

September 2026

Volume 1, Issue 14

Advocating
for
safe
cycling
throughout
Durham
Region

A Message from our President and Executive Director –

Ron Lalonde

Welcome to another edition of our Newsletter and it is hard to believe how quickly the temperatures have transitioned to fall weather which is also an excellent time of year to be out on your bike enjoying all that Durham has to offer.

Over the past year, our team has continued their work, advocating on your behalf in support of safe cycling improvements across the region. Further more, in this edition, you will learn more about the [month long one metre safe cyclist marketing campaign](#) which was championed by two DRCC executives with tremendous success this past June.

Lastly, I would also like to extend a member's invitation to attend our upcoming Annual General Meeting planned for later this fall with details to follow. Learn more about DRCC by planning to attend.

Until next time, on behalf of your DRCC volunteer team, thank you for your continued support which in turn makes our work possible

UPDATES

Columbus Road Reconstruction

Columbus Road continues to be closed from Country Lane to Cedarbrook Trail. In this regard we received a communication from the Town of Whitby concerning irresponsible cyclists riding through the construction zones which could lead to serious accidents. In support of safe cycling, we issued a news bulletin advising cyclists to obey all road closed signage and utilise alternate routes.

The reconstruction of White Bridge has been completed and the section of Columbus Road between Lake Ridge Road and Country Lane was recently reopened.

1-Meter Safety Campaign

We were pleased to have collaborated with the Region of Durham on the roll out of this year's 1-meter safety campaign. A couple of our club cyclists took part in a photo shoot which resulted in two campaign posters that were displayed on buses, at bus stops, bike shops and other public spaces.

Durham Region Police Services also supported the campaign this year but they have difficulty enforcing the 1-meter passing law based on *unsubstantiated* complaints from cyclists. Perhaps one day DRPS may employ a drone to follow cyclists and record physical evidence of unsafe passing by vehicles.



Two Posters Produced by the Region of Durham

Waterfront Trail Closure – Oshawa

The latest information we have from the City of Oshawa regarding the closure of the Waterfront Trail east of Farewell Street at Harbour Road is that the City is currently undertaking a due diligence review of the reconstruction of the trail. The City was unable to provide a time line as to when the reconstructed trail would be opened.

Toronto Bike Lane Removals - Bill Number 212

The provincial government won its appeal against an earlier ruling that the removal of bikes lanes in Toronto was unconstitutional. The Ford government is now free to dictate to any municipality where bike lanes can be constructed if, in the government's opinion, the bike lanes would or may cause increased travel times for motorists. It would seem that the convenience of motorists is more important than the lives of cyclists.

Ashburn Road Repaved

Last April we wrote to the Town of Whitby regarding the poor state of Ashburn Rd. south of Highway 7 noting the loss of the rural paved shoulders due to earlier construction work. We can now report that additional paving work has been carried out and the rural paved shoulders have been restored.

Conlin Road – Garrard Road Intersection



As noted in previous newsletters we have pointed out to the Town of Whitby the danger to cyclists at the north-west corner of the intersection. This latest photograph, taken in June of this year, shows the second incident where the guard rail has been demolished by a turning truck.

As the Town of Whitby seems reluctant to take any action to improve the corner, we urge cyclists to use extreme caution when negotiating this corner and to be aware of any right turning trucks that may not see you.

Trans Canada Trail (North Durham Rail Trail) - Lake Ridge Rd to Simcoe St.

Over the last year, we have continued to engage with key stakeholders regarding the rail trail across North Durham. As such, we are pleased to report, a local contractor was retained to complete various bridge deck repairs, pot hole filling and general maintenance earlier this year across the full length of the corridor from Lake Ridge Rd. to Simcoe St.

Further to this, a secondary group has begun the task of exploring options with regards to forming a local Durham based stewardship with the goal of eventually having an active role in future trail management supported by local funding.

In the interim, the rail trail is open and provides an excellent opportunity for off-road cycling with connections from Uxbridge across to Lindsey and beyond as well as to Cannington via the Beaver River Wetland Trail junction at Blackwater which is signed accordingly.

Federal Infrastructure Grants

Federal grant money has been awarded to:

- a) Ajax for 1.5 km of new trail by the old Annandale golf course;
- b) Oshawa for approximately 1 km of trail planned to run along Townline Road North between Beatrice Street East and Taunton Road East; and
- c) The Region towards the development of the Meadoway.

It is encouraging to see municipalities availing themselves of federal funding for cycling infrastructure.

Proposed Revisions to MTO E-Bike Legislation

The Ministry of Transportation is proposing to create a **two-class definition for power-assisted bicycles**. Essentially, a Class 1 e-bike would be pedal assist only with a maximum weight of 55 kg and a Class 2 e-bike that would include a throttle assist, have functional pedals and have a maximum weight of 120 kg. For both classes the motor power is limited to 500 W and a maximum speed limit of 32 km/h.

The proposal also includes clarification that moped/scooter or motorcycle-style electric motor vehicle operators will be required to have a licence and to be insured.

We would like to see the latter banned from trails and multi-use paths. Preferably at the provincial level rather than individual municipalities having to pass by-laws.

Proposed High Speed Rail Link

We will be monitoring design development of the proposed federal high speed rail link known as the *Alto High-Speed Rail Project* where it may impact established cycling routes and trails.

We have already provided some preliminary comments in response to an email request. In addition, the Durham Mountain Bike Association will be commenting where the proposed rail line impacts the mountain bike trails in Durham.

The initial public consultation has been completed and can be read here. [Alto Preliminary Consultation Report](#)

Waterfront Trail Closure – Ajax

The section of the waterfront trail between Ontoro Boulevard and Hoile Drive is closed for reconstruction and is expected to reopen in October. The Town did an excellent job on posting detour signs.



HEPC Trail Road Crossings

The Town of Whitby is currently installing mid-block crossings at Rossland Road and Manning Road where the Hydro Electrical Power Corridor Trail crosses these roads. The crossings will be controlled by pedestrians or cyclists activating overhead, orange flashing lights warning vehicle drivers to stop.

The Town has advised that a link from Longwood Park to Burns Street, where a signalized crossing already exists, will be constructed this fall. Also, the Town is currently studying potential road crossings on the section of trail between Crawford Street and Dundas Street.



Crossing Under Construction at Manning Rd.



Crossing Under Construction at Rossland Rd.

Bicycle Friendly Communities

In September, the provincial Share the Road Cycling Coalition announced its latest list of Bicycle Friendly Communities across the Province. Of note was the award of Bronze status to the Region of Durham (the only regional government to ever receive a designation) and the Town of Whitby who were upgraded to Silver status which we had endorsed.

Ajax maintained its Silver status which we did not endorse given the removal of the bike lanes on Harwood Avenue South and various deviations from the Town's Integrated Transportation Master Plan that resulted in inferior cycling infrastructure designs.

Notable is the absence of the City of Pickering from any designation. Perhaps the City has no appetite to support meaningful cycling infrastructure. We would welcome someone to volunteer to be our Pickering Ambassador to assist us in pursuing a meaningful dialogue with the City.

DRCC MEMBERSHIP



Become a Member

If you belong to one of our four supporting clubs you are a DRCC *Affiliate Member*.

We also welcome non-cycling club cyclists looking to support our advocacy work.

You can join DRCC as an *Associate Member* for the low annual fee of \$10.00. Simply send an e-mail to: info@durhamsafecycling.ca and we will provide you with an application form.

We welcome comments and suggestions or, would you like to volunteer your services? You may contact us via e-mail or social media as noted above.

Contact Information:

Web site <https://durhamsafecycling.ca>

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We're Social

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