: _____

New Member Renewing

Please select one membership option:

Individual: 1 Year (\$20) 2 Years (\$35)
Household*: 1 Year (\$25)* 2 Years (\$45)*
Low Income: 1 Year (\$10)

Please send me information on volunteering
 Send mailings by e-mail when possible

My **additional contribution** of \$ _____ to assist CfSC volunteers with their work is enclosed.

Any cycling comments/concerns? _____

*Household Memberships Only:

2nd Member's Name: _____

2nd Member's E-Mail: _____

www.SafeCycling.ca

Cycling news in brief

The **re-Cycles Bicycle Co-op** has a new Website address at www.re-cycles.ca. Note that from October to March 31, they will still be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but only from 18:00 to 21:00.

Reports indicate that the **Ottawa Cycling Plan** will finally come to council in February or March 2007. We want to see it passed by the new Council, but we want to make sure any dangerous aspects of it are removed.

An October 21 article in the *Ottawa Sun* indicates that the **Rideau Canal Pedestrian Bridge** is being used much more than expected by even its strongest proponents on Council. 1,900 people are using the bridge each day, according to the *Sun's* informal three-day survey.

Power-Assist Bicycles, or e-bikes, are now legal in Ontario, thanks to work by the **Electric Vehicles Council of Ottawa** (www.evco.ca). EVCO and CfSC member Juergen Weichert went to Toronto to promote the changes. Electric bicycle riders must wear a helmet and must be at least 16 years old.

A second **Bicycle Theft Blitz** by the Ottawa police nabbed eight more criminals. Congrats to the police for proactively preventing bike theft! The Ottawa Police Service has also funded a new run of CfSC's "Fight Bike Theft" hanger brochures.

Thanks to an inquiry from CfSC, the City's Transportation Committee has requested information on the feasibility of having year-round **Rack & Roll** service.

HPV0o0

The Human Powered Vehicle Operators of Ottawa

The Human Powered Vehicle Operators of Ottawa (<http://hpv.tricolour.net>) will be riding, once again, in this year's Santa Claus Parade, on November 18th.

Go out and see them, or better yet, join in on the fun! 🚲



Come visit the CfSC Office!
10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday
251 Bank Street, Suite 504 (at Cooper)



Join Citizens for Safe Cycling and get Chain Mail for free by mail or by e-mail (see form on other side)