



President's Message

By Brian Low

It seems like yesterday that we had our first ride of the season on May 5th. Since then we have had 22 weeks filled with weekday and weekend rides. We have had a few days that were too hot - too humid - too wet, but many more that were perfect cycling experiences with like-minded club members who love to get out on the road or gravel and spend time enjoying our area roads and trails.

I'd like to send out a special thanks to our ride coordinator, Melinda Smith, and to our club ride captains and ride leaders. The time and effort contributed by each has made our rides safe, well organized and fun! Thank you!

Our board of directors spent a great deal of time last winter reviewing input from our members, planning new approaches, routes, ride leader training all aimed to make our season a success. You will have the opportunity to provide feedback on our season and ways to make next year even better when you complete our post season survey that will be coming out soon.

Our club is also focused on advocacy for safer roads and riding conditions. In the spring we supported presentations to the County and have continued to communicate with the County and City to focus on the need for road improvements, and signage. While capital planning for road improvements now include improvements on many of our favourite routes, these are often two or more

years out. Recent correspondence with the County and City has resulted in commitments to introduce signage to increase awareness of drivers regarding "Share the Road". The County has committed to introduce signage on County Road 1 toward East Linton, and we will also be requesting their consideration for similar signage along CR15 on the east shore, and CR5 heading south out of town. The City has acknowledged our correspondence but has not committed to action other than future consideration when updating the Transportation Master Plan in 2026. The OSCC has offered to work closely with the City to implement this awareness program.

The OSCC will continue its advocacy efforts and encourages club members to also communicate with City and Country politicians and officials to encourage both capital improvements, and immediately to provide signage to increase awareness for drivers on routes frequented by area cyclists. Let's all work to provide a 'walk safe - bike safe - drive safe' community.

We look forward to continued cycling through the fall enjoying our great autumn weather and colour. Thanks for making this another OSCC successful cycling season.

Monday night Rides

We began riding on Mondy, May 5th and will have had 22 rides scheduled. During that time we were fortunate to cancel on two occasions only. Our rides averaged 6-10 riders per night and distances have ranged from 21 km in the light reduced September rides to over 50 km in the spring and summer with most averaging around 40 km. Start locations are varied with remote starts in Williamsford, Sarawak Park, and West



Rocks offering opportunities to ride a wide variety of routes.

Attendance on Monday nights was down slightly in 2025 from 2024. On Mondays we have A/B pace groups. Traditionally this has been a faster ride group, but realistically, the participants are often riding same pace as other groups through the week. Consideration will be provided to introduce C pace as well, provided ride leaders are available. Thanks to all the riders and to our ride leaders who supported Monday night rides this year. We look forward to getting together in 2026.

Brian Low, Monday Ride Captain

Gravel Rides

Grey and Bruce county gravel riding rocks! (hehe) We are lucky to have so much great gravel riding terrain.

For those wishing to explore on their own, the east and west side rail trails leaving Owen Sound offer gentle paths that extend to Orangeville, Allenford and Wiarton. Exceptionally quiet gravel roads and paths north and southwest of the Kemble Women's Institute Lookout, southeast of Rockford, southwest of Wiarton, and all around Annan, Tara, Chatsworth, Hepworth, Parkhead, Walter's Falls, Lion's Head, and Markdale exist just waiting to be discovered. Hikers, horse drawn carriages, cyclists, ATVs, and occasional vehicles share these trails.



Much like skiing, gravel surfaces vary through the season with county resurfacing projects and weather conditions. This surface variability adds to the

experience and can make finding that well-worn, smooth-surfaced and tree lined gem entirely satisfying.

This season, the OSCC hosts gravel rides on the second and fourth Saturday mornings of each month from May until the end of October. Start times are 8:30 am from Owen Sound and from other nearby towns. Rides are generally 2 - 2.5 hours and 35 - 55 km, depending on the terrain. Bikes (road, gravel, touring, and mountain bikes) with 30 mm or greater tire widths should have no trouble. Pace groups are determined based on rider preferences and this season two pace groups per ride have worked out well. Some rides start and finish at diners/coffee shops and, for those interested, post ride refueling social time is encouraged.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to Mark Walker, Brian Low, Colleen Ouwendyk, Trevor Stokes and Melinda Smith for supporting this season's rides as mentors, ride leaders, planners, and substitute ride captains.

Please reach out to me with route, planning and scheduling suggestions. I'm always on the lookout for new trails.

Thanks,

Brian O'Doherty

Riding Together: Reflections as a Thursday Night Ride Captain

There's something special about Thursday evenings in Owen Sound. While most people are winding down from the workweek, a group of us are clipping in, rolling out, and sharing the road together as a kick start to our weekend.



Thursday nights have become my favourite part of the week. There's a rhythm to it now—checking the

weather all afternoon (always hoping the rain holds off), picking a route, and meeting the group at our selected start location.

As the ride captain for our Thursday night social rides, I get one of the best seats in the house—surrounded by great cyclists, sparks of laughter, conversations, and camaraderie that make these evenings so memorable.

Leading as Ride Captain

Being ride captain is part responsibility, part privilege. Sure, there are the logistics—making sure the route is clear, setting a steady pace, and ensuring everyone gets home safe. But more than that, it's about creating a welcoming space for riders of all abilities. Our Thursday rides aren't about speed records or competition—they're about connection. Whether someone is a seasoned cyclist or joining us for the first time, the goal is always the same: ride together, encourage each other, and have fun.

Recap of some of my Favourite Routes Around Owen Sound

Owen Sound offers a cycling playground, and our social rides let us explore it at its best. Some routes never get old:

- Sarawak/Balmy Loop - Rolling hills, lake views, and just enough challenge to feel accomplished by the time we're back.
- East Bayshore - Smooth stretches along the water that remind us how lucky we are to ride in such a beautiful place.
- West Rocks - Winding through the rolling hills just outside the city, offering quiet roads, scenic farmland, and just the right mix of climbs and coasts.
- Kemble Scenic Roads - Quiet backroads with sweeping views of Georgian Bay, where the evening light makes every ride feel magical.
- The Launch and Bishops Landing Social Rides - Not every route has to be about distance. A gentle spin that ends with a cold beverage on the patio, pizza or other flair, is the perfect way to spend a summer night.



The People Who Make It Special

The truth is, the routes are wonderful, but it's the people that make Thursday nights unforgettable. Our group is a mix of riders—some who've been pedaling for decades and others who are just get-

ting into the sport. What they all share is an incredible spirit. They're encouraging, generous with advice, and always ready to share a joke or a story during social time.

I often find myself smiling mid-ride, not because of the scenery (though it's stunning), but because of the sound of easy chatter, the callouts of "Car back!" or "Clear!"; and the sense of teamwork that comes from moving as one.

More Than Just a Ride

When I look back at the season, what stands out isn't just the routes or the sunsets—it's the friendships built along the way. Being ride captain has given me a front-row seat to watch riders grow stronger, more confident, and more connected with each other.



Thursday nights are proof that cycling is about more than fitness—it's about community. And in Owen Sound, that community is something pretty special. These summer night socials remind us that cycling is just as much about connection as it is about cadence.

A Special Thanks to Our Thursday Night Riders & Ride Leaders

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the Thursday Night Social Rides this season! Your energy, enthusiasm, and positive vibes made each ride something to look forward to. Your presence helped create a welcoming and fun community on two wheels. And a special shout out to John Tamming and his wife Wendy for hosting an incredible ride from their home followed with delicious food in a fabulous setting. This is community, at it's finest!

Here's to shared roads, good conversations, and many more miles ahead.

Melinda Smith

OSCC Thursday Night Ride Captain

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Ride Captains and Ride Leaders

As the cycling season starts to wind down, we want to take a moment to recognize the people who make our rides possible: our Ride Captains and Ride Leaders.

Week after week throughout the 2025 season, they have volunteered their time and energy to plan routes, set a steady pace, and ensure that every ride is safe, inclusive, and enjoyable. Whether it's welcoming new members, encouraging riders to push themselves, or making sure no one is left behind, their leadership has been the backbone of our club.



Thanks to their dedication, riders of all levels were able to enjoy not only the beauty of cycling in Grey Bruce, but also the camaraderie, confidence, and community that comes from riding together. From all of us at the Owen Sound Cycling Club: thank you. Your commitment and passion made the 2025 season one to remember. We are deeply grateful for everything you do—and we look forward to many more kilometers together in the seasons ahead!

Our 2025 Ride Captains: (coordinate the rides, plan our routes, and lead a pace group)

- Monday Rides - Brian Low
- Tuesday Ladies Night - Tracey Weeks
- Wednesday Time Trials - Colleen Ouwendyk
- Thursday Social Rides - Melinda Smith
- Gravel Rides - Brian O'Doherty
- Long Rides - Rob Scheifley
- Breakfast Rides - Ann West & Bill Moriarty

Our 2025 Ride Leaders: (lead a pace group)

- Betty Barber
- Joanne Barber
- Mark Walker
- John Gibson
- Jane Lemon
- Bill Smith

From Melinda Smith - Ride Coordinator

A Trip to Remember - Manitoulin 2025 OSCC Women's Adventure!

By Ann West

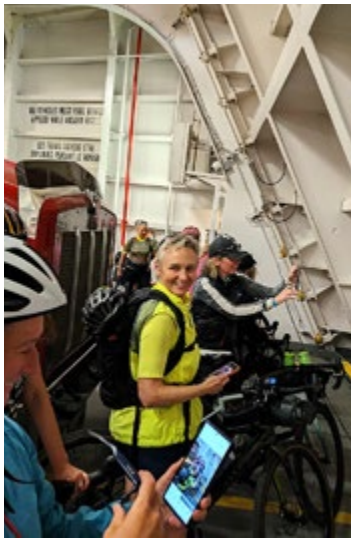
March 7 was a cold and blowy snow-day. It had been a tough winter with near record snow-fall and extremely cold days. It didn't make it any easier, that I was recovering from a motor vehicle accident and unable to participate in my usual



outdoor winter sports. Things were about to look up when I opened an email from Joanne Barber. The title was Women's Cycling Tour - Manitoulin Island, and I was instantly hooked! I have cycled on the Island on several occasions and I knew Joanne had been many times more. She would be sure to know the best routes and places to stay. The prospect of a 3 day, 2 night "women's only" trip was also appealing as I knew such adventures with like minded women would be a blast! I figured I could set my rehab goal to be in shape for this trip in early July so I immediately hit the reply and asked to be "on the list". Bill was supportive and promptly advised that he would deliver me to the ferry and pick me up upon my return to Tobermory.

In no time at all Joanne had filled the trip with interest from twelve eager women OSCC members. By the time July 2 rolled around we had ten cyclists (Anne Louise, Betty, Jane, Julie, Joanne, Lucia, Lynita, Melinda, Veronique and myself) that had dutifully participated in a trip information meeting organized by our "fearless leader", made their deposits, booked their return ferry trips, arranged transportation to and from "the Tub", chosen their room mates, tuned up their bicycles, mounted racks, downloaded the bicycle route information, packed their panniers or packs and some even test rode with their new gear. Joanne provided a helpful list of gear and we shared information on what tools we would be packing.

The pre-trip excitement built as Joanne shared more information and photos about Rock Garden Terrace where we would be staying (and eating) for two nights, as well as photos of bikes on the ferry. We were "counting sleeps" until the trip!



On July 2, the "group of ten" arrived in Tobermory bright and early to catch the first ferry. Nervous excitement would best describe the mood as we walked or rode our loaded bicycles onto the "Cheech" and secured them to our designated bike parking location. The beautiful weather ensured smooth sailing and after grabbing breakfast and checking out the gift shop, we arrived on schedule at

South Baymouth. Although we were first off the ferry, we waited for the traffic to clear before heading out on our 45 km ride to Rockcliffe Garden Terrace on beautiful Lake Minde-moya. We split into two groups of 5 for traffic safety and had an uneventful ride until we encountered an unfriendly canine on Government Road that felt we needed to "pick up the pace"! We all managed to escape unscathed and were soon welcomed at our final destination for the day by our gracious hosts. After

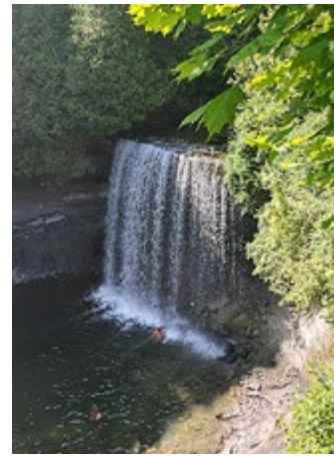


handing out room keys and settling on a time for dinner, we stowed our bicycles safely and explored the beautiful wooded shoreline grounds, including an interesting forest walk

to a natural cave and a refreshing dip in the lake. Dinner was amazing with several choices of entrees and desserts, followed by a campfire which didn't last very long as we headed to our beds in anticipation of the "big cycle" the next day.

July 3 began with beautiful weather and more fabulous food for breakfast. Some even chose to have a morning "dip" in the lake! At 9:30 we departed, free of our "luggage", on our curated ride.

We travelled on a quiet, shady road towards the dreaded "Jerusalem Hill". Fortunately Joanne had us going up the "less steep" side but we soon discovered it was a bit of a killer. With that nasty bit out



of the way, we headed to our first stop at Bridal Veil Falls via Lakeshore Road that follows Lake Kagawong to avoid traffic on highway 540. Upon arriving at the village of Kagawong we viewed the beautiful falls and proceeded to ride down the hill where must-see stops included the Chocolate Factory and photos of the picturesque harbour.

The locals were friendly and asked us how the traffic was treating us. Throughout our travels we noted a genuine desire on the part of locals, that cyclists should be safe and respected and we felt very welcome on the Island. Fortified by chocolate we were off to the town of Gore Bay. By choosing a side road to the north of highway 540 called Beange Rd, we were able to eliminate highway traffic (as there is no bike lane on this section of 540) and were able to come into Gore Bay on top of the East Bluff for an amazing view of the harbour. From here we could see the roof top of the brewery and couldn't wait for the descent! Such a great route, as we got the view without having to climb up the East Bluff! We then descended down the steep escarpment hill to town and had lunch at Split Rail Brewery (picking up some beverages for enjoyment at the end of our ride), most of us patronized a Jamaican food truck that had a very good selection of authentic Jamaican cuisine.



After lunch our next stop was Perivale Gallery and entailed several scenic lakeside kilometers along beautiful Lake Kagawong after a long straight stretch of rolling rural cycling. The gallery at Perivale is a real "hidden gem" established more than 44 years ago by the McMullen family. The gallery showcases masterworks by outstanding Canadian artists, specializing in art inspired by the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson with a focus on Northern Ontario landscapes. Our new Tom Thomson jersey certainly caught their eye!



After leaving the gallery we back tracked along the lake to rejoin our route back to home base and another delicious dinner at our "haven on the lake". There was a great sense of accomplishment amongst the cyclists as some surprised themselves at the 85 km. distance

they rode and how much they enjoyed it. Joanne certainly had the route well planned for maximum enjoyment! Did I mention, the weather was perfect?? After another post-dinner campfire, we "hit the hay", all the while thinking sadly about the upcoming end of our perfect cycling trip.

Our final breakfast was followed by packing up our bikes in "touring mode" once more. After settling the bill and making our farewells to our hosts, some promising to return, we headed out on our final day of perfect weather cycling on the Island. Today's route took us on quiet roads to Providence Bay where we admired "the most beautiful sand beach on Manitoulin" and "the little jail house". The two-cell

jail was built in 1912, after sitting abandoned and deteriorating for many years, it has been renovated into a vacation rental. After some beach exploration and a walk on the boardwalk we were off via Government Road to Tehkummah with a stop at



Wards General Store, a real step back in time! Fortunately, our Government Road "canine pace setter" seemed to be otherwise occupied and no "intermediate Sprint" was required. Leaving Tehkummah, Joanne assured us it was "all downhill" to South Baymouth (well, mostly). We arrived in plenty of time to have lunch and celebrate our adventure with old and new friends.



Our group of ten was now a solid unit of likeminded women who had discovered together the joy of cycle touring on a hidden gem in our own backyard. Of course the question on everyone's mind as we sailed back to Tobermory "Where will we go next year??" The sky is the limit, but there is so much more to explore on Manitoulin, beautiful riding on Barrie Island!



FYI - For anyone interested in our elevation, we had 279 meters day 1, 558 meters day 2, and 250 meters day 3. We didn't weigh our bikes with the panniers, but we can all vouch that the weight was significant.

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Weds. Time Trials



Breakfast Rides



Sunday Long Rides



Brian Low & Associates

Gravel Rides



Thursday Co-Ed Rides

RUNNER'S DEN

Tuesday Women's Rides



Stone Tree
Golf-Fitness-Banquets



Monday Co-Ed Rides

