

"A Hand for the Downed Rider"

The Helping Rider

A.I.M VANCOUVER

101 ~ WINTER ~ 2009/10



Is Big Brother watching you?

See page four for details

"HELPING INJURED RIDERS SINCE 1983"

Serving over 250,000 on-and-off road motorcyclists throughout the province, A.I.M. is a benevolent, non-profit society registered under the provincial Societies Act and holding a Federal Charitable Tax Number. A.I.M. is committed to assisting injured motorcyclists by providing legal assistance, knowledge of rights, assistance with emotional support as well as regular hospital visits and helping with aspects of recovery not covered by other agencies. It is operated solely by volunteers and relies on memberships and donations for funding.

www.aimvancouver.com

The Helping Rider

#101 ~ Winter ~ 2009/10

Vancouver A.I.M.

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www.aimvancouver.com

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free to all interested readers.

Advertisements are welcome.

Articles and letters to the editor are also welcome.

Disclaimer

We welcome your input, articles printed in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Association For Injured Motorcyclists

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Busy, Busy, Busy: 2009 in Retrospect

Team Meetings: I have been attending team meetings for our clients at GF Strong and have been taking a different volunteer each time in order to rotate everyone through these. We will continue doing this next year so that everyone gets a chance. We don't have to say anything if we don't want to. Just our being there provides moral support for our client and they always say that they were happy that we were there. It is difficult for a client sitting at a table by themselves which is surrounded by health professionals and discussing health issues in which they have no expertise but they still know what bothers them and what changes they want. Having us at their side gives them confidence to speak up on issues of importance.

Liaison / Referrals: We established contact with a Social Worker at GF Strong who has arranged a meeting with Dave Munro and myself in January with all the Social Workers there. We will be able to make a presentation about what AIM is about and how we help our clients. We are hoping that this will result in establishing a formal liaison for AIM with GF Strong and that the Social Workers will then be able to refer any injured motorcyclists directly to us - with their permission of course. They are apparently very interested in seeing our Journal. She has also arranged for us to meet personally, beforehand with the Social Worker who works on the brain injury floor as well.

Journal: The Journal has been completed and many handed out, both to our clients and other interested organizations that can assist us. I am currently working on completing the training manual (AIM Visitation Guidelines). Upon completion, we will then be able to provide a training course for each Chapter.

Brain Injury Seminar: A Social Worker and a doctor specializing in brain injuries at the GF Strong Centre put on a morning seminar recently on how to cope with a brain injury; specifically for family and friends. They explained what happens in a brain injury and some of the typical symptoms and how to deal with them. A number of our Visitation Volunteers attended as this will help during our visitations.

Looking for Advocates: There are areas of help in which we do not have expertise and we have been looking for people who are specialized in these areas and to whom we can refer our clients. An example is applying for a disability pension.

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities: In search of specialized advocates who can help our clients, Dave and myself met with the Executive Director of the BC Coalition of People with

Disabilities (BCCPD). For example, they help disabled people apply for a disability pension. They explain how the system works and help the client fill out the forms. They will go to bat for them if the request is denied and has to go to appeal. We can now refer our clients directly to them. The BCCPD helps people applying for other financial benefits as well. They are knowledgeable about provincial and federal financial benefits that are available.

(Web Site: www.bccpd.bc.ca)

Empowered Patient: Dave and I also attended The Empowered Patient Conference in Nanaimo. Well over 200 people attended from around the province. Various speakers covered topics including "Empowering Patients to be Part of their Healthcare Teams", "Health Illiteracy", "Drugs Marketing", "Disclosure of Adverse Events and Medical Error", and "Quality improvement of Patient Care". Also presented was "The Empowered Patient Guide to Hospital Care for Patients and Families". The focus of this conference was patients' rights and that was one of the main reasons AIM was started. This is even more relevant today. We learned a great deal at this conference.

At one point during the conference we were able to speak to the entire group about AIM and what we do, showed them the Journal which sparked a great deal of interest, given its emphasis on rights, and we made a pitch for information about advocates. We both were able to establish contacts with various people and organizations and in particular met a Nurse Advocate who will assist us. As she lives in the Nanaimo area on the Island, she will be especially helpful to the Vancouver Island Chapter should they require her services. We subsequently had a further meeting with that same Nurse Advocate here in Vancouver when she attended a conference here. (Web Site:

www.theempoweredpatientconference.com).

We also were approached at the conference by a young gentleman who volunteered to do visitations. We got his name and address and phone number and referred it to the Vancouver Island Chapter representative in Victoria as that is where he lives.

Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association Seminar: Earlier this fall yours truly attended a two day conference in Abbotsford sponsored by the Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association. It covered homelessness and drug addiction. The speakers covered a wide range of related topics. I was able to make a connection with the Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association and they, and other Brain Injury Associations throughout the province can assist and advocate for any of our clients who have suffered brain injury. They will be extremely helpful when our clients go home anywhere in the province as recovery from a brain injury takes many months.

<u>Conclusion</u>: We will continue to establish liaisons with various hospitals and look for more advocates. For example, many motorcycle injuries involve brain injury. There are local brain injury support groups throughout the province and we can refer a client to them when they return home. They are also supportive of family members. Their services are free.

They provide support groups and can also help with obtaining

Gary Richardson, Visitation Director

benefits. (Web Site: www.fvbia.org)

Big Brother

I.C.B.C. may be watching you particularly if you are negotiating a claim with them, especially if there is a soft tissue injury involved. Some lawyers feel that there has been privacy issues bent if not broken! Because I.C.B.C. is a government dept. some agencies will pass on information to them that is not available to others. Information, such as treatment records from hospitals and medical insurance plans from other jurisdictions as well as birth and marriage certificates. Also available are bank account records, and charge card records that could show that you were out and about when you said you were home suffering from your accident. Investigators for I.C.B.C. have tried to get unemployment insurance records and police

records as well. While this may weed out people who are trying to collect on a false claim such as the person that said he was flat on his back but was out digging in the garden! An average of 100 per month out of an average of 2500 cases are sent to be investigated. Lawyers do not take kindly to clients that would falsify their injuries in the hope of getting more money. — REMEMBER —

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Travesty of Justice

On Oct. 25, 2008, Cpl. Robinson's Jeep crashed into a motorcycle at a Tsawwassen intersection. Robinson, who was off-duty at the time, identified himself to witnesses, then left the scene with his two kids, without checking on the dying man, Robinson raced home and "said' he had two stiff drinks,"

That's not enough to penalize him with a stronger charge than obstruction??

Simon Fraser University criminologist David MacAlister raised questions Wednesday as to why Cpl. Robinson was not charged under Sec. 252 of the criminal code — failure to stop at the scene of an accident causing death. "He did stop and gave his driver's license info but the section also required him to provide assistance and based on what I've heard, there isn't any indication he did that."

Delta police recommended charges of impaired driving causing death be laid against Cpl. Robinson for the death of Orion Hutchinson, 21.

The attorney-general's office charged Robinson Tuesday with the lesser charge of obstruction of justice for his alleged actions after the collision, citing lack of evidence. The obstruction charge, which carries no minimum sentence, has a maximum of 10 years.

Neil MacKenzie, Criminal Justice Branch spokesman, said "There was not enough evidence to support impaireddriving charges nor failure to stop at the scene of an accident. These were among the charges that the branch considered but did not meet their charge assessment standard," Mackenzie declined to elaborate further.

Under Sec. 252 of the criminal code, a failure to stop includes an accident where the driver fails to stop to escape civil or criminal liability, or provide his name and address, as well as where a person has been injured and appears to require assistance and none is offered.

By virtue of the fact that he knew the law and he knew what the police had to do to put a case together, he made the decision to go home and have a couple drinks that he knew would interfere with a breathalyzer test. The conduct he engaged in after the accident certainly constituted at least the obstruction charge.

It's a very serious incident and it calls into question his integrity and how honest and forthright he is.

The B.C. Coalition of Motorcyclists is extremely disturbed by the relatively minor charge laid against RCMP officer Cpl Robinson stemming from Orion Hutchinson's death. The Coalition strongly feels that more serious charges ought to be pursued by the Crown or there should be a complete and transparent disclosure indicating the exact reasons why such charges are not appropriate.

Yesterday's press release on the matter was woefully inadequate and the motorcycling community can't help but feel the outcome would be different had the situation been "Motorcyclist kills RCMP officer, drunk driving suspected". The RCMP and the Legal system depend, in a large part, on the trust and faith placed in them by the public. The Coalition is eagerly awaiting a timely response from both the RCMP and the Crown.

RCMP Cpl. Benjamin Robinson was the senior officer at the scene of Robert Dziekanski's Taser-related death. His tragically inept police work was singled out in a report written by Paul Kennedy, chairman of the commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP. Kennedy wrote that the use of the Taser on Mr. Dziekanski was "premature and Inappropriate, Robinson, as senior officer at the scene, failed to take control of the situation and the actions of his junior charges."

The Braidwood enquiry has also labeled the testimony of the four police without credibility relating to their fear that Mr. Dziekanski was about to attack them with a STAPLER!!

There was a peaceful protest outside Surrey Provincial Court. The subject of the 150 placard-waving motorcyclists was the same Cpl. Robinson, who, the protesters claim, should face more serious charges in connection with the 2008 crash that killed motorcyclist Orion Hutchinson.

Cpl Robinson has been prohibited from driving and is currently suspended with pay.

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2010 CMDRA WESTERN RACE SCHEDULE

May 29-30 - Nl'akapxm Eagle Motorplex, Ashcroft, BC - www.eaglemotorplex.com

June 19-20 - Grand Bend Motorplex, Grand Bend, ON - www.grandbendmotorplex.com

(optional for classes that commit 4 or more bikes to attend event)

July 10-11 - Castrol Raceway, Edmonton, AB - www.castrolraceway.com

July 17-18 - Nl'akapxm Eagle Motorplex, Ashcroft, BC - www.eaglemotorplex.com

August 7-8 - MHDRA Drag Strip, Medicine Hat, AB - www.mhdra.com

August 21-22 - Mission Raceway Park, Mission, BC - www.missionraceway.com

September 11-12 - Castrol Raceway, Edmonton, AB - www.castrolraceway.com

September 13 - Year-end Awards Banquet, Nisku Inn, Edmonton, AB

Year end summary of memberships 2009

Singles228
Couples50

Clubs/Company.....3

Many Thanks to you all for supporting AIM and signing up. Please do not forget to renew. Expiry date is on the left side of your membership card

Vancouver Motorcycle Show

January 21 - 24,2010

Tradex Exhibition Centre
Abbotsford Airport, BC
www.vancouvermotorcycleshow.ca/

Thursday....5 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday.....10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Saturday....10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sunday....10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.







From Highway #1 take the Mt. Lehman Rd. Exit and head South on Mt. Lehman Road. Follow the TRADEX signs on Mt. Lehman Road and turn right on Cornell Street.

This Issues Thought

"I am more powerful than the combined armies of the world. I have destroyed more men than all the wars of all the nations. I massacre thousands of people every year. I am more deadly than bullets and I have wrecked more homes than the deadliest guns." "In the United States alone, I steal over 50 million dollars each year. I spare no one and I find my victims among the rich and the poor alike, the young and the old, the strong and the weak. Widows know me to their everlasting sorrow. I loom upon such portions that I cast my shadow over every field of labor." "I lurk in unseen places and do most of my work silently. You are warned against me. yet you heed me not! I am relentless, merciless and cruel. I am everywhere, in the home, on the streets, in the factory, at railroad crossings, on land, in the air and on the sea." "I bring sickness, degradation and death. Yet few seek me out to destroy me. I crush, I maim, I devastate,

I will give you nothing and rob you of all you have."

"I am your worst enemy"
"I AM CARELESSNESS."

- Author Unknown -



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TRIP TO STURGIS

I was talking to Rocky and Karen after an A.I.M. meeting and I asked if they had any riding plans for the summer of 2005 They said "we' re going to Sturgis" I said "I was there in 1990 and I wouldn't mind going again." Rocky says "good, you can drive my pickup." I thought about it for a few days, looked into my affairs and decided I would go, so I called Rocky up and told him "I was in" I'll have to tow the trailer with their gear in it! Now he tells me, and we're having a meeting with the others on Wednesday in Langley. The others?? "Oookay." On Wednesday I meet the "others" five others to be exact.

We agree to leave on Aug. 6th from the Chevron station at 264th and Fraser Hiway at 9:30 a.m. We clear the border at 10:00, no problem. Down Meridian St to the 1-5 entrance, they make the light, I don't, I pull out in heavy traffic, their GONE! I have to go with the flow. I know we're headed for Spokane so I keep a lookout at the turnoff just north of Everett, no sign, so I keep going on 1-5. Next exit no sign so I continue on to a truck stop that I used to stop at years ago to fuel up and call Rocky. What now, the fuel stop is gone! O.K. I find a station and fuel up then I call Rocky, what now! My pin # on my calling card is not valid! Telus renewed my card recently and assured me that my pin was still o.k. (didn't check it out) What to do? I call my son at home and get him to call Rockys Cel and find out where they are, you can't receive calls on a pay phone so I have to call him back. Oh great, they're in Ellensburg and I'm still in south Seattle. I grab a quick bite and hit the road. I pull into Ellensburg and fuel up, no sign of the crew so I head to Spokane and pull off to make another call to my son, to Rocky, and back again. They're at a rest stop near Coure de Arlene. I hightail it down the highway and soon see Rocky on the side of the freeway waving his arms to attract my attention. I'm doing 120-130 K.P.H. on cruise control in Rockys 2004 Ford Harley Davidson diesel pickup towing a 20ft. fully enclosed trailer, Man! it takes a while to stop. We stop in the



town of Kellog fuel up but have to settle for junk food, no restaurants open, it's after 10:00. We spend some time locating a place to stay, a one room cabin no less. Rocky and Karen get the bed while the rest of the crew flake out on the floor. Me? I bunk up in the truck.

<u>Day Two</u> We have a hearty breakfast in Kellog and head out for Missoula then Boise and stop in Billings for the night. Stuff ourselves at Red Lobster, overrated, I think. I wake up feeling sick to my stomach, Damn, not now when your being depended on, my stomach settles down after a while.

Day three We stop at every Harley dealer we see and some that our fearless leaders know about. One place we stopped at had an electric lantern with a remote control! Boy, these Harley riders sure know how to rough it. The weather was hot and dry as usual for this part of the county. We stopped at Little Bighorn Battleground to sight see (when I was there in 1990 admission was free, now they charge) On to Sturgis. We pulled into Sturgis at 7:30 Bikes all over the place from overheating Hot, Hot and traffic so tied up you could walk faster! Rocky had told me where the campground they had reserved a spot in the following manner "Go to xxx then turn left and go right to the end of the road where you'll see the campground on the right. It took me three and a half hours to go three miles and I became separated from the gang (Overheating put them on the roadside).

Well there's the road to turn onto and there's the sign for the campground, piece of cake!? NOT! I drive down the road looking for the end, hard to see because night has fallen. A couple of times I was yelled at, don't go down there! Hell I'am looking for the end, well I found it alright, what's going on here, no drive way into the campground! So near yet so far!

Continued Page eight

GEORGE GERAGHTY

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Newsletter in Color at www.aimvancouver.com/news

Continued from Page 7

There was a couple of guys leaning on a makeshift fence watching people in the campsite next door roaring around in an old pickup and on bikes.

I asked one what was up and he said the girls showed their tits here every nite and they had come to watch. I explained my problem to one of them and he said "You missed your turn off about 600 ft. back! He volunteered to call Rocky on his cel, I told Rocky where I was and found out they were close to the campsite so I said "get a couple of flashlites and come down to the end of the road so you can guide me to back up (there was no room to turn the rig around let alone a car!) Rocky shows up and tells me the last time they were there the road didn't go that far. God bless power steering, I managed to back up between the cars parked on both sides of the road and get turned into the campsite. We ended up about mid nite, cold , hungry and tired, BUT WE MADE ER!

Day Four The Gang decided to go to Mount Rushmore and ride around so I went up town and shopped for a couple of "T" shirts, a Sturgis cap and see the sights. I got a ride into town, bought my stuff and found out they had bus service to all the campgrounds. It wasn't like 1990 with lots of weird and wonderful bikes. This time the whole place was filled with old fat guys on cruisers. Took the bus back and rested. The gang went riding the next day.

<u>Day Five</u> I decided go and get my H.O.G. ride pin in Rapid City at the Convention Centre no less! They had a half dozen computers set up to process the ride pins and of course a large area to sell stuff. Free refreshments, WoW, Lemonade and popcorn, all you could eat! Those H.O.G. riders sure know how to party! I decided to take a drive out to Ellesmere Air Force Base to see

Election Results

The Annual General meeting was held at the Davidson's Pittstop Restaurant 16225 Fraser Highway Surrey on Nov.19th. The incumbents were returned unanimously with some changes in titles. We now have eight Directors at Large who can be called upon to assist during the coming year. Welcome to you all.

See directors list on Page two for details.

the museum and a guided tour of the base where we went down into a Minute man missile silo No longer used, old technology. I fueled up for our trip back and returned to the campsite.

Day Six Woke up to drizzle, broke camp and went to the big "M" for breakfast. The weather cleared as we went west, we took a detour to have a look at the Devil's Chimney which is a lava formation a couple hundred ft. high and flat on the top (They charged for that too) We headed west at a rapid pace and noticed large clouds, dark and foreboding, directly ahead! There is a mountain pass we have to go over to get to Billings where we wanted to spend the night. When we arrived at the pass we were greeted with a mix of rain, hail, snow! A decision was made by some to stop for the night so a room was secured, then the sky cleared and those that were splitting of to go north anyway decided to stay, while the stalwart few decided to head for Billings. There was a bit of rain but we made it to Billings and stayed at the same place and hit Red Lobster too.

<u>Day Seven</u> The rest of the trip was uneventful, no one broke down, we reached the border late in the evening, the crossing went smoothly and I was greeted by the Canadian Customs women on duty exclaiming "WELCOME HOME"

SMOKEY

AIM meetings

Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm DAVIDSON PITTSTOP RESTUARANT 16225 Fraser Hwy, Surrey, BC All are Welcome! Rain or Shine!

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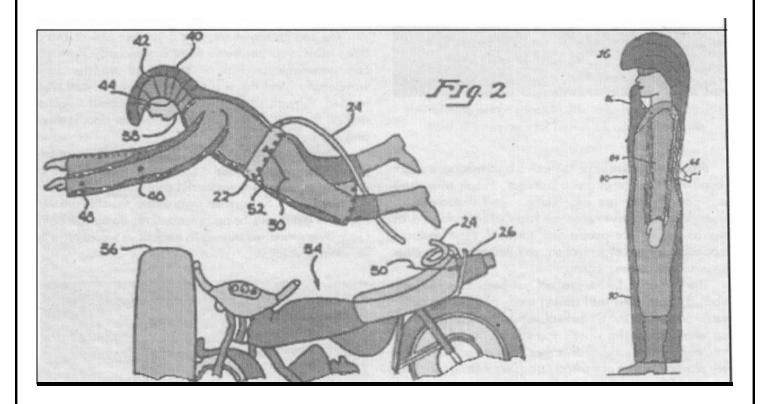
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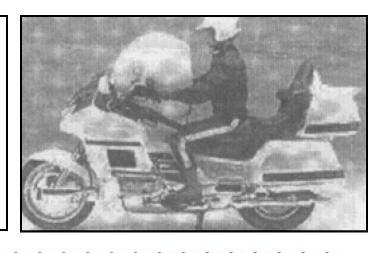
PLEASE Ride SAFELY!!!



Is this what's coming next?

The rider Airbag shown above was issued patent # 4,526,964 in the U.S.A. in 1989. It is doubtful if it will be readily acceptable by riders. I wonder how far you'll bounce in your rubber safety suit?

Or maybe this prototype by Honda will fill the bill?







Visitations Report - 2009

As usual, this has been a busy year, although slightly less busy than last year. We totalled 202 visitations, 112 phone consultations, totalling 314 visitations altogether; compared to 364 last year. We attended 36 downed riders (45 last year) and helped 21 family members (35 last year). This is for the entire year 2009: January 1 to December 31. We don't know why the numbers are down slightly this year. The weather was better than last year. Maybe people are riding defensively. It would be nice if this trend continues. The fewer riders injured the better.

We are currently attending two downed riders who are wheelchair bound, one in GF Strong Rehab Centre and the other in the George Pearson Centre. They are hoping they will be ready for discharge in two to three months. We continue regular weekly visits to them both, and for Christmas, we met the rider in George Pearson at his local favourite restaurant for Christmas dinner. The rider in GF Strong, we shared Christmas dinner with him at the Centre. Several visitation volunteers showed up at both dinners and the clients really lit up when everyone showed up. Many thanks for your support, guys and gals!

All of our Visitation Volunteers are dedicated and have done a wonderful job this year. Each brings a unique approach to their visits and helps our clients greatly. Throughout the year we have taken various Clients to the "rider friendly" Davidson Pitt Stop Restaurant, at 16225A Fraser Hwy, Surrey, BC. Our clients were able to meet other riders, sign their names on the wall, and Amy and Marco gave them each a T-shirt. Way to go, Amy and Marco, who are huge supporters of A.I.M. We appreciate all your help.

A number of	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31	2009	2008
our riders are			
from "up- country". Due	Visitations	202	
to the severe	Phone Consultations	<u>112</u>	
nature of their	Total Visitations	<u>314</u>	<u>364</u>
injuries, they			
are flown down	Riders Helped	36	45
here to	Family Members Helped	<u>21</u>	<u>35</u>
hospitals that	Total Helped	<u>57</u>	<u>80</u>
have the			

facilities and expertise to treat them. Their convalescence is usually quite lengthy and we are heavily involved with them, squeezing in extra visits when we can. When they return home, we send a referral to the local Chapter and suggest needs that have already been indicated to us by our client. That way, regardless of where they live in the province, they can continue to receive assistance from AIM in general for a short duration until they have settled in at home. In one case this year we also continued with a few visits to a downed rider after he went home to Summerland.

Gary Richardson, Visitation Director

Christmas Hamper 2009

Amy and Marco at the Davidson Pitt Stop Restaurant have provided a drop-off box for a food hamper two years in a row. Many generous bikers have donated non-perishable food at the Restaurant and the box has filled up again this year. We have donated this plus a cheque for to the wife (currently not working) of a downed rider with brain injury in his second year of recovery and still residing in a specialized setting. The hamper was well received and helped make a better Christmas for them.



Association for Injured Motorcyclists

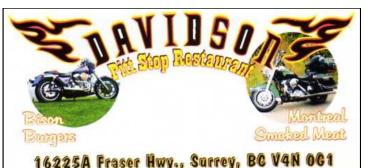
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Association for Injured Motorcyclists	Club Membership		Co	omputer		



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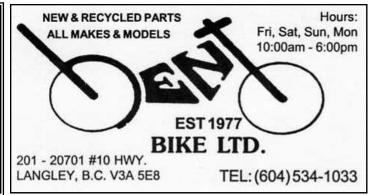
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Paul Wakumic's dinner at G.F. Strong Centre, Paul on the left, then Gary Richardson, Paul Hounslow, Doug (Nick) Nicolson Visitation Volunteers and Dave Munro ,President.



Gary Richardson with Barry Nillson, Joining the rest of the gang at George Pearson Rehab Centre for Christmas dinner.

The Toy Run 2009 with Mr & Mrs Santa Claus

It was a beautiful day, great turnout. After the Toy Run, hot chicken soup at Trev Deeleys on Boundary Rd, then ride out to Maple Ridge, and visit Louie at Louie Leathers for the block party on his street.

All are welcome at both locations.









