

Cycle Newmarket News



ADVOCATING FOR BETTER CYCLING
INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEWMARKET



Winter 2016-17

David bikes year-round – see [Do You Ride in Winter](#), below

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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

WINTER RIDING

GIFTS FOR YOUR BIKES?

WOODSPRING AVE

BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE MAPS



CYCLE NEWMARKET



cyclenewmarket@gmail.com

Look for the Spring edition
sometime in April.

Send submissions and ideas to
cyclenewmarket@gmail.com

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

On January 23, Council was presented with an update to the Active Transportation Plan, and Cycle Newmarket was well represented in the audience. A few of us even biked! A pdf of the Plan is at: <http://www.newmarket.ca/TownGovernment/Pages/Council%20Meetings/Agendas,-Minutes-and-Meetings.aspx>

Click on Council Workshop 1/23/2017 01:00 PM [Packet](#)

- The east-west route will be completed this year – route submitted from Provincial grant is Srigley, Prospect, Timothy, Main (no lane), Millard
- Concerns raised by Councillors about lanes on streets:
 - Should Main portion of E-W be moved to Church?
 - Conflicts with street parking
 - Safety at Srigley / Prospect intersection
 - Need more bike parking, including covered at transit stops
 - Snow clearing (much recognition of growth in winter cycling)
 - Timely and wide notification to public – not just immediate neighbourhood
 - Need for connectivity e.g. Mulock, London separated lanes
- Concerns raised by Councillors about off-road trails
 - Trails are crowded, too small, need to separate bikes & pedestrians
- Positive \$ outcomes from increasing cycling – health, less traffic
- Other positives include traffic calming, safety

We felt that our past submissions to Council have been listened to. Good work, all!

WINTER SAFETY

Riding in winter can be rewarding and fun, but it's also more dangerous. Make sure all your lights work (remember that \$110 fine!) and wear reflective clothing. On our Facebook page, there's a link from Petra to a Mother Earth News article: **How To: Winter Biking**

DO YOU RIDE IN WINTER?

Todd: I don't ride in winter because of the snow and the heavy clothing.

Sarah: Yes, I ride all winter, it's my transportation.

David: I ride year-round because that's how I get around and I enjoy the commute every day, unlike some motorists.

Steve: Yes, but not on exceptionally snowy or icy days. Typically even the cold doesn't limit me too much. I dress accordingly, with layers and a breathable wardrobe. Why? Fitness, mostly. I also kind of like it. It's quiet and I generally feel better for it. I have my regular routine routes - to buy groceries, to the chiropractor across town and to the doctors' - even the barber. I feel a little guilty driving these places.



Paul Jolie cycling the beach in Florida, early morning shadow



Bicycle-mounted metal detector scanning the sand for treasure (Photo: Paul Jolie)

WOODSPRING AVENUE CYCLE LANES

Cycle Newmarket members came out in good numbers to the November Public Information Centre concerning the proposed Woodspring Avenue cycle lanes. As you will remember, there are some residents along Woodspring who oppose the proposed lanes, as they want to continue to park on the road in front of their houses.

Among the points made by Cycle Newmarket members:

- Parking is not needed on Woodspring, as houses have garages, and there is on-street parking nearby
- Street parking is dangerous to cyclists, including the kids who live there
- Safety cannot be compromised for convenience
- This concerns the broader community, not just local residents

The **Woodspring Bike Lane report** is scheduled to go to the **February 6th** Committee of the Whole meeting. All who attended or put in comments later will be notified. Try to be there.

BICYCLE PARKING MAPS

It's easiest to use these QR codes:

Newmarket:



Vaughan:



Newmarket may be working on a more complete map for cycling infrastructure. You should be able to find it through an online search, then.

Special thanks to all the places that have bike parking, including No Frills, which installed one recently, and to those Cycle Newmarket members who have asked businesses to install them.

WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR BIKE FOR CHRISTMAS?

[This question was asked before Christmas...]

Todd: I'd give my bike a full maintenance inspection.

Sarah: Probably it needs a bath...

Paul: A bike box and a plane ticket to the tropics! (See photos above)

Dave: I got a mini-carrier and a new bell for Peggy's bike.

David: All I need to give my bike at this point is a rider.

Steve: a case of "Finish Line Dry Bike Lubricant" for those slushy days when your chain is a crud magnet

I don't ride to add days to my life, I ride to add life to my days!

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Spring 2017



East-West Bikeway – Prospect, Eagle, Millard, Main (cw from top left)

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EAST-WEST BIKEWAY

LETTER OF SUPPORT

NO U-TURN

NEW BIKE PARKING

T-SHIRTS



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sometime in August.

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Bi-directional lanes on Prospect:

- Not good for cyclists going farther on Prospect
- Cars stopped on Srigley or turning onto Srigley will expect northbound cyclists to turn onto Srigley, not continue up Prospect
- Cyclists on Prospect coming south have no safe way to cross to get onto Srigley, and will not cross just to use the short section of bi-directional Bikeway
- Prospect is a logical north-south cycling route, so it should be planned as such now, with bike lanes on both sides

East-West Bikeway:

The Town held a PIC to give information on the plans for the East-West Bikeway, and to give citizens a chance for input. There are copies of the display boards at:

<http://www.newmarket.ca/TownGovernment/Pages/News-Description.aspx?NewsID=257>

The route is Srigley-Prospect-Timothy-Main-Park-Lorne-Millard-Eagle

- On Srigley the lane heading uphill is wider than on the downhill
- On Prospect, the proposal has a two-way separated lane. Joan has pointed out problems with that (see sidebar to the lower left), and that very few places do that anymore. One wonders how many will use Charlotte instead. For more on this: <http://www.copenhagenize.com/2014/06/explaining-bi-directional-cycle-track.html>
- The section along Eagle from Millard to Davis is an off-road shared trail, which also has problems, not just with “sharing”, but also with transitioning between the trail/sidewalk and the road
- Main Street will see bikes and cars sharing the entire width of the road (so many will probably use Timothy as an undeclared contra-flow and go up Church or Lorne to Millard).

There are six different types of cycle lanes along the Bikeway:

- Buffered bike lanes will have a separation marked by painted hatched buffers and planter boxes
- Bike lanes separated from full driving lanes by solid painted lines
- Advisory lanes will have dashed lines; car traffic will not have a centre line. These lanes will be on narrower streets, and cars will be able to dip into the cycle lane to get past oncoming traffic.
- Signed bike lanes are full-width traffic lanes with sharrows – the double chevrons with a bike
- Multi-use pathways set back from roadway, like the Nokiidaa Trail
- Two-way cycletrack, which will have both directions on the same side of the traffic lanes, separated by bollards.

At the March meeting, Cycle Newmarket members seemed happy and hopeful with the design, and looking forward to giving it a try.

ASKING GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT CYCLING

Ottawa Councillor Jeff Leiper and Toronto Councillor Mike Layton sent a letter to the appropriate Ministers supporting Share the Road Cycling Coalition call for the Province to invest \$50 million in cycling infrastructure as part of the 2017 budget.

It was endorsed by 51 other elected representatives, including Newmarket's John Taylor. Due to a short response time, Mr Taylor was unable to ask other Newmarket Councillors to endorse the letter.

DRIVERS ED

Yet another problem with on-street parking...Have you noticed how many times drivers pull away from their on-street parking and do a U-turn? I see it on Prospect, near where I live, all the time – they even come up on the sidewalk! I've even seen it on Main.

Bike Parking Spaces



Our bike parking map continues to grow, with new "finds" and some brand new additions – No Frills and Home Hardware (Thanks, Steve!), and Market Square.

If the QR code doesn't do it for you, you can go to our Community Facebook page and link to the map. The URL is crazy-long, so I won't put it here. Anyone know how to get the map to show up on a search engine listing?

BIKE TO WORK DAY

This year's Bike To Work Day is May 29, and Cycle Newmarket will have a table at Riverwalk Commons. We'll be there early – like 7:30 – so drop by.

You can register on bikemonth.ca, and enter a draw for prizes. Registration starts May 1.

CYCLE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Cycle Newmarket has asked Council to proclaim May 29 to June 30 Cycle Month in Newmarket. This would coordinate with various Cycle Month events in and around the GTHA, including York Region's Bike To Work Day. It would also be an opportunity to raise public awareness of active transportation in Newmarket, and celebrate the recent progress in improving cycling infrastructure in Newmarket.

Council will consider the proclamation at its May 8 Committee of the Whole meeting, starting at 1:30. They rarely discuss these, though.

CYCLE NEWMARKET T-SHIRTS

Cycle Newmarket had T-shirts made so that when we ride, we're clearly together. We're hoping that they will be conversation starters and maybe even a bit of a fund raiser.

The shirts were made at Canada T on Main Street.

We may do another printing run, so if you didn't get yours, there's still hope!



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Summer 2017



Bike to Work Day 2017

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/smartcommutecy/albums/72157684609888176>)

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PROCLAMATION

DRIVERS ED X 2

BIKES FOR CUBA



CYCLE NEWMARKET



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Look for the Fall edition
sometime in October

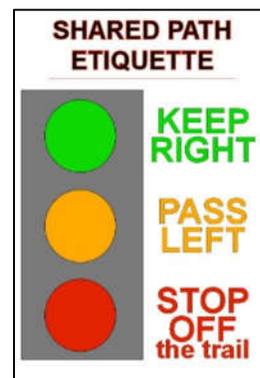
Send submissions and ideas to
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SHARED TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Cyclists and pedestrians alike complain about bad behaviour on shared trails. Part of the problem is that lots of people don't know how to share the trail. Walking and cycling in many other countries is seamless because everyone knows the rules and most comply.

Cycle Newmarket has created this sign and is encouraging its adoption in Newmarket. Councillor Twinney presented it to council after she saw it at 'Cycle to Work' day in May.

The shared path rules apply equally to pedestrians and cyclists and if followed should eliminate a lot of problems encountered by both cyclists and walkers.



PROCLAMATION

Town Council proclaimed May 29 to June 30 as Cycle Month in Newmarket, as we requested.

DRIVERS ED

If you see dangerous driving caused by on-street parking, be sure to let your Councillor know! Examples: U-Turns, sudden pulling out, opening driver door...

NEWSLETTERS ONLINE!

HERE'S A WAY TO GET ALL ISSUES OF CYCLE NEWMARKET NEWS:
<http://pixsilver.com/CycleNewmarket/CycleNmktNews.html>

BIKES FOR CUBA

Jeff Reid, up in Jackson's Point, has been running Bikes For Cuba (<http://bikesforcuba.com/>) for about 8 years now. It all started by accident: he was on a cycling vacation in Cuba, and came across a small-town kids' racing team that had only one bike. Jeff ended up donating his own bike to them. On his return home, he put the word out, and Bikes For Cuba was born.

The focus of Bikes For Cuba is still on school racing teams. Jeff doesn't just take bikes, either; parts and tools and even cycling jerseys are needed. As of May 2017, Canadians have donated and delivered 359 bikes plus tons of gear.

Jeff collects donated bikes, mainly road bikes but also those suited to just getting around. When he gets an offer of a bike, Jeff picks it up, boxes it up for flight, and finds a volunteer heading to Cuba who will take it there. Jeff's Cuban contact picks the bike up at the other end. Jeff will even lend bikes to individuals or groups who want to bike in Cuba; they then leave the bikes behind when they come home. In all cases, there is no cost to the volunteer taking the bikes down.

If you are heading to Cuba, why not take along a bike (or an extra bike or two) to help out with the program? Just contact Jeff at jeffsreid@rogers.com – he always has bikes ready to go.



Images from bikesforcuba.com

MORE DRIVERS ED

From: **Why bike lanes are good for drivers — and everyone else**

Adam van Koeverden, Olympian: Toronto Star, Mon., July 17, 2017

I have a strategy that I use, when I'm parking my own car... Once you've parked your car, and you still have your seat belt on, crack your door a bit. As you gather your things, turn off your car and undo your seat belt, that slightly ajar door has alerted cyclists that you're about to get out. Now check your mirror and over your shoulder as you open the door into the danger zone. If you see someone on a bike, just wait a second, they have the right of way.

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Fall 2017



The beautiful multipurpose boardwalk, from the Second Concession Bridge

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2ND CONCESSION BRIDGE

EAST-WEST BIKEWAY

(& CONTROVERSY)

REPORT CARD TO COUNCIL

CN IDEAMARKET



CYCLE NEWMARKET



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pixsilver.com/cycle.html

Look for the Winter edition
sometime in January 2018.

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IDEAMARKET – OCT 24, 2017 – IS CYCLING A VIABLE FORM OF TRANSPORTATION IN NEWMARKET?

Cycle Newmarket was born at an IdeaMarket, and we thought it was time for a 2-year follow-up.

There were two speakers: Paul Jolie from Cycle Newmarket, and Shawn Smith, program manager for active and sustainable transportation, York Region.

Paul recapped Cycle Newmarket's history, and gave many reasons to improve cycling infrastructure. He made clear that there are two kinds of cyclists – leisure and commuting – and that we're concerned with the latter. He also pointed out that increasing density will make cycling more necessary, and that students should be able to cycle safely to school.

Shawn talked about planned bike lanes, including Bathurst north of Davis, connecting to Woodspring; connecting Main to the Second Concession; Leslie from Mulock to St. John's; and several others.

Initiatives and outreach include the Strava app, which tracks cycle use in Newmarket; various maps and publications; group rides; and photo and video challenges.

Discussion pro and con centred on bike and car parking; how to drive near the bike lanes, especially while turning; how roads are selected for bike lanes; local vs European cycling culture; and so on.

It was a very worthwhile discussion.

EAST-WEST BIKEWAY

The Newmarket East-West Bikeway was completed, too. It opened, the road paint was adjusted to make it better, and the bollards went up. Almost immediately, the Town needed to lay a temporary drain pipe along the bike lane on Srigley, and a great many negative comments flowed in from drivers, to councilors and on Facebook. The bollards came down almost immediately, as planned, for the winter. See the Report Card...

BIKEWAY CONTROVERSY – NEWMARKET WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Well, nobody said it was going to be easy... Newmarket is very driver-centric, and since the Bikeway went in, we’ve been hearing about it on Facebook and from some Councillors. Here are a few paraphrased online comments from drivers; many were repeated: There are never any cyclists on these bike lanes. There are never cars parked on Prospect. The bollards are ugly (Response: Roads are ugly). Bollards make the road narrow and unsafe for my pickup truck/school buses etc. How will emergency vehicles cope with the bollards? Roads are for cars, and paid for by car licences.

Cycle Newmarket members and other pro-cycle people posted explanations and responses, to the point where the person who started one of the discussions actually changed her view on the bike lanes – she likes them, now.

It’s important to be aware of these attitudes from our fellow citizens. They are campaigning already to have the cycle lanes removed, and we have to be ready to respond during the election campaign and before.

REPORT CARD: THE STATE OF NEWMARKET’S CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Cycle Newmarket recently produced a Report Card on Newmarket’s cycling infrastructure. Here is a summary. There’s an election coming up in 2018; use the report card when you are talking to your candidates. For the full report card, go to pixsilver.com/cycle.html

Town of Newmarket cycling routes

Active Transportation Master Plan: Grade A

East-West Bikeway: Grade B+

Woodspring Ave bike lane: Grade A+

Main St North: Grade C

Savage Rd / Sandford St traffic calming: Grade D

Bicycle parking facilities

Town properties: Grade A-

Commercial properties: Grade C

Public awareness and bylaw concerns

Multi-use pathway etiquette: Grade B

Sidewalk cycling bylaw: Grade B-

Highway Traffic Act cycling provisions: Grade B

Forced turn intersections: (Suggested that cyclists be exempted, as buses are.)

Region of York routes within Newmarket

Yonge: Grade A+

Davis: Grade F

Leslie: Grade C

Mulock: Grade F

Bayview/Prospect: Grade D Bathurst: Grade D+

We could also comment on the condition of the road pavement, especially in cycle lanes...

SECOND CONCESSION BRIDGE AND CYCLE LANES



The construction to rebuild the Nokiidaa/ Tom Taylor Trail north of Green Lane to Second Concession (Main St north of Green Lane) is complete. The official opening was in September, and included the new bridge over the Holland River and the

Second Concession bike lanes. Cycle Newmarket members were there to ride the new cycle lanes and the new boardwalk beside Rogers Reservoir, as were many others.

A number of Cycle Newmarket business cards

and newsletters were distributed. We had a chance to talk with some Town and Region politicians and staff (after the ribbon-cutting) about some matters of concern to cyclists.

The boardwalk and the bridge, taken together, form a wonderful piece of public art (in this writer’s opinion). It’s also a tremendous piece of storm-water control infrastructure, which will be increasingly necessary as the climate continues to change.

On the ride back into Newmarket, some of us noticed (again) that the cycling lanes just end at the northern border with Newmarket. Still lots to do!