

Oak Bay Discovery Ride

GoByBikeWeek 2022



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Photo by John Holland

www.gobybikebc.ca/greater-victoria

 Capital Bike

About

May 30 - June 5 2022

Discovery
RIDES

Welcome Discovery Riders!

Planning on logging those kms during or leading up to Go By Bike Week but not sure where to go? We've got you covered!

Log This Ride!

Log rides at www.GoByBikeBC.ca ! It's easy! You can even link your STRAVA account to make tracking kms even easier.

How the rides work:

For each of our Neighbourhood Rides we provide both an information sheet including clues and points of interest, as well as a custom Google Map to help make finding the route easier. Find this ride's google map here:

<http://ow.ly/mAUL50ENfKX>

This Ride Sponsored By:



www.beachaccess.ca

Beach Access App (Reciprocity Publishing) is a proud sponsor of Go By Bike Week: The Beach Access App locates over 400 public foreshore access points around the Saanich Peninsula. Perfect for exploring by bike.

Oak Bay Points of Interest

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Take a ride along Beach Drive and explore the many hidden gems of this ocean-side neighbourhood. **Submit photos of your Oak Bay Discovery Ride**, preferably by the beach, either by email to admin@capitalbike.ca, or post on social media with the hashtag #GoByBikeYYJ and win a free copy of the Beach Access app.

1.

Background:

Cattle Point earned its name from 1860 to 1910 when cattle were pushed overboard from paddle steamers to swim ashore. At this point is a four-panel kiosk celebrating the coastal and marine wildlife in this place. This display highlights the local geography, history, oceanography, and marine life along the shoreline of Oak Bay.



Action item

Ride over to this point, check out the 'Window to the Salish Sea' kiosk and explore the seashore here. What is one new thing you learned from this colourful kiosk?

Oak Bay Points of Interest

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2.

Background:

Willows Beach, also known to the Songhees First Nations as Sitchanalth, was once a large village site. However, due to an Earthquake and Tsunami that took place around 930 C.E. the community relocated. Today, a cairn designed by Charles Elliott, Temoseng, sits along the beach walkway in front of Willows Park.



Action item

Can you find this cairn? What does the image on the plaque illustrate?

Oak Bay Points of Interest

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3.

Background:

Situated offshore from Oak Bay is the Oak Bay Islands Ecological Reserve, established in 1979 and encompassing 205 hectares. The reserve has three units, the largest (great Chain Island and Chain Islets), Jemmy Jones Island, and Alpha Island. Landing on the islands and islets of this Ecological Reserve is restricted to permission only so as to protect the sensitive wildlife, plants, an ecosystems.



Action item

While biking along Beach Drive, how many islands can you count from the road between Spoon Bay Beach and McMicking Point?

Oak Bay Points of Interest

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4.

Background:

A pack of five welded steel wolves, created by Ken Hall, are located in Queen's Park near the Oak Bay Marina. Hall constructed this art piece to "explore the intersection of nature and culture and examine the discord between our primal instincts and social expectations. The plate steel cut-out of an alert buck uses negative space to create a window through which we can regain our lost perspective" (Ken Hall Art, The Hunt. Installed in Oak Bay in May, 2016).



Action item:

Ride over to Queen's Park and visit this welded steel master piece. Take a photo with the wolves before continuing on your bike ride.

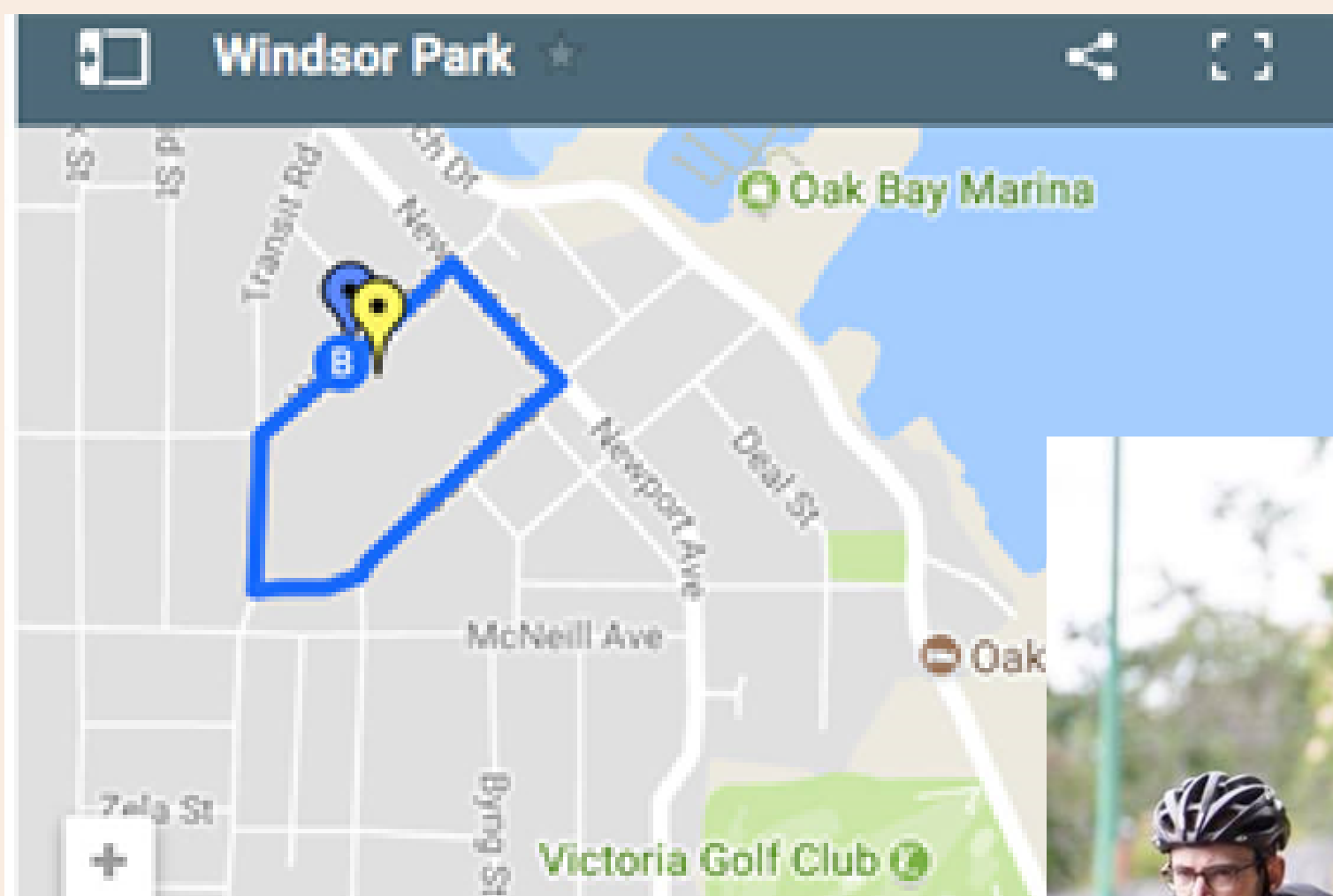
Oak Bay Points of Interest

Discovery
RIDES

5.

Background:

This recreation park was originally established in 1895 as a bicycle racing track to encourage use of the streetcar system by the Victoria Railway and Electric Lighting Company. For the past few years in July, there has been a Windsor Park Criterium cycling event hosted by the Victoria Wheelers Cycling Club on the roadways surrounding the park.



Cyclists race around Windsor Park during the Sunday Criterium, May 2018.
Photo from Victoria News.

Action item:

Take a spin around the Windsor Park Criterium loop and imagine you're riding in the annual race.

Oak Bay Points of Interest

Discovery
RIDES

6.

Background:

McMicking Point is located on Radcliff Lane, and is an undeveloped, natural park area. This park features rock outcrops, native flora and fauna, magnificent views of the ocean, Olympic Mountains, Mount Baker, and the occasional bird watcher.



Action item:

Ride over to McMicking Point and breathe in the salty sea air. Can you spot any recreational boats out on the water anywhere?

Oak Bay Points of Interest

Discovery
RIDES

7.

Background:

The Gonzales Hill Observatory, located on Denison Road in Walbran Park, is the home to the Head Office of The Land Conservancy of BC. However, long before it was an office or an observatory, this building's unmistakable white dome and concrete walls were home to a weather station. This weather station was originally built for the Dominion Meteorological Services Pacific Coast headquarters.



Action item:

Ride up to Gonzales Hill and take in the views of the Olympic Mountains, downtown Victoria, and the Sooke Hills from this vantage point. Which direction do the weather patterns seem to be moving in from here? P.S. The sunsets from this point are spectacular!

Oak Bay Points of Interest

Discovery
RIDES

8.

Background:

Harling Point houses two significant place markers, one for the Lekwungen First Nations and the other for Chinese-Canadian pioneers. Located on the point is Harpooner rock, or Sahsimá, which falls on a meeting point of two geological plates. When the tide is low, it is said that you can see two different colours on each side of the rock, grey and green, showing a joining of cultures in this place. Also nestled beside the rocky shore of Harling point is the Chinese Cemetery, which was designated as a National Historic Site by the Government of Canada in 1994.



Action item:

Ride over to this special point and take a moment to take in the ocean views and view some of the gravestones and First Nations cairn here.

Oak Bay Points of Interest

Discovery
RIDES

9.

Background:

This eclectic garden was built by the Prince of Abkhazi, the last surviving son of an ancient line of kings from a small country on the Black sea, and his Princess, in 1946. The couple built this garden and tea house shortly after they had been reunited post tragic separation during WWII. Anyone is welcome to visit the Garden and Teahouse. Visit the website for [details](#).



Action item:

Ride over to the Abkhazi Garden and Teahouse gates. What flowers can you see or smell here?

Oak Bay Points of Interest

Discovery
RIDES

10.

Background:

Located on Oak Bay Avenue, this beloved bike shop has been supporting cycling for nearly a century. This local shop carries all the latest and greatest in many categories of bicycles including electric bikes!



Photo of OBB staff with the Go By Bike Week 2022 Grand Prize, by John Holland.

Action item:

Ride by the shop and read the hanging banner out front, and tell us the year this bike shop opened.

Congratulations! You have now come to the end of your Discovery Ride. We hope you enjoyed seaside views and learned a fun fact or two during your ride through Oak Bay. Don't forget to log your bike ride on GoByBikeBC.ca and submit photos of your ride to admin@capitalbike.ca!