

## Used wheels find new homes

### Cycle Recycle at Earth Day helped out new arrivals

*Maple Ridge News, May 6, 2016*

After another successful Cycle Recycle at Earth Day, where our local HUB Cycling committee found new homes for twenty used bikes, we have been collecting more donated bikes, this time for immigrants and refugees. HUB member Dave Rush has been tirelessly tuning them up. The first batch of nine bikes was delivered last weekend to two happy families through the intermediary of Immigrant Services Society of BC. Big thank you to the donors! More bikes are to follow. We'd like to reach out to disadvantaged local youth as well. If people wish to donate used bikes (or their bike mechanic skills) for this purpose, please contact Barry at nobell@telus.net. The bikes need to be in good shape: "dusty but not rusty", as this is a no budget initiative.

On May 8, Mother's Day, HUB is once again partnering with the Art Studio Tour organizers for our third annual tour by bike. We have two routes to choose from, a flat one and a hillier one. Participants can either ride in a small group, led by our volunteers, or we can provide a map so they can complete the tour at their own pace with a group of family or friends. For more information about the rides, check out our blog at rmcyclist.info. To register or to request a map, please e-mail Jackie at jchow23708@yahoo.ca.

Bike to Work Week this Spring will be May 30 to June 5. The local HUB committees in Surrey, Langley and Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows will jointly be running a Bike to Work Week station at the south end of the Golden Ears Bridge, where cyclist commuters can drop by for refreshments and a chat. You can find more information and register at <https://bikehub.ca/bike-events/bike-to-work-week>. Closer to Bike to Work Week, the site will show the date and time we'll be at the Golden Ears Bridge. Check out the awesome prizes, and register now!

The Home Show organizers are worried about the loss of 400 car parking spots out of a total of 1100 for their annual 3-day event at the Albion Fairgrounds, if the city follows through with its plans to convert the neighbouring gravel soccer fields into artificial turf.

I'm happy to hear that the City finally figured out a better way to use the severely underused gravel field. Keeping it the way it is just so that for a few weekends a year hundreds of cars can find a free resting place for a few hours each day is a terrible waste. Surely we can make better use of city-owned land.

Can't we make more of an effort to get people to events like this by something other than private automobiles, some of which can take up as much space as 20 bikes when parked? I mean, 1100 car parking spots, courtesy of the City of Maple Ridge, and there's not even one bike rack in sight!

There's no mention on the event's website that there's a bus stop at Planet Ice or a link to Translink's Trip Planner. Perhaps shuttle busses with stops at strategic locations throughout the City could be used to ferry people to and fro, for a small fee.

A car parking fee of a few dollars won't break the bank for anyone. It might encourage people to share a ride, or consider alternatives. Reduce the entrance fee a little so that on average people will still pay the same if they drive, and less if they don't.

A number of years ago, the organizers were not too thrilled about HUB's suggestion of our volunteers running a bike lock-up for the event. Imagine, they'd only have enough space left for 1095 cars!

It would have been quite a commitment for us, having HUB volunteers safeguard perhaps at the most ten parked bikes at a time, for the full three days. We were told we'd have to pay \$50 in order to be able to provide this service, occupying just a few car parking spots, while neither the Home Show organizers nor visitors have to pay for the remaining acres of parking used for cars!

Of course land is not free. We just pretend it is as long as it's used by cars.

Never mind. We might as well wait until there are proper protected bike lanes, so people of all ages and abilities can safely hop on their bikes to get there.

*Jackie Chow*