

CHAIN MAIL

Early Summer 2007

The newsletter of Citizens for Safe Cycling
Volume 23 Issue 2

\$2.00 Value

Can-do CAN-BIKE

By Terry O'Shaughnessy

While CfSC regrets having to give up the cycling education programs, we are very pleased to see that they will continue in 2007. Here is an update on their status from Ottawa's head instructor.

The CAN-BIKE program is off to a good start for this year. The Ottawa CAN-BIKE Instructors Group has booked over 12 *Kids CAN-BIKE* courses as well as several *Traffic Skills* courses with a *CAN-BIKE II* course planned. We are also looking at an Instructor-level course to be offered later this year. In addition, a number of workplace seminars have been booked.

Working with a highly qualified and enthusiastic group of instructors, I have been booking classes and setting up *Learn to Ride* programs throughout Ottawa.

Outside of some insurance issues, things have been running smoothly and we have the potential for many more courses.

As head of the local instructors group, and as both a CAN-BIKE National Examiner and on the Ontario CAN-BIKE Instructor committee, I have been talking with the Ontario Cycling Association (OCA) about bringing the Ottawa group back to the OCA. This has led to a high level of support from the OCA. The OCA is responsible for the delivery of CAN-BIKE in Ontario and provides the instructors with a high level of resources and support.

I am currently the co-ordinator of the CAN-BIKE programs, but that will soon change.

...Continued on page 4



A example of exceptional bike parking. Key-code access to a fenced-in, highly-visible area with ring racks inside. Something CfSC hopes to see more of this year. Now if only the cyclists could figure out how to use the racks instead of the fence they'll be all set.

Gearing up for summer

The Ottawa Cycling Plan (OCP) is a detailed document that commits an estimated 124 million dollars over 20 years to cycling promotion and infrastructure. It holds great promise to improving and increasing cycling in Ottawa. Despite having been initiated in August of 2003, it remains only in draft form.

A major goal for CfSC this year is to have the OCP adopted and the funding initiated. There is a new mayor and council, and a greater public awareness of environmental issues. The time has come for Ottawa to have a formal cycling plan.

CfSC hopes to accomplish this through public education, political lobbying, and not taking 'no' for an answer! We will begin a petition to have the cycling plan move forward at our booths.

We will also use the booths to educate the public as to why we should have a cycling plan.

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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 bicycle 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: Peter Sloan
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, usually on the second Monday of the month, at 19:00. All interested members are welcome to attend. Contact secretary@SafeCycling.ca for time and place.

CfSC's Advocacy & Membership meetings are held monthly, usually on the fourth Monday of the month, at 19:00, at a coffeeshop. All interested cyclists are welcome to attend. Contact secretary@SafeCycling.ca for time and place.

For inquiries about CfSC memberships, contact CfSC's Membership Coordinator at Membership@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	<p><i>Note: MEC and CycleLogik are CfSC corporate members, but are unable to offer discounts.</i></p>
Bushtukah Outdoor Store 203 Richmond Road 10% off parts and accessories	Rebec and Kroes *NEW* 1695 Bank Street 10% off parts and accessories

Valet Bicycle Parking: Bluesfest, July 5-15

By Jennifer Allen

Those of you who attended the Ottawa Bluesfest last summer were no doubt pleased to see a new service for cyclists initiated by CfSC – a supervised bicycle parking area. We are pleased to be involved with Bluesfest again for 2007. With this year's festival moving to LeBreton Flats, adjacent to the NCC pathway, it just makes sense to bike to the Bluesfest!

Cyclists will once again be invited to safely park their bicycles in a secure, supervised area staffed by volunteers. The service is appealing because it provides the peace of mind that one's bike is safe. It is also very convenient, as festival-goers are able to leave items with their bike, such as their helmets & panniers – things that they would otherwise have to carry around with them or possibly risk losing.

CfSC has extensive experience in providing this valued service to cyclists: we initiated the supervised bike parking at the Ottawa Folk Festival in 2003.

Most people were very pleased to be offered a supervised area where they could leave their bikes. For many people, Bluesfest 2006 was the first time they had ever been exposed to such a service, and they were keen to tell their friends. We had a lot of repeat business during the festival. Many folks hoped to see supervised bike parking at other events.

Last year, almost 1,200 bikes were parked over the course of the festival. This averages out to just over 100 bicycles per day! The move of Bluesfest to LeBreton Flats this year makes the need for the service even more apparent – we hope that more people will choose to cycle to the festival, as minimal car parking will be available.

Last October, the Ottawa Bluesfest received a Gold Award from the Recycling Council of Ontario for its green initiatives in 2006. Encouraging people to cycle to the festival in partnership with CfSC was a significant contribution to the greening of the festival, in addition to biodegradable beer cups made from corn and bio-diesel powered generators.

The valet bike parking service is free, but cyclists are invited to make a donation. This year, funds raised will go to both CfSC and the Bluesfest's *Blues in the Schools* program.

Of course, such a great service just couldn't happen without the help of dedicated volunteers. Do you fit the bill? If you enjoy cycling, music, and helping people, we'd love to hear from you!

Bike parking volunteers receive a Bluesfest t-shirt, access to the festival grounds, a meal ticket for each shift worked, an invitation to the volunteer party July 20, the satisfaction of helping other cyclists, and of course the camaraderie of fellow cycling enthusiasts.

We want as many CfSC members (and friends) as possible to volunteer for the bike parking area, to ensure that cyclists using the service will get top quality service from knowledgeable cyclists.

Volunteers who sign up for six or more shifts over the 11-day festival will have access to all shows for the duration of Bluesfest. Can't commit to six shifts? No problem! You will have admission to the festival on the days that you volunteer. We are especially interested in hearing from you if you would like to assist the coordinators in the day-to-day supervision of the bike parking area. This is an excellent opportunity to promote CfSC and raise funds to support cycling.

This year, all volunteer scheduling is being done online. Please visit www.ottawabluesfest.ca and click on 'Volunteer' under the 'Event Info' menu to find out more about the duties involved, shift schedules, and to register. Registration starts at noon on Friday, May 4.

We look forward to seeing you and your bike at Bluesfest July 5-15! 🚲

JULY 5-15/07

cisco.

Bluesfest

presented by

OTTAWA CITIZEN

**Bob Dylan
Kanye West
Steve Miller
Manu Chao
White Stripes
and more!**

**ATTACK OF THE
KILLER
BLUESFEST**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE FOR FULL LINE UP
AND TO VOLUNTEER AT THE BIKE PARK!**

WWW.OTTAWABLUESFEST.CA

President's Report

By Charles Akben-Marchand

It was very hard for me to go through the process of closing the CfSC office. I first stepped into it in October 2000, and having since spent countless hours there, I became quite attached to the place.

But City Council decided in late March not to consider \$50,000 in funding for CfSC. They have since issued a hasty request for proposals for the education program, but CfSC had to decline due to the \$25,000 ceiling.

So without programs or staff, an office is unnecessary and diverts our attention from cycling. Terry O'Shaughnessy, CfSC member and CAN-BIKE National Examiner, is keeping the cycling courses on life support in the absence of a funded program. CfSC is providing him with resources to support his efforts.

Representing cyclists

Since we're going back to our roots, it was fitting that I happened upon a membership brochure from 1991 while sorting through CfSC's files. This was before we took on the programs, when, as now, we were strictly a member- and volunteer-based group. We'll be using some ideas from that brochure in the new one that is coming out this summer.

One of the ways we are representing cyclists is with liaisons (both formal and informal) on various different groups, acting as the ears and voice of cyclists. Some of these groups include the City's Roads and Cycling Advisory Committee, the City Centre Coalition, the University of Ottawa Bike Club,

and the Pathway Patrol.

CfSC representatives also go to many public open houses and consultations, including the naming committee for the Somerset Street footbridge and the upcoming Public Consultation Group for a new interprovincial bridge. If you would like to act as a liaison between a group and CfSC, send me an e-mail, or send reports to our public e-mail list (see page 5), or come to a meeting.

We enjoy being facilitators, too. For example, Alex Magdzinski, who is a CfSC member and organizer for the U of O Bike Club, organized a meeting between himself, me, and representatives of the University of Ottawa, which resulted in bike racks being properly secured to the ground.

Help cycling by volunteering!

While we no longer have programs with paid coordinators, we definitely still have activities! We will be doing the supervised bike parking at the Bluesfest again this year, as well as many booths in the community. We need to use these events as opportunities to recruit more members, and thus get a bigger voice for cycling.

To help recruit new members, we are offering a \$5 discount to any new member who is also a member of Mountain Equipment Co-op. This follows similar partnerships with other groups, such as Vrtucar.

But remember, when CfSC has an event, it's not just a "we" or a "they" doing it: it's people like you, regular cyclists who offer to volunteer their time.

...Continued on page 7.

CAN-BIKE (Part II)

...continued from page 1

The request for proposals for running the CAN-BIKE programs for the year 2007 has been tendered and these courses will be run out of a different office. I am confident not only that the programs offered will continue to be run in a professional manner, but also that they will be well advertised and have a new outlook and vibrancy. Within this proposal there will also be more instructor development and training and the outreach for new and talented instructors to join the group.

If in the meantime you need more information on CAN-BIKE, the courses offered, the co-operation with the OCA or are interested in being an instructor please feel free to contact me at:

ottawacyclingconsultants@rogers.com
or 613-749-1424


Terry O'Shaughnessy 

Cycling Plan (Part II)

...continued from page 1

...We will be contacting councillors about the Ottawa Cycling Plan and we encourage others to do the same. As the summer takes shape other opportunities to press for the OCP will arise and we will seize them.

The Plan, however, is not perfect. CfSC submitted a lengthy review of the OCP to the City last year, but have yet to receive a formal response. It will be a challenge not only to have the OCP adopted, but also to have necessary changes made.

So ask your councillor about the OCP, and come out to a booth and help get signatures. Stay tuned for further developments with the e-mail bulletins we hope to get started this summer. 

Critical Mass: Traffic or trouble?

By Charles Akben-Marchand

The Critical Mass movement has established itself in Ottawa. Since November 2005, cyclists have been gathering monthly to ride *en masse*.

Many people, including other cyclists, aren't sure what to make of it. To those who say they are blocking traffic, participants say that they *are* traffic. But then they should be obeying all *traffic* laws, no?

Visit their website, or go to a mass yourself and form your own opinion. They are fellow cyclists, after all. You may even want to ride in it yourself and set an example by obeying all traffic laws.

Remember that any time you are on your bike, you represent all cyclists. Let's leave a good impression. 🚲

Critical Mass leaves from Confederation Park on the last Friday of each month at 5:30pm.
<http://ottawacriticalmass.blogspot.com>

CfSC Volunteers

CfSC would like to recognize the outstanding contributions of the following volunteers by declaring them volunteers of the month.

January: **Linda Ulyett** For helping out Anne Duggan in her work as Linda's successor.

February: **Terry O'Shaughnessy** for independently organizing instructors and cycling courses; volunteering many hours of his time to ensure that programs would exist.

March: **Rosalie Reynolds** for helping out with the sorting through of CfSC e-mails and helping out with preparations for the move.

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 Newsletter

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!

To join the discussions, or start a new one, visit www.safecycling.ca/news/newsgroup.html

Attend 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!

In addition to special events, we're planning on having a regular CfSC booth at the same time each month, to help attract volunteers. Our first one was Sunday, May 6 at the Somerset Street footbridge.

If you're interested let us know at info@SafeCycling.ca and find out when upcoming booths will be.

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 big and little tasks that come up that we can use your help with—or come to a meeting with your own ideas!

The Advocacy & Membership Committee meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 19:00 at the Bridgehead coffee house on Third Ave, just off Bank. Contact 613-722-4454 or Info@SafeCycling.ca to confirm the date, time and location, and to RSVP.

Board meetings

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

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

Promotion & Education Program Management Committee

This committee is currently inactive, but if someone wishes to organize an educational event please contact us and we'll rally support!

If you are interested in contributing, contact Info@SafeCycling.ca. 🚲

Advocacy & Membership Committee

Come to an Advocacy & Membership Committee meeting.



New membership brochure: Costs up

The Advocacy & Membership (A&M) Committee is nearly done preparing CfSC's long overdue membership brochure.

CfSC has been without a brochure for a number of years; we have used copies of *Chain Mail* as an interim measure at events, but that isn't good enough. Ian Bickis, who chairs the Advocacy & Membership Committee, spearheaded this version.

All CfSC members will receive a copy of the new brochure with the next edition of *Chain Mail*, and we'd like your input on it when you get it. We'll consider that input before a bigger print run.

The A&M Committee also recommended that the Board raise the price of CfSC memberships by five dollars for one year, and by ten dollars for two years (low income memberships will not be affected). Membership fees have not gone up for almost a decade, but expenses have, and membership fees are once again a core source of revenue for CfSC.

A big thank you to the many members who contribute extra money to help keep fees low, and save us from using our financial reserves.

The Board has yet to formally consider this motion, and there will be a grace period until all of our forms are updated. But look on the envelope this came in--if your membership expires in the next three or four months, you may want to renew now before the price goes up!

You can also help us by getting your fellow cyclists to join CfSC. If they are a member of Mountain Equipment Co op, they can take \$5 off the membership fee (this applies only to new members, not to renewals). 🚲

When life closes a door...

By Charles Akben-Marchand

CfSC's office is now completely closed.

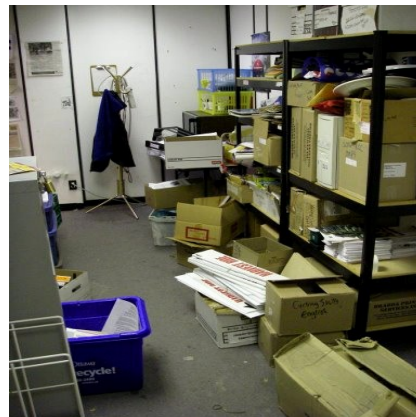
The office had been unstaffed since interim coordinator Anne Duggan's last day on February 28. However, 23 years of CfSC's history had gathered there since we had moved in a decade ago, and we had to find a place for all of it.

CfSC Treasurer Peter Sloan took the reins on the office move, and did an exceptional job of managing the logistics. He rented a storage unit for our things, organized three move weekends, and arranged a long-term loan of our furniture, which wouldn't fit in storage.

CfSC Board members at-large Will Hallam and John Stevenson spent a lot of time in the move process, and CfSC members Len Kowalik and Rosalie Reynolds helped out a lot too. CfSC's Vice President, Tom Trottier, came out to help on one of the move days, as did Terry O'Shaughnessy and Peter's wife, Rose.

It will be very different working in a "virtual office", with our files on a special online space, computers at various peoples' houses, and mail and phones being forwarded to various board members. But the effort (and expense!) of maintaining an office is gone, and we can now focus on cycling issues.

The decentralized model that is shaping up will allow more opportunities for new volunteers to take charge of cycling projects close to them. We are a grassroots organization once again, so let's do this! Let's get people cycling! 🚲



The daunting task that faced the volunteers...



...And the impressive results.



With the office closed, CfSC's future is in the hands of volunteers.

Velocity Racks Vandalized

The blue, ad-supported bicycle racks we see around town may not be the ideal form of parking, but they are much better than having no place at all to lock your bike.

Recently, there have been reports of these racks being unscrewed from the ground and left in place. This poses numerous problems for cyclists, including increased opportunity for theft.

If you see somebody "screwing around" with a rack, please report it to the police at 613-236-1222, extension 7300. 🚲



Bike racks need not be boring, nor ugly.

President's Report (Cont'd)

...Continued from page 4

Milestone: AGM

We're at the midpoint between AGMs, and that means my job turns to looking for potential board members (The vacancy left from last year's AGM is an opportunity for a six-month trial if you're interested). Remember that most Board members—including Peter Sloan, who's doing an excellent job as treasurer—don't have much experience with CfSC when they come a-"board"; they simply have a willingness to help.

You can also involved at a hands-on level by coming to a general CfSC meeting. These meetings are held monthly in a coffeeshop, where plans are made for CfSC's activities. Ian Bickis, the *Chain Mail* editor, chairs these meetings.

Keeping cyclists informed

In order to keep members informed of CfSC's activities, we plan on sending a monthly e-newsletter to members as a new benefit of CfSC membership.

These newsletters will inform members of upcoming CfSC

meetings and events, volunteer opportunities, threats to cycling, and opportunities for members.

For example, there have been a number of collisions and near-misses involving cyclists on the West side of the new Somerset Street footbridge, including a near-miss of yours truly. We're planning some events to raise awareness of safety issues at that location, and want CfSC members to come out.

We're all cyclists, so let's make cycling easier, safer, and more fun for everyone!

- Charles. 🚲

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 K1P6C4

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 in the news/ News briefs

The **re-Cycles Bicycle Co-op** has a new Website address at www.re-cycles.ca. They are now on Summer hours, meaning they are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 18:00 to 22:00.

Human Powered Vehicle Operators of Ottawa have their **weekly dinner** Sundays at 6pm at the Vietnam Noodle House (706 Somerset Street West), and often go riding before or after. All are welcome. See their many photos at <http://hpv.tricolour.net>

Ottawa's Commuter Challenge is bringing Bike-to-Work week back to Ottawa as the theme for this year's Challenge (June 3-10, 2007)! To participate, simply log on to www.commuterchallenge.ca and record the distance you traveled by bike or any other sustainable mode of transportation, and be eligible to win great prizes!



The **new Somerset street footbridge** across the canal has been without a name since its opening last September. CfSC President Charles Akben-Marchand represented CfSC and the cycling community on the naming committee for the bridge.

Keep your eyes open for the event to announce the name of the bridge. There will be plenty of fun stuff happening that day!

With the snow long-gone, road hazards such as pot-holes are in clear view. Please report any unsafe road conditions by calling the City of Ottawa at 311. Thanks.



Cyclists don't even give these 'wheel bender' racks a second glance. Poor form for the NCC to still use them, and in such a high-theft area as next to Carleton campus to boot. Tsk tsk.



...But still better than no rack at all. Those who brave the mean street of Merivale are often rewarded with no place at all to park their steed. Even the lone sign-post is a 'no parking' sign.

Better Bicycle...Parking. Just one of the many issues covered in the Ottawa Cycling Plan, and one more reason to perfect and adopt the Plan. Let's have a Plan before the next budget. Let's get practical bicycle parking for a practical mode of transportation.

The City of Ottawa is holding 'strategic planning sessions' throughout May and June to help set objectives and priorities for the long term. Look for schedules and dates on the Ottawa.ca website.