

# Pedal power: 2016 Halton Hills Bike Challenge underway

The fourth-annual Halton Hills Community Bike Challenge officially launched today before 650 enthusiastic and boisterous students at Ethel Gardiner Public School.

The students cheered as the ribbon was cut and the first kilometres were recorded.

Mayor Rick Bonnette, members of Council and School Trustees Jeanne Grey and Mark Rowe were on hand to support the kick off to this unique youth-friendly community cycling event.

This is the fourth year for the Bike Challenge and each year the goal has been raised.

The new goal is 400,000 km or the distance from the Moon to the Earth plus a victory lap across Canada. Last year the goal was 384,000 km or the distance from the Earth to the Moon.

Since more than 1,000 participants took us to the Moon last year we felt a responsibility to bring everyone back home, said Jane Fogal, Regional Councillor and Chair of the Halton Hills Bicycle Friendly Community Committee.

The Bike Challenge is a free summer-long event that does not involve any fundraising by the participants who are only asked to log their kilometres and recruit others to do the same.

Every type and age of cyclist from school kids to weekend warriors are needed to reach this very challenging goal. To qualify as a participant you must Live in Halton Hills, Work in Halton Hills or Love Halton Hills.

The Bike Challenge is a project of the Halton Hills Bicycle Friendly Community Committee (BFC) and is intended to encourage people to rediscover their bikes and ride them more often.

Cycling is a wonderful way to get some healthy exercise and to enjoy a fun family activity, said Mayor Rick Bonnette. Cycling is also an excellent environmentally friendly way to get around town that is a perfect fit with our Halton Hills Sustainability initiatives.

Sponsors have pledged an impressive \$85,000 in donations to the Georgetown Hospital Foundation, but the money will only go to the Hospital

after the community logs 400,000 km.

This year's sponsors include: The Peter Gilgan Foundation \$25,000, CN \$25,000,

Georgetown Canadian Tire \$20,000, PwC Epic Tour \$5000, Superior Glove \$2,500, Menkes \$2,500, CPI \$1,000, Young Dentistry \$1,000, Generations Physiotherapy \$1,000, Betty D Oliveira \$500, HealthSpan Wellness \$500, Dynamic Bodies \$500 and Sweet Sophia Bows \$500.

The Georgetown Hospital Foundation is incredibly grateful for the generous support of our sponsors and for the dedicated cyclists who faithfully log their kilometres, said Mary McPherson, executive director of the Georgetown Hospital Foundation.

We intend to put the funds towards purchasing new equipment for our hospital. The government does not pay for equipment. The hospital relies on the generosity of sponsors and donors to ensure our hospital caregivers have the equipment they need to continue to provide exemplary care right here in our community.

Joining the Bike Challenge is very



From left, Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette, Gardiner Public School students Nikki Shmukler, Naia Jiskra, volunteer Ola Jiskra, student Makema Green, Trustees Jeanne Gray and Mark Rowe, Councillors Mike Albano and Bob Inglis.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

simple. Log onto [www.haltonhills-bikechallenge.ca](http://www.haltonhills-bikechallenge.ca), create an account, either as a family or as an individual, and start logging kilometres. Anyone can join and participants can bike anywhere as long as it is outside in the fresh air.


Check out the website to learn more about the how it works and to follow our real time progress throughout the summer.

The Bicycle Friendly Community

Committee is a sub-committee of the Town's Active Transportation Committee. Its other events include Bike it to Work Day Noon Hour Ride on May 30, Bike it to the Market on June 25, Bike it to Canada Day July 1 and Bike it to Leathertown Festival on Aug. 14.

For more info visit [www.haltonhills.ca/CyclingEvents](http://www.haltonhills.ca/CyclingEvents)


Volunteers are needed for all events. If interested contact Councillor Jane Fogal at [janevogal@haltonhills.ca](mailto:janevogal@haltonhills.ca)



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- Tues – Tall Boy (Can./Coors) \$5
- Wed - 1/2 price wings\*
- Thurs – Tall Boy (Can./Coors) \$5

- Fri – LIVE MUSIC & Dancing Mini Dom. Draft Pitchers \$7
- Sat – LIVE MUSIC & Dancing
- Sun - JAM Night 5-9 pm with Crosstown Band & 1/2 Price Wings\*

68 Main St. N., Georgetown (Moore Park Plaza) 905-877-1913

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