

DURHAM REGION CYCLING COALITION

NEWSLETTER

January, 2020

Volume 1 / Issue 1

Advocating
for
safe
cycling
throughout
Durham
Region

First Issue

With the many aspects DRCC is involved in it was thought that a newsletter might be a good way of keeping all the membership up to date with news and events. There is no planned schedule for issuing the newsletters other than keeping everyone informed as the need arises.

In the Beginning

Three Durham club cyclists had the common vision of improving the cycling experience in and around our local riding areas which was seen to be seriously lacking in safe cycling infrastructure. Sadly, one was struck and killed by a motor car. A cruel testament as to the need for greater advocacy. From this tragedy, came a positive reaction from the 5 Cycling Clubs across Durham Region who overwhelmingly supported a greater cycling advocacy voice... The result was the creation of the Durham Region Cycling Coalition.

Message from our President-Bruce MacDonald:

As if we didn't need reminding another hit and run killed a female cyclist in Oshawa on November 22nd last year. Joe Arruda and myself took part in placing a ghost bike at the intersection of Stevenson Rd. and Laval Dr. A sad ceremony organized by Advocacy for Respect for Cyclists (ARC) based in Toronto.

There seems no end to the increasing number of serious and fatal injuries to cyclists which makes all our advocacy efforts critically important. I'm sure that by working together we will have a positive impact in reducing the carnage on our roads.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at the McKinney Centre in Whitby on November 22, 2019. Business included the election of a new board of directors for a two-year term.

Welcome to Robert Astley who has subsequently joined the board representing Clarington Cycling Club. Sincere thanks go to Jim Boate who previously held this position.

DRCC Board Members



Left to Right: Melissa Claxton-Oldfield, Derek Lee, Morgan Dever, Bruce MacDonald, Michael Kishinevsky.

Missing from photo: Robert Astley.

E-Voting

A majority of board members approved voting by email on matters requiring board approval.

Upcoming Events

Coldest Day of the year Ride This annual event will take place in Toronto on February 1st. In past years Durham cyclists have taken the GO train to Toronto and then made their way to the start. If you are a hardy soul contact your buddies for a fun day and shake off the winter blues. For more details see <https://www.cycleto.ca/event/coldest-day-year-ride>

Bike Summit 2020 The annual Ontario Bike Summit put on by Share the Road Coalition will take place in Toronto on April 6-7. Bruce will be attending to represent DRCC.

DRCC AT WORK

New Marketing Banners



Victoria Road MUP

A letter was sent to the Town of Whitby commending them on the work carried out on the MUP from Lynde Shores Conservation Area to Brock Street. Most important was the addition of cross rides (a Durham first) at all road intersections and at the entrance/exit to the Whitby Shores mall. In addition to the kudos we pointed out further improvements namely a cross ride missing at Halls Road and relocation/addition of signage. We have received a positive response from the Town.

Halls Road Missing



Seaboard Gate in Place



Whitby Shores Shopping Plaza

We wrote to SmartCentres, the owners of the Whitby Shores mall, concerning the obstructed view at the mall exit to Victoria St. Cyclists and pedestrians on the MUP are not easily visible to vehicles due to large brick piers, railings and shrubbery. SmartCentres have removed the shrubbery but the brick piers and railings remain.

We have submitted a follow-up letter.



Policies and Procedures

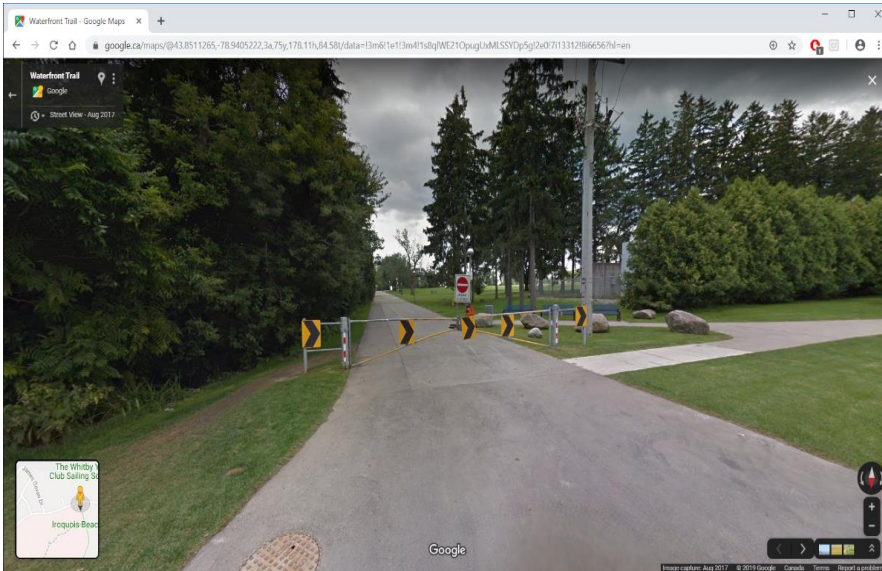
A set of policies and procedures has been established. Key is the Code of Conduct for Volunteers which sets out the rules that all volunteers need to adhere to when volunteering their services to DRCC. Volunteers will be required to sign their acceptance

There are 13 Policies and Procedures in all and can be viewed on our website.

Ontario Shores

We contacted Ontario Shores regarding the gate at the bottom of Gordon Street in Whitby leading onto their property and connecting with the Waterfront Trail. The gate obstructs the full width of the Trail restricts access for trail users.

A positive response was received back. Ontario Shores will be conducting a review in the spring of 2020. DRCC will be following up on this important request for access improvements.



Extra Caution

Even with the introduction of cross rides we still have to remain vigilant at intersections. Always look in **all** directions when approaching intersections. Too many drivers drive past stop lines and are not looking both ways when turning right at stop lights. If you think a driver hasn't seen you, they probably haven't.

Offending car





Contact Information:

Web site durhamsafecycling.ca
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Website Restructuring

Discussed at the AGM was the need to upgrade our website for a more modern appearance, improved content and links. Initial enquiries indicate the cost to be about \$2,000 which would put a strain on our finances. We are looking into alternate funding opportunities.

Membership:

If you belong to one of our five 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: durhamrcc@gmail.com and we will provide an application form.

We hope you enjoyed our first newsletter

Comments, suggestions, something to add or
would like to volunteer your services?

Contact us at durhamrcc@gmail.com