

We are meeting in Unama'ki (the Land of Fog), the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, who we acknowledge as the past, present, and future caretakers of this land. Our relationship is based on a series of Peace and Friendship treaties between the Mi'kmaq Nation and the Crown, dating back to the early 18th century. We recognize that "We are All Treaty People".

I'd like to open this meeting by welcoming everyone. I'd like to introduce our board. My name is Andrée Crépeau and I'm president, Erin Phillips is our Vice President and Connect 2 co-ordinator, Bill Goldston is our treasurer, Kristin MacLeod is our rides Captain, Leroy Hodder is our secretary and manages training, Nathan Kasgaard is a member at large responsible for the newsletter and finally Stephanie MacLellan is a member at large and our go to fill in person.

Annual Report November 21,2024

This year was our 20 anniversary and it was a year of ups and downs.

The ups included our new jersey design. We approached the Nova Scotia Community college Applied Media and Communication Arts class of 2024 to take the design on as a class project. The final design was created by the students Rhys Durando and Emmy Penny. Nathan Karsgaard, a graphic designer in his professional life, worked with the students and we celebrated with a Velo sponsored pizza party at their last class. We ordered 100 of the jerseys and have sold roughly a third.

The downs were two serious cycling accidents. The first between two cyclists travelling in opposite directions during a WOW ride. One cyclist required medical attention and is on the way to making a full recovery. The second occurred during the Cabot Trail in 4Days. Russell Radzikowski, a Velo volunteer and board member, lost control of his bike on the entrance road to the Keltic Lodge. Russell sustained serious injuries, and is still in the rehab phase of his recovery. Russell was a very active member of the board and his departure is deeply felt. We wish him all well during his recovery.

Velo has a long history of cycling advocacy and this year was no different. Unfortunately, I can't report many successes. We partnered with the Sydney Harbour Connector Coalition and the Caps program at CBU. The students produced a research report that examined the community's appetite for an AT trail along the unused rail line connecting Sydney River and downtown Sydney.

The report is available on our website under resources. Just as the report was finished CBU announced that it had secured provincial funding for 600,000k to study the feasibility of light rail service along the disused track. Velo, Sydney Harbour Connector and the Washbrook Greenway Coalition met with CBRM to indicate our desire to see active transportation as part of the light rail project should it move ahead.

We partnered with Ecology Action Centre to produce a questionnaire for the candidates in the municipal election, the transportation section was authored by myself, Jarret Gosbee of Sydney Harbour Connector Coalition and Eric Levitan-Reid from New Dawn. Italian was published using various social media platforms.

The CBRM secured provincial funding to pilot protected bike lanes on Victoria Road. We met with Wil Roy of the CBRM. To date the municipality has increased the number of zebra crosswalks on Victoria Road, and we assume that the pilot will take place next summer. Our ongoing project entitled Roll, Rack and Repair, funded by the provincial Connect 2 program entered it's second phase. We finished ensuring that all the libraries in CBRM and Victoria County had bicycle repair kits to loan and we moved on to bike racks. We installed a 3 bike rack in Main a Dieu and have racks for Dominion, Sydney Mines and Ingonish. We're waiting for the contractor to install concrete pads in Dominion and Sydney Mines and the rack for Ingonish will be installed once the library moves to its new location.

The second part of the rack initiative is to sell them to businesses. To that end we have undertaken a research project with CBU to assess the interest. A CBU business student Mariam Azeez is currently surveying local business. Next summer we hope to have a summer student to install the racks. We have purchased 27 galvanized inverted U racks that can be installed singly or ganged together on rails for 4 or 6 bikes. All the monies from the sale of the racks will be used to buy more. The board felt that while Velo can't build infrastructure the bike parking problem was something we could work on.

We've met with the CBRM planning personnel to update the CBRM cycling maps. We hope that more useful digital maps will be forthcoming.

Our other main plan for community projects is fundraising for a e-assist Trishaw for the Seaview Manor in Glace Bay. Last year Derrick Wadden, a local lobster fisherman, generously donated 2 dozen lobsters to be raffled off and he is willing to do this yearly for community projects. In the end we couldn't bring this to fruition this spring but have now got a plan of action. We're partnering with the Seaview Manor in Glace Bay to bring elder cycling to the nursing home. The project lead is Colette Smith a long time Velo member and physiotherapist at the home. The home has secured funding for the purchase of a trishaw. They will sell tickets for the lobsters and Velo will match their fund raising up to to 2,000.00. This funding will be used for helmets, training, etc.

On the communication front, again ups and downs, we started a weekly newsletter updating rides and events along with periodic full format newsletters. The downside was the hacking of our Facebook page by some bad actor named Mountain Boy, we're still trying to fix it with Facebook.

Okay that's enough of the business end of the world on to the actual cycling stuff. We always start the year with training and bike clinics and this year was no exception. We held two bike clinics one at the Sydney Farmers Market and the second in Dominion at the Italian Community Hall. In addition we held a basic bike repair session to train volunteers for the bike clinic. Safety cycling training was provided for the New Dawn Meals on Wheels e-bike program, and for the residents of Hope Cottage, a residential program for women recovering from substance dependency. Plus of course a session for our general membership.

We again had a full ride schedule including rides of different lengths and for cyclists at different speeds. We always include special rides such as the Ride of Silence which was well attended and we thank the CBRM police service for their escort. We also tried a weekly destination ride on Sunday morning with some success and some problems due largely to weather. Another new event was the Poker Ride and we expect that to make a repeat appearance this year.



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We had two social events, the winter potluck and snow shoe event at the Italian Hall in Dominion, thank you to the Coal town Trail folks who groomed the trail and to CBRM for the snow shoe loan. We held our opening banquet and ride at the Mira Boat Club.

Every year we celebrate June as Bike Month. With our partners CBRM Recreation Department we held a kids Bike Rodeo at Open Hearth Park and one at Robin Foote School. We want to thank CBRM for the micro grant of 350.00 to fund bike month activities.

A fundamental part of our ride season is our Women on Wheels program co-ordinated by Rosalind Wright and she reports the following activities.

Women on Wheels
2024 Annual General Meeting Report
Rosalind Wright, WOW Coordinator

On May 7th, the Women on Wheels Program kicked off the season with an "Introduction to Cycling Information Session" at the McConnell Library. We had 12 people in attendance and I would like to thank Shelley Johnson and Elaine Schwartz for assisting with the presentation. We had lots of information and give-aways for folks.

Our six week cycling program for new and beginning cyclists followed 2 weeks later. We kept the cycling program to the Mary Ann Corbett Trail for safety and comfort levels. Our first session saw 10 cyclists show up which was awesome. However, once again weather was not our friend and three of the sessions were cancelled.

WOW was successful in receiving another grant through 4-Imprint so I had backpacks made with the WOW logo which were given out at the Velo Spring Social and during scheduled WOW rides. Thank you 4-Imprint. I still have lots left, so please make sure you get yours!

We once again hosted our Teddy Bear Ride on July 13th. To our surprise and delight a reporter from the Cape Breton Post arrived. This was our third year planning this event to donate much needed teddy bears and stuffy friends to the Grand Lake Fire Department for kids during an emergency crisis. We had 5 cyclists participate and though we didn't make front page news, we were spotted on page 3 (not bad lol).

We did plan to have WOW attend the Lost Shores Birthday Ride in Guysborough; however, that event was officially cancelled.

Unfortunately scheduling and other factors prevented us from hosting WOW's Annual Tour da Tartan. I was pleased to hear however, that a couple cyclists continued the tradition on their own. Bravo!

Thank you to everyone who continued to support Women on Wheels this year. "

I want to close my part of the annual report and hand you over to Bill Goldston for the financial report.



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VELO CAPE BRETON
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Call to order

- Approval of the agenda
- Approval of the minutes from 2023
- Submission of the Annual Report
- Election of officers, Vice President, Secretary, and Members at Large.
- Resolution to keep the membership dues at \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.
- Discussion from the floor
- Adjournment

