

Rec for Kids Newsletter – February 2025

This year our total output was down from the last three years, reflecting the total number of bicycles passing through our shop. However, the bikes delivered to our clients compared favourably with past seasons. The reduced overall totals are due to our mechanics' vacations, absences and illnesses.

During the year, we participated in a few events, such as:

- a) Surrey Rotary Bike Ride departing from Holland Park
- b) One of the four "Repair Cafes" held at Aldergrove Athletic Park and Community Center
- c) The Education Services School Shop Opening put on by Debbie Holmes & Associates where we supply BMX bikes
- d) A bike rodeo at the Chawathil First Nations Band on the Lougheed Hwy north of Agassiz.

It was an expensive year for us at R.E.C, for a number of reasons. We serviced our van, which had not been in the shop for service in a long while and required expensive repairs. We bought a bike rack for the garage to improve organization. The sundeck out back is now sporting a new bike rack that a friend of one of our volunteers helped us build. We also bought a new canopy and standing sign to better identify who we are when we attend events. To offset some of our expenses, we've had the usual individual donations arriving from various donors as well as from Rotary Clubs and from our corporate donor, McElhanney Limited.

There are some other improvements to R.E.C.'s facility that have already been made or are pending. We had a new, taller toilet put in the main bathroom and asked Surrey to install a new hot water tank as the existing one was put in in 2005. We've already gone through one flooded basement and are trying to avoid another. We are planning to redo a portion of the upstairs floor under the main desk & computer terminal. City of Surrey is also in the process of putting new LED lighting in the shop, parts room & garage.

Our lady volunteers upstairs have been instrumental in cleaning, sanitizing, sorting, sizing and packing up donations consisting of runners, clothing and other sports gear for distribution to Night Shift Ministries, the Extreme Weather Shelter at the South Surrey Recreation Center, the White Rock Warming Center, as well as our regular clients.

Our mechanics, who spent long hours and extra effort, put out 60 bikes for the three Christmas Bureaus that we supply and were helped by our mechanic in Victoria, who also spent huge hours to send us either completed or partly worked on bikes. We were also able to source and contribute 36 + bikes, tubes, tires and parts to "Bikes for Humanity", who send them to Malawi & Namibia. We also recently contacted and now have a new bike donor in Kwantlin Polytechnical University's 5 campus security departments.

In looking over our past year in the shop, I think we've done a wonderful job in delivering sports gear to our clients given the limited time spent and the existing mechanics we have. There has been an expressed interest by two individuals wishing to be trained as mechanics which I hope pans out as we can always use more help. We could also use more donations of soccer & basketballs as we're short at the moment, but that shortage is currently being addressed.

We hope to be as successful in the coming season.

