



Better Environmentally Sound Transportation e-News July 2013

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Commuter Challenge a Smashing Success!

[Commuter Challenge](#) has wrapped up for another year and once again BC commuters did fantastically well. With a record-breaking 200 unique companies participating, and 340 workplaces, around the province, we came in 2nd only to Manitoba (look out next year!). Shout out to Victoria for coming first in their city size category!

On June 17 a Wrap-Up Gala was held in downtown Vancouver. It was a festive evening where food & drink were imbibed, [prizes were announced](#), and stories from the commuting road exchanged. We were glad so many of you were able to make it to this special evening.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Challenge – we're already planning something big for next year and know you'll want to be a part of it!

And of course a huge THANKS to all our fantastic sponsors: ICBC, Modo the Car Co-op and Century Group. We couldn't do it without you!

BC by the Numbers:

- **340 workplaces- 2nd most in Canada**
- **200 unique companies- increase of 36!**
- **4, 726 Participants**
- **5, 633 Registrants**
- **431, 657 KM Traveled**
- **56, 999 CO2 Emissions Saved**
- **32, 082 L Fuel Saved**
- **2, 864, 611 Calories Burned**

Canada by the Numbers:

- **1,784 Workplaces**
- **25,008 Participants**
- **2,359,283 KM Traveled**
- **56,999 CO2 Emissions Saved**





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Commuter Challenge coordinator Stephanie Williams distributes fantastic door prizes at the Wrap-Up Party.

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Living Streets at Surrey Extravaganza

The City of Surrey's 16th Annual [Environmental Extravaganza](#) ran April 20th to June 9th and offered more than 70 free events and programs to residents of all ages and abilities. Activities ranged from salmon fry releases to park clean ups. Of course, we couldn't let transportation slip off the environmental radar!

BEST was a partner organization and hosted two [Living Streets](#) events for Environmental Extravaganza participants and gained valuable insights. Participants included families with very young children, those with pets, and brand new cyclists looking for safe commuter routes (and unaware of the bicycle paths already available). These groups shared concerns around lack of public washroom facilities especially in parks and at bus transfer stations, the inability to travel on transit with pets – an option in other large Canadian urban centres, and asked questions pertaining to passing buses on bicycles, rules of the road, and how to properly store and lock bicycles. Each of these conversations led to wonderful ideas about how to make Surrey streets more complete for everyone – which is what a Living Street ought to be!

BEST acknowledges the financial support of the Province of British Columbia and would like to thank the City of Surrey for their ongoing support of the Living Streets program. And a great big thank you to all Living Streets participants! We love to hear your concerns, compliments and curiosities.



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The Bicycle Valet Busy in July

It's another busy month for The Bicycle Valet, starting off with three events for Canada Day. Once again you'll find us at the tennis courts at False Creek, down the street at Ocean Concrete, and on the waterfront at Canada Place. The weather is forecast to be sunny and hot on Canada Day – perfect weather to ride your bike and celebrate being Canadian! For details visit our [calendar](#).

We're also excited to announce that we will be at Lululemon's new Nooner Yoga on July 3 and 10. Take a break from the daily grind and join the rest of Vancouver for a midday flow near the Olympic Cauldron at Burrard Landing. The Bicycle Valet will be open from 11:30-1:30 and the class is from 12-1 pm. To make sure you have a space be sure to arrive a bit early – and don't forget your mat! If we get a lot of bikes we will be there every Wednesday in July and August -- so bring your bike and make it a success!

And **HOT OFF THE PRESS**: Beginning on Sunday June 30 we'll be at the weekly Vancouver Food Cart Fest. With twenty of Vancouver's popular food trucks, an ocean view, a community market, live music, DJs, more craft food vendors, and kids' activities, Food Cart Fest is a full day's worth of fun. Come and eat to your heart's content and then burn off the calories on your way home! The Festival runs from 12 noon to 6 pm in the area adjacent to Cambie Street Bridge and Olympic Village, between West 1st Avenue and the seawall.

For more information on Bicycle Valet events in July check out our [website](#).

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Global Power Shift is Underway

Have you taken the [Global Power Shift pledge](#)?

From June 24-30, 500 young grassroots activists and leaders from around the world gathered in Istanbul for a landmark gathering. Together they trained, shared skills and stories, and prepared for the next phase of the global climate movement. A new strategy and action for the movement was launched.

After leaving Turkey, these young leaders will fan out across the world to catalyze powerful national movements calling for bold climate action. Through a series of national summits and trainings, they will unleash a new wave of climate activism through 2013-14.

Global Power Shift is an initiative of 350.org and their partners world-wide. For more information and to get involved visit [here](#).

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Have You Done The Math?

Over the past several months groups around the Lower Mainland have been involved in screening [Do The Math](#).

Do The Math is a 42-minute document produced by Bill McKibben and 350.org about the rising movement in the United States to change the terrifying maths of the climate crisis and challenge the fossil fuel industry. While it is set in the U.S., the maths the film outlines apply globally -- making it important for all of us to watch. It is in English with the option of subtitles in French, German, Portuguese or Spanish.

To locate screenings of the film in your area, or to host a screening, visit [here](#).

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Transit Profile: Margaret Brunette

Here at BEST we love all of our [members](#) and [donors](#), but we have a special place in our collective heart for Margaret Brunette – our oldest supporter, who just turned 100 years old!

Mrs. Brunette was born in Regina in 1913 and moved with her family to Vancouver in 1924. She attended Kitsilano High School and then UBC from 1929-1933 (where, incidentally, she was the only girl in her Physics class).

As a student during the Depression she walked daily from Trafalgar to Blanca Street in order to save the five cent streetcar fare. She would then pay two cents for the bus which ran from Blanca to the campus.

At that time the streetcar ran along 10th Avenue to Sasamat. The streetcar drivers of the day were, she says, “miraculous” in the way they managed to manoeuvre through the thick smog that, due to the burning of sawdust and coal, was prevalent in Vancouver during the 20s and 30s.

While she drove for many years, she decided at age 90 that it was time to give it up. But she still gets around – typically by walking or taking the bus. As it is not unusual for her to have appointments on the other side of town, a typical bus trip will involve at least one transfer.

For Margaret, these trips are a great way to see what is going on in different parts of the city and to meet new people. All you have to do is talk to the person sitting beside you!

Margaret may not be your typical centegenarian (she attributes her longevity to her

Hebridean genes). But as our population ages she is a great role model for people thinking about how they can stay mobile and active during their senior years.

Happy Birthday, Mrs. B., and thank you for being such a dedicated supporter of BEST!

(If you would like to support BEST we would love to have you [join us!](#))



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