

[Living Streets Ready for 2013](#) | [Bicycle Valet Survey Results](#) | [2013 Continuing Education Ideas](#) |  
[Donate Your Car to BEST](#) | [BEST Wreath Wins Big](#) |

### In This Issue

1. [Living Streets planning for 2013](#)
2. [Bicycle Valet survey results](#)
3. [Continuing education ideas](#)
4. [Donate your car](#)
5. [BEST Wreath Ever!](#)

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### Living Streets Ready for 2013

Living Streets has wrapped up for the 2012 season and is shaping up for 2013. The Living Streets team has grown and Beth is very thankful for her two dedicated volunteers – Edward and Fola!

Beth would like to thank Fraser Heights Secondary, HUB Surrey, Surrey Libraries Tag Teams, DiverseCity, and Tong Louie YMCA for their interest and participation in the most recent Living Streets events – it was great to work with each group.

Completed audits are currently being collected, recorded, and will be soon be in the process of being mapped for our charrette event in March. On top of that, more 2013 events have been planned as we head into SUCCESS' Community Connections Program, and DiverseCity's Young Adults Towards Success! It looks as though we can expect another busy year for Living Streets in Surrey.

Happy and safe trails to all!



[Top](#)

### The Bicycle Valet: And the results are in ...

A big thank you to the 629 respondents who took the time to fill out the 2012 Bicycle Valet Survey – we appreciate the feedback! Two lucky winners have been chosen, so check your emails! Here's a brief summary of the results:

- 99.3% of patrons feel that The Bicycle Valet contributes positively to the overall experience of an event
- 71.1% of patrons say that the presence of The Bicycle Valet encourages them to attend an event
- 66.2% of patrons take advantage of sustainable transportation resources offered at The Bicycle Valet stations

We also had some really nice comments. Here's a selection:

- *I love it. Makes arriving by bike so simple, and helps build community too!*
- *I am very appreciative of this service and I think it's a fantastic initiative to get people riding their bikes more often and knowing they (we) don't have to worry about bike theft. Thanks!!*
- *The Bicycle Valet makes me feel like I belong and am respected in a car centric world. When it's at an event, my respect for the event organizers is raised. You are efficient and I have*



*never waited long to check my bike or get it back. Keep up the great work!*

- *I [heart] The Bicycle Valet!!!*

Also, we wanted to take a moment to respond to a few questions and comments submitted by patrons:

- Yes, you can volunteer! Please do! Fill out the [form here](#) to get started. Valet stations are operated by a combination of staff and volunteers, and we're always looking for more help.
- We are aware of the issue of wait times at events where everyone leaves at one time. This is something we're working on and hope to improve. You can help by [volunteering!](#)
- In 2012, we did not operate the bike valet for outdoor movies in Stanley Park. We would NEVER flip your bike upside down or place it in the mud. We respect bicycles way too much for that.
- We also do not operate the service at the PNE. Any issues there we hope will be improved upon.
- The cost of our service is covered by the host events, with help from our wonderful sponsors. We try to keep the service free, but occasionally ask for a voluntary donation to help cover the cost when the event cannot.

Thanks once again for a great season and see you in 2013!



[Top](#)

## Start 2013 with a Continuing Education Course

Why not get 2013 off to a good start with a continuing education course? There are several places around the Lower Mainland where you can learn more about urban issues in general, and sustainable transportation in particular.

A few suggestions:

The [City Program at SFU](#) explores a wide range of topics relevant to the city, including sustainable transportation.

[UBC Sustainability](#), including the new [UBC Continuing Studies Centre for Sustainability](#), has innovative courses designed for students, educators, career changers, and the general public.

[Langara's Sustainable Communities program](#) offers a variety of courses, ranging from personal development, communication and facilitation, community and cultural development, and social ecology – including [transportation](#).

[Top](#)

## Car Donation Program Underway

BEST is excited to introduce its new and improved Car Donation Program.

Donations to BEST support our work to create sustainable transportation solutions through innovative programs like The Bicycle Valet, STAR, Living Streets and Commuter Challenge. And by donating your car you could start 2013 car free!

For more information on this program, as well as other ways you can contribute to BEST, please visit our [website](#).

[Top](#)

## BEST Wreath Wins Big

BEST was pleased to participate in [Mount Pleasant Business Association's](#) 2012 Wreath Decorating Contest.

In tough against stiff competition, we were delighted to come away with **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** in the **Most Creative** category.

Special thanks to Beth Hurford –her imaginative concept and design expertise transformed our humble wreath into a vision of the Lower Mainland as a community based on sound principles of sustainable transportation.

Congratulations to all the participants – we are already looking forward to next year's competition!



[Top](#)

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