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April 2015



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Dear Readers,

It's been a tough month here at BEST, as we've experienced a great loss in the passing of Steve Beck, Executive Director, and friend. As you can see in this newsletter, we're still working hard towards our vision of vibrant, healthy cities built around walking, cycling, public transit and car/ride shares, as Steve did throughout his life, but we think it's important to take time to reflect more upon Steve and his contributions to BEST and society as a whole. BEST was fortunate to have his wealth of knowledge and commitment to sustainable transportation for over seven years. Thank you, Steve.

I will personally remember Steve for his sense of humour, dedication, passion, kindness and leadership. I would like to say thank you to Steve for the great examples he set, and the friendship he offered. While I had the great pleasure and fortune to work with and learn from Steve for over five years, Margaret Mahan, former BEST Executive Director of eight years, knew Steve for much of his life. I've asked her to share a few of her thoughts with you below.

- *Stephanie Williams, BEST General Manager*

Steve Beck: A Tribute



By Marg Mahan

At the memorial celebration of Steve's life in mid-March many people spoke of his smile and laughter and how the frequency of both made a difference in their lives. He had, over the 30 years I knew him, somehow arrived at a life in which there were multiple kinds of humour, (practical jokes, sardonic views, word plays, even, rarely, sarcasm), but from which anger and most of the more difficult emotions were absent.

Steve was a man with an intellect that ranged widely – from very serious and always thoughtful examination of feminism (complete support for) and deep ecology (same), through political philosophy and activism (eventual rejection as inadequate for the challenges we face), to serious study of spiritual philosophies of Vedanta and Buddhism, Taoism, and nihilism (after being a meditation teacher for a number of years he landed closer to Buddhist theory of consciousness and nihilism than anything else). He was a newspaper columnist for a time, writing on all those subjects and many more.

Along the way he studied and practiced Japanese martial arts, and cooking, learned enough about geology to hold a decent conversation on pretty much any rock or mountain that you could point at, was the manager of various enterprises, became a cobbler, hand built a boutique food processing plant, and of course was instrumental at BEST. Oh yeah, he rode a bike, always. He was actually a bike courier in Calgary circa 1980.

He was a little shy by the time I first met him, I think because the modern world just isn't very supportive of the quirky independent intelligence that he represented. But he had a fierce sense of personal integrity, which combined with a stubborn streak to ensure he was always in alignment with his own ethical and intellectual truth.

That quality of unwavering integrity made him trustworthy to those who had the honour of working or playing with him (of course, at BEST, a lot of the work became play and vice versa, in Steve's presence). I'm so grateful that he came to BEST to help out with the books and stayed for 7 years. I'm so glad that he took on the role of doing the deep mentoring of younger staff members – truly they will not have an experience like that again, and I hope that they have imbibed deeply enough that they too will adopt the magical combination of honesty, laughter, persistence, humility, and deep commitment to do right that was Steve. I can think of nothing else that would please him, and nothing better that could serve to honour him. It is what I will strive for in my own life.

Transportation Plebiscite: Get your vote out!



BEST supporter Margaret Brunette, who will be 102 in May, has been taking transit in Vancouver since 1930 when she was studying at UBC. She walked from her home in Kits when the weather was good and took the bus when it was raining. How is she voting? YES!

Well this is it folks. The 2015 Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite is underway. This is our opportunity to make our voices heard -- all we have to do is vote. Here's some information to help you do just that.

Voting packages were mailed to registered voters between March 16 and 27. If you didn't receive a voting package by March 27, you can ask for one to be mailed to you by calling **1-800-661-8683** or **online** at elections.bc.ca/ovr.

If you need to access services in person or have difficulties receiving mail at your address, you can register and ask for a voting package at one of the nine [Plebiscite Service Offices](#) that will open in Metro Vancouver on April 13. You can then mail your completed package or drop it off at a Plebiscite Service Office.

You can ask for a voting package until **midnight on Friday, May 15.**

It is important you follow the instructions in your voting package. If you are uncertain, Elections BC has provided a helpful instructional [video](#).

Elections BC or a Plebiscite Service Office **must** receive your completed ballot package **before 8 p.m.** on Friday, **May 29, 2015.** That means that if you are not dropping your package off at a Plebiscite Service Office you should probably get it in the mail by no later than May 22, just to be safe. To find your nearest mailbox, go [here](#).

For more information visit the Elections BC plebiscite website: <http://www.elections.bc.ca/plebiscite/index.html>.

Remember: If you vote 'No' for 'No Cars,' you are doing it wrong!

Join us at the BEST AGM

The BEST Annual General Meeting is coming up on **Wednesday, May 6, 2014**, from 6:00-8:30 pm. It will be held at the YWCA Hotel, Canfor Room, 733 Beatty Street, Vancouver.

The AGM is a great opportunity for members to speak with the board and staff and to give suggestions as to BEST's future directions. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by **Wednesday, April 29, 2015** by calling 604-669-2860, or email margaret.miller@best.bc.ca.

If your membership has expired or you would like to join BEST, you can go [online](#), or you will have the opportunity to renew or join at the meeting.

We hope to see you there!

Should you need even more incentive to renew your membership or join BEST, there will be a **MEC Club Night** on **May 5**, where people who are members of BEST and MEC can get 10% off great MEC gear. If you would like to attend please contact margaret.miller@best.bc.ca and she will add you to our list.

The Bicycle Valet takes off in April



The Bicycle Valet is now at Gate C of BC Place for all Whitecaps games.

April promises to be a big month for [The Bicycle Valet](#)! Where will we be? Here's a handy dandy list:

- ALL [Whitecaps](#) home games (April 4, 8, 25)
- Musette Café for the [SFU Philosophers' Bike Café](#) (April 14)
- [Vancouver Sun Run](#) (April 19)
- Earth Day at Laura Secord Elementary School (April 22)
- [Party for the Planet](#) (April 25)

And that's not all ... We're also holding a volunteer training night on April 21! Looking for a sweet volunteering gig where you can connect with the community, get outdoors, encourage sustainable transportation, and be part of an amazing team? Your search is over!

Steps to sign up:

1. Sign up for our volunteering software here ->[Volgistics](#)
2. We'll send you a password (once we're back in the office)
3. You sign in, and sign up for the volunteer training!

For any questions about The Bicycle Valet contact Sinead Stinson at sinead.stinson@best.bc.ca or [604-669-2860 ext. 207](tel:604-669-2860).

Langley's new Bus Co-op seeks members



You're invited to learn about the [Bus Co-op](#) and how it could benefit your organization!

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
4:00pm-5:30pm
Langley Seniors Centre
20605-51B Ave

Light refreshments will be served, and members will be on hand to answer all of your questions!

See you there!

[The Bus Co-op - Cooperative Transportation -Connected Communities](#)



Commuter Challenge turns 25!

[Commuter Challenge](#) enters its 25th year and BEST will once again be coordinating the program in BC. Coinciding with [Canadian Environment Week](#), (May 31, to June 6) the event is a great way to have fun, win prizes, and introduce your coworkers to sustainable transportation.

New to the event this year is former Bicycle Valet volunteer Stuart Smith. Stuart was featured in our September 2014 newsletter on his return to bicycling after nearly a decade of driving, and we're pleased to have him join the program. Stuart will be talking to our past participants and promoting the challenge to new ones through email, social media, and good old fashioned cold calling!

Register your workplace today at commuterchallengebc.ca, then get updates and see who's signing up - follow up on Twitter [@BC_Commuter](https://twitter.com/BC_Commuter).



Living Streets introduces new coordinator

We are pleased to introduce Coral Candlish-Rutherford, the new coordinator for BEST's [Living Streets](#) program. Coral is midway through a Masters Degree in Public Policy at Simon Fraser University and is passionate about active transportation, environmental policy, and community engagement. In her spare time, you can find Coral outside

hiking, biking, running, sailing, paddleboarding, or just exploring.

The Living Streets program includes environmental education, youth and immigrant engagement, and civic participation. Educational presentations focus on the value of active transportation and identify barriers to participating in sustainable transportation. This spring and summer Coral will be administering street audits in Surrey so as to engage participants and collect data to assist in the sustainable development of neighbourhoods.

If you have questions about Living Streets, or would like to volunteer or participate in an audit, you can reach Coral at coral@best.bc.ca; 604-669-2860, ext. 208 (office); or 778-888-4502 (cell).

SFU Bike Café series concludes

SFU's [Bike Café](#) series finishes this month with two more gatherings, at Musette Caffé in Chinatown and Tandem Café on Heather Street. These are great opportunities to get together with Vancouver's cycling community and others interested in discussions regarding the sustainable evolution of our cityscape. [The Bicycle Valet](#) will be at the April 14 event at the Musette Caffe.

April 14 @ 6:00 p.m., Musette Caffe, 75 East Pender Street

Topic: Car Free Streets in Vancouver
Moderator: Richard Campbell

April 30 @ 6:00 p.m., Tandem Café, 3195 Heather Street

Topic: Biking and Walking: How They Work Together to Make Our Cities More Wonderful
Moderator: Lisa Slakov

For more information on the Bike Cafés, visit [here](#).

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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!

Get in touch with us! info@best.bc.ca | 604.669.2860 | best.bc.ca

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