



Annual Report  
of the  
Montreal Bicycle Club  
2017 Season



Report of the Committee  
of the  
**MONTREAL BICYCLE CLUB**

To be presented at the first Annual Meeting of the reconstituted club 15 March 2018

Gentlemen:

Your committee, in placing this before the members, at the First Annual Meeting of the "Old M.B.C." the report for the year 2017, can assure you of another successful year added to the long record it is our pleasure to look back upon. We have greater reason to feel satisfied when we remember that this was the first year of the reconstituted club in over a century.

The first event of the year took place on March 4. It was a presentation for Nuit Blanche of a photo exhibition which was originally made for Parking Day in September 2016. The exhibition had two displays; the first a parked car Photo Mosaic of modern day cyclists in and around Westmount, and the second, historical photographs of early 19th century Montreal cyclists. The two were mounted side by side in Christchurch cathedral. There was also a computer slide presentation on how Montreal Cycling began.



The Re-Founders meeting of the Montreal Bicycle Club was held on the 25 March 2017. Using the original minute book from 1878 as a guide, the meeting reviewed the Bye Laws, and made revisions as they thought necessary.



Following the Re-Founders meeting a “Riding” uniform, modeled in the style of the original club was decided upon and an inventory of shirts ordered for new members. By tacit agreement, yet to be inked into the bylaws, membership is granted to a new member who purchases a jersey, or partakes in events, and of course abides by the existing bylaws.

In addition to members living on or near the island of Montreal, members have been added in Philadelphia, Pasadena, Pangnirtung and Paris. Hence the fascination of the club with cities that begin with the letter “P”.

A special Fixture ride was held on the 2 April to highlight cycling issues in and around the local community. These included

1. Comparing the cycle friendliness of two formerly very similar streets, Sherbrooke street of Montreal, and Bloor street of Toronto, the latter of which had a bicycle path added in the fall of 2016
2. Safety issues on de Maisonneuve path between Guy and Girouard
3. How a bicycle overpass over the Turcot interchange could connect the Lachine Path to the de Maisonneuve path.

On the 18 May, at the Atwater Library, a talk was given about the Montreal Bicycle Club and the early history of cycling.

It was not until late June, however that regular Fixture rides were held by the reconstituted club. On the 21 June two members took an AMT train to the Canadian Railway Museum in Saint-Constant for a tour, then rode back to their homes on the island of Montreal.



This was followed a week later by three members on a similar combination AMT train trip and bicycle ride from Deux Montagnes to Ste Anne de Bellevue.



Fixture rides continued throughout the summer with trips to Valleyfield, an overnight to Lac Gustave in the Laurentians, and a wide variety of other locations in and around Montreal. Two other multi-day rides were held, one on Route Verte to Quebec City via Sherbrooke, and a second from Ottawa to Montreal. The closing ride was held 21 November, going across town to the Olympic Stadium. Two remote excursions by club members were held, one in Rome Italy, and a second in Los Angeles.

Between the Opening and Closing Rides, the club covered 1,974 Km on 26 rides attended by 80 members. No Fixtures were cancelled on account of bad weather.

### Table of Rides

	Ride	Date	Muster	Distance
1	Canadian Railway Museum	21 June	2	30 km
2	Deux Montages to Ste Anne	28 June	3	50 km
3	Valleyfield	12 July	4	80 km
4	Overnight at Lac Gustave	20-21 July	8	150 km
5	Eastern Tip of Island	26 July	3	80 km
6	Chambly	2 Aug	6	100 km
7	Îles de Boucherville	8 Aug	1	80 km
8	Ile Saint Bernard	13 Aug	3	70 km
9	Deux Montages return via Laval	16 Aug	2	80 km
10	Ste Anne de Bellevue	23 Aug	5	80 km
11	Ile Saint Bernard ferry return via Dorion	27 Aug	2	105 km
12	Montreal to Quebec City via Sherbrooke	30 Aug-3 Sept	5	460 km
13	Around the Mountain Ride	6 Sept	5	25 km
14	Aerobic Corridor pathway	10 Sept	4	26 km
15	Grand Prix du Cyclist de Montréal	10 Sept	2	30 km
16	Colosseum Excursion	14 Sept	3	0 km
17	A journey thru 7 boroughs	21 Sept	3	37 km
18	Tour of the South Shore	1 Oct	2	50 km
19	St Jerome	4 Oct	1	72 km
20	Parc Frédéric-Back	12 Oct	2	50 km
21	Ottawa to Montreal	19-21 Oct	2	210 km
22	Lafontaine Tunnel Bicycle overpass	27 Oct	2	40 km
23	Los Angeles Excursion	29 Oct	3	35 km
24	Back in The Saddle Ride	6 Nov	2	9 km
25	École Polytechnique de Montréal	8 Nov	2	5 km
26	Around the Mountain ride	15 Nov	2	20 km
		Totals	80	1974 Km

The following is a list of Individual distance, made by the club on advertised rides along with the number of rides attended.

Table of Individuals

Name	Distance (km)	Rides Attended
Malcolm McRae	1851	23
Ian Craig	1056	14
Roger Jochym	756	12
Betty O'Conner	227	6
Bill Lyman	169	4
Gail Tedstone	210	3
Geoff Phillips	70	2
Maria Corinthios	52	2
Henry Nesvadba	26	2
Emily Andrews	26	2
Ellen Rubin	0	2
Greg Dunning	210	1
Tomas	35	1
Marion Lennon	37	1
Jan Johnson	10	1
Anna O'Conner	0	1
Erin Seifert	0	1

A Table of Statistics, from the years 1882-1901 and the current year was prepared in order to compare the original Montreal Bicycle Club Fixtures and that of the modern one. In those early years the club's rides had a larger attendance, more rides, which tended to be of shorter distance than in the year 2017. Total ride mileage was comparable between the two periods.

Table of Statistics 1882 to present year inclusive

	1882	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	2017
Number of Rides	63	70	71	78	53	72	52	80	52	91	73	72	64	57	55	48	65	51	39	20	25
Fixtures Cancelled	26	32	25	22	29	31	33	26	47	37	49	59	31	23	30	36	23	14	19	17	0
Longest Ride (miles)	68	100	68	108	105	82	36	60	32	50	36	43	125	181	139	48	58	100	53	22	288
Longest Ride (Km)	108	160	108	172	168	131	57	96	51	80	57	68	200	289	222	76	92	160	84	35	460
Largest Muster	23	34	64	29	52	35	34	34	40	24	18	26	74	47	59	61	45	50	16	8	8
Club Mileage (miles)	876	932	829	1091	615	831	659	866	639	1076	897	912	1301	1286	1255	946	1340	1461	723	249	1234
Club Mileage (kms)	1401	1491	1326	1745	984	1329	1054	1385	1022	1721	1435	1459	2081	2057	2008	1513	2144	2337	1156	398	1974
Highest Individual Mileage (within club) (kms)	568	433	451	740	330	461	370	615	496	1054	897	664	1182	1215	1130	779	1288	1401	552	201	1157
Average Attendance	9	11	11	10	12	11	10.5	9	7	8	6	7.25	6	15.5	17.5	14	10	9	7	4	3.72
Total Attendance	562	757	734	868	515	792	549	685	357	735	430	518	874	885	966	675	626	450	268	74	93

The longest ride of the year, from Montreal to Quebec city by way of Sherbrooke was done primarily on the Route Verte dedicated bike paths separated from car traffic. Similarly the next longest, from Ottawa to Montreal was again largely on a separated path, the Prescott Russell Recreational Trail. Many of the rides involved train or ferry transport in addition to the bicycle, however none required carpooling by the members to or from the actual ride location. We hope to continue to apply this principle for rides in the coming year for which we plan to include Pittsburgh to Washington DC and The Petit Témis between Rivière des Loups and Edmundston NB.

On the meeting held the 6 September it was decided that members adopt Sobriquets of early cyclists and the club's minutes of meeting use such names whenever possible.

In closing I quote from the 1895 Annual report.

*“Personally try to see that your “Old Club” reaps the full benefit of the greatly increased interest now taken in wheeling. Avail yourselves to the full that of the membership privileges offered, and with a true brotherly feeling, try to induce the unattached wheelmen and others with whom you come in contact to share your advantages.*

*The whole respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee”*

Malcolm McRae