

Pitt Meadows wins cycling Fork award

Little Pitt Meadows has trounced its big brother Maple Ridge and walked away with the Fork, the elegant trophy made out of old bike parts.

The award, given by the Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition, went to the municipality with the higher percentage of employees who cycled to work during Bike to Work Week last week.

"It went to Pitt Meadows this year," said Russ Carmichael, staff liaison on the bike advisory committee.

That was based on 10 per cent of Pitt Meadows's municipal workers cycling to work that week, compared to only six per cent in Maple Ridge.

The numbers means Pitt Meadows Mayor Don MacLean will receive the trophy at a council meeting later this month, also known as Bike Month.

Awards were also given out by the municipal bicycle advisory committee, last week.

Mayor Ernie Daykin gave certificates to Vancity Savings Credit Union, 228th Street branch, for installing a bike rack that was close to the building and visible from the inside.

Local Ride Bike Shop was also recognized for organizing several bike race events throughout the year.

Parking for cyclists at an event was also recognized when the Canada Day committee received an award for ensuring cyclists have a place to park when they watch



Colleen Flanagan/THE NEWS

Vancity assistant manager Tony Baptista displays the new bike rack outside the Maple Ridge branch.

the parade, while Karate For Kids and the Family Education Support Centre also were noted for installing bike racks.

Carmichael said the most recent achievement for cyclists was the completion of the 123 Route, which roughly follows the 123rd Avenue corridor, across all of urban Maple Ridge, from 203rd Street to 256th Street.

The next major project, likely for 2011, is building a separated bike lane, for travel in both directions, on the north side of Lougheed Highway, from 222nd Street to about Laity Street. That will allow cyclists from the downtown

to hook up with bike lanes to take them to Golden Ears Bridge.

Urban Systems consultants suggested that a three-metre bike path could be part of the solution to linking downtown Maple Ridge with the two new bridges, the Pitt River and Golden Ears.

"We're grant ready now," said Carmichael, explaining that Maple Ridge has OK'd \$100,000 for the project and is looking for another \$200,000 from matching senior government grants.

Preliminary studies show there is room for a separated bike lane on the Lougheed. Detailed design work has yet to happen, however.