



Bike Day on the Hill 2024

~The power and promise of e-bikes and cargo bikes~

Tuesday, October 8th, 2024

Event report

A non-partisan celebration of everyday cycling on Parliament Hill organized by national cycling advocacy organization Vélo Canada Bikes. This 9th edition attracted over 200 participants including 14 Members of Parliament and five Senators. The event featured Canada's first **Parliamentary Slow Bike Challenge**, a massive group photo and a formal reception. The reception included **greetings from MPs representing all federal parties, a showcase of e-bikes and e-cargo bikes, the presentation of national cycling advocacy awards, and light hors d'oeuvres.**



Canadian Parliamentary Slow Bike Challenge

Bike Day on the Hill 2024 began with an acknowledgement that we were gathering on the traditional unceded, unsundered territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg People and was followed by greetings from the two parliamentary co-sponsors of the event, MP Julie Dabrusin and Senator Marty Deacon.

From there we launched into Canada's very first Parliamentary Slow Bike Challenge. Each participant's balance was put to the test as they competed to be the *last* cyclist to cross the finish line without their feet touching the ground.



The competitors included Senator Mary Coyle, Senator Marty Deacon, MP Julie Dabrusin, MP Sébastien Lemire, MP Jean Yip, High Commissioner Mark A Pace of the High Commission of the Republic of Malta in Canada, Ambassador Jarl Frijs-Madsen of the Embassy of Denmark in Canada, Councillor Theresa Kavanagh of the City of Ottawa, and winner MP Adam van Koeverden. Live commentary was provided by Olympian Sue Holloway.





MP Julie Dabrusin, Toronto-Danforth (Liberal), MP Sonia Sidhu, Brampton South (Liberal), Kate Walker of Vélo Canada Bikes, MP Pam Damoff, Oakville North-Burlington (Liberal), MP Taylor Bachrach, Skeena-Bulkley Valley (NDP) and MP Gord Johns, Courtenay-Alberni (NDP)

Parliamentary support

To build healthier, more inclusive, and less congested communities, Canadian leaders need to give serious consideration to the power of bicycles. Bike Day on the Hill 2024 brought together leaders from diverse backgrounds to celebrate everyday cycling in Canada.

Speakers from each federal party



MP Julie Dabrusin, Toronto-Danforth (Liberal)



MP Karen Vecchio, Elgin-Middlesex-London (Conservative)



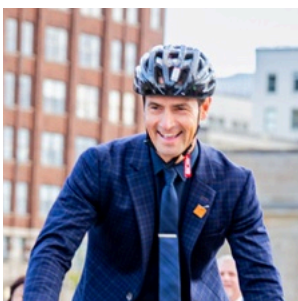
MP Gord Johns, Courtenay-Alberni (NDP)



MP Sébastien Lemire, Abitibi-Témiscamingue (Bloc Québécois)



MP Mike Morrice, Kitchener Centre (Green)



MP Adam van Koeverden, Milton (Liberal)



Senator Pat Duncan



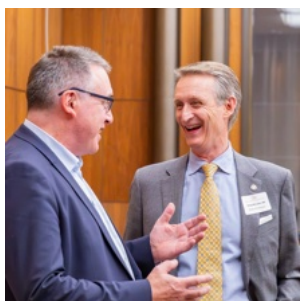
MP Scott Aitchison, Parry Sound — Muskoka (Conservative)



Senators Mary Coyle, Bev Busson, Jane MacAdam and Marty Deacon



Jane Hu and Annie Gauthier of Cycling Without Age Canada with MP Andréanne Larouche, Shefford (Bloc Québécois)



Councillor Alex Norris, Le Plateau-Mont-Royal Montreal and MP Greg McLean, Calgary Centre (Conservative)



MP Jean Yip, Scarborough — Agincourt (Liberal), MP Taylor Bachrach, Skeena-Bulkley Valley (NDP) and Samuel Benoit of Vélo Canada Bikes



The power and promise of e-bikes and cargo bikes



As part of the reception Vélo Canada Bikes board Chair Kate Walker, highlighted why we need to give greater policy focus to e-bikes and cargo bikes:

Vélo Canada Bikes has a vision, shared by many, of a Canada where cycling is safe and accessible, for all people and all journeys.

To achieve this vision, two key ingredients are needed:

1. Safe and complete cycling **infrastructure** (with year-round maintenance, including winter maintenance).
2. Access to appropriate, and affordable, **equipment**



E-bikes and cargo bikes are powerful tools to expand cycling access.

Clarity needed on definition of e-bikes and cargo bikes:

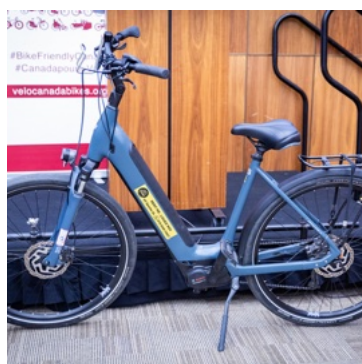
- *E-Bikes:* Pedal-powered bicycles with an on/off electric assist (and safe max speed and weight).
- *Cargo Bikes:* Bicycles designed to transport people and goods, some models have an electric assist (with safe max speed and weight).



Benefits of e-bikes and cargo bikes:

- *Increase accessibility:* Cycle longer distances and hillier terrain, and support older adults and people with health conditions to cycle
- *Enhance mobility options:* Transporting people (children, pets) and goods (groceries, supplies) via bicycle
- *Mode shift from cars to bicycles:* Saving money, reducing congestion and improving air quality.

Canada needs appropriate and harmonized regulations across the country to realize the benefits of e-bikes and cargo bikes.





National Cycling Advocacy Awards (The Arnos)

Named in memory of **Arno Schortinghuis**, a tireless cycling advocate and founding board member of Vélo Canada Bikes, The Arnos recognize and celebrate the many organizations, individuals, leaders, and businesses that are making Canada a more bicycle-friendly nation.

This year, our inaugural **Inclusion in Cycling Award** recognized **Jane Williams-Hu** of **Cycling Without Age Canada** for the organization's work in enabling seniors across the country to experience the joy of cycling. The award was presented by Danish Ambassador Jarl Frijs-Madsen, who highlighted the origins of the movement in Denmark, and MP Scott Aitchison, who had Cycling Without Age volunteers from his constituency present.

Anders Swanson was the recipient of the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, recognizing his significant contributions to advancing everyday cycling in Canada at the national level.

As a founding member and nine-year board chair of Vélo Canada Bikes, Anders played a pivotal role in transforming the organization from a grassroots movement into a respected federal not-for-profit. His efforts were instrumental in securing the creation of Canada's first National Active Transportation Strategy and a dedicated \$400 million fund for active transportation infrastructure.

While Anders undoubtedly has many more years of impactful work ahead, this award acknowledges his extraordinary contributions to date in advancing everyday cycling in Canada.



Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante received our **National Cycling Advocate of the Year** award for her exemplary leadership and evidence-based approach to advancing cycling in Montreal.

Under her guidance, Montreal has made significant strides in building cycling infrastructure. The city boasts over 900 km of bike lanes, with over 700 km cleared for winter cycling. The "Vision Vélo 2023-2027" plan, led by Mayor Plante, aims to invest \$30 million annually in cycling and add 200 km of separated bike lanes. She is also spearheading the development of express bike networks, designed to be accessible to cyclists of all ages and abilities.

Councillor Alex Norris of Le Plateau-Mont-Royal borough represented Mayor Plante at Bike Day on the Hill 2024.



The cycling industry is a vital partner in our pursuit of a safe and accessible cycling future for all Canadians.

We were pleased to present **Taylor Cook** and **Bob Burns** of **Trek Bicycle** with our Industry Award. Despite industry-wide challenges, Trek has consistently demonstrated exceptional support for building a bicycle-friendly Canada.





Some attendees



MPP Joel Harden, Ottawa Centre (Ontario NDP) and Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, Ottawa Bay Ward



Jennifer Stelzer, Felicity Borgal and Cassie Smith (EnviroCentre)



Murielle Pierre and Jeff Woznow (CAA)



High Commissioner Mark Pace (Republic of Malta)



Rajiv Kalsi and Councillor Alex Norris, Le Plateau-Mont-Royal Montreal



Torbjørn Lund and Ambassador Jarl Frijs-Madsen (Embassy of Denmark in Canada)



Taylor Cook (Trek), Anders Swanson (Winnipeg Trails), Kate Walker (Vélo Canada Bikes) and Judi Vargha-Toth (Colleges and Institutes Canada)



Mikaila Boyd, Rudolph Damas (Global Public Affairs) and Samuel Benoit (Vélo Canada Bikes)



Sit Ling Shirley Lee of The Glebe Centre and Jane Hu, Executive Director of Cycling Without Age Canada



Brian Patterson (Urban Systems), Samuel Benoit (Vélo Canada Bikes) and Jennifer Stelzer (EnviroCentre)



Matthew Jefferies (Cycling Canada) and Matti Pihlainen (Full Cycle)



Joshua Lindner (Office of Minister Diane LeBouthillier) and MP Gord Johns



Event sponsors

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting Vélo Canada Bikes to deliver Bike Day on the Hill 2024

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Silver event sponsor



Bronze event sponsors



Nonprofit event supporters



Vélo Canada Bikes supporting partners



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Media coverage

The Hill Times

Party Central: Parliamentarians compete in friendly slow-cycling challenge at Bike Day event by Riddi Kachhela. Oct 10 2024

The Ottawa Citizen

Electric cargo bikes could transform transportation in Ottawa by Cassie Smith and Samuel Benoit. Oct 15 2024

Organizing Committee



Vélo Canada Bikes board members Kate Walker and Shelley Pelkey (Not pictured: Board members Eleanor Fast and Kathryn Manners)



Dave Robertson (Bike Ottawa)



Samuel Benoit (Vélo Canada Bikes) and Greg Barley (Office of Julie Dabrusin, MP)

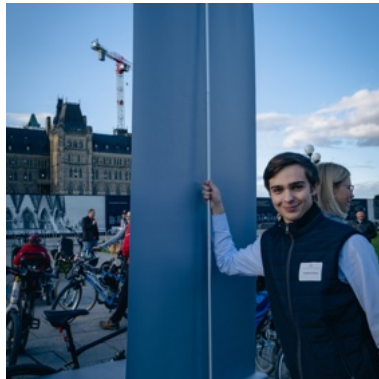


Sue Holloway (Office of Senator Marty Deacon)

Event Volunteers



Safiya Benoit



Johnathan Pelkey



Karl Saidla



Zvi Leve (Vélo Canada Bikes)

Photography team



Ray Paulo Garcia (Pictures and Prints), Maria Lucia Gonzalez Torres and Clint Cui (YoLAB Studio)

Additional photography:

Tara Shamsi, Felicity Borgal, Zvi Leve, Nolan Struss and Samuel Benoit

Exhibitors





Vélo Canada Bikes, founded in 2012, is a national non-profit organization working to build a bicycle friendly Canada. We are the national voice and organizing body for promoting cycling as a means of everyday transportation and recreation.

Our work has contributed to significant policy wins for cycling in Canada, including:

- The creation of Canada's first **National Active Transportation Strategy**
- The establishment of the \$400 million **Active Transportation Fund**
- The inclusion of active transportation funding in the new **Canada Public Transit Fund**

Our current federal advocacy priorities:

- Increased and improved **federal funding** for safe, connected cycling infrastructure
- Improving the regulation of **e-bikes**
- Ensuring cycling continues to be seen as a **non-partisan issue**
- **Vulnerable road users**

Connect

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Website: velocanadabikes.org

LinkedIn: [Vélo Canada Bikes](https://www.linkedin.com/company/velocanadabikes)

Instagram: [@canada_bikes](https://www.instagram.com/canada_bikes)

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