



the cyclists' vehicle

newsletter of the
Edmonton Bicycle Commuters

Fall 1990 Issue

**Annual General Meeting
Announcement**

Sunday, November 11

**Workshops @ 3:00 p.m.
Business @ 7:00 p.m.**

**The Learner Centre
10920 88 Avenue**

**See the A.G.M. Article Inside for
Details**

**Proposed Bylaw Changes
By Steven Talman
President, EBC**

The Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society was formed ten years ago, and until the past three years remained a relatively small organization. Perseverance seems to have paid off, as we now have over 600 members, and at least some receptive ears in the city administration. The rapid growth of the EBC has revealed both anachronisms and inadequacies in the existing bylaws of the society. These concerns have been addressed in a new set of bylaws which were drafted by two EBC members with extensive experience in non-profit societies, and two EBC board members. The board of directors has approved the submission of these proposed bylaws to the membership for their consideration and adoption at the AGM.

The greatest difference between the existing bylaws and the proposed changes are in sections 3, 4 and 7. The process of electing a Board of Directors is poorly described in the existing bylaws and the term is only one year. The duties of the board have been altered considerably, there are fewer duties of the board in the proposed bylaws; however, the remaining duties are more vital.

Finally, section 7 has been altered to ensure that the general membership can have input into board policies, both at regular board meetings and general meetings. Copies of the existing bylaws will be available for perusal at the EBC offices, call 433-2453 for this week's hours.

Predictions on the AGM

By John Collier

Ben Sauve Safe Cycling Award

On October 5, 1987, Ben Sauve was killed in a bicycle accident while riding home from Victoria Composite High School. He was knocked down by a Greyhound Bus, run over, and instantly killed.

In his honour, his family and friends wish to establish an annual award to promote bicycle safety in Edmonton. The award of \$500.00 will be granted in June of each year to an individual or group who have especially facilitated safe cycling in the city. Applications should be made to EBC before June 1, 1991. Anyone wishing to contribute to the Ben Sauve Safe Cycling Fund may do so at the EBC.

Bike Works Works

By Martin Connors

I had the unnerving experience of starting out on a bike ride only to have my derailleur fall off. Even more unnerving was heading down to the local bike shop to try to buy a spring with which to repair it. "Nope, they don't make them that way anymore and we don't have the springs", I was told. "The new upgraded model in that line will cost you \$186. Of course we do have cheaper ones starting at \$38." Going home to ponder what to do, I noticed in my Cyclist's Vehicle that the Bike Works would be open on Saturday. I waited until then and headed on down, to find Bernie and Jack helping several people with repairs. Bernie took a look and pronounced the spring in good enough condition. In fact, all I needed was three hands to get the thing back together properly, and Bernie provided two of them! This proved to me immediately the vision Tooker and early executives had in setting up the Bike Works. And my Scottish side was quite pleased that \$38 minus the \$15 membership fee still left \$23 in my sporran.

So use the Bike Works. Better yet, if you know how to repair bikes, volunteer for it!

New Bike Works Hours are: Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This year, we on the board of directors thought it would be nice to have, for a change, an interesting Annual General Meeting. Rather than a seemingly endless succession of bald-headed men reading reports so boring that one can't stay awake even by trying to enliven things by imagining them naked (an old university trick), we are making the four following changes.

First, and most importantly, reports will be written and available for your perusal and the bald-headed men will only give brief outlines and will be ready to answer any erudite or witty queries which you might have. So the Year in Retrospective should zip right along.

Secondly, if the membership chooses to adopt the proposed amendment to EBC's bylaws, then elections will be a breeze as we will elect a board and they can fight it out about who takes care of the EBC seal (most of our budget is fish), and who gets to call one's self "Prez".

Thirdly and most excitedly, we are going to have Interesting Workshops on a wide variety of subjects. Why even Dr. Ruth might learn a thing or two! There will be workshops on very basic things like "How to Repair a Flat Tire" (a small subgroup of Philosophers will study Why) and "Gee Marsha What are Those Funny Levers for Anyway" (on gears and how to use them). For the enlightened, there will be a workshop on "How to Bring Light to a Dark Land," or in other words how to put together a rechargeable lighting system with modest funds. Also (a quiet hush descends upon the anointed ones), Peter Heppleston the Director of Facility Planning and Programming for the City of Edmonton Transportation Department will be on hand to present the City's forthcoming Comprehensive Bicycle Plan. He wants to hear from you! If you want things changed in this city, here is a golden opportunity.

Finally, the last Very Good Reason Why You Should Come is that between the workshops and the business sections we are going to have a Pizza Social Time. Here, while you pull cheese from your beloved's hair, you can meet such legends as Steve "the Prez" Talman, T.G. the Green wonder, Waterlogged Andy, Ron the Wrench, Father John, Action Angela, and other luminaries of we're not too sure what!

Bicycles on Campus Committee at University of Alberta

By Martin Connors

I was recently appointed as EBC representative on the U of A BOCC. As such I will represent cycle commuters' interests to the committee and see what can be done to meet our needs. If you have any points to be made to the committee, please call me at 435-8761, or 492-3713 during the day.

The committee seems quite receptive to input and within the limits of the U of A at the moment (budgets, space, etc.) is trying to meet cyclists' needs. The flip side is of course enforcement but to a certain extent this is also necessary, and complaints about enforcement can also be fed back through me should any arise.

Specific areas being addressed, and on which I would like response at or before the annual General Meeting, are upgrading of 112 Street and 115 Street access to the University, and also access from the LRT bridge. Installation of bike racks has also proceeded at a rapid pace, but not quite as rapid as the growth of the cycle population. If enough people identify a problem area for bike parking, it is possible to request racks in that area. Normally building superintendents make these requests, but they could also be directed through me.

Please whether student or staff, give me input!



Musings on Sidewalk Riding By John Collier

I know this is going to be a sensitive issue, and I am presenting my opinion on the subject in a manner which I hope will make it clearer why it is not only illegal to ride on the sidewalks, but dangerous for the cyclist as well.

First a little history on the origins of the City of Edmonton bylaw #5590 which prohibits bicycles with wheels larger than 20 inches from the sidewalks, unless otherwise posted. As you may have noticed it is a City of Edmonton bylaw, not a provincial statute; in many places in Alberta it is legal to ride on the sidewalks. The present bylaw was based on bylaws dating from the late nineteenth century, when there were no cars, and bicycles were the fastest and cheapest transportation available. The problem then was that speedy cyclists were using the sidewalks, or rather boardwalks at the then incredible speeds of ten or fifteen miles an hour, and endangered the safety of pedestrians. So the bicycles were restricted to the roads with the horses and trolleys. The twenty inch rule is so that children can still ride on the sidewalks with their smaller bicycles. The present bylaw still reflects this idea that it is unsafe for the pedestrian to allow bicycles on the sidewalk.

Secondly, let us look at it from the point of view of the pedestrian. I am sure all of us have stories of close calls with bicycles as we are walking, and some, unfortunately, have had harrowing collisions. A prime example of this is the little girl who was run over and seriously injured on Whyte Avenue this summer. I know that when I go for walks with my little pumpkin (4 years old), I constantly have to watch out for bicyclists, as she certainly doesn't. Along every sidewalk there are literally hundreds of danger areas: shop entrances, alley ways, people suddenly veering one way or the other, people getting out of cars, baby strollers, small unpredictable children ; the list is enormous. Why I'd rather ride in the Indy 500 on my bike than on a sidewalk!

I can now hear everyone saying, "But Father John, it is more dangerous on the road with the cars than on the sidewalks!" What you are really saying is that you feel safer on the sidewalk. Here comes the big bomb; it is statistically proven that you are safer riding on the road with traffic than on the sidewalk. On top of all the dangers of clobbering a pedestrian or sign post, there is the added danger of cars hitting you in the crosswalks and alleyways. A car driver is looking for pedestrians when he approaches a crosswalk and doesn't look far enough to take in the fact of a bicycle's higher speed. On Saturday the twenty second of September on Whyte Avenue a cyclist was seriously injured when a car leaving the A&W hit him or her. When I went by the cyclist was lying in pool of blood and not moving. I can see it all now, the car driver looked left then right and didn't see a any pedestrians. Looking at the traffic they saw a hole they could squeeze into and punched the gas. The cyclist thought the driver would yield and with more boldness than a Greek god continued on his or her way.

When you ride on the road with traffic, obey all of the rules of the road just as a car driver does. You reduce your chances of having an accident significantly. You are visible, as there are no sign posts or parked cars to obscure you, and you are where the driver is looking. You

General Announcements

Bike Racks for Sale: The EBC has some bicycle parking racks that will hold eight bikes. Price is \$ 40.00 per rack, plus delivery, if necessary.

Bike Works Hours: Yes, they've changed them again. They are now: Wednesday nights; 6:00 - 8:00
Saturday afternoons; 12:00 - 4:00

Editor's note on the lighting presentation at the AGM: As one of the people who is expected to help put this on, I wanted to mention that there is no such thing as an inexpensive and powerful lighting system. What I will be presenting is a low cost tail light subassembly that draws minimal power. A personal recommendation for those seeking the least expensive but most serious lighting systems available, is to go to the **Hardcore Mountain Bike Store**, 10105 - 82 ave. (rear) 439-4599.

Vote Early, Vote Often Annual General Meeting Means Elections; Run For Newsletter Editor

Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors can be submitted to the nominating committee, c/o EBC, 10701 - 85 Ave. , T6E 2K9.

All Board Positions will be open for elections. Include your name (member in good standing) and the name(s) of nominees (member in good standing). Nominees must be present at the A.G.M. or give written notice of their intention to run. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the A.G.M.

Save the Becaks

Since hearing the news from Jakarta, Indonesia of the local government's decision to remove the remaining 8000 becaks (trishaws) from the streets of that city, many of us reacted with surprise and questions. The Jakarta government is urging its people to obtain licenses to drive motorised vehicles. If you are concerned, please send your thoughts and ideas to those officials in Jakarta. The address is:

Lieutenant-General Wiyogo Atmodarminto
Governor of Jakarta
Jalan Merdeka Smelapan, #8
Jakarta, Pusat
Indonesia

are more predictable, as the car driver expects you to obey the rules of the road allowing you to turn, proceed or stop safely.

Now should everyone dash out on the roads and byways and never ride on a sidewalk again? Yes and no. Never do anything that you don't feel comfortable with. Work up to things slowly on side streets, then gradually try busier and busier traffic. Jasper Avenue during rush hour is nowhere to start, but maybe on a Sunday afternoon would be okay. We have several CanBike instructors in town who run courses, and you should take one! You would be amazed by what you would learn. I know I was. So do like I do on sidewalks and walk your bike. You'll live longer.

EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS SOCIETY

PROPOSED BYLAWS

1. Name

The official name of the Society is: EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS SOCIETY.

2. Membership

a) General. Membership of the Society shall be open to all individuals interested in cycling in the Edmonton region.

b) Categories. The membership shall consist of:

i) Regular Membership. All new members shall be considered Regular Members.

ii) Honorary Membership. An honorary membership may be conferred upon those who have notably contributed to the Society, or to the cycling community. Recommendation for such an award shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the Society (hereinafter referred to as the Board).

iii) Members in Good Standing. Regular members who have been members for at least one calendar month and any honorary members shall be considered members in good standing.

c) Dues.

i) Dues shall be set by, and revised at the discretion of, the Board.

ii) There shall be no dues levied against the category Honorary Membership.

d) Privileges.

i) Members in good standing shall be entitled to one vote at all general meetings of the Society (at which they are present).

ii) Members in good standing may be nominated for election to the Board.

iii) Members may participate in all scheduled events of the Society.

iv) Members will receive, free of charge, the newsletter of the Society and other publications as approved by the Board.

e) Responsibilities. Members shall be expected to:

i) Encourage the use of the bicycle as a healthy, economical, and ecologically sound means of transportation.

ii) Display courtesy, good sense and concern for the safety of others and self while cycling.

f) Arrears. Any member in arrears in payment of membership dues shall forfeit all privileges of membership forthwith until payment of such arrears is brought up to date.

g) Resignation. A member may resign membership in the Society by providing written notification to the Secretary of the Society.

h) Termination.

i) A member may be expelled by the Board where substantial evidence indicates that the member is a liability to the Society.

ii) Notice shall be mailed to the expelled member within seven days of the decision of the Board, explaining the reason or reasons for the expulsion by the Board.

iii) Until re-instated, the expelled member shall forfeit all membership privileges, and shall forfeit all membership dues paid for the current financial year.

iv) Expulsion may be appealed at a General Meeting which shall be called within six weeks of the mailing of the next newsletter, or three months from the date of the receipt of the appeal, whichever is the shorter time. Should quorum not be achieved, the appeal will be deferred until the next General Meeting of the Society.

3. Election of the Board of Directors.

a) The election of the Board shall take place at the Annual General Meeting of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society (hereinafter referred to as the AGM).

b) The Chair of the Nominations Committee shall present the names of all nominees, who are members in goodstanding, which

have been submitted to the committee for consideration at the AGM. Any member may nominate from the floor any member in good standing who is present at the meeting, or who has indicated in writing his/her willingness to serve.

- c) Election shall be by secret ballot. All members in good standing who are present at the AGM shall be eligible to vote. Ballots with more names than the number of directors to be elected shall be deemed to be spoiled.
- d) The ten elected members of the Board shall normally hold office for two years, or until their successors have been elected. Five Board members shall be elected at each AGM unless there are vacancies on the Board. When vacancies occur the five persons receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for a full two year term, the remaining elected members shall serve a one year term. Should the board not be defined after the first ballot, a runoff election will be held.
- e) No board member who has served four years or more consecutively shall be eligible for re-election.
- f) Candidates for election to the Board must satisfy the minimum legal requirements to serve on the Board.

4. Duties of the Board.

- a) The Board is required to hold a meeting, which shall be convened and chaired by an Interim Chair who shall be an outgoing Board member or a member-at-large, within one calendar month of the AGM. At this meeting, the Board shall elect a President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. The duties of the Interim Chair shall terminate on completion of the election of Officers.
- b) The Board is responsible for the management of the business affairs of the Society.
- c) The Board shall organize and prepare the program for all meetings of the Society.
- d) The Board shall appoint committees which may be necessary for carrying out the activities of the Society.
- e) The Board shall temporarily fill any vacancies on the Board until they can be filled by election at the AGM.
- f) The Board shall provide a full report on the financial position and activities of the Society at the AGM.

5. Duties of the Officers of the Board.

- a) The President shall act as the executive head of the Society and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- b) The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
- c) The duties of the Secretary shall include:
 - i) Safe keeping of the Seal of the Society.
 - ii) Ensuring that minutes of all meetings are accurately recorded.
 - iii) Conduct or oversee the correspondence of the Society.
- d) The duties of the Treasurer shall include:
 - i) Ensuring that an accurate account of the Society's financial status is maintained.
 - ii) Presenting a financial statement at every Board Meeting and at the AGM.
 - iii) Overseeing the preparation of a proposed budget for the next fiscal year for presentation and adoption at the AGM.

6. Remuneration.

No Board Member shall receive any remuneration for services to the Society.

7. Meetings.

- a) Board Meetings. The President shall call meetings of the Board whenever necessary. Seven days notice of such meetings shall be given, either personally or in writing, to each member concerned. All Board Meetings shall be open to the General Membership.
- b) Special Meetings. Any member in good standing of the Society may request a Special Board Meeting by presenting the Secretary with a petition signed by twenty members in good standing setting forth the reasons for calling such a meeting. The Special Board Meeting must be held within fourteen days of receipt of said petition. Should the concerns addressed in said petition not be resolved, a General Meeting may be called according to procedures for calling a General Meeting, unless the petitioners cover the costs associated with informing the Membership.

- c) General Meetings. At least fourteen days notice of General Meetings shall be given in the Society's newsletter.
- d) Annual General Meeting. The AGM shall be held on or before December 31st of each year, at a time and place designated by the Board. All such Annual General Meetings shall be open.
- e) Quorum. Any five Board Members who are physically present shall constitute a quorum for any properly convened Board Meeting. Quorum at a General Meeting shall be the lesser of either thirty members in good standing or five percent of the membership.
- e) Quorum. (alternate) Any five Board Members who are physically present shall constitute a quorum for any properly convened Board Meeting. Quorum at a General Meeting shall be the lesser of either twenty members in good standing or five percent of the membership.

8. Finances.

- a) All funds of the Society shall be deposited in a Chartered Bank, Trust Company or Credit Union and payments made by cheque, signed by two officers of the Board.
- b) The books and records of the Society shall be held by the Treasurer or an officer of the Board designated by the Treasurer and may be inspected by any member of the Society upon receipt of forty eight hours notice.
- c) The Treasurer shall recommend a qualified auditor to the AGM for appointment. Failing this, the board shall be empowered to appoint an auditor. The auditor may be a member of the Society.
- d) The auditor's annual financial statement shall be made available by the Treasurer to all members at the AGM, and at other times upon special request.
- e) Within thirty days of the anniversary of incorporation of the Society (August 8, 1980), a copy of the Annual Report of the Society along with a financial statement in the form of a balance sheet shall be filed with the Registrar of Companies. This statement shall be audited by the Society's auditor and contain particulars of the assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenditures of the Society.

9. Borrowing Powers.

For the purposes of carrying out its objectives, the Society may borrow, raise or secure the payment of money (which includes issuing debentures). This power shall be exercised only by a special resolution of the Society.

10. Custody and Use of the Seal.

The Secretary of the Society shall have charge of the seal of the Society, should the Society require a seal. The signature of the Secretary shall be used to authenticate the seal.

11. Changes in Bylaws.

- a) The Bylaws of the Society may be amended, revised or repealed by a vote of not less than two thirds of the voting members of the Society attending any General Meeting.
- b) Notice of such amendment, revision or repeal shall be mailed to all members at least twenty one days before the date of the meeting.

Mystery Urban Planners Strike

For a short period of time, there was a new and unofficial bike lane in Edmonton. It was a late night job, and not too straight, but it highlighted a problem which has been on many peoples minds for quite some time. The site of this cyclists' route du jour is, of course, the 88th Avenue access to Saskatchewan Drive and 109th Street. It is a one way westbound route for less than a block, but a section of road relatively untravalled by cars, and it directly leads to the most popular bike escape from the campus core.

There are a few different points of view on what should be done., as it is a one way street. The Edmonton Police Service thought that the best solution would be to set up a toll charge, but their prices are quite out of line. Officials at City Hall are divided, as are the officials at EBC. If you are concerned, the Advocacy Committee at EBC would like to hear from you.

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