

BEST eNews July 2012

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B.E.S.T. July Newsletter

Commuter Challenge - It's a wrap!

The 2012 BEST Commuter Challenge has drawn to a close and once again it was a great success. Thank you to ICBC and the many sponsors and donors that supported the Challenge -- your support helped B.C. to place third in Canada!

A few important stats: In B.C., registered participants traveled 558,306 km, avoided 93,999 kg of CO₂, saved 40,674 L of fuel, and burned 3,761,639 calories. The cities of Vancouver, Victoria, Surrey, Richmond, Burnaby, Maple Ridge, North Vancouver, Nelson, and Summerland placed in the top three of their size categories in all of Canada.

One hundred and sixty-four unique workplaces registered this year, increasing the number of workplaces by 30 and doubling the employee base from 2011. The hard effort and consistent encouragement of workplace coordinators helped to motivate and inspire the employees to try a variety of sustainable commuting options.

Special note should be made to those companies which achieved 100% employee

foundation



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participation: Congratulations to the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, the AME Consulting Group Ltd, Paul Sangha Landscape Architecture, Harvey McKinnon Associates, Vantage Point, Light House Sustainable Building Centre, Icebreaker Merino Clothing Inc, ECO Outdoor Sports, Mosquito Creek Marina, PHSA, Itza Ristorante & Pizzeria, Enermodal Engineering, Hawthorne Co, West Kootenay Ecosociety, Capilano University Faculty Association, Kootenay Carshare Coop and NEW Customer Service. Congratulations also to Hemmera, Davis LLP, and Mountain Equipment Co-op for placing first in their size categories.

You can read more about the final results and stories by going to www.commuterchallengebc.ca. We hope to see you all in 2013!



Michelle Drewitz, BEST Commuter Challenge co-ordinator, thanks the crowd at the awards dinner on June 19.

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The Bicycle Valet is breaking records!

In spite of the record-breaking rain which favoured the Lower Mainland in June, intrepid cyclists were out in force at events attended by [The Bicycle Valet](#).



The Whitecaps games, Car Free Days, and Trout Lake and Kitsilano Farmers Markets continued to draw in the crowds – and The Bicycle Valet was there with safe, secure, free bicycle parking.

The last Sunday of June saw huge crowds at the ever-popular Greek Day – an amazing 895 bikes were parked by The Bicycle Valet in one day. That's more than twice as many as we had last year!

Kudos for our efforts came from a blogger at Kitsilano.ca who "In praise of Bicycle Valet" describes it as "a great idea, well implemented. It encourages people to bike to events, reduces traffic and reduces the clutter of having bikes scattered around by having a neatly organized corral." Read the full post [here](#).

In July, in addition to more Whitecaps games and Farmers Markets, patrons can look forward to several events on Canada Day (Granville Island and Canada Place), the MEC Paddlefest, Bike To Bard!, the Celebration of Light, and more. Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page, [website](#), and [Twitter](#) for updates.

We are still looking for volunteers for The Bicycle Valet events and invite you to fill out our [online form](#). The Bicycle Valet offers short, flexible shifts at awesome events, no long-term commitment, and exclusive invitations to three legendary volunteer parties. It could be the best volunteer gig in town, so get on board!



Some of the 895 bikes parked by The Bicycle Valet at Greek Day on West Broadway.

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STAR Update

[STAR](#) (Seniors Transportation Access and Resources), BEST's initiative to assist urban, rural and remote seniors-serving agencies help seniors remain in their own neighbourhoods, continues to move forward on several fronts.

Needs assessments have now been completed for: South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, Langley Seniors' Resource Centre Society, Silver Harbour Seniors Centre, West Vancouver Seniors Centre, Capilano Services Society, Richmond Seniors' Network, Renfrew-Collingwood Seniors Society, and Sources Community Resources Society.

In addition, we are in the process of developing needs assessments for Whistler Community Services Society, Sea to Sky Community Services Society (Squamish), Pemberton Seniors Services, and Abbotsford Community Services Society.

And system design and feasibility assessments are now underway for South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, Langley Seniors' Resource Centre Society, and Renfrew-

Collingwood Seniors Society.

Last but not least, we are pleased to introduce **Beth Hurford** to the STAR team. Beth, who is completing a Certificate in Sustainable Community Development at SFU, is now working as a researcher/data analyst for STAR.

For more information on STAR visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page, or contact Margaret Mahan at margaret@best.bc.ca.

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Transportation 2040

The City of Vancouver is in the process of developing [Transportation 2040](#) – a plan which will provide a vision for the next 30 years, and guide transportation decisions for how people and goods will move in and around Vancouver for the next 15 years. Central to this plan is a City where walking, cycling, and transit are attractive options for getting around.

The City is looking for feedback from citizens before they finalize the plan late in 2012.

Deadline for completing the online questionnaire is July 13, 2012 –to complete the questionnaire, and to read more about Transportation 2040, click [here](#).

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Living Streets

As mentioned in our June Newsletter, BEST's popular Living Streets program is returning in the fall. Michelle Drewitz, Living Streets coordinator, is already in contact with various people in Surrey – so you can expect to hear more from her in the coming months!

Living Streets, based on a popular project of the same name [developed in Britain](#), takes place in various neighborhoods in the City of Surrey. Community members, especially youth and new Canadians, are trained to conduct street audits which identify ways to create safe and accessible streets. Participants learn to assess their neighborhoods, identify concerns and develop ways to positively address these concerns. Information gathered from the street audits will then be used in workshops attended by Surrey municipal planners and officials.

If you are interested in donating or becoming a street auditor, please contact Michelle at michelle.drewitz@best.bc.ca or 604-669-2860 ext 211.

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Thank You to Just Dance!

We would like to extend our heart-felt appreciation to Abheeru and Joan and all the wonderful folks at [Just Dance](#) for their support. For the past 19 years Just Dance has been sharing their door proceeds with local non-profits, and in June BEST was the fortunate recipient of this generosity. BEST staff who attended the dances report that they had a marvelous time (haven't danced so much in years...) and can't wait for Just Dance to start up again in September after the summer hiatus!

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