



The Derailleur

TRAILBLAZERS Tandem Cycling Club

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From the President

LYNDA SPINNEY

On behalf of the TRAILBLAZERS executive, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Blaze-a-Thon to help us raise funds for our constantly increasing maintenance cost and repairs.

I would like to call attention to the McCue family; Paul, Patrick and Chris for being there every year with their on-going sponsorship and support of our annual Blaze-a-Thon. Each year the McCue family supplies the participants with submarine sandwiches, fresh fruit, and cold drinks. A special thanks to Chris McCue for standing in and doing it alone this year, while Paul and Patrick were on vacation.

We would like to extend our thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped out in the morning: Caroline Strutt, Susan Pinder, Victor Spinney, and Kathleen Billard.

Also, we can't forget to recognize the efforts of our Operations Manager for all his hard work in collecting, arranging and seeing to the maintenance of our tandems to suit each rider's needs.

We need to recognize some companies for their outstanding generosity and level of sponsorship. When shopping, let's support our sponsors:

1. Tactile Vision Inc.

"Pedal Pusher" – \$250 to sponsor a rider: Tactile Vision will receive a complimentary club T-shirt and bag.

2. Urbane Cyclists

"Chain Link" – \$100 or gift in kind (a women's and a men's helmets) Urbane Cyclist will receive a club nylon drawstring bag.

NOTE: if a person donated \$100 or more, they will receive a complimentary club nylon bag.

SPONSORS FOR THE TRAILBLAZERS 2012 BLAZE-A-THON

ABLETECH Solutions Inc.

Bargains Group

Canadian Tire (Cedarbrae Mall)

Curves (Yonge & Eglinton)

Frontier Computing

Grazie Ristorante

Humanware

Max Revolutions

Metro (Yonge & Eglinton)

Mountain Equipment Coop

Pedal Magazine

Swiss Chalet (Don Mills)

Tactile Vision Inc.

Urbane Cyclists

Velotique

25 YEARS...

Help the TRAILBLAZERS celebrate 25 years by purchasing your own club T-shirt and drawstring bag. They are available by contacting anyone on the executive or calling (416) 460-2700.

Mechanic: Ron Gumbs

Ron has served as our volunteer mechanic in recent years. He has decided to go back to school and his current schedule has left him with very little spare time, let alone time to work on bikes. TRAILBLAZERS is losing a dedicated and trusted mechanic.

On behalf of the club, I would like to say a personal "Thank you" for your exemplary service all these years and we wish you the all best.

As a result of Ron's departure, we are looking for mechanics. Please e-mail:

info@torontotrailblazers.org

Annual Captains' Appreciation Picnic

Another celebration on the horizon is our Annual Captains' Appreciation Picnic that is being held on Sunday, July 29th at Sherwood Park.

Members please come out and show your appreciation to the captains and thank them for their devotion and time. Come and meet new captains, new stokers, or reconnect with previous riders. A fun time is guaranteed for all.

Cost: Members, friends and family is \$15. For tickets, contact anyone on the executive.

CLUB INFO

City Of Toronto Grant:

The TRAILBLAZERS were informed a short while ago that we were granted our request for a Recreational Grant with the city of Toronto in the amount of \$8,285. This money will be directed to a paid staff for outreach and a renovation project that is in the works to supply our east end members with a shed to store tandems, instead of renting.

Presently, we are working with Parks, Forestry & Recreation in search of a small piece of land to locate our new shed.

Members and captains, should you see any property that looks inviting and suitable please call (416) 456-7117 or email us at:

info@torontotrailblazers.org

Good News for Our East End Members:

Through our City of Toronto Recreational Grant, we can pay for a temporary east end location.

You can now cycle from Scarborough. The TRAILBLAZERS has rented 2 bike lockers from the Victoria Park Bike Station which is located directly beneath the Victoria Park Subway at street level. Stokers will have their usual access to the stations via keys and security fobs. It is imperative to remember, when taking a bike, you are to lock the remaining bike thoroughly; feed the kryptonite cable through the front and rear wheels, as well as the frame and the locker.

Unfortunately, we cannot leave any supplies on the bikes. But we have enquired about lockers being installed for this location. Hopefully soon, they are looking into it. Provisions for our tandems will be supplied through our stokers for now.

Simcoe Muskoka TRAILBLAZERS

The TRAILBLAZERS have been working with member Judy German and a group of riders in the Orillia and Barrie area to establish a tandem riding club based on our club's model. They are called the Simcoe Muskoka TRAILBLAZERS.

Currently, we are supplying them with 2 tandems for 3 or 4 months while they are in the process of being established. A self-storage location has been rented for the summer to serve as a shed. The six members from there have paid Toronto TRAILBLAZERS membership fees for the same access to ride these bikes as all members here, and the same rules apply to them as they do here in Toronto.

If any Toronto members are in that area, they are more than welcome to ride, provided they book with Judy German at (905) 259 2914.

Video:

A new release for the TRAILBLAZERS video which was funded with monies from the City of Toronto AEHR Grant soon be posted on our website.

A special 'Thank you', to John Moore & Stu Blair for their assistance in the production, directing and completion of the club's first video.

Did you know? The TRAILBLAZERS has to-date: 43 Stokers in Toronto; 70 captains for

individual riding; 28 exclusive captains, Orillia/Barrie has 6 captains and 6 members

Orientations, Rides, and Stats

The TRAILBLAZERS has grown a great deal over the years, to the point of dividing various jobs amongst 2 or 3 Executive members.

I have witnessed many changes and growth with our club.

When I first joined TRAILBLAZERS in 1999, we had one Ride Convenor looking after the individual rides. And the Treasurer looked after the registrations of all stokers and captains. We even had a Social Convenor in those days. I believe that they only had to look after our picnic. We didn't even have a Christmas banquet then. A few years later, we even tried once or twice, electing 2 Ride Convenor's. One would match stokers from the east end and the other one would look after the members from the west end.

Around that same time, I started looking after the orientations and the registrations of all members and captains. And have been doing it ever since.

Now the club is so big, we have to divide the Ride Convenor's job into four areas.

Orientations: Lynda Spinney

Individual Rides: Caroline Strut

Group Rides: Coranna Lee

Stats: Susan Pinder

All positions are a necessity, if we want to continue to apply for grant money. You can help by diligently providing Susan with your stats. It doesn't matter if you own your own tandem as long as you are a paid member and you want to cycle. All stats are recorded and reported to the City of Toronto and for private grants.

Bike Repairs: Stokers or Captains, remember to report any needed repairs, including the bike number, to our Operations Manager; his e-mail is: operations.manager@torontotrailblazers.org

Cancellations

A lot of administrative time goes into planning group rides for both in town and out of town events. The number of hours spent on the phone or the computer is endless. Please respect the volunteers that perform this job. It is not easy. Needless to say, it is also not respectful to your cycling partner if you cancel. Our volunteer's time is precious and their devotion needs to be

respected. Please don't waste their donated time or disrespect their efforts.

For a cancellation, especially one after the final ride list is published please, please pick up the phone and speak to a person. You can always call the Group Ride Convenor and or the leader of the ride. If there is no answer, please leave a message, but call back in 30 minutes and try to speak to a person to confirm receipt of your message. A lot of times, we are not on our computers when you send an e-mail, resulting in your stoker or captain missing out on a ride. We understand the need for cancellations, but if you pick up the phone and notify a person, we can confirm your cancellation and may have enough time to contact the next person on the waiting list. In any case, always notify us at the earliest possible moment when you are unable to ride. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy 25 years, TRAILBLAZERS!

Victoria Park Bike Station Launch

The TRAILBLAZERS members and executive members were on hand for the official opening of the Victoria Park Bike Station on May 31st. We were shown how use the security fobs for entry and how to secure the tandems at our new east end location.

John Tam and Susan Pinder were snapped leaving the Victoria Park Bike Station afterwards. For the Toronto Star article, use link:

<http://www.thestar.com/news/transportation/article/1203779--ttc-s-victoria-park-station-now-features-secure-bike-parking>



Stoker's Profile

JO-ANNE YALE

Early years: I learned to ride my sister's two-wheeler at the age of 9. In those days, we were not supposed to ride on the sidewalks either. But we had fun anyway, riding double; me on the seat pedaling and my sister on the cross bar, steering. As I got older, when I was in college, I missed cycling, so one day my friend & I rented a tandem and rode for the whole day - all over St.Catharines.

After quite a few years later, I joined TRAILBLAZERS because I really wanted to ride again. I joined in 1991, and I rode with one specific captain every week from May to September of that year. At the time, there were 15 members and only 4 captains. And the bikes were 6 or 12 speed and we owned approximately 6 bikes that were stored in the east end of Toronto.

Before I joined the TRAILBLAZERS, I heard that 5 or 6 members would gather in the Dentonia Park with 2 captains, and take turns riding. But the rides were only 30-45 minutes long for each member. One week, riding would take place on a Saturday, and the next week, the rides would take place on the Sunday.

A Wintario Grant allowed us to purchase our first group of bikes, provided funds were matched by the club. As the club grew, and the bikes became more plentiful, we obtained another shed in the west end, near the Etobicoke Civic Centre. Around 1995, club members started to ride in the Becel – Ride for Heart. As time passed, the club grew in membership as well as bikes and captains.

Funding committees were eventually formed to complete application Grants for higher end bikes. The next grant came from the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 1998.

With the growth of the club, picnics always took place in the summer and shortly thereafter, Christmas Banquets were introduced. Group rides are much more frequent, on demand, and popular. Two of the most popular rides to date are the Blaze-a-Thon and the Niagara on the Lake ride. Bike maintenance has improved a great deal, making group rides more possible. Orientations, is a big plus to the club making new members and captains feel more comfortable.

I have now been with the club for over 21 years, and feel that this club can only get better and better.

Captain's Profile

GEOFFREY ROSS

About 20 years ago a captain with the TRAILBLAZERS recommended the club to me. I was very lucky on my first ride to be with a very experienced stoker. That first ride was along the Don River trails and with Simon's help I quickly got the hang of riding the tandem. Since then I have had many rides and lots of great stops at coffee houses with terrific stokers.

Tandem riding allows great conversations with your riding partner. Topics are as varied as the people you are riding with. With one

stoker I have great political discussions, the steeper the hill, the more enthusiastic the debate. Over the years the club has increased the number of really interesting group rides. When I started, most of my rides were along the Don River trails, and the main organized group rides were the Ride for Heart and the Ride for the Rouge. At the time the club had quite a few bikes but only 2 or 3 really equipped for longer rides. I haven't been riding much over the past couple of years but after writing this I am reminded how much fun it is and look forward to more rides again with the TRAILBLAZERS.

From Operations

CHRIS SPINNEY

Safety note regarding the CNIB shed:

Exiting the garage: The metal door will open by either stepping on the black rubber tubing across the path, or by pressing the open button to the right of the door. The barrier arm will not go up and teams should pass to the left of the arm. It is mandatory that teams do not follow car traffic under an open gate arm. The instance a car leaves the gate area, a signal is sent to close the arm and teams could be hit by the arm. Always wait for the arm to go down before exiting; remembering that the main door is also on a timer and you may have to press the open button again.

Entering the garage: Teams will swipe their pass on the reader and both the door and the gate arm will open. Again, remember that a car having just entered the garage will cause the gate arm to immediately close—you must use your access card under all circumstances. The door and gate arm are on a timer (20-30 seconds). This is sufficient time to enter the garage but please remember that if you are in a group, the first team should stand by the card reader and swipe every 20 seconds till the last team has entered. Please contact the operations manager if you

have any questions. Thank you.

Past Member

TRACY MOUSSEAU

I joined the TRAILBLAZERS Tandem Cycling Club in the early 1990's. We started with six tandem bicycles and we kept them in a storage shed in Dentonia Park.

During the time I was president, we had a break in and two of our bicycles were stolen. The police recovered them, but they needed to be repaired.

It was a joy to be able to go biking, feeling free and going places. I am happy that the club is still operating and giving blind people the opportunity to bicycle

Member at Large

SUSAN PINDER

STATS! STATS! STATS!

Stats Intake: I will be receiving and entering everyone's cycling stats this year.

For stokers, please send the following information to me: The shed you cycled from (CNIB, East, Orillia, South, West shed) or your own bike:

Captain's first and last name:

Stoker's first and last name:

Cycling hours (i.e. 2 hrs, etc):

Bike number:

Also if the bike needs repairing, please let me know what the problem is and I will send the information along to our Operations Manager.

For our Executive and volunteers doing administrative work, please send me your hours including all the times you have worked on club duties and activities.

Stats are a very important part of TRAILBLAZERS. We need cycling, administration and volunteer stats for grants and when we do public speaking for our club. So, please keep those stats coming in.

Send your stats to member.at.large@torontotrailblazers.org and for those that do not have a computer, call me at 416 497-0444.

Remember, all of us are volunteers and we are all trying to do our very best to keep TRAILBLAZERS going and growing. It all depends on you! This is your club.

STATS! STATS! STATS!

Congratulations to everyone's contribution to the success of TRAILBLAZERS over the past 25 years. Let's make our 25th Anniversary year the best of all.

Ride Convenor

CAROLINE STRUTT

As we approach the 25 anniversary of the TRAILBLAZERS, volunteers are as important now as the first day the club started. Our volunteer database is constantly updated and as such there are always more stokers than captains. So it is important to always bring new blood to the TRAILBLAZERS family.

Hard to believe it has been 25 years. Many a ride has been enjoyed by both the sighted and the blind, enjoying the sport of tandem cycling. The freedom and ease of movement like an eagle in flight. We have grown from half a dozen bikes to now 18 bikes in total with bike sheds all over the city to accommo-

date all riders. As time goes on, many captains and stokers have become friends over the years.

Did you know? Lance Armstrong's heart is one-third larger than "normal." (Lance is the 7th cousin of Katie Couric and 6th cousin of Hilary Duff.)

Did you know? The longest "tandem" bike ever built was almost 67 feet long and could seat 35.

The smallest adult bicycle ever created had wheels made from silver dollars.

TRAILBLAZERS

Up-coming Events:

- July 14th - Lake Simcoe Ride
- August 18th - Barrie Rail Trail
- September 15th - Niagara on the Lake
- September 28th, 29th, 30th - Horse Shoe Valley Weekend Trip
- October 27th - Halloween Fund-raiser
- December 1st - 25th Anniversary Christmas Extravaganza

Donation Form



Yes! I would like to support the TRAILBLAZERS Tandem Cycling Club
Funds are used to support new tandem purchases, bicycle maintenance and operations and social events.

Enclosed is my donation of:

\$25.00 r **\$50.00** r
\$100.00 r **\$200.00** r *Other _____

r Cheque enclosed (payable to TRAILBLAZERS Tandem Cycling Club)

r Credit Card - *Donate securely online using Canada Helps at www.torontotrailblazers.org/donate*

**Official Tax Receipts are available upon request for donations of \$10 or more, issued automatically for donations of \$25 or more.*

Registered Charity #86786 4753 RR 0001

Street _____

City & province _____

Postal code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

#611-340 Mill Road
Etobicoke, ON, M9C 1Y8

Mail to:

TRAILBLAZERS Tandem Cycling Club

Thank you for supporting the TRAILBLAZERS!