

QuickRelease

December / February, 2001-2002
Volume 19, Issue 5



Photo: Lionel Simmons

Let it Snow — It's Ski Season!

Welcome to a new ski season! Once again, I'm looking forward to lots of snow and some great skiing this winter. We kick off our Sunday trips at Highlands Nordic (Duntroon) on January 6, so mark that date on your calendar. We will also visit Horseshoe, Hardwood Hills, Wasaga Beach, Mansfield and Ganaraska before the season is out. This year we have added a moonlight ski at Horseshoe Valley on Saturday, January 26. With a full moon, conditions should be ideal! Come and join us for some hot cider and good cheer around a roaring fire.

Our ski program is aimed at the recreational skier, so come on out and participate in this wonderfully invigorating winter activity—you can't avoid winter, so enjoy it! We will travel in a warm and comfortable coach in which you can relax, forget about the driving, watch some movies and meet other skiers.

Whether a long-time TBN member, or a newcomer, join us! Call the Hotline (416-760-4191, line 1) to reserve your spot on the bus, as well as get up-to-date information in case the schedule changes due to snow conditions. Looking forward to seeing you on the trails this year!

—Jan Tytler, V.P. Skiing

Celebrate the Holiday Season on Wednesday, December 5

TBN ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AT BA-BA-LÚU

Doors open at 6:30, dinner is at 7:30 and there will be a **free** latin dance lesson around 9:00 p.m. Join our happy throng and enjoy the fine food, and creative ambience of this upscale dance club. Dinner includes a starter, choice of chicken or pasta entrée and dessert. Ba-Ba-Lúu is located at 136 Yorkville Ave. just east of Avenue Rd. The cost is \$30/members; \$35 non-members, in advance by cheque made payable to Toronto Bicycling Network, mailed by Nov. 30 to:

Ron Fletcher
121 Victor Ave,
Toronto, ON M4K 1A7

For more information call Ron, 416-461-9695.

Weekend Trip Registration Deadlines: Sooner Than You Think!

We have some great winter weekend getaways planned, including:

New Year's at Hollyburn Lodge	Dec 30-Jan 1
Haliburton Highlands	Jan 18-20
Silent Lake Sojourn	Feb 1-3

But the sign-up deadlines are just around the corner. Trip details and deadlines are on the back page. Have a look and register now!

Board of Directors

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Saturday Morning Ride & Inline Skating	Martha Scott	416-443-0619
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Ice Skating	Molly Cheung	iceskate@tbn.on.ca
TBN Toronto Cycling Committee Rep.	Martin Koob	tcc-rep@tbn.on.ca
Hotline Announcer	Kimberley Wetmore	-

Quick Release

Layout	Owen Rogers
After the Original Design by	David Young

Molly Cheung

Joined TBN: 1997

Bike: Giant Peloton 8400 Road Bike

Ride Level: Tourist

While I am a very avid downhill and cross-country skier, I joined TBN to cycle. When I started with the club, I rode a 12-speed Bianchi racer. After a few years of cycling 100 to 120 km every time I went for a ride, I thought I needed a better bike to keep up with the Tourists. I quickly learned getting a new bike attracts a lot of attention from other TBNers. Many people came up to see my new bike with its dual control brake levers, aluminium alloy frame and clipless pedals.

Going clipless was a very scary thing! The year I bought my bike, I rode by myself for a few rides before joining TBN rides. In the beginning, every time I rode, I fell at some point, and twisted my handlebars out of alignment. Since I bought my bike at D'Ornellas and the store was on my way home, I'd ride by the store and have them straighten my handlebars. That summer, I grew to know Eon D'Ornellas and his bike repair

Quick Release is published five times a year. Members are encouraged to submit material for publication. Classified ads are free for members. To discuss a submission, call Owen Rogers, Managing Editor at 416-232-0243 or e-mail newsletter@tbn.on.ca.

For the **Mar/Apr** issue the deadline for submissions is **Feb. 5**.

We would prefer submissions be made digitally, so send ads/ stories/graphics to: newsletter@tbn.on.ca in one of the following formats:

text.txt, word.doc, wordperfect.wp

... and your graphics/photos in these ones:

.jpg, .eps, .gif

Analog submissions may still be made by lettermail to:

Toronto Bicycling Network
Attn: Editor, Quick Release
131 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Box 279, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1R8

Moving? Moved?

Send changes of address and corrections to: memsec@tbn.on.ca or leave a message on Line 3, the Social & Membership Mailbox of the Hotline

Telephone 416 760-4191
Website www.tbn.on.ca
e-mail info@tbn.on.ca

(please specify intended recipient in the subject field of your e-mail)

To best use TBN's voice mail system, follow these easy steps.

Dial



416-760-4191

to go directly to the main menu.

From the main menu press...

- 1 cross-country skiing
- 2 hiking, ice skating & education events
- 3 social events & membership information
- 4 weekend trips,
- 5 Cyclon 2002 information

Hotline tips:

When in the Main Menu you can make a selection at any time, and you don't have to wait for the message to finish.

You can return to the main menu after making a choice, by pressing 2 at any time. After making a selection from the main menu, you can press 1 to leave a message related to your Main Menu choice.

Please be sure to select the appropriate mailbox to leave your message in.

If you're not sure where to leave your message, please leave it in the Social & Membership mailbox (i.e. press 3 from the main menu, then press 1)



people really well! One day, Eon looked at me all puzzled because I put masking tape over my handlebars. I told him it was because my new shiny bike was getting all scratched from my falls. I asked him when I would stop falling. He told me he still falls. Eon D'Ornellas, four-time Olympian, still falls off his bike! Yeah, sure!

This is my third year on the bike, and I have not fallen since that summer. Some people still think I just bought my bike, so I guess I could not have fallen as many times as I thought—it just felt like it.

After a one-year hiatus, I am happy to be back as TBN Ice-Skating Coordinator. I do not ski on Sundays with TBN, but did participate in the Millennium New Year's trip with the club and hope to do other weekend trips in the future. Since that means I will not be seeing you on the ski bus, I hope you will join me this winter for the Friday night skates!

Skiing and skating in the winter, cycling in the summer with a great club like TBN, what better life is there?

—Molly Cheung

Administrivia

The TBN Board has instituted a new policy concerning **rubber cheques**: members submitting cheques returned NSF will now be charged \$5 *in addition* to whatever bank charges are levied. Broad hint: repeat offenders might want to consider the valuable volunteer time already wasted on this issue.

ramblings

Try to picture them in your mind...

Okay, it was bad enough that I didn't show for the TBN's Fall Dinner Dance and Annual General Meeting (first time in seven years), but when I forgot to bring the camera to the first Board Meeting of the new term, to take the obligatory group shot of the new Board for inclusion in this very publication, I wouldn't blame you if you thought I was trying to conceal something.

Well, as you can see from the list on page two, we have in fact, managed to elect a full Board, with a President even, for the first time in three years. No shotguns were necessary, which means I suppose that people think that volunteering is a rewarding experience. And that, I think, is attributable to the people who are already volunteers. In 2001, TBN volunteers, *your* volunteers, organized over 450 events. That is a remarkable achievement.

There's no prize, but perhaps there should be...

If you're wondering how to start and manage a successful program of activities, I give you this e-mail from Wayne Yeechong, concerning our Inline Skating Program:

"Now that the season is officially over, I must say I enjoyed it immensely. The least I can do is to commend Martha for the great program she put together.

"Let me figure out why the program was so

successful:

- well-researched routes
- support for beginners and connoisseurs alike
- arrangement for lessons (Ron H. deserves much credit in his own right)
- research on equipment (the blades she recommends are now affectionately known as Martha skates)
- emailing news to participants (proactive marketing)
- providing links to informative articles
- après blading (also thanks to the hosts: Ron F., Peggy, and Veronica)
- above all, enthusiasm, which is contagious

"Martha basically re-invented the program, all by herself. I seldom see this kind of creativity, dedication, and passion going into a program. If there is a TBN achievement award of the year, I know where it belongs. Bravo.

"Hope everybody will join us again next year... and spread the word."

Martha, someone had to say it.

But still no fast forward or rewind...

And thank you, Rob Long, for seven straight years of Hotline announcements. Having filled in a few times, I can say that recording that message is not an easy task and I certainly can't imagine doing it week in, week out for seven straight seasons. Kudos, and good luck in the future.

—Owen Rogers



Photo: Lionel Simmons

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Computer Wiz Required by Cyclon

You will prepare Cyclon maps from scans or MapArt CD, insert the designated routes, information blurbs, and turn numbers into the maps and insert the graphical representation of turns into the route instructions. You are the proud possessor of a computer with Adobe Photoshop or some similar program. Reward: the gratitude of several hundred Cyclon participants.

Contact: cyclon@tbn.on.ca or Doug Innes, 416-252-7073

Social Calendar: Further Input Requested

Our winter social schedule is by no means complete. Want to help organize an evening of Cosmic Bowling, darts, mah-jhong, movies, theatre, slideshows, or that old standby, a billiards night? We need your ideas—anything that's fun for a group and gets people out of the house for the evening!

Call Ron Fletcher, 416-461-9695

"Booth Bunnies" Needed

The Toronto International Bicycle Show will be held from Friday March 1 to Sunday March 3. As always, TBN will be there, kicking off our annual membership drive. We need lots of help staffing our booth over those three days and it should go without saying that promoting the club is a great way to meet new people! If you'd like to help out at the bike show or are interested in working on any Publicity and Promotions Projects (Bike Week, Ride for Heart) over the coming year, contact Shirley Yee, 416-762-3608.

Message from the 2002 VP Touring:

WINTER MAY HAVE ONLY JUST ARRIVED, but planning for the 2002 Cycling Season is already happening. As a TBN member, what ideas do you have for the hundreds of day trips scheduled for 2002? Do you like the starting points, routes, and distances? I would encourage you to communicate your thoughts to the ride coordinators for 2002 (they are listed on page two) or myself at touring@tbn.on.ca. The newsletter deadline for the first set of 2002 rides is the end of January, so now is the time to express those thoughts!



TBN is run entirely by volunteers. A great way to help out is to lead or sweep one or more rides, or develop a new ride route. You probably have seen leaders in action, and wondered "What is involved in becoming a ride leader?" Come and find out at the new leaders' orientation sessions scheduled for late March and early April. For 2002, we will add an additional orientation session in mid-May. More details on these sessions will be in the next newsletter.

Enjoy the many TBN events this winter, and here is to a full season of cycling in 2002!

—Dan Engels

Leisure Wheelers Do It Again!

On September 30th the Leisure Wheelers hosted their third Metric Century. The weather was ideal for the waterfront trek from the Beaches to Oakville and back: sunny, not too hot, no headwinds. Of the 28 riders who began, 21 completed the grind. As this was not a race against the clock, no individual times were kept. Eight "aces" completed the circuit before the others, who finished in a "leisurely" seven hours or so (plus lunch, snack, water and restroom time).

Congratulations and Metric Century patches go to:

Robert Cantafio	Mary Knowles	Sandy McCrossan	Bill Sytsma
Brenda Dean	Demetrius Kyrtatas	Dave Moffat	Doug Smith
Eileen Harbinson	Ping Kong Lai	Mike Murphy	Gary Tew
Pat Hardy	Shiu Ling Lai	Brian Pehora	
Judy Jonas	Karen Martin	Brenda Porter	
Bill Knowles	Megan McCrossan	Joan Santiago	

Are YOU game to join them in 2002?

—Alan Gordon



Those diehard tourists gather at Finch Subway in late November, 2000

Photo: Lionel Simmons

Year-end Note from the 2001 Easy Roller Coordinator:

Spring, summer, and fall 2001 were fantastic for TBN's Easy Roller program. We started out with a 20km ride on April 1, and concluded (weather permitting!) with a 35km ride on November 11—the latest we have gone in any year. Altogether, we ran 31 Sunday rides ranging from 20km to 75km in length and added five new routes to our ride inventory. Thanks very much to Carrie Hilhorst, Joe Lee, and Ron Horton for helping develop these new rides.

Also, a BIG thank you to the 14 volunteer tourleaders who lead the rides: Dan Camposano, Ron Horton, Joe Lee, Carol Finnie, Carrie Hilhorst, Eugene Kwong, Shirley Clunas, Bill Espin, Ian Tytler, Ron Horton, Kay Farrell, David Raine, Howard Chan, and Carl Friesen. We could not have done it without you!



Photo: Claire Vendramini

Dan Engels, Eugene Kwong, Shirley Clunas, Ron Horton, David Raine, Dan Camposano, Joseph Lee

After two years of coordinating Easy Roller rides I thought someone with a fresh approach should take on this role. David Raine, who many of you know, and who has led many Easy Roller rides in 2000 and 2001, has graciously agreed to become our new Easy Roller Coordinator. Thanks, David!

To all the Easy Rollers at TBN, thanks for coming out on the rides, thanks for your comments, and we will see you on more rides in 2002!

—Dan Engels

tracks and trails update

Bigger and Better in 2001

Now that the official riding schedule is over, I can reflect on a very successful season as my co-coordinator, Martin Habgood and I continue to build this program, now in its second year. We generally had 10 to 15 riders at any given event—sometimes more—drawn from a pool of about 40 off-riders. No major injuries to report, but you had to wonder sometimes.

Rides alternated between Saturdays and Sundays every second week. Unofficial events ran on the other weekends for those eager to get out, making it possible to ride every weekend this season. To be fair to everyone, locations alternated from one side of town to the other across the top of the city. New venues were introduced and old favourites revisited. We tackled some mean hills, jumped some fat logs

and, most importantly, made some great friends.

Looking ahead to next season, I can see an official ride scheduled every weekend. In the spring, we hope to establish a few beginner rides with instructional clinics. This will help bring the skills of the interested, but inexperienced, to the level of the 'regulars'.

We also hope to organize a few weekend trips

farther afield.

Finally, remember as you are cross-country skiing the trails this winter: we might have ridden them.

Yeehaw!

—Dan Roitner
MTB Co-Coordinator



Photo: Brian Keenan

SUNDAY SKI SCHEDULE 2002

Cross country (or Nordic) skiing is an ideal aerobic activity to compliment your cycling. To register for the Sunday trip you must call the TBN ski hotline before Thursday 10:00 p.m. Phone 416-760-4191, line 1 and follow the directions. Alternatively, you can register by email at xcski@tbn.on.ca by giving the

trip date, your name, your pick-up point, telephone number, TBN membership number and whether you require rentals. The bus fare is \$17.00 and the trail fee will depend on the destination. The bus fee should be paid by cheque, made payable to the 'Toronto Bicycling Network'. Trail fees must be paid in cash. A \$12.00

no-show penalty will be charged to people who register but don't turn up. If you do not register, the walk-on fee is \$22.00. For non-members, the bus fee is \$22.00. Make sure you call the Hotline on Friday and Saturday for updates. Any changes will be stated at the beginning of the announcement.

Date	Destination	Trail Type	Trail Length (km)	Facilities	Trail Fees	Rental + Trail Fees
Jan. 6	Highlands Nordic	GC, SK	16	FS, L	\$9	\$21
Jan. 13	Hardwood Hills	GC, SK	45	FS, L	\$14	\$34
Jan. 20	Wasaga Beach	GC, SK	30	PS, L	\$5	\$20
Jan. 26	Horseshoe Valley (Moonlight Ski)	GC, SK	35	FS, L	\$9	\$23
Feb. 3	Mansfield	GC, SK	40	FS, L	\$10	\$24
Feb. 10	Ganaraska	GC	35	PS	\$8	no rentals
Feb. 17	Hardwood Hills	GC, SK	45	FS, L	\$14	\$34
Feb. 24	Horseshoe Valley	GC, SK	35	FS, L	\$9	\$23
Mar. 3	Wasaga Beach	GC, SK	30	PS, L	\$5	\$20

NOTE: Schedule is tentative only, and may change depending on weather and snow conditions. Please listen to the TBN hotline for weekly updates. Skiing will continue into March depending on conditions

For snow conditions, all of the resorts, with the exception of Ganaraska, have websites. Check the link from the TBN cross country web page. If you don't have web access, snow conditions in the 416 & 905 areas are available at 416-314-0960.

Facilities:

- FS** Full service including waxing hut, food services & chalet
- PS** Partial service, including waxing hut, warm-up areas & snack bar
- L** Lessons offered by the resort. Must be pre-booked by the individual.

Conditions:

- GC** Groomed Classic Trails
- SK** Skating Trails

Bus pick-up locations + times

Victoria Park	(Victoria Park Station)	9:00 a.m.
Yonge & Bloor	(Metro Reference Library)	9:20 a.m.
Yonge & Eglinton	(southeast side)	9:30 a.m.
Yonge & York Mills	(south of York Mills)	9:45 a.m.



Photo: Lionel Simmons

Interesting idea, Conrad, but I think I'll keep following those neat little tracks in the snow instead...

Photos Courtesy: Louise Low



COME SKATE WITH US!

FRIDAY NIGHT ICE SKATING

Kick off the skating season, Friday, December 14, with a skate under the Festival of Lights at Nathan Phillips Square! We will skate if ice conditions are good and then head off to dinner at a nearby restaurant. If conditions are poor, we will go straight to dinner. Meet Molly Cheung at 6:30 p.m., next to the snack bar. Skate rental available. This is the only skate

scheduled for the busy month of December.

Regular Friday outings commence the first week in January and will continue through February and possibly into March, depending on the weather. We will visit a different rink each week, skate for about 90 minutes and then head to a nearby restaurant. Skating gets started at 6:30 p.m. Please check

the Hotline, website or weekly Chain of Events email for rink locations and directions.

So get those edges sharpened, bundle up and join us for another fun season of skating and socializing.

—Molly Cheung, Ice Skating Coordinator



TBN Spinning at the Adelaide Club



USE IT OR LOSE IT!

You've worked hard all season to get in shape and now, as the weather gets colder, you're looking for a way to keep that fitness for ski season. Or perhaps you have a mid-winter cycling vacation planned. Or maybe you're just looking for a way to get a head start on all the other cyclists next spring!

Come and join your fellow TBN members for an invigorating

workout with Kim Chan, the spinning instructor at the Adelaide Club in First Canadian Place. Spinning classes provide the motivation of a group workout, while allowing you to adjust the resistance on your bike according to your own fitness level. The soundtrack of popular tunes, playing in the background, makes it easy to keep those legs moving.

The Adelaide Club offers TBN

members a great deal, at \$65+GST for the 8-week session. You can join halfway through a session for only \$32.50+GST (space permitting).

For more information about the classes and the exact location, please consult the TBN website www.tbn.on.ca/spinfaq or email spinning@tbn.on.ca

—Manuela Gobbato
TBN Spinning Coordinator



Cycling through Ireland

This past October, I made my first visit to Ireland. For me, it was the fulfillment of a decade-long growing fascination with Irish music, dance, history, landscape and culture. After making the decision to go this year, I thought of how I would spend my time in

“The people were friendly to me: farmers, road workers and even some motorists greeted me as I passed them on the bicycle.”

Ireland, and resolved to spend about a week touring by bicycle. I was propelled in this direction mainly by my reading of ‘Ireland, a Bicycle and a Tin Whistle’ by David Wilson, a

professor of Celtic studies at University of Toronto. It is an often witty, often insightful and thoroughly enjoyable account of the author’s journey on a bicycle around Ireland. In planning for this trip, I received from the Irish tourist office information about organized cycling tours. However, my trip in October was out of season for these tours, which obliged me to organize my own tour.

I made Galway my base of operations, and arranged to rent a bicycle for about a week. The first day with the bicycle (a Tuesday) I took it easy, cycling around the city and the nearby countryside, getting my bearings and getting acclimated with riding on the left side of the road. Galway is a small city compared to Toronto. The distance from city center to the countryside can be traversed in half an hour by bicycle at a moderate pace.

Wednesday I set off for Clonbur, about 30



Andrew and one of the locals at Clonbur

STAY IN THE LOOP:

Subscribe to TBN Chain of Events Update

Keep up to date: get all the details of the next seven days’ events published directly to your inbox every Tuesday by subscribing to TBN’s **weekly electronic bulletin**, Chain of Events Update. Also included are trip and social event information, civic affairs news, and a mini-calendar of significant events of interest to our members coming in the months ahead. You’ll also find links to the latest items posted to our messageboards, so you can pounce on those Buy & Sell items with a single mouseclick.

Subscribe by following these three simple steps:

Step One:

Send a blank e-mail to: tbn-subscribe@topica.com.

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A few minutes later you will receive an automated reply asking you to confirm your subscription by clicking on a link in the email. Click that link!

Step Three:

There is no step three! Seriously, just close your browser and ignore all that other stuff Topica wants you to do.

If you have any problems or questions, email info@tbn.on.ca.

TBN CHAIN OF EVENTS MOBILE EDITION

Carry TBN in your palm! Ever wished you could carry the TBN web site in your Personal Digital Assistant (PDA)? Now you can with TBN’s mobile edition web page. Get the latest information for the week’s events downloaded into your **Palm Pilot or Windows CE device** using Avantgo software. If you don’t have the software, it’s a free download from www.avantgo.com. Once you’ve installed the software, subscribe to the TBN mobile edition web page at www.tbn.on.ca/mobile and you’ll get the latest TBN information every time you sync your PDA. Thanks to our new Education Director, Loreto Manni, for suggesting this.

Ski Waxing Clinics at Velotique

Velotique is offering free Saturday morning ski waxing clinics starting in December. Waxing self-sufficiency is the goal and the clinics cover everything from selecting simple waxes, cleaning and application, to more advanced topics such as base prep and repair. The basic clinics are scheduled for Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Jan. 5, Jan. 12, Jan. 19. One advanced is scheduled for Jan. 26. All clinics

start at 9:00 a.m. sharp and last for one hour. Parking is available and it is not necessary to bring your skis.

Velotique is located at 1592 Queen St E., just one block west of Coxwell Ave. Space is limited, so register early by calling Saul or Bev, Velotique, 416-466-3171, email info@velotique.com, fax 416-465-8156 or drop by to secure your place.

destinations

miles north of Galway. It was the first time I had cycled with a bicycle loaded down with full panniers, so by the time I hit the last, slightly hilly stretch of road my legs were tired. As well, my legs were still recovering from the previous night of Irish set dancing. However, after about an hour's rest at the bed & breakfast in Clonbur, I was ready for more cycling. Without the panniers, the bicycle seemed as light as a feather. The next day I set off on the

centerpiece of my tour—cycling around Lough Mask, north of Clonbur. The wind was often blustery that day, but fortunately it was at my back when I traversed a hill pass along the route. The route then passed through the village of Tourmakeady on the west shore of the lake, and I took some time out from the main road to explore the ruins of an old church, and a nature trail leading to a lovely waterfall.

The next day I returned to Galway from Clonbur. It was the day that the fate that awaits all Irish bicyclists caught up to me: a light mist in the early morning turned into steady rain by mid-day, and I became thoroughly soaked. Fortunately I had a dry set of clothes in my

panniers, which I changed into early that afternoon at the bed & breakfast in Galway. The rest of the day was given over to the pleasures of

Galway on a Friday afternoon: the shopping, the buzz of people in the streets, the music in the streets and in the pubs, and the Guinness.

For my last day of cycling in Ireland, I took the ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. The island is studded with ancient monuments: pre-Christian stone forts, stone 'beehive' hermit huts and the ruins of

old churches. It was a delight to tramp through the countryside to explore these sites, using the bicycle to get from site to site.

All in all, I found cycling in Ireland to be quite enjoyable. The weather, though often wet and sometimes windy, was perfect temperature-wise, and did not hamper my plans. A

combination of good maps and (with a few exceptions) good signposting made navigation easy. The people were friendly to me: farmers, road workers and even some motorists greeted me as I passed them on the bicycle. The major challenge for me was the narrowness of the roads. Often, a mere eight inches of paved shoulder was provided, girding lanes that provide scant margin between traffic in opposite directions. Vehicle traffic was frequent, and obliged me to steer my bicycle carefully along the narrow shoulders.

The aspect I most enjoyed about the trip was the sense of accomplishment. The success of the tour was the result of planning and preparation. No particular task was in itself difficult. The information needed to plan the trip was available from the Internet, in bookstores and from the Irish tourist bureau. Preparation for the trip was just a matter of attention to detail, like clothing, accessories and accommodation. However, they paved the way for a relatively trouble-free tour, and it is with a sense of pride that I think back on my accomplishments whilst cycling in Ireland.

—Andrew Tron



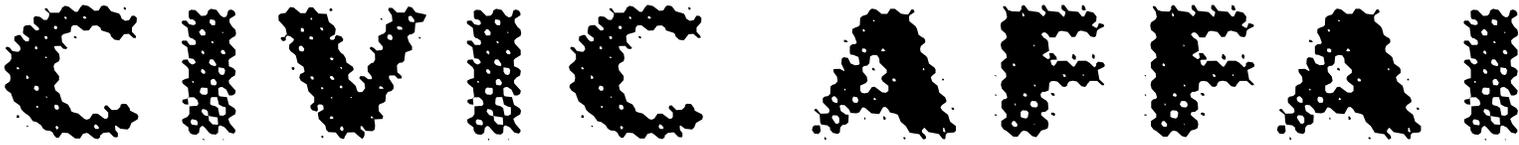
Ruins of an old church, Tourmakeady, Co. Mayo



Finny River Valley, Co. Mayo. Lough Nafaoey is in the foreground

All Photos: Andrew Tron

Celtic crosses at the graveyard of the Seven Churches, Inishmore



Toronto Bike Plan Budget: The Game Begins

As the cycling season winds down for some of us, the members of the Toronto Cycling Committee (TCC) are entering a new season—budget season. We play the game under the other dome, at Toronto City Hall. It starts in September and should finish in March with the approval of the final city budget. At stake for the TCC is the funding for the Bike Plan projects for the year 2002.

City staff start the ball rolling as each department prepares their budget. The TCC is mainly concerned with the budgets of the Works and Emergency Services Department (WES), the Parks and Recreation Division of the Economic Development Culture and Tourism Department (EDCT) and with that of Urban Development Services (UDS). WES is responsible for bike lanes and signed routes, as well as other cycling infrastructure such as bike parking. WES



Martin Koob

will also build some of the off road paths along boulevards, and hydro and rail corridors. EDCT is responsible for bike paths in parks and the UDS budget pays for Bike Week, the Road and Trail Ambassador program, the administration of CanBike courses, and other bicycle safety and promotion programs.

At the time of this writing the WES, EDCT and UDS department budget submissions are not

public, so I cannot give the final figures here. The staff report that accompanied the Bike Plan, projects 2002 expenditures of \$1.5 million for WES capital projects, \$1.0 million for EDCT capital projects and \$450,000 for operating expenses. That last figure breaks down to \$300,000 for projects under the UDS budget and \$150,000 for other operating costs including the production of the

Bike Map, an annual cycling guide, surveys and research, and Bike and Ride transit program implementation. Again, I do not have the final numbers, but I will update the BikeToronto message board (www.tbn.on.ca/biketoronto) when they become available.

In developing its budget submission, WES has presented the TCC with a list of about 40 priority projects for 2002. Many of these projects are small scale, easier to do and less expensive—mostly bike lanes and signed routes. There are a few larger projects—boulevard and corridor paths—proposed, but these need time to get the necessary planning and approvals done. In this, the first year of the bike plan implementation, there has not been the lead-time to be ready to start construction next year. However, there is money in the proposed WES budget for 2002 to begin planning some of these larger projects, for construction in future years. In the planning stages, for example, are a bike path in the Finch Hydro Corridor from Black Creek to the East Don River, and a continuation of the bike lane on Royal York Rd. from Dundas St. to Lakeshore Blvd. I will not list all of the projects here, but I will post details as I get them to the BikeToronto message board.

There will be opponents on City Council to directing this money toward cycling and the Bike Plan projects. Fortunately, the budget planning exercise is not a spectator sport and there are many opportunities for audience participation—you do not have to sit on the

Thank You TBN-Friendly Businesses!

As the year wraps up, the TBN would like to extend whole hearted thanks to the many businesses whose generosity contributed to the success of this year's events. It is wonderful to see that businesses such as these listed here are willing to make donations which assist the TBN by adding value to club membership, and by putting smiles on a few extra faces.

The **Cardioloft** donated spinning classes and **Urbane Cyclist** donated cycling related items for the "Prize Pack" given to a lucky new club member at the Toronto International Bike Show in March.

For Cyclon 2001, the **Cardioloft** donated \$250 cash toward the Cyclon 2001 souvenir

waterbottles. **Sporting Life** donated \$250 in gift certificates; **FitFix Health and Wellness** donated \$200 in personal training sessions; **Velotique**, **Chain Reaction Bicycles**, **Mountain Equipment Co-op**, **Wakefield B&B** and **Inn the Woods B&B** donated a variety of items—all of which were given as prizes at the Cyclon Banquet and Dance. **Bell Mobility** donated cell phone equipment and service for the Cyclon Bike Bus.

Draw prizes at the Annual Fall Dinner Dance and AGM came from **FitFix Health and Wellness**, who donated \$200 in personal training sessions, and **Cyclepath** (Yonge and Eglinton) who donated a \$150 gift certificate.

Norco offered a number of items at cost that were given away at a variety of

events—remember those patch kits handed out with your burger at the BBQ?

The TBN would like to extend special recognition and appreciation to the people at **Urbane Cyclist**, especially **Nancy Kendrew**, for graciously handling TBN jersey sales for the past two years.

THANK YOU to all of you for your generous contributions to our club and for being so TBN-Friendly!!

—Brenda Porter

Psssst..... Club members: next time you drop by one of the shops and businesses noted here, consider giving an extra smile and thanking them for supporting TBN as you walk out the door with your purchases.

RES REPORT

sidelines. The budgets of the City Departments go to the Budget Advisory Committee in November. From there, they move to the various standing committees for review. At the standing committees, there will be opportunities for residents of Toronto to make deputations to the committees. You can also make your views known

“There will be opponents on City Council... Fortunately, the budget planning exercise is not a spectator sport and there are many opportunities for audience participation.”

at this time by writing to the committee or by contacting your local Councillor. The respective standing committees will review their departmental budgets in January of 2002. The WES budget will go to the Works Committee and deputations will occur on January 15th and 22nd. The EDCT budget goes to the Economic Development and Parks Committee. Deputations will occur on January 21st and 25th. The UDS budget goes to the Planning and Transportation Committee. The

deputations will occur on January 14th and 18th. Each of these committees hears deputations over two days on a number of different items. (Right now we do not know the exact dates and times that the Bike Plan items will come up for discussion. As those dates draw near, I will post more information on the BikeToronto message board.)

The standing committees may modify the proposed budgets. They may cut funding and projects that staff have proposed. This is the stage where last year the funding for the TCC and cycling projects was inadvertently cut. (Thankfully, funding was restored later in the process.)

These revised budgets then go to the Budget Advisory committee. It meets jointly with the Planning and Finance Committee and hears another round of deputations on February 18. They can make changes to the budgets and restore funds cut at the standing committees or

cut funds formerly approved by the standing committees.

The budget then goes to the special City Council budget meeting from March 4-8. This is the last opportunity to make changes and where the final budget is set.

It will be a challenge to get all of the funds for the Bike Plan approved. The members of the TCC will be working to make the case for these projects, but **we need your help**. Letters, telephone calls and e-mails from constituents carry a lot of weight in councillors' offices. Deputations before standing committee meetings by members of the general public show that there is public support for these projects. If I can wear out my sports analogy with one last cliché, this is going to be a team effort.

—Martin Koob
TBN-TCC Representative

Useful Resources on the World Wide Web

- Biketoronto Messageboard: www.tbn.on.ca/biketoronto
- Toronto Cycling Committee: www.city.toronto.on.ca/cycling
- Toronto Bike Plan: www.city.toronto.on.ca/cycling/bikeplan.htm
- Velo-Ontario www.velontario.ca

Velo-Ontario: Quietly Building Momentum

Velo-Ontario is a new, non-profit organization created as an advocate for bicycle safety, education and facilities, with a mission to promote the interests of Ontario cyclists. Ongoing projects include development of a Provincial Cycling Route Network—an idea any touring cyclist can get behind. Velo-Ontario hopes to become the new voice for recreational and utilitarian cyclists in the Province, taking over from the Ontario Cycling Association which has concerned itself primarily with competitive cycling pursuits in recent years.

This group of volunteers, drawn mainly from regional cycling advocates and CanBike adherents, has held five meetings since its

inaugural session in St. Catharines in 1999, covering venues in Toronto, London and Hamilton. The next meeting is scheduled in Toronto on Saturday Feb. 9, 2002. Meetings are open to all interested parties, although there is usually a conference fee to help cover the cost of facility rental and refreshments. Exact time, location and agenda are still to be determined. Look for an update on the Velo-Ontario web site: www.velontario.ca, or in TBN Chain of Events Update. —Ed.

Cycling Economics in NYC

"Well, my bike got stolen again. This was bike #15. That is, the 15th bike I've had stolen in about 30 years. Roughly one bike every two years. Not bad really. Not for New York City. I

travel an average of five miles a day, five days a week, 50 weeks a year. Racks up to about 2,500 miles per bike. I have no gas costs, no license and registration fees, no insurance premiums, no parking tickets, no taxi fares, no inspection payoffs, nothing except the expense of my entirely disposable adipose tissue. I have no problem with the theft of my bike on a fairly regular basis. I think of it as a kind of indirect municipal tax."

From 'The Bicycle Thieves'
by Tony Hendra
Forbes FYI Fall 2001

—submitted by Doug Innes

Weekend Getaways



Dec 30-Jan 1: New Year's Eve at Hollyburn Lodge

Come spend New Year's Eve in a rustic but comfortable lodge in the heart of the Muskokas. If you like skiing, skating, singing, dancing, games, fireplaces, hot tubs, good food and great company, then this is the trip for you. Cost: \$170/members; \$180/non-members, which includes two nights accommodation and all meals. Cheques must be received by Dec. 14. Contact David Maclean, 416-482-8033; newyears@tbn.on.ca

Jan 18-20: Haliburton Highlands Ski Weekend

Haliburton Highlands boasts Ontario's biggest and best Nordic Ski System featuring over 80 km of world class cross-country ski trails. The Wigamog Inn, a full service resort, is beautifully situated at the trail's edge and on the shores of Kashagawigamog Lake west of Haliburton. Ski, skate, soak in the whirlpool, enjoy a brew at the bar or curl up with a book in front of the woodburning stone fireplace. Come early Friday to enjoy an extra day of skiing for only the cost of a trail pass (optional). Cost: \$189 for members and \$199 for non-members (shared occupancy), which includes two nights accommodation, two breakfasts, two dinners, 1 day pass to ski trails, plus free access to indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, skating, billiards, and more. Ski rentals available for an additional \$15 per day. Downhill skiing available at Sir Sams Resort 20 minutes drive away. Cheques must be received by December 27, 2001.

Contact: Brenda Porter 416-694-3272; haliburton@tbn.on.ca

They don't organize themselves!

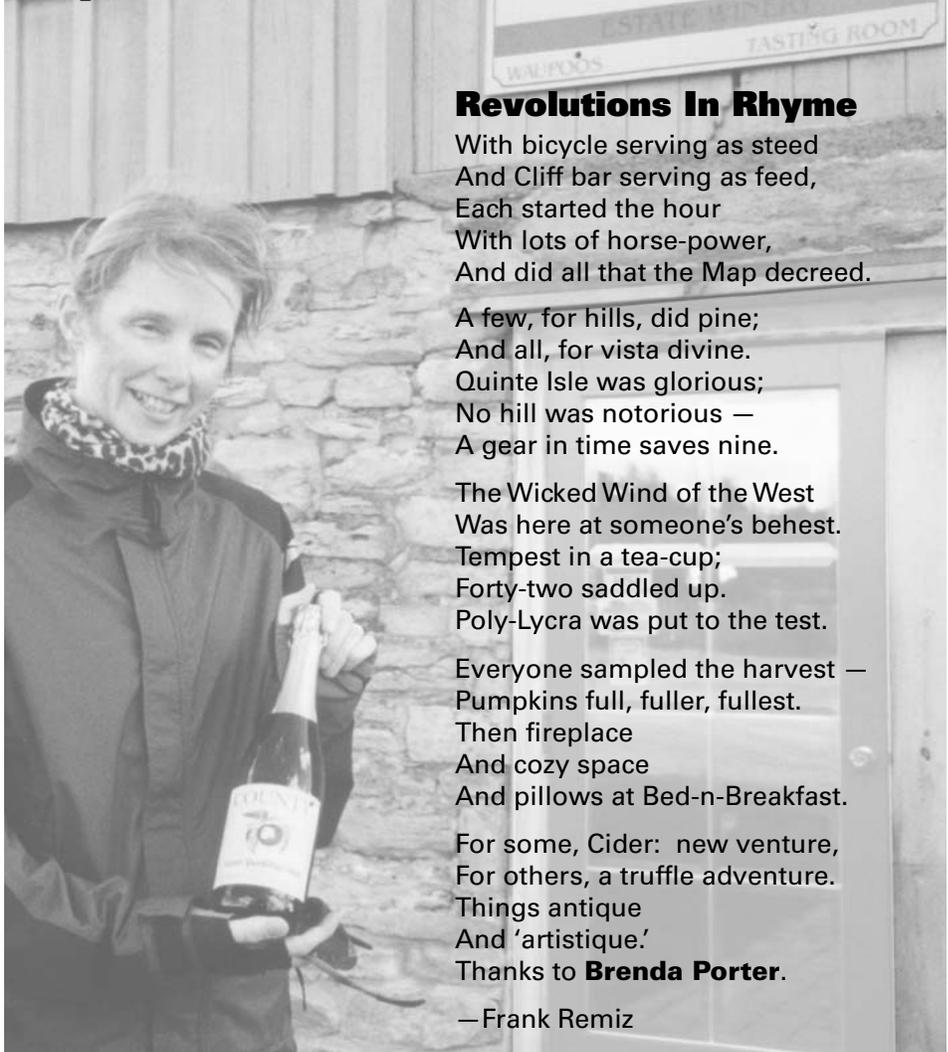
Every year TBN offers over a dozen affordable, high-quality trips to its members. Over the next two months, we will be pulling together our schedule for spring and summer 2002. If you want to help organize one of our existing trips or have an idea for something new and different, contact **Joshua Wolman**, Weekend Trips Director, 416-780-1683; trips@tbn.on.ca.

Feb 1-3: Silent Lake Sojourn

Enjoy the natural beauty and tranquillity of the southern Haliburton region. We'll be staying at the Old Pine Lodge located in Silent Lake Provincial Park, with 56 km of groomed trails at your doorstep. Meals not included. Saturday dinner will be a group effort. Cost: \$95 members/\$105 non-members. Cheques must be received by Jan. 18. Includes two nights accommodation at the lodge, trailpass, evening bonfire with hot beverages, night skiing expedition with headlamps, singing, dancing and good times! Ski and snowshoe rentals available.

Contact: Ron Fletcher, 416-461-9695.

Prince Edward County Thanksgiving B&B Report Poem



Revolutions In Rhyme

With bicycle serving as steed
And Cliff bar serving as feed,
Each started the hour
With lots of horse-power,
And did all that the Map decreed.

A few, for hills, did pine;
And all, for vista divine.
Quinte Isle was glorious;
No hill was notorious —
A gear in time saves nine.

The Wicked Wind of the West
Was here at someone's behest.
Tempest in a tea-cup;
Forty-two saddled up.
Poly-Lycra was put to the test.

Everyone sampled the harvest —
Pumpkins full, fuller, fullest.
Then fireplace
And cozy space
And pillows at Bed-n-Breakfast.

For some, Cider: new venture,
For others, a truffle adventure.
Things antique
And 'artistique.'
Thanks to **Brenda Porter**.

—Frank Remiz