

EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS' SOCIETY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society 2013 Annual Report



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Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society

We work with children, youth and adults to make cycling accessible for everyone, because we believe that making Edmonton better for bicycling improves our city's quality of life.

Whether riding a few times a week, 265 bike-friendly days a year, or year-round, the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society (EBC) provides the tools Edmontonians need to enjoy cycling. Established as a non-profit society in 1980, EBC operates two volunteer-run community bike workshops, provides training for children, youth and adults, hosts events during Bike Month and all year-round, and represents Edmonton cyclists at City Hall.

Vision

Everyday cycling in Edmonton is safe, widespread, and accessible to people of all comfort levels.

Mission

EBC is a non-profit society dedicated to making everyday cycling in Edmonton safer and more widespread by providing bicycle services, education, and civic representation. We promote the bicycle as a healthy, economical, and ecologically sound mode of transportation.

Objectives

1. To provide, administer and maintain a multi-use facility for Edmonton and area dedicated to providing cost-effective, do-it-yourself bike repair facilities and access to an environmentally sustainable, economical means of transportation,
2. To educate the public by providing courses, seminars and workshops about bike mechanics and/or safe and effective riding,
3. To extend services to marginalized members of the community as well as new-comers,
4. To facilitate communication between cyclists and governments or others to improve bicycle infrastructure and policy, and
5. To assist the Edmonton community at large in the promotion, encouragement and understanding of cycling culture.



Robert volunteering at BikeWorks North

2012-2013 Board of Directors

- **Leila Sidi** President
- **Neil Carey** Vice President
- **Paul Govenlock** Treasurer
- **Justin Bartlett** Secretary
- **Anna Vesala** Director
- **Bernadette Blakey** Director
- **Caylie Gnyra** Director
- **Chris Corrigan** Director
- **Jason Proche** Director
- **Kristen Flath** Director
- **Meghan Thiessen** Director
- **Sarah Harold** Director

The following were also on the Board of Directors during 2012-2013:

- **Adam Burgess**
- **Duncan Kinney**
- **Lee Vilinsky**
- **Micah Cooper**

Letter from the President

After a busy 2011-2012 of changes and expansion with the opening of the BikeWorks North location, this year the board spent some time focusing inward, building policy and process, working on board development and fostering closer relationships between membership, staff, volunteers and the board.

History

EBC was started by a group of bicycle-commuting enthusiasts in 1980 with the goal of encouraging commuting by bicycle and making this form of transportation more viable and accessible to a greater population of people in Edmonton. It started out with BikeWorks, a do-it-yourself bike shop and recycling service to commuters. Over the years, the heart of EBC has expanded from BikeWorks to so many initiatives including advocacy, maintenance classes, safe road riding classes, adaptive bicycles, youth programming, art auctions and more!



Edmonton Bike Swap 2013

This year the board was pleased to finalize the organization's vision and mission statement.

The organization continues to grow by the month, currently boasting over 1000 members.

Board Development

We began the year by establishing board member job descriptions as well as a code of conduct. We held two retreats this year, the first in January 2013 and a mid-year retreat in early July 2013. We set three goals for the organization in January as focus points for the year.

Charitable Status

The Financial Committee on the board has been working throughout the year to write and submit a Charitable Status application to the Canadian Revenue Agency. The acquisition of this status would help us further our goals as an organization and contribute to longstanding financial stability. The application remains in process and will be submitted before the year's end.

Human Resource Policy Establishment

The HR Policy Committee has been working toward writing a comprehensive set of policies institutionalizing the Board-Staff relationship in order for the board to conduct our role as employer thoughtfully, efficiently and constructively. We have been successful in establishing the committee with clear goals, beginning to write and pass policy and would like to see this work continued. We were also able to expand the staff development fund, raise the position of BikeWorks Manager to full time hours all year round and provide benefit coverage to full time staff.

BikeWorks North Financial Sustainability

With a new shop open on the north side, we wanted to put energy into maintaining the financial sustainability of BikeWorks North by establishing a solid volunteer base and outreach into the community to foster relationships with members and provide a beneficial service. Through collaborative work between staff, volunteers and the board, we were able to achieve and exceed our financial goals, putting us in a fairly comfortable position to face the upcoming challenges of a new southside location.

BikeWorks South Location

Indeed, some challenges did arise through the year, most notably the announcement that our lease would not be renewed at the BikeWorks South location and we would be looking for an alternative location for November 1, 2013.

EBC is no stranger to changes in location for our beloved bike shops. In the past 30 years, we have moved from Jasper Avenue, to Old Strathcona, to someone's car, to University Avenue and back to Old Strathcona again!

Though we are sad to have to say goodbye to a location that has served our community so well over the last 13 years, a committee on the board is dedicated to finding our next location and have been discussing the possibility of a permanent one.

Board Member Turnover

Another challenge that we faced this year was the loss of several board members through the year. In April, I stepped into the role of Acting President when Duncan Kinney took a leave of absence and later resigned. We experienced the loss of three other board members, Micah Cooper, Adam Burgess and Lee Vilinski. All four individuals had returned to the board from previous years and have moved on to exciting opportunities elsewhere. I want to express gratitude for their commitment to EBC and all the best in their journeys ahead. I am happy to note that we were able to fill each position with interim board members that were voted in based on invaluable skills they bring to the board. Caylie Gnyra, Kristen Flath, Jason Proche and Meghan Thiessen have joined us until the end of the 2012-2013 term.

One board member that we are also losing this year as he has completed his full four year term is Neil Carey. Neil was our treasurer for three years and a director at large for one year. He did not take a break from crunching numbers and offering invaluable skill and insight into the financial workings of the organization throughout his term. He will be sorely missed.

Final Words

Thank you to all volunteers, board members, staff and members for your continued participation and support in making cycling more accessible in Edmonton. Your continued dedication to cycling, skill-sharing, advocacy and community is, I believe, creating a stronger EBC and a more vibrant Edmonton.

Leila Sidi

President, Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society

October 6, 2013



Bike-in movie

BikeWorks Operations

This year was another banner year for BikeWorks operations. Both the north shop, now in its second year, and our south location exceeded budget expectations. We took a chance by expanding our service hours: through the spring, summer, and fall, we were open Monday 6-9pm, Wednesday 2-9pm, Thursday 6-9pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday 1-5pm at BikeWorks South, while running bike-building on Tuesday evenings and courses on Friday evenings. At BikeWorks North, we were open Tuesday and Thursday 6-9pm, and Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm, with bike-building on Monday, *The Spoke* on Wednesday, and courses on Fridays.



Volunteer orientation at BikeWorks North

All of this was done by a tremendous level of volunteer effort, in excess of 10000 hours, under the leadership of our BikeWorks Manager, Coreen.

This year, nearly 40 more youth have gone through *The Spoke*, our youth mentorship earn-a-bike program. This program too relies on volunteers, coordinated by the program coordinator Tara Sobey, who is also a volunteer, and run on a shoestring budget. *The Spoke* provides youth with food, drink, lights, bells, locks, helmets, and a bicycle, along with mechanical knowledge and an invaluable mentorship experience. It's not really about the bike: it's about the relationship.

You could expand that thought to EBC's work in general: it's not really about the bike; it's about our experience of our city, and relationship with everything in it.

Thanks to the Beverly Optimist Club, [Redbike](#), and [SPARK](#) for their financial support of *The Spoke* this year.

Our women and transgendered shop days continue to occur every first, third and fifth Sunday of each month. The shop is operated only by women and transgendered persons on those days, and we have been seeing its direct benefits on other days at the shop too, with a more diverse base of volunteers and patrons.

Demand for EBC's **bike rental program**, funded with the assistance of an \$8050 grant from [Mountain Equipment Co-op](#), continues to increase, with a growth in revenue of about 30%. The surprise this year was the popularity of our tandem rental: from weddings to month-long tours, it was booked so often that we've added a second tandem to our rental fleet!

Bike building sessions, every Monday and Tuesday evening, have been highly successful as well, generating rental bikes, sales revenue, and providing a great social and learning opportunity for our volunteers. We hope to expand bike building sessions and volunteer mechanic training in partnership with other organizations.

BikeWorks diverts a significant amount of material from the waste stream. Much of what comes into our shop ends up back on the road. We refurbish and reuse whatever we can. EBC again recycled over 10,000 pounds of scrap metal and several thousand pounds of tire and tube rubber this year.



Bake & Bike Sale 2013

Volunteer Awards

This year, EBC is pleased to recognize four of our outstanding volunteers with awards.

Jack Grainge Award

The Jack Grainge Award celebrates a lifetime commitment to cycling in the broader community. This award is open to any community member, not just EBC volunteers.

The 2013 recipient is **Janine Halayko**. With her background in physiotherapy, Janine has been integral to the creation and success of *You Can Ride Two*, which since 2003 has taught hundreds of children with special needs how to ride a conventional, 2-wheeled bicycle. This year, she launched the *You Can Bike Too* program, which provides children with special needs, who can't ride a conventional bicycle, access to bikes specially adapted to their needs. Because adaptive bikes can be prohibitively expensive and kids grow out of them so quickly, Janine envisioned a pool of bicycles that could be loaned to families for a season, and then re-adapted and loaned to other children later. She has found bikes and funding, and this year connected over 40 kids with adapted bikes, and helped 40 families to bike together, as a whole family. None of this would have happened without her tireless efforts.

Dale Allsopp Award

The Dale Allsopp Award is awarded to a person for bringing something special to the organization (innovation, volunteering, energy).

If you've spent any time at BikeWorks North, you've probably met **Robert Clinton**. Robert is a dedicated volunteer, excellent with patrons, and fun to work with. Friendly, energetic, and with a great sense of humor, he is one of the best shop hosts at EBC. He is always there to help out and make people feel welcome. When it comes to bringing something special, he embodies the essence of this award. BikeWorks is more than just a place to fix your bike, it's a center of the community, and Robert really gets that. And even though he's not a master mechanic (though he knows a lot more than he'll take credit for), he has been absolutely integral to the success of BikeWorks North in its first year.

Ian Helgesen Memorial Award

The Ian Helgesen Award is awarded for contributions to cycling in Edmonton or to EBC. This is the first year we have presented this award.

Matthew Ian Helgesen, a friend and devoted EBC volunteer, spent countless hours sharing his considerable knowledge and passion for cycling with the community and helping others fully experience the pleasures of cycling. Ian volunteered year-round at BikeWorks, teaching others how to repair their bicycles, and also regularly helped with EBC events: whether it was fixing bikes in a park or hauling loaded bike trailers in the middle of winter, Ian was always willing to help. Ian passed away in July 2011 at the age of 27. Originally from Silver Bay, Minnesota, Ian moved to Edmonton to pursue graduate studies at the U of A, where he was a member of the Hurd Lab, researching the role of honesty and ambiguity in the evolution of communication between animals with conflicting interests via mathematics and computer modelling. Ian's presence was one of warmth and generosity, and he is greatly missed.

The 2013 recipient of the Ian Helgesen Award is **Tara Sobey**. Tara's association with EBC began as a practicum placement through Grant MacEwan's social work program in 2012. For the past year, and long after her practicum ended, she has been almost solely responsible for running *The Spoke*, recruiting & coordinating volunteers, connecting with other community & service groups, finding funding sources, and managing the waiting list of kids wanting to get into *The Spoke* program. She also meets with families, makes sure the participants and volunteers are fed, and helps fix bikes: an incredible contribution from an incredible volunteer.

Peter Pal Memorial Award

The Peter Pal Award is awarded for contributions to cycling in Edmonton or to EBC. This is the first year we have presented this award.

Peter Pal, a dedicated BikeWorks volunteer and 2012 recipient of the Dale Allsopp award, passed away in January 2013.

We remember Peter as the friendly volunteer with the gruff exterior who was at BikeWorks South every day during the winter and summer. Often working alone, he built up and stripped down countless numbers of bikes. He knew metal well, and he was always extremely diligent in making sure that none went to waste, and that anything we couldn't use was properly recycled. He often worked at the shop alone, and as such was an unseen hand in preventing us from becoming overwhelmed by the sheer

number of bicycle donations. Whenever he was unable to come in, his absence was immediately felt as the wheels piled up.

EBC is immensely grateful for all the time, thought, and expertise that he shared with us over the years. He made a significant contribution to BikeWorks, and it won't be forgotten.

Almost anyone who has volunteered at BikeWorks South will know who **Tim Fitzpatrick** is. He is an extremely devoted volunteer who has been a friend and mentor to a countless number of volunteers. Like Peter did, he acts in an often unseen but critical role at BikeWorks by ensuring that the rest of us do not get overwhelmed by the sheer number of tasks that need to be done. It's safe to say that if not for Tim, BikeWorks would have been stretched beyond the breaking point a very long time ago. Whether it's cleaning the washroom, disassembling scrap bikes & wheels, cleaning tools, or patiently helping patrons rebuild long neglected bikes, Tim is always around to help with whatever needs to be done and preventing any individual task from becoming too daunting. It is rare for us to award the same person two years in a row, but Tim undoubtedly deserves it.



Bike to the Symphony 2013

Non-BikeWorks Operations

Advocacy

Carrying forward our momentum from last year, EBC helped to set up Strathcona Complete Streets and West Downtown Complete Streets working groups, partnering with local community leagues, schools, residents and other stakeholders to discuss future infrastructure in the Old Strathcona area and Oliver and downtown areas. These groups have the opportunity to talk about neighbourhood bike infrastructure even before the City of Edmonton begins official planning or consultations.

This year saw the most extensive implementation of the 2009 Bicycle Transportation Plan (BTP), though not without controversy. EBC worked hard to ensure that construction of better bike infrastructure, which had several years of consultation leading up to Council approval of the 2009 BTP, wasn't completely derailed. Thanks to the letters of support from our members, sent to councillors and the mayor, and the voices of determined supporters who took days off work and spent hours in council chambers, the only substantial delay was the 76 Ave bike lane.

Sadly, cyclists were again injured on the roads in Edmonton in 2013. Bike infrastructure, even just painted bike lanes, has been repeatedly shown to reduce collisions and reduce injuries, which is why we have been fighting so hard for infrastructure changes, especially protected, separated bike lanes and bike boulevards. We placed another ghost bike this year, and organized a Ride of Silence, as well as a memorial ride for Isaak Kornelsen, who was killed on Whyte Ave in 2012.

In 2014-2015, the City will focus on projects in Old Strathcona and Oliver & downtown, the very same areas we have been pushing for.

With a new mayor and dramatically changed City Council, and a new capital budget being prepared for 2015, next year shows no signs of slowing on the advocacy front.



Ride of Silence, May 2013

Adapted Bicycle Loan Pool

You Can Ride Two started as a "learn to ride" class for kids with special needs in 2003. This program began a partnership between pediatric physiotherapists/occupational therapists and the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society. From here, we expanded to offering train-the-trainer classes, research activities looking at best practice, and, in 2013, with the support of a number of other agencies, started *You Can Bike Too*, an adapted bicycle loan pool. Some of the news coverage on our program and particularly the loan pool can be found on the website: <http://www.youcanridetwo.ca/>



Promoting *The Spoke and You Can Bike Too* at *Make Something Edmonton* launch event

Our loan pool is set up so that families can borrow a bike for the summer season, for free. Winter rentals are also available to schools at a cost of up to \$20. We currently have just over 50 bikes in our loan pool and around 45 children benefitted from the program in this first year.

Outreach & Events

After drawing back from events in 2012 in order to focus on internal development, EBC bounced back into 2013 with a major focus on outreach and events. With many presentations to schools and workplaces, tune-up stations at offices, farmers' markets, festivals, and other events, we even added the Edmonton Folk Festival and the Interstellar Rodeo to our line-up of events where we provide services.



Strathcona bike-in for better infrastructure



Free bike movies at the Metro

Education

In an effort to encourage effective cycling and help cyclists feel more comfortable riding in traffic, EBC offers **CAN-BIKE II on-road cycling courses** for cyclists interested in vehicular cycling. We also continue running a range of ever-popular mechanic courses at BikeWorks, which continue to have waiting lists.

Every year, EBC runs a Special Needs Learn-to-Ride program for children. Work to develop and license the highly-popular program continues, with materials developed and a website under works.

Partnerships & Funding

Fundraising and diversifying funding sources continues to be a focus for EBC. Thanks in part to a concerted membership drive and new member benefits provided by many new local business partners,

membership sales increased by 66% over 2012. Bike rack rentals have soared this summer, as well as revenue from BikeWorks and new grants.

Many thanks to our 2013 sponsors, including:

- The City of Edmonton (<http://www.edmonton.ca/>)

The Spoke

- Beverly Optimist Club
- Redbike (<http://redbike.ca>)
- SPARK (<http://sparkyourpower.ca>)

You Can Bike Too

- President's Choice Children's Charity (<http://www.pc.ca/charity>)
- Edmonton Public School Board (<http://www.epsb.ca/>)
- Women and Children's Health Research Institute (<http://wchri.srv.ualberta.ca/>)
- Children's Ability Fund (<http://childrensabilityfund.ca/>)
- Canadian Paraplegic Association (<http://www.cpa-ab.org/>)
- City of Edmonton River Valley Programs (<http://www.edmonton.ca/>)
- Cerebral Palsy Association (<http://www.cpalberta.com/>)
- Miller Thomson LLP (<http://www.millerthomson.com/>)
- Ben's Meat & Deli (<http://bensmeats.com/>)
- Cerebral Palsy Kids and Families (<http://www.calgarycp.org/>)
- Elves Special Needs Society (<http://www.elves-society.com/>)
- Free2BMe
(<http://www.steadwardcentre.ualberta.ca/Programs/Free2BMePhysicalActivityforKid.aspx>)
- Home Depot (<http://homedepot.ca/>)
- Infinite Resources Inc (<http://www.infiniteresources.ca/>)
- LBJ Management
- Minuteman on Gateway (<http://www.edmonton.minutemanpress.com/>)
- Mint Green Communications (<http://ca.linkedin.com/pub/gail-gravelines/b/78b/a02>)
- Robin Hood Association (<http://www.robinhoodassoc.com/>)
- Safeway (<http://safeway.ca/>)
- Specialty Designs (<http://www.specialtydesigns.ca/>)
- Subway (<http://subway.ca/>)
- Sport Central (<http://www.sportcentral.org/>)
- Western Cycle (<http://westerncycle.com/>)

Membership Supporters

- Acquired Taste Tea (<http://www.canadiantea.com/>)
- Bikram Yoga West Edmonton (<http://bywe.ca/>)
- Carbon Environmental Boutique (<http://www.carbonboutique.com/>)
- Cookie Love (<http://www.cookielove.ca/>)
- Golden Lady Wholistics (<http://www.goldenlady.ca/>)

- Lucid Lifestyle (<https://www.facebook.com/LucidLifestyle>)
- Mike's Bikes (<http://www.mikelovesbikes.com/>)
- Noorish Conscious Eatery and Noorish Yoga (<http://noorish.ca/>)
- The Paint Spot (<http://paintspot.ca/>)
- Racks for Cars (<http://www.racksforcars.com/>)
- Da Capo Caffe (<http://dacapocaffe.com/>)
- Earth's General Store (<http://egs.ca/>)
- Edmonton Opera (<http://www.edmontonopera.com/>)
- Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (<http://edmontonsymphony.com/>)
- Mountain Equipment Co-op (<http://mec.ca/>)
- Rosso Pizzeria (<https://www.facebook.com/rosso.pizzeria.garneau>)



Free bike-blender smoothies during Bike Month. Record numbers of cyclists despite this year's rainy weather.



Income Statement and 2014 Budget (approved)

Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society Comparative Income Statement

	Budget Fiscal Year Ending 2014	Actual Fiscal Year Ending 2013	Actual Fiscal Year Ending 2012
REVENUE			
Membership Sales	11,108.00	12,533.00	7,533.00
Donations	5,684.00	8,741.81	6,460.46
Grant Revenue	16,000.00	48,560.58	40,702.46
BikeWorks Revenue	92,860.00	109,120.25	67,935.31
Bike Rack Sales	2,000.00	2,504.25	-
Rental Fees	4,550.00	4,435.00	3,073.75
Course Fees	1,628.00	1,882.00	3,166.00
Other Sales Revenue	3,150.00	3,722.05	5,967.93
Casino Revenue	40,445.40	38,818.50	43,257.28
Interest Revenue	600.00	613.89	851.94
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>178,025.40</u>	<u>230,931.33</u>	<u>178,948.13</u>
EXPENSE			
Payroll Costs	88,935.80	75,734.98	78,952.83
Board and Staff Development	1,000.00	125.00	1,521.48
Rent	48,820.80	38,099.08	28,492.36
Utilities	<u>4,480.00</u>	<u>4,657.77</u>	<u>4,528.68</u>
Total Facility Costs	53,300.80	42,756.85	33,021.04
Building Repairs and Maintenance	12,720.00	954.65	10,260.25
BikeWorks Operational Costs	25,068.00	29,499.07	24,554.87
Bike Racks Cost of Sales	1,900.00	2,315.25	
Amortisation of Capital Assets	403.80	582.39	387.20
Contractor and Instructor Fees	2,100.00	1,027.50	7,143.78
Program Materials	3,600.00	24,821.45	1,469.27
Event Costs	-	177.49	2,651.91
Donations to Community Partners	5,010.24	5,115.35	5,020.24
Office Supplies	920.00	938.04	1,674.44
Registration Fees, Business License	260.00	91.81	384.50
Communication Costs	4,620.62	4,800.68	3,901.57
Meeting Space Rental	200.00	100.00	75.00
Volunteer Food	2,860.00	748.86	3,723.31
Casino/Fundraising Costs	2,100.00	-	2,084.24
Accounting/Professional Fees	4,800.00	-	-
Bank Charges	1,516.00	1,443.48	651.87
Insurance	<u>3,700.00</u>	<u>3,648.37</u>	<u>3,997.82</u>
Total Financial Costs	5,216.00	5,091.85	4,649.69
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>215,015.26</u>	<u>194,881.22</u>	<u>181,475.62</u>
NET INCOME	<u>- 36,989.86</u>	<u>36,050.11</u>	<u>- 2,527.49</u>

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Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2013



Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society Comparative Balance Sheet

	As at Aug 31, 2013	As at Aug 31, 2012
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Unrestricted Cash	126,476.25	64,645.66
Total Casino Cash	47,787.54	13,600.21
Accounts Receivable	70.00	15,161.83
Prepaid Expenses	758.16	-
Total Current Assets	<u>175,091.95</u>	<u>93,407.70</u>
Non-Current Assets		
Capital Assets	1,004.12	1,586.51
Prepaid Expenses	1,536.42	1,623.27
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>2,540.54</u>	<u>3,209.78</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>177,632.49</u></u>	<u><u>96,617.48</u></u>
LIABILITY		
Accounts Payable	7,342.45	3,863.04
Rental Deposits	2,410.00	-
Deferred Casino Revenue	44,736.30	6,863.84
Accrued Rent Liability	3,540.08	2,337.05
TOTAL LIABILITY	<u>58,028.83</u>	<u>13,063.93</u>
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	<u>119,603.66</u>	<u>83,553.55</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>119,603.66</u>	<u>83,553.55</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u><u>177,632.49</u></u>	<u><u>96,617.48</u></u>

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We have reviewed these financial statements, and in our estimation, they fairly reflect the financial position of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters' Society.

Leila Sidi
President

Neil Carey
Vice President