



Better Environmentally Sound Transportation e-News November 2012

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MEC Member Night - November 7

BEST is participating in [MEC Club Night](#) on **Wednesday, November 7**, from 7-9 pm. For regularly-priced items purchased that evening BEST members will receive **10% off** – and that includes bikes and boats!

To attend MEC Club Night at MEC Vancouver, 130 West Broadway, please RSVP to margaret.miller@best.bc.ca.

Participants need to be a member of BEST and Mountain Equipment Co-op in order to make a purchase. If you are not yet a member of BEST, you may join online [now](#) or contact our office at 604 669 2860. If you are not yet a member of MEC, you may purchase a \$5.00 lifetime membership that evening.

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Another Legendary Bicycle Valet Season Ends with a Bang!

Another great [Bicycle Valet](#) season is complete! Thank you to all of the patrons that used our service, and thanks for riding your bike! Here's 2012 by the numbers:

- **Over 17, 000 bicycles kept safe and secure**
- **Over 120 event days for which we provided free and safe bicycle parking**
- **Over 70 amazing staff and volunteers**
- **12 lucky contest winners**

Before packing up our fences and racks one last time we had another amazing volunteer appreciation party, this time at The Whip on Main Street. We couldn't run The Bicycle Valet without our volunteers and we were delighted that so many of you were able to make it. We hope to see you all back again next year!

Expect an invitation to participate in our 2012 Bicycle Valet Survey, and a chance to WIN! Two winning tickets will be drawn: Prizes are an Arcteryx Fleece Jacket and an Icebreaker Merino Wool long sleeve shirt.



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Bicycle Valet coordinator Stephanie Williams distributes year-end commendations to staff & volunteers at the wrap-up party at The Whip on October 23.

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Living Streets Underway in Surrey

BEST's Living Streets program is now well underway in Surrey. The Surrey Leadership and Youth Council eagerly completed audits in the October wind and rain and showed interest in completing even more.

Living Streets has now attended Discovery Days at the Surrey Nature Centre, has partnered with the Teen Advisory Groups at Surrey Central, Fleetwood, Guildford, and Semiahmoo Libraries, and will be attending Parent Advisory Committee meetings at three local Surrey schools!

Throughout November there will be events happening in many locations throughout Surrey. If you are interested in coordinating an event or attending an existing event please contact Beth Hurford at beth.hurford@best.bc.ca, or call 604-669-2860.

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STAR Training Event a Big Success

The first [STAR](#) Training Event held on October 12 in Vancouver was a great success.

STAR: Introduction to Social Enterprise brought together members of the STAR Team and expert panelists to discuss the social enterprise model as it relates to seniors transportation.

Presentations by Langley (Janice McTaggart, Director of Outreach and Volunteer Services, [Langley Senior Resources Society](#)) and Boston (Jean

Patel Bushnell, Executive Director, [ITN Boston](#)) provided useful and much-appreciated perspectives on the creative solutions and the challenges faced by suburban/rural and urban communities.

STAR Team members walked the group through business development tools – needs assessments, feasibility analyses, and business plans – and provided information specifically related to STAR software and marketing.

Many thanks to everyone who braved the inclement weather to attend. We would particularly like to thank our panelists and presenters, Bev Pitman ([UWLM](#)), Janice McTaggart ([LSRS](#)) and Jean Patel Bushnell ([ITN Boston](#)).

Additional training events are now being planned and will be advertised shortly.



BEST Executive Director Marg Mahan engages participants at the recent STAR Training Event.

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Commuter Challenge Survey Results Are In

The [BEST Commuter Challenge](#) survey results are in and we had an amazing response of nearly 700 returned surveys. This is a fantastic result – you are obviously seriously committed to the Commuter Challenge! We will be reviewing your responses and making improvements for next year. Stay tuned.

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Anchors Away!

BEST alumnus Arthur Orsini has been busy these days creating innovating new programs that encourage kids to walk to school.

Arthur thinks that for too long we've aimed walk-to-school programs at busy but well-meaning teachers and parents. We've been under-valuing our most receptive audience: Kids!

A new family walking resource called [Anchors Away](#) has been designed to suit 10- to 12-year-old student leaders. It will help to inform children so that they can make the health, fitness and environmental benefits that walking brings a priority to their parents. Through skill-building and the adaptation of tools, young leaders can elevate walking to school to a priority status within their families.

Anchors Away just launched on StartSomeGood. Sign-up and share [this link](#) so that your community will benefit from the student-led Walk to School movement!

For more information visit the [Urbanthinkers](#) blog.

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