

Pitt vs. Ridge in pedalling competition

by **Phil Melnychuk**
staff reporter

The Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition is trying to stir up some competition between Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows to get more people cycling to work.

He's challenging staff and council to jump on their bikes May 31 to June 6 during Bike to Work Week and to log the kilometres.

Riders then will log those kilometres for their respective teams into the coalition's website (www.biketoworkmetrovan.ca).

Once a scaling factor has been applied to account for the difference in populations, the winner of the Municipal Challenge will be awarded the VACC Fork. That's a homemade trophy composed of old bike parts that the coalition compares to the Stanley Cup.

Coalition spokesman Rick Halas made the pitch to Maple Ridge council last week, and Mayor Ernie Daykin said he would pedal for the district.

Coun. Linda King who's on the bicycle advisory committee will join in, along with staff from both municipalities.



Colleen Flanagan/THE NEWS

Coun. Linda King with the VACC Fork.

"If you want the current one per cent to ride bikes, just keep doing business the way you're doing it now," said Halas.

Most people won't

use their bikes for transportation unless they're protected from traffic, he said.

Halas said there are many bike lane projects the Maple Ridge branch of the coalition is working on, but a major project remains the two-way bike corridor proposed for the north side of Lougheed Highway from 222nd Street to Laity Street.

That would provide a link for cyclists between the downtown and paths farther west, allowing them to connect to the Golden Ears Bridge.

Halas said Bike to Work Week is meant to encourage people to consider using their bikes as an alternative to their cars for some transportation needs.

Halas said Vancouver is spending \$25 million on bike lanes, but it's still not in the top 10 in North America for spending on cycling infrastructure.

It's the fourth year for Bike to Work Week.

Cycle commuter stations will also be set up, June 2 on Harris Road in Pitt Meadows at Zenberry's on 12350 Harris Rd., and June 4 at Memorial Peace Park in Maple Ridge.

Pitt Meadows Mayor Don MacLean has taken up the challenge against his rural rival.

"Ernie has already beaten me in the wheel chair race by two seconds," MacLean said.

"My ego couldn't take another loss."