



CENTRAL CANADA DISTRICT CONNECTION



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DIRECTORS' CORNER



Well hello October!

Let's all get a few more rides in before the weather changes! According to the Weather Network, there should be warmer than normal temperatures in October. (And an earlier winter...but we'll ignore that part for now.)

Bob and I and our District Team are working through some challenges, not the least of which is the possibility that a couple Chapters could close before year's end. Sadly, they just can't seem to find other Members interested in taking the reins from those who wish/need to step down. Which kinda highlights the importance of recruitment and keeping Members informed and happy, regardless of how much or little is going on. Members who are genuinely fun-loving, flexible, and supportive of those who have chosen to be leaders are like gold. This month has also reminded us of how much we appreciate the respectful, welcoming spirit of GWRRA.

Thanksgiving is the holiday for a thankful heart for everything and everyone that brings us joy in our lives. Let's all take the time to count our blessings, what and who we are truly grateful for. May this Thanksgiving keep you as warm as your plug-in vests, as fun as an open, twisty road, and as full as your gas tanks!



Yours,

Dar & Bob

Darlene Drouin and Bob Cochrane

Central Canada District Directors

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To All GWRRA members attending events with your Chapters this fall.

Effective September 22, 2021: any indoor meetings, you will need to have proof of Covid Vaccination to enter restaurants, bars, gyms banquet halls, event spaces, all indoor event spaces, all indoor sports and fitness facilities, sporting events, casinos, theaters, to name a few. This has been mandated by the Province of Ontario.

With the exception of outdoor sections of nightclubs, proof won't be required for most outdoor venues, where there's a lower risk of transmitting COVID.

The requirement is temporary; subject to change in the future.

From Sept. 22 to Oct. 22, Ontarians should use the paper or PDF receipt they were given when they received their shots, which they can also download from the **Ministry of Health's website**. After Oct. 22, the government plans to make digital QR codes available that businesses can verify with an app.

Please be mindful and respectful of the location you are entering. They are only following the rules that are set out for them. If you cannot meet these requirements please excuse yourself from the event. We hope to see you at another time when the meeting is outdoor or the rules have changed.

Darlene Drouin and Bob Cochrane

Central Canada District Directors

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National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 2021 marks the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Here are some audio resources from the Government of Canada for you:

[“Begin Your Learning Journey by Listening”](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za2VzjkwTfc> - “The Stranger” Official Video - Gord Downie (about 6 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGd764YU9yc> - Gord Downie's “The Secret Path” (60 minute movie and CBC Arts Panel Discussion)



Rendezvous Ride 2021

Congratulations to the winners of the photo entries contest! Chapters Y and G have each won a \$25 gas gift card, and Chapters E and M have each won 2 free registrations for Rendezvous 2022. Cards and vouchers will be mailed out this month. Use them how you see fit for your Chapters, whether it's an award for a Member, a draw prize at your gathering, etc. And thanks for all the ride pics!

Announcement coming soon about **Rendezvous 2022**; stay tuned!



MEMBERSHIP ENHANCEMENT



HALLOWE EN TRIVIA

1. Which immigrants came to America and thought that Pumpkins were easier to carve on Halloween than potatoes?
2. Is pumpkin a fruit or vegetable?
3. Where did bobbing for apples originate?
4. Celtics were superstitious. Is the statement true or False?
5. Which country do Jack-o-lanterns originally belong to?
6. The original costumes of Halloween were made of which material?
7. On Halloween, one of the two main meetings of witches is known as?
8. What is the world's record for the fastest pumpkin carving?
9. For how many years, Halloween has been around for?
10. Where do vampire cats live?

Answers on the last page...



Helen Young

District Membership Enhancement Coordinator



RIDER EDUCATION



Riding as a group

Responsibility: Prep your bike

Make sure your bike is ready to ride. This sounds basic, but lots of folks whiff on it. Your standard [T-CLOCS lookover](#) is pretty much the minimum. If you ride a late-model, low-mileage machine in cherry condition, this may be all you need to do. If you're riding older equipment, though, your list will be longer. I think it's fair for a group to understand, that if they have an old or chopped bike in the pack, that repairs are a way of life.

If you're holding up a pack because of repeat repairs, you may want to seriously think about dropping off. Solutions may involve a break for you with extended repair time if you are capable, requesting a ride to obtain a breakdown vehicle, or getting in touch with the chase truck, if one exists.

Right: You should not be left behind

You have the right not to be left behind. A group of motorcyclists that leaves a downed rider without his permission is a group of turds. Sometimes, a group will want to leave a rider because he's not keeping up. This is a situation with some give and take. If you're riding with a group you've not ridden with, some clarification of speeds and the equipment people are on should be clues as to whether or not you'll be comfortable. Similarly, a group taking on a new rider (or a freshly assembled group!) needs to be patient with the slow man.

A group that simply takes off on a slow man sucks, but it does occur. If that happens to you, do not roll faster than your guardian angel can fly; you'll run out of talent. Lost on the road beats injured in the ditch.

Responsibility: Do not be the slow rider

Not being left behind is a two-way street. You can't hold a whole group back just because you can't hang with the group you're riding with. Solutions to a slow rider can be the group slowing down, the group waiting at turns for the slow man, or finding a new group for the slow man. Similarly, the slow rider can also opt out and split off or find a new pack to ride with — but any of these decisions need to be made audibly so expectations are set and met. One can't just drop off the back and disappear, or the pack may lose time and miles, turning back to find a slower rider.

Another way to keep up is at stops: if your bike has a kicker, or you are wearing more gear than the rest of the folks in the pack, be aware that saddling up to fly will naturally take you longer than it does the others. Start getting ride-ready a little early on stops so no one is waiting on you.

Right: Ride where you feel comfortable

If you don't know where you're going or you think you're slow, you shouldn't be made to ride in front unless your reticence has been explained. If you aren't comfortable riding side-by-side and the group prefers to ride that way, speak up. If you need more room in the turns from the riders near you, speak up. Recognize you may be asked to ride deeper back in the pack. This is usually not a slight, it's the faster riders trying to keep you in a spot where you are not stressed out and not ruining their day, either.

Responsibility: Help your fellow rider

This commandment is a long one. If you see someone drop off the back due to repair, break formation and run up to let the rider out in front know and get the pack turned around. If you know someone is slow, hang with them so they don't feel left out. This is precisely the role of the tail gunner. Extending courtesies like these make you the person everyone wants to ride with.

Pass on turn signals as you receive them. (I don't care if you have electric turn signals, turn them on and wave your left hand, too.) The more time the people behind you have to figure out what's going on, the less likely it is that one of them wads a motorcycle into you. If you see some detritus in the road, indicate that to the guy behind you.

Responsibility: Keep the pack intact

It's not a pack if it's not a pack. The pack should be treated like a long single vehicle. Allowing cars into your space makes a mess of the pack, splits it up, and makes each individual cycle less visible. Simply positioning yourself in your lane/track and keeping your minimum thousand one – thousand 2 seconds spacing.

If yours is a group that will be blocking (pulling across traffic to prevent it from breaking the pack), you need to know a few things. First, this is illegal in most places in America. Second, it's still often safer than following the law, rather than having the previous situation take place. Third, just follow your road captain and tail gunner.

Responsibility: Ride safely

“Safe” in this context is relative. For instance, in the group generally we ride staggered. Of course there are always exceptions when you need to go in single file to avoid an obstacle or changing track. Always safety first.

Your tail and brake lights should function, and if they don't, you need to let everyone know. You'll probably be put in the middle of the group and you will need to give lots of advance warning with hand signals, for the riders behind.

In the end, you have to ride your own ride and be responsible for yourself. If the group has rules you aren't comfortable with or can't comply with, then you need to let the group go and ride the way they want to ride, and you have to go ride the way you want to ride. Check with the road captain where gas or eating stops will take place to rejoin and socialize.

Have fun

Ultimately, the goal of group riding is to have fun! If you want to successfully ride in a group you need to prioritize the needs of the group before your own whims. The group must get to where it is going. The total is greater than the sum any of the parts. Many riders know and operate under this assumption, but if you're nervous about beginning your group riding career, understanding some of the rationale and psychology behind the ways group riding has evolved will make your foray a little less alien for you, and a bit smoother for the riders you hook up with.

Ride Safe Always

Rouler toujours prudemment!

Michel Lavoie MIT 023

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SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT CANADA

PART I

There is so much more to Canada than the moose and maple syrup and the “S-OH-RRY”. Here are some amazing,, fun, and interesting facts about Canada that you might not have known:

1. French and English are the two official languages in Canada.
2. The CN Tower in Toronto was the world’s tallest free-standing structure until 2007.
3. Canada has a strategic maple syrup reserve to ensure global supply in case of an emergency.
4. There are more doughnut shops in Canada per capita than any other country.
5. Hockey and lacrosse are Canada’s national sports.
6. Canada has 10% of the world’s forests.
7. Canada is the World’s Most Educated Country. Over half of its residents have college degrees!
8. The Hawaiian Pizza was invented in Canada.
9. You’ll find about 630 bird species in Canada and 11 sub-species of Canada geese alone.
10. Canada produces 80% of the world’s maple syrup.
11. National Parks in Canada are bigger than most countries.
12. Famous Canadian celebrities include: Justin Bieber, Michael Buble, James Cameron, Jim Carrey, Celine Dion, Ryan Gosling, Rachel McAdams, Mike Myers, Ryan Reynolds, and William Shatner.
13. There is a beach known as Wasaga beach and it is the longest freshwater beach in the world.
14. Canada is the second-largest country in the world.
15. In Churchill Manitoba, nobody locks their doors to their house or cars in case of a polar bear attack.
16. There are about 200 species of mammals in Canada.
17. Canada has the world’s largest coastline – it would take you four-and-a-half years to walk the length of it, without stopping.

MORE INTERESTING FACTS NEXT MONTH...

NOTES FROM THE NORTH

Fall is one of the best times to get out on your bike and experience the beauty of nature. There is no better way to see the fall colours than a ride through our beautiful province.

For many riders, there is nothing quite like a long, relaxing ride in the brisk air. Although the conditions appear to be ideal, fall poses risks for motorcyclists. These five safety

recommendations provided are a reminder for motorcyclists to help preserve them and to keep other motorists safe.



1. Leaves on roads. Dry leaves, although very beautiful, can camouflage potholes and other road defects. Wet leaves cause pavement surfaces to become slick. Try to avoid these kinds of situations whenever you can. If you approach a pile of leaves on the road, try your best to drive slowly until you are past the obstacle.
2. Shorter days. As fall arrives, the days start to get shorter. The glare can be distracting, even with quality sunglasses. Be certain that the bulbs in your headlights, brake lights, and turn signals are all working. Reduce your speed and take the time for extra breaks to give your eyes a chance to rest.
3. Deer migration and mating season. Autumn is mating and migration season for deer. For that reason, the roads are likely to be filled with more deer, making riders more likely to collide with them. Use extra caution to watch for deer, especially at dusk and nighttime.
4. Cold tires. For riders with sporty tires, fall is a dangerous season to be riding. Sportier tires have much softer rubber than touring tires. In the cold weather we see in fall, these tires become hard and lose traction. Be sure to reduce your speed and ride with extra caution.
5. Fewer riders out. It is a common concern for all riders that car drivers do not see them. With the seasons changing, many car drivers expect to see even fewer bikes on the road. Be more cautious and alert. Make yourself as conspicuous as possible, and do not assume that they see you.

Enjoy your fall riding, but please know the dangers that this beautiful season brings in order that everyone gets home safe, and ready to plan their next ride.

David Hay
Assistant Director



Editor's Note



Answers to Hallowe'en Trivia

1. Irish immigrants
2. Fruit
3. Ancient Rome
4. True
5. Ireland
6. Animal heads and skin
7. Sabats
8. 24.03 seconds
9. 6,000 years
10. South and Central America

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