

NEWS

▼ BIKETO WORK WEEK

Impatient motorists, irritated cyclists missing the point

With our ever growing (in girth) population, it seems to me that the main topic of discussion for "bike to work week" should be how to motivate us all to choose the healthier commuting option.

Instead, the main topic of discussion is about cyclists and motorists, and cyclists and pedestrians, sharing the available space from point A to point B. It seems we don't share well, particularly in comparison to some other countries, with much denser populations, where masses of cyclist and pedestrians manage to co-



ACHIEVING JUSTICE

Paul Hergott

exist with motorists.

The main discussion feature seems to be motorists bellyaching about cyclists.

Cyclists are "vehicles" under traffic laws and many of those darned cyclists appear to ignore those laws.

Road safety is raised, when you listen to the points raised by motor-

ists and their tone when raising those points, road safety takes the back burner.

I don't hear motorists expressing genuine concern for the safety of cyclists. If safety was the genuine concern, instead of bellyaching I would hear suggestions and strategies about how to protect cyclists.

I would hear things like: "It is dangerous for cyclists to ride at the very edge of a road, as sometimes there is an edge where the asphalt ends and loose gravel begins that can cause a cyclist to lose control, so give cyclist lots of room when

passing them."

Maybe, someone would call into a radio show and say: "I felt horrible when a young person on a bicycle pulled out directly in front of my car and I almost hit her. I have learned an important lesson that when coming up behind a child on a bicycle I need to expect the unexpected, slow right down, give a little honk to make sure the child knows I'm there, and then carefully pass."

Instead, I hear impatient and irritated complaints about those annoying cyclists.

Perhaps we want to deflect attention from the motivation problem.

It's much easier for us motorists to bellyache about cyclists than to seriously consider why we aren't joining them.

Perhaps we're just jealous. There we are, sit-

ting on our butts in our polluting vehicles that we pay to insure, maintain and fill with gas, our mid-sections continuing to grow, while those cyclists are burning a bunch of calories, getting fresh air, while doing the same commute that we do.

It's understandable, I suppose, that we get irritated when cyclists get in our way. That's really what it's about, isn't it? They get in our way.

Why are we so damned selfish and self-centred?

Bike to Work Week marks an anniversary for me as well—one of my (regretfully former) staff took it upon herself to motivate the office to get on our bicycles for Back to Work Week a few years ago.

She was a very experienced cyclist. She always wore her helmet.

On her way home, on her bicycle, within two blocks of my office, an impatient motorist crowded her off the asphalt edge, causing her to lose control and suffer a serious brain injury that she is continuing to recover from today.

I invite you to read Deb's story on OneCrashisTooMany.com.

How ironic. How tragic. How pathetic.

This column is intended to provide general information about injury claims. It is not a substitute for retaining a lawyer to provide legal advice specifically pertaining to your case. Paul Hergott is a lawyer at Hergott Law in West Kelowna.

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A \$50,000 grant for Red Cross

The Red Cross support and disaster operations training room will receive \$50,000 in upgrades, the cost to be covered by a grant from the federal government.

"By making these investments in local infrastructure, we are helping families and communities renew valuable community assets while creating jobs and economic growth," said Kelowna-Lake Country MP Ron Cannan.

The funds will be used to upgrade the washrooms and install new carpet, noise insulation panels, exterior doors and signage. "The grant has been instrumental in helping Red Cross help those who need it most," said Kimberley Nemrava, Red Cross director for B.C./Yukon.

"This generous funding will allow volunteers and the public to learn how to be safe from injury, and to prepare for and respond during disasters."

FUTURE SHOP CORRECTION NOTICE

On page 1 of the May 24 flyer, the Samsung 55"/60" F6300 Series Smart Slim LED TV (UN55F6300AFXZC/UN60F6300AFXZC) and 280-Watt 2.1 Channel Soundbar with Wireless Subwoofer (HW-F450) (WebCode: 10243931/10243930+10241990) package was advertised with incorrect specifications. Please be advised that these TVs CANNOT transmit sound to the soundbar without wires, as previously advertised. Also, on page 20, the laundry pair: Samsung 4.1 Cu. Ft. Front-Load Washer (WF361BVBEWR) and 7.3 Cu. Ft. Dryer (DV361BVBEWR) (WebCode: 10236740/10236734) was advertised with an incorrect price. Please be advised that the CORRECT price for this laundry pair is \$1399.98 with the "Buy More Save More" promotion. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.

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