



Hamilton & Burlington CWA* Chapter

**CWA – a world-wide initiative that gives senior citizens and others who cannot cycle an opportunity to have a safe slow free bicycle ride on a three wheeled electric assist bike piloted by a trained volunteer pilot.*

Annual Impact Report – December 31, 2021

Summary

2021 was the first year of operation for this Ontario CWA chapter. Receipt of generous financial contributions from McMaster University and the Hamilton and Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) allowed New Hope Community Bikes (NHCB) to purchase a Trishaw in the spring. In July an agreement was signed with the Welcome Inn (Seniors Program) and training of volunteer pilots occurred. Between August 17 and October 19 Welcome Inn Seniors enjoyed many rides along the Waterfront Trail. The CWA Hamilton program received great reviews from the seniors themselves and the Hamilton community. During the late fall an outdoor info session with approximately 45 potential pilots was held, and several attendees put forward ideas for next season. CWA Hamilton & Burlington leadership has been working to set the groundwork for expansion to other Hamilton locations next year, and the possibility of a Burlington location.

Statistics

Pilot Info Sessions – 2 (one on Zoom and one outside for 2022 pilot trainees)

Pilot 'On Bike' Training Sessions – 6 sessions with between 2-5 people per class

Number of weeks rides were offered – 8 Tuesdays

Number of passengers/rides – 22

Number of pilots trained and certified – 7

Number of pilots trained who were unable to complete training in 2021- 2

Other Events where Trishaw rides were given – Public Launch (September 28) with approx. 50 attendees, Attendance at NHCB Annual Everesting Fundraiser (supporters and climbers were given rides)

Press Releases/Publications

September 21, 2021 – Press Release re Official Public Launch

Welcome Inn Newsletters – September 2021 and October 2021

CBC Video News (Hamilton) <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1953841219624>

Hamilton Spectator (front page article) – October 9, 2021 <https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/2021/10/09/cycling-without-age-gives-hamilton-seniors-a-breath-of-fresh-air-during-a-hard-time.html>

Toronto Star (Hamilton edition) – October 9, 2021

https://www.thestar.com/thh/news/hamilton-region/2021/10/09/cycling-without-age-gives-hamilton-seniors-a-breath-of-fresh-air-during-a-hard-time.html?itm_source=parsely-api

McMaster University Retirees Association (Fall 2021 Newsletter) <https://mcmaster-retirees.ca/current-issue#cycling>

Communication channels utilized

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Hamilton-Burlington-Cycling-Without-Age>

Twitter.com/CwaHamilton <https://twitter.com/CwaHamilton>

Website: <https://cyclingwithoutage.ca/hamilton-burlington/>

Email: cwahamilton@gmail.com

Financial Summary

Cash Donations and Grants = \$17,000

Cash Outlays– Trishaw (\$13,500) + Insurance and Other (\$4,850) = \$18,350 total

New Hope Community Bikes in kind contribution – staff time \$3000

Total Shortfall – \$4,350

Special thanks to our Supporters

New Hope Community Bikes (Tammy Heidbuurt) – for seeing the opportunity to give seniors the ‘wind in their hair’ and functioning as the organization under which Cycling Without Age can operate and grow

McMaster University and HOPA -for their matching financial gifts to buy the Van Raam e-bike, the Rolls Royce of trishaws

Welcome Inn (Ruth Kaulback) – for nudging her clients to be the first ones in Hamilton to ride the Trishaw on the Waterfront Trail each Tuesday

Hamilton Trike (Cora Muis) – for delivering and tweaking our trishaw whenever needed and for loaning another Trishaw for our official launch

Adam Kulchyski – for training and certifying the volunteer pilots

City of Hamilton Cycling Committee – for donating funds to buy a CWA branded warm ‘duffle’ blanket and an extra battery

McMaster Media Production Services – for printing and decals for the Trishaw

Ross Hanham, Rob Gray, Lorraine Chapman, and Sharon Gibbons others for financial contributions to help finance the first year

CWA Canada's Executive Director – Jane Hu for her advice and support over the last three years

Looking Forward to 2022

With so much interest from the Hamilton (and Burlington) citizens to train and sign up as volunteer pilots, CWA Hamilton and Burlington is looking for additional locations to source passengers. Discussions are well underway with Good Shepherd (Homes Program), Shalom Village, and Ken Sobey Seniors' Building (500 McNab). These entities are near the Waterfront Trail and are interested in partnering to run programs one or two days a week for their clients. The Welcome Inn has 'signed on' for Tuesdays again for 2022.

There is also interest from Burlington citizens to see the program up and running in Burlington. It would be great for Burlington seniors to be able 'feel the wind in their hair' as they ride along the Burlington waterfront and/or other safe scenic multi-use trails. Funding for another trishaw for use in Burlington is on the 2022 goals list.

One of the outcomes of the late October 'potential 2022 pilot info session' was the suggestion to create some type of an advisory team to strategize about the future. This group will have met twice before year end and will help set the specific goals and a workplan for next (and subsequent) years' operations.

Conclusion

'Cycling Without Age is based on generosity and kindness. It starts with the obvious generous act of taking one or two elderly or less-abled people out on a bike ride.' We did it CWA Hamilton! We started the 30th Ontario chapter and we are ready to do it all over again in 2022 – more rides, more passengers, more pilots – more smiles and more 'wind in your hair'! We've got this!

Prepared by: Nancy Gray, Cofounder and Volunteer Coordinator – Hamilton and Burlington CWA

Reviewed by: Tammy Heidbuurt, NHCB – Director of Business Development and Community Partnerships

