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Did you know?

BEST is a registered Charity and donations are tax deductible.



Thanks for reading our newsletter.

Join the [Crazy Sustainable Commute](#) August 20th, 2010

[The Crazy Sustainable Commute](#)

is all about raising awareness on taking sustainable transportation to and from work via one day of craziness! The goal is to inject enthusiasm and obtain exposure to sustainable transportation. Rethink the way they get to work! Commute to work in non-traditional, yet sustainable ways like canoeing, stilt walking, pogo-sticking, rollerblading, skateboarding, horse-backing--whatever your imagination can come up with.

Head on over to the website to see a cool video of Steve Unger, the originator of the idea, as he portages and conoes hgis way to work.

Then, sign up and devise your own Crazy Sustainable Commute.

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[Carjacked Book Launch Success](#)



Thanks to our Sponsors and Partners



Close to 250 people attended the Carjacked! book launch event on August 12th at Harbour Centre.

Sponsored jointly by the [SFU City Program](#), the [Car Coop](#) and [BEST](#), the lecture by authors **Catherine Lutz and Anne Lutz Fernandez** was a great success, was much appreciated by an engaged audience as they delved into some of the myths and realities of car culture.

Some of the myths and realities covered included the myth that cars make financial sense, and that they are safer these days.

The authors, sisters with backgrounds in anthropology and marketing, pointed out that cars have become increasingly expensive over the last decades, with people spending a higher percentage of household income on vehicles than ever before. They said the the average household now spends approximately 20 percent of income on vehicles, up from 10 percent 50 years ago, with financing being one of the major costs.

On the safety front, they pointed out that in spite of selling advances and technology that allegedly make cars safer, in 2007 over 41,000 people died on America's roads, the equivalent of a nearly fully loaded passenger plane crashing each day. Add to that 2.4 million injuries of varying degree, and according to the authors "safe car" becomes an oxymoron. They also pointed out that while death and injury rates declined in 2008 and 2009, this is directly related to a decrease in miles drives, due to the recession. There's a direct correlation between accidents and miles driven.

The engaged audience asked a number of interesting and insightful questions before a book signing at the end of the evening.

Copies of Carjacked are available from BEST for the price of \$25 HST included, plus shipping and handling. Contact us if you'd like a copy.

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Meet Our Interns

We've been very fortunate to have a couple of terrific, dedicated, and hared working interns working weith us over the past few months. As well as doing valuable work in the office they have both put in time with the [Bicycle Valet](#) as well.



Rowan Arundel is a geography graduate with a background in GIS and Urban Studies.

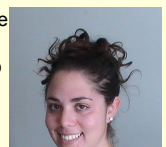
He's currently off to Amsterdam for a year where he's starting a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Amsterdam. While there, he's very interested in studying bicycling infrastructure in Holland and the use public space and plazas in Dutch cities.

A second area of interest is high-density neighbourhoods that maintain low-rise buildings and promote a sense of community as lessons towards the future densification of North American cities.

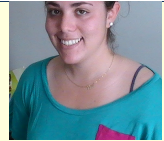
Rowan has put in countless hours volunteering at BEST, using his mapping skills to consolidate all of the best routes to school information available and putting it into a common map form with links back to the original district documents. the site is almost ready to go live for the fall, just as Rowan is about to set off on new adventures.

Many thanks Rowan, and have a great year in the Netherlands! We'll miss you.

Zoe Siegel hails from San Francisco and came to us earlier this year as a UBC B.A. Candidate in Geography-Urban Studies and Migration and Globalization Studies, with a background in writing and communications. She dove right into volunteering by helping write some of our web material.



She then began assisting our Executive Director directly on some projects and was largely responsible for the organization of the Carjacked booklaunch event, lining up partners and our venue, arranging media interviews and getting the audience out.



Unfortunately, Zoe herself could not attend the event because the previous weekend she and two friends were in a car accident while returning from Whistler on the sea-to-Sky highway. While expected to make a full recovery, Zoe remains in Lion's Gate Hospital with knee and foot injuries and will be undergoing further surgery today.

We wish Zoe the speediest of recoveries and hope she is back bicycling soon!

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Living Streets Project

BEST has partnered with [DiverseCity in Surrey](#) with financial sponsorship from the Real Estate Foundation of BC and the Vancouver Foundation to create the Living Streets project.

Adapted from a similar program in Scotland, the Living Streets project educates and trains members of the community in conducting neighborhood street audits which will support the development of safe streets and enhance the feasibility of walking and cycling. This is a very effective tool for local people to assess their chosen route, identify issues and decide how they would like them to improve.

BEST is looking for people like YOU who are interested in becoming street auditors in the Surrey area. Community members will be trained in and undertake street audits in various Surrey neighborhoods, and will provide the results as input to design charettes attended by Surrey municipal planners and officials. The charettes will identify a variety of solutions that local residents view as ways to improve neighborhood safety for walking and cycling. It will facilitate open communication, and sharing of ideas between residents and City of Surrey staff.

BEST is also looking for more organizations and individuals who would be interested in donating to this program in order to support and promote the transformation of communities and neighborhoods.

If you are interested in donating or becoming a street auditor please contact Anjela Godber at anjela.godber@best.bc.ca

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[The Bicycle Valet draws](#) are being held every two weeks during the bicycle valet season. Contestants can enter by filling out their claim stubs and dropping them in the box when claiming bikes at bicycle valet events, or can enter online through the web site.

The Bicycle Valet Contest!
11 draws from June to October.
Enter at Bicycle Valet Events
or on line

Prizes worth
over \$150!
Men's or Women's
Pure Merino Wool
Shirt and Socks
Copy of Carjacked

icebreaker
PURE MERINO

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