

Newsletter March to June 6, 2023

Hello Everyone,

We've had the usual bicycle and sports gear & runner donations from peninsula runners, The R.C.M.P., Delta Police, Central City Security and from private donators. The mechanics turned out fifty-two bikes in April. Of those, 7 were sold to the Seabird Indian Band for \$3,250.00 and 8 more donated to them. We sold a man's road bike for \$650.00. We gave fifty pairs of runners, some clothing, and some small toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, hand cream and soap to "Night Shift", an organization circulating among the homeless and providing food and other needed items. Bikes for Humanity have only just sent their two 20 foot containers to Rwanda in late May and have yet to get funding for a new container. We therefore haven't provided them with surplus bikes and parts over this period.

Our volunteers put in 487 hours in March, 494 in April and 483 in May as per the volunteer hours summary. See the report (not yet complete) for all items that we provided to our clients.

Since March one volunteer in the shop has moved to Chilliwack where it's too long a commute to continue volunteering. So far, he hasn't started a new R.E.C. for Kids chapter there. Also, in March we've had One new volunteer join us in the shop and now in late May, Another volunteer has returned and brought in his son to train as a mechanic. We've also had a volunteer's wife both join our board and come in to answer the phone and help look after the runners and sports gear that comes in as donations. Two volunteers are both back from holidays and one volunteer has brought in her son to help out doing whatever to put in 100 community service hours. I know I sure appreciate his efforts washing floors, mowing the lawn, scrapping bikes etc., thus freeing me up to do other things.

This year we told the Knights of Columbus and Bikes for Humanity, who have no container, that we wouldn't be able to participate in their annual bike drive as we have no place to store the bikes and we are currently overloaded. Their bike drive was therefore canceled until next year.

Our partner in Victoria has been continually sourcing and repairing bikes that we can't seem to get enough of. On two successive trips, we travelled to Victoria and brought 32 bikes back the first trip and 40 the next. These were Christmas bureau quality bikes we are storing and the usual 20-inch, 24-inch and small frame 26-inch bikes. We are also providing adult size bikes 19-inch frame and larger to our partner in Victoria to dismantle for parts for the bike repair program at William Head Prison in Victoria. The bikes they repair go out to Eastern Europe (i.e. the Ukraine and Poland) and to Africa.

On Friday, April 28th, Two of us did a bike Rodeo for the Chawathil First Nations Band 20 minutes north of Agassiz on Route 7. We had a beautiful day along with the RCMP Indigenous Bike

Squad who set up the course for the kids while we repaired and serviced the kid's bikes. Fun was had by all. Later this summer, we'll be doing a rodeo at the Seabird Band in Agassiz and maybe at the Cheam Band as well. 2 of our volunteers set up a tent and information booth at Holland Park on Saturday May 13th for the Surrey Rotary Bike Day Ride. Not sure if they fixed any bikes but they informed the public at large about our services and the sports gear and bikes that we provide to the needy.

Over the last 2 ½ months we have had to deal with a water leak that flooded our parts room. Fortunately, we were able to turn the water off until a plumber could attend and repair the leak. The fire Extinguishers were also serviced by "City Fir Services" and are now good for another year. One of our volunteers has spent a lot of time cleaning up our shop and his efforts have made a real difference. We got rid of items in our shop that have not moved for in some cases 3 or 4 years, freeing up room in the shop.

Finally, we have a journeyman bike mechanic back in the shop off and on, mentoring all the new volunteer mechanics. With one of our top mechanics gone, his efforts are much appreciated. As these new mechanics improve, our production goes up and we're able to put out more bikes. With summer almost here, the orders are pouring in, so shop production is a priority.

That's all I have until next board meeting. I hope I didn't miss anything important. Enjoy the good weather.

