

BEST eNews September 2012

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B.E.S.T. September Newsletter

Hey Kids! Bike Or Walk To School!

Our hats are off to all those wonderful parents who are cycling and walking with their children back and forth to school. But it is always somewhat depressing to pass by a school yard and see all the vehicles lined up, driven by parents dropping their children off at school. When I was a child ... really, it wasn't that bad walking 3 blocks to school, or 2 miles for that matter. It was actually quite pleasant to have an opportunity every day to think one's own thoughts, and to stop and look at bugs and smell the roses.

Now that school is starting up and it is time to once again try to excite children (and their parents) about walking and cycling. Here are a few resources to help you get started (or continue):

[Healthy Schools BC](#) provides a wide range of resources for teachers and parents to encourage children to engage in more active transportation, including the [Walking School Bus and Bicycle Train Program](#).

[HUB](#) offers a variety of courses that teach children how to cycle and encourage them to bike to school.

This [Guardian](#) article mourns the decline in the number of children who cycle to school but highlights successful British programs operated by [Sustran](#) and [Bikeability](#).

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The Bicycle Valet has another

vancouver
foundation



United Way
of the Lower Mainland
Community Partner



Vancity



RBC Foundation*

record-breaking month

It's been another great season for [The Bicycle Valet](#). We have been in attendance at many returning and new events and the numbers keep increasing – at Kirtan we saw an increase from 40 bikes parked in 2011 to 282 bikes this year and Live At Squamish numbers increased from 700 to 1500. It is clear that cyclists now expect to see The Bicycle Valet's secure, safe, free bike parking when they ride to events around the Lower Mainland.

The season isn't over, and we still have lots of events coming down the pike. In September continue to watch for us at the Kitsilano and Trout Lake Farmers Markets and all the Whitecaps FC home games. You will also find us at Britannia Volunteer Appreciation Movie Night; the Walk of Hope for ovarian cancer; Voices in the Park; Autumn Shift Festival; and Burnaby in Motion. Of course events are constantly being added so be sure to keep checking our [calendar](#).

In August we had two more draws for fabulous prizes – Marshall Van Leeuwen and Elise Huisman walked away with great books and gorgeous Arcteryx apparel. Remember to fill in your claim stub when you pick up your bike and you too may be so lucky!

Last but not least, another one of our **legendary volunteer appreciation parties** is in the works for late September – one of our great pleasures is thanking all of the wonderful volunteers who make such a huge contribution to the success of The Bicycle Valet. Details will follow shortly.



The Bicycle Valet was at Vancity Fresh Air Movie Night in David Lam Park ...



... and at English Bay for the Celebration of Light.

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Living Streets returns to Surrey

BEST is pleased to reintroduce the Living Streets Program. The program, adapted from [a similar initiative in Scotland](#), aims to educate and train community members, especially youth at risk, in conducting street audits.

Community members will be trained in and undertake street audits in various Surrey neighborhoods, and will provide the results as input to design workshops attended by Surrey municipal planners and officials. The workshops will help individuals and agencies further their goals of healthier environments, increased intercultural communications, development of more inclusive and lively communities, and the use of more sustainable transportation methods.

The audits 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.

If you know of any agencies that may benefit from the Living Streets Program, are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Beth Hurford at beth.hurford@best.bc.ca or at 604 669 2860 ext 210.

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Commuter Challenge ramps it up

Super excited, counting down the days and already anticipating next year's Commuter Challenge? That's what we thought, which is why we're sending out a follow-up survey to 2012 participants. We're looking for feedback from 2012 participants and workplace coordinators so we can build upon our success of the last 16 years! More participating workplaces, more participating individuals, fewer GHGs emitted, and more sustainable commutes! Look for a

link to the survey in mid-September. And of course, there are **PRIZES** to be won for completing the survey! We welcome your feedback.

We're also going to be ramping up our presence via social media, so please help us get a head start by "Liking" us on [Facebook](#) and following us on [Twitter](#). If you're a participating workplace, we want to connect with you!

Thanks for supporting sustainable transportation!

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BEST teams up with Absinthe Films

BEST is pleased to be teaming up with [Absinthe Films](#) in the screening of their latest production, **Resonance**.

Absinthe Films is a world-renowned film production company that specializes in producing snowboard films captured on 16mm film. Resonance will be screened as part of the annual **Sphere of Influence Tour** at the Rio Theater on September 12, 2012. Doors open at 7:30 and the show starts at 8:00.

A goal of Absinthe Films is to educate people on green initiatives in their communities, and more specifically initiatives that challenge climate change. To this end, Absinthe teams with a local environmental non-profit at each of the eleven cities along their tour. BEST is delighted to have been asked by Absinthe Films to participate in this event when it passes through Vancouver.

[Tickets](#) are \$10.00 and will be available at select snowboard retail shops, Showcase, Boardroom, Pacific Boarder, and at the door. For more information visit the Absinthe Films [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page, or contact tour manager Jennifer Rebbetoy at 760-807-9823 or jennifer@absinthe-film.com.



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Cycling In The City Report now available

The [Report](#) of the joint [UBC/SFU Cycling in Cities Research Program](#) is now available. The aim of this project has been to improve cycling safety training by comparing cycling education materials to research evidence on cycling safety. The report provides a summary of and citations for scientific evidence on safety issues related to cycling and suggests areas where education materials could be modified to better align with the evidence.

A brief summary of the project (largely taken from the report), and links to both the full report and the presentation Angie Weddell (Research Assistant) made via webinar and at Velo-City Global 2012 are available [here](#).

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