



[Pro Walk/Bike/Place Conference starts Sept 12](#)



September 2016



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## Dear Readers,

It was a hectic August at BEST: The Bicycle Valet parked over 8,000 bikes and continued to register bikes with VPD and Project 529; Parkbus had a fantastic pilot of their service up the Sea-to-Sky Highway; Living Streets marked a successful season in which they did street audits and worked with over 250 community members; and STAR interviewed an active 103 year old, who told us about some of the issues she faces as a Vancouver senior. Now change is in the air and events are popping up that mark the the shift into fall. In our newsletter we take a look at the upcoming Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place conference, which BEST and The Bicycle Valet will be attending, and we give a plug for the popular SFU/Surrey Transportation Talks Program. Happy September everyone!

## The Bicycle Valet: 8,000 bikes parked in August!



*The Bicycle Valet got all cozy with Mobi  
at the Vancouver Mural Festival!*

[The Bicycle Valet](#) had an amazing August at events around the city with the help of our incredible team of volunteers! We parked bikes everywhere from the SeaWheeze Half-Marathon, Fun City Festival, the Vancouver Mural Fest, and The Garlic Festival, to our usual spots at Whitecaps home matches and Granville Island. In total, **over 8,000** bicycles were safely returned to their owners. We also helped the VPD surpass their goal of registering 10,000 bikes with [Project 529](#) - over 1,000 of these were registered by The Bicycle Valet team at Granville Island!

And the season's not over yet... September is coming and it's full of more events using The Bicycle Valet:

1st-5th – [Granville Island](#) (come down and get your bike registered with Garage 529!)

3rd - [Whitecaps vs. New York](#)

6th - [FIFA Qualifier Canada vs. El Salvador](#)

9th - [Welcome GranFesta](#)

10th - [Fleetwood Festival](#)

11th - [Coho Festival](#)

12th-15th [Pro Walk / Pro Bike / Pro Place](#)

17th - [Eastside 10K](#)

24th - [Whitecaps vs. Colorado](#)

25th - [North Vancouver General Hospital Commemoration](#)

28th - [Whitecaps vs. Central FC](#)

... and more to come! For a complete and updated list, check out our calendar [here](#).

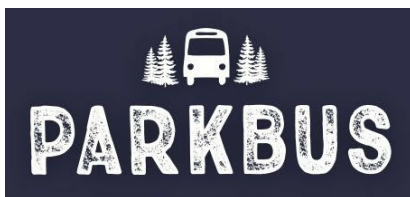
*Interested in volunteering or having us out to an event? Know of an event where you'd like to see us? Want to be a sponsor? Have random questions about The Bicycle Valet? Get in touch with Sinéad Stinson at [sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca](mailto:sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca) or [604-669-2860 ext. 207](tel:604-669-2860) for more information.*



*We kept packing them in at the Whitecaps (!) and Granville Island!*

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## Parkbus: Getting you back to nature



On September 11 the very successful [Parkbus](#) pilot project makes its final run to 4 popular destinations along the Sea-to-Sky Highway. Like earlier trips on Aug 20 and 27 this trip is sold out - and there is a waiting list of 50 people.

Parkbus started in Ontario, where it takes outdoor enthusiasts to 16 destinations, including overnight and day trips. Here in B.C. it is partnering with BEST, BC Parks, and Mountain Equipment Co-op to facilitate excursions to Stawamus Chief, Shannon Falls, Alice Lake, and Garibaldi Park.

For more information about Parkbus visit [here](#).

BEST is very excited to be involved in bringing to BC this innovative service supporting sustainable transportation - and we're looking forward to seeing how this initiative evolves in 2017!



*Contented Parkbus passengers cruise along the Sea-to-Sky Highway (I); approaching the Chief in Squamish.*



## Living Streets: Auditing a street near you!

[Living Streets](#) staff and volunteers have had an exciting summer engaging citizens and auditing streets in Surrey, White Rock, and Coquitlam. We've worked with youth and new Canadians and had some great discussions about what makes our streets work for sustainable transportation and what still needs improvement. All in all we've interacted with over 250 community members and conducted over 50 street audits. We have one more event to attend this summer, and then all the data collected over the season will be mapped and put to work in a community near you!



*Living Streets participants fill out street audit forms in their communities.*

The Living Streets program was lucky enough to once again work with the YMCA Digital Media Youth Camps in Surrey. Digital Media Youth Camp participants helped out with street audits, and also used their photography and video skills to explore the topic of sustainable transportation in new ways. [Click this link](#) to check out the most recent YMCA video that documents a street audit in central Surrey.

Thanks for a great summer! If you have any questions about the Living Streets program, or would like to get involved, please contact Arlene at [arlene.janousek@best.bc.ca](mailto:arlene.janousek@best.bc.ca).

## STAR Interview: A senior's perspective



Issues related to seniors' transportation are the focus of BEST's [STAR](#) program. This month we are pleased to present an interview with one of BEST's supporters, Margaret Brunette, who at 103 continues to lead an active life, living at home and getting out and about around the city. She was happy to field our questions about her experience as a senior dealing with transportation issues in Vancouver.

*Can you tell us what led you to stop driving?*

When I was in my 80s I had an accident when I was making a left turn. Fortunately nobody was hurt and there was no serious damage to the car. But for a while I had realized it was taking longer to make a decision, so it seemed like a good time to give up my license and stop driving.

*What was the hardest part about giving up your car?*

I never used the car a great deal, but after I stopped I realized how many little trips I took in the car, to appointments and friends' houses and such. I really missed it for that.

*What have you done for transportation since you stopped driving?*

Until I was into my late 90s I walked a lot and took the bus. Recently I am relying more on others for rides and am also taking taxis. Though I still take the bus: a few weeks ago I got a ride from a friend to an appointment, and then took the bus and a taxi home. It's always interesting to take a range of different transportation modes – you meet so many people that way!

*What would you say is good about transportation for seniors?*

People are very helpful. Friends, relatives, bus drivers, strangers on the bus, taxi drivers – they all go out of their way to help.

*What would you do to change the current system?*

We've been in touch with Better At Home, who have a transportation program for seniors. Unfortunately we are just out of their catchment area and I wasn't eligible for that service. So I would work on that and make the service available to a broader area.

It is important to educate seniors before they lose their license so they know what to expect. Maybe this could be done through Neighbourhood Houses or seniors agencies. I think that when seniors give up their cars it often happens that they just don't know what's available, and can feel a bit lost.

I see all these car shares everywhere and they make me wonder – could the way they are organized be

adapted somehow so that people using them could give rides to seniors? Maybe the companies could designate a percentage of cars to the cause? What about getting new Canadians involved – having them give seniors rides would be a good way for them to meet Canadian seniors!

Changes need to be made – but I am sure there are solutions if we just put our heads together!

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For more information about the STAR program, contact Stephanie Williams, 604 669 2860 ext 212, [stephanie.williams@best.bc.ca](mailto:stephanie.williams@best.bc.ca).

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## BEST at Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place Conference



The 19th [Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place Conference](#) takes place in Vancouver from September 12-15 – and BEST will be there!

Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place began in the U.S. in 1980 as a cycling organization and grew to include walking and public spaces. Founded on the belief that greater access to walking and bicycling will create healthier individuals, cohesive neighborhoods, and vibrant communities, the cycling and pedestrian conference is now the largest of its kind in North America.

The 2016 conference is expected to draw 1,000 city planners, transportation engineers, public health professionals, elected officials, community leaders, and professional walking and bicycling advocates. The Bicycle Valet will be there, hanging out with Mobi. BEST also plans on taking in many of the pedestrian seminars, including [Pedestrian Safety Campaigns That Don't Suck](#); [Other Wheels: Integrating Skateboarding into Communities](#); and [The Myth of the Distracted Pedestrian](#).

This year Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place is part of a larger week of Placemaking. From September 12-17 global change agents will gather for a series of events that will map the future of the placemaking movement. Go [here](#) to learn more about other Placemaking Week events.

For more information on the Pro Walk/Pro Bike/Pro Place schedule and to register, visit [here](#).

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## SFU/Surrey Transportation Talks Program returns



The popular SFU and City of Surrey [Transportation Talks Program](#) (formerly the Transportation Lecture Program) returns for another year beginning on September 6. The program, a partnership between the SFU City Program and City of Surrey Engineering Department, is a comprehensive introduction to transportation in the Lower Mainland with a particular focus on Surrey. Participants will learn about the transportation system from senior City staff and practitioners from TransLink, the SFU City Program, and the City of Vancouver. New this year, participants will have the opportunity to design and pitch a

solution to a City of Surrey transportation-related problem for possible construction by the City.

Transportation Talks will be of interest to transportation planners, advocates, planners, lawyers, interested citizens, and many others. Several BEST staff members have taken the program over the years and can highly recommend it.

The program consists of 10 classes starting September 6 and going through to November 8 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. It takes place at the Surrey City Hall, 13450 104 Avenue (near the Surrey Central SkyTrain Station).

For more information and to register visit the City of Surrey [website](#).

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### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



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### Thank you for your continued interest in BEST!

Our Mission:

To advance the transformation to sustainable transportation

Our Vision:

Vibrant, healthy communities built around sustainable modes of transportation

As Canada's new [Anti-Spam Legislation](#) came into effect July 1st 2014, we are in the process of updating our mailing lists and documenting subscriber consent. We currently send you electronic communications that you have opted into in the past, or because you have participated in one of our events, utilized our services, or supported us in some way. We will continue to send you news and updates about our organization, but please note that you are free to unsubscribe at any time. If you would like to give us your permanent (until you unsubscribe) express consent, please click [here](#).

We hope you will choose to stay with us at BEST!

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Get in touch with us! [info@best.bc.ca](mailto:info@best.bc.ca) | 604.669.2860 | [best.bc.ca](http://best.bc.ca)

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