

REGIONAL NIAGARA BICYCLING  
COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 7, 2008  
Vineyard Alpaca, Beamsville, Ontario  
5:30 p.m.



MEETING NOTES

In Attendance:

Brian Baty	-	Regional Councillor (Chair)
Barb Henderson	-	Mayor, Township of Wainfleet/Regional Councillor
Ken Forgeron	-	Regional Planning Services Department
Dianne Coppola	-	Regional Public Health Department
Dave Hunt	-	Public-at-Large
Bob Romanuk	-	Public-at-Large/N.F.Trails & Bikeways Committee
Pat Maloney	-	Public-at-Large
Peter Davies	-	Niagara Freewheelers
Tim Whittle	-	Niagara Region Police Service
Dave Evans	-	Public at Large
Phil Bergen	-	Regional Public Works
Frank Pravitz	-	MTO
Penny Pitt	-	Regional Niagara Clerk's Department

Regrets

Eric Flora, Paul Pattison

1. **Adoption of Agenda**

2. **Review of Previous Meeting Notes (June 26, 2008)**

3. **Review of Previous Action Items**

Peter Davies from Niagara Freewheelers agreed to develop two routes (above and below the Escarpment) from Hamilton to Niagara Falls as requested by Ken Forgeron. **(ACTION ITEM)**

Ken Forgeron advised to keep Action Items 11 and 17 on the Update list. The Action Items will be updated and reviewed at the next meeting.

4. **Business Arising**

There was no business arising.

5. **Items for Consideration**

**Police Enforcement on Off-Road Trails**

Tim Whittle reported two officers from Fort Erie and Welland were patrolling portions of the Greater Niagara Circle Route in the early evening hours on Saturday and Sundays. Further discussion on this program will occur with the Greater Niagara Circle Route Committee.

**Cross-Country Cycling Links**

Dave Evans announced that Liberty! Bicycles would be hosting their 2008 Off-Road Squeezer on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> starting at Montebello Park in downtown St. Catharines. For more information regarding this event or to register link to [www.libertybicycles.com](http://www.libertybicycles.com).

Through discussion with Dean Norton of the Ontario Power Generation (OPG), Ken Forgeron informed the committee that OPG is the prime landowner of 12 Mile Creek and leases the land to the City of St. Catharines. The OPG is aware of the bike riding in that area and has always been concerned with the liability aspect. OPG would feel more comfortable if the RNBC website did not publicly promote racing or group riding, but acknowledged that such use probably would continue informally.

## **6. Task Force Reports**

- **Engineering /Network Task Force**

Phil Bergen reported that he would forward two reports for distribution to the committee. The content would be as follows:

TPAR of June 25, 2008 – The Transportation Project Activity Report produced by the Transportation Engineering Section is a list which identifies the progress to date on projects which are either under construction, have been recently completed, or are being tendered or about to be tendered.

TSSC Project Activity Report – This Projects/Studies Activity Report is produced by the Transportation Systems Section for the Transportation Strategy Steering Committee. It provides Councillors and others information on the status of Transportation Strategy Projects and studies (includes Provincial and Federal studies) that are currently active.

### Garden City Alliance

Members of the recently-formed Garden City Alliance for Sustainable Transportation arranged cycle tours of central St. Catharines for city officials to help them gain a better understanding of the issues cyclists face. The tours which took place on August 5<sup>th</sup> between 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. were organized so decision makers would gain another perspective of the city and the need for bicycle lanes.

- **Education and Enforcement Task Force**

Tim Whittle advised the committee that he would meet with Pat Maloney this summer and provide an update at a future meeting.

- **Encouragement Task Force**

Marian Landry, Public Health lead for the « Kids CAN Bike » pilot project has accepted our invitation to attend the October 30, 2008 meeting of the RNBC to provide a summary report on the project.

Dianne Coppola reported that the 1st round of prizes (16) from the “Bike to Get There” campaign have been given out with the July, August, and September draws still to be held. Only 53 passports were submitted. The prizes are all bicycle related such as helmets, cyclometers, cycling gloves, t-shirts, gift certificates and various bike gear packages. Promotion will be ongoing for the balance of the campaign and we will be kept posted.

- **Policy Task Force**

Ken Forgeron will attend a Provincial Transportation Conference next week. The RNBC display will be set up and both the Bicycling Map and Network Map Figure 5-8 from the Master Plan will be showcased.

## 7. Items for Information:

### Highlights of May 24, 2008 Joint Meeting of Bicycling Committees

- Areas where riding is prohibited
- Good bike trail in the Red Hill Creek Valley
- Access and safety issue for cyclists
- Update on Provincial bicycling policy
- Need to meet with the Minister of Transportation, as representatives of his St. Catharines constituency regarding cycling issues and concerns.
- Topics for discussion with the Minister should be gathered from the RNBC as well as other group such as the Freewheelers
- MTO intersection treatments are an ongoing concern as they relate to bicycle access and safety

A bicycle ride after the Joint meeting was held on the Red Hill Creek Valley Trail beside the new Red Hill Creek Expressway.

### Cycle Ontario Alliance Update

Dave Hunt reported that subsequent to the Joint meeting, the Cycle Ontario Alliance (COA) has folded due to financial concerns. There is a message on the web site of the COA [www.cycleontario.ca](http://www.cycleontario.ca) from the immediate past President that provides more details, including an expectation that a new province wide advocacy group will be started up in the fall of this year.

### Launch of Scenic Bicycle Routes in Niagara Region

Ken Forgeron reported that a new website is ready to be launched next week with a more formal launch and media release to follow. The Region has mapped over 250 scenic bike routes most of which were developed by the Niagara Freewheelers Bicycle Touring Club, and have been developing a website to make these maps available online over the summer with some funding support from Healthy Living Niagara. We are leading the pack with this one of a kind web mapping service that showcases 200 - 300 scenic loop rides throughout Niagara. Cyclists can choose amongst a variety of pre-selected tours searching by municipality, distance and level of difficulty. This is just the first phase of a product that will hopefully grow over time and become more interactive with new technologies such as uploading maps, etc. to a GPS on the bicycle and searching by "key words" i.e. museum, breakfast, winery, etc.

### Information for Distribution

The following items were distributed:

- Excerpt from The Bike/Ped Professional Regional News
- Niagara This Week article – "Down here, we're much more than paramedics"
- Article from Technology Review – "Bikers, pedestrians seeking better Web maps"
- Excerpts from York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan April /08
- Welland Tribune article – "NRP Officer modified bicycle for Welland girl"
- Research Highlight – "Taming the Flow – Better Traffic and Safer Neighbourhoods"

## 8. Items for Next Agenda

- Prioritizing and Operationalizing the RNBC Strategic Plan
- Reconstituting and Resourcing the RNBC
- Provincial and Federal Funding programs
- Update on Action Items

**9. Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 p.m. and Summer Social begins**

**10. Date of Next Meetings: (PLEASE NOTE!)**

- Joint Meeting with GNCR  
Wednesday, September 17, 2008, Cafeteria , 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
(All members are encouraged to attend!)
- Thursday, September 18, 2008, Committee Room 4, 7:00 p.m.

**Meeting Notes Reviewed by:** Ken Forgeron, Regional Planning and  
Dianne Coppola, Public Health

**Meeting Notes Recorded by:** Penny Pitt