

FIREBIRD

COMMUNITY CYCLE

D-I-Y BICYCLE RESURRECTION & RE-CYCLERY

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Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee
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What is Firebird?

MISSION STATEMENT



Firebird Community Cycle is dedicated to the promotion of bicycle education and culture through the sustainable and accessible rebuilding, reusing, recycling and redistribution of all bicycle products.



GOALS: Active Transportation

- Remove financial, social and cultural barriers to bicycle ownership, maintenance and repair
- Increase bicycle ridership in the City of Barrie
- Increase community health and well being
- Building cycling culture in the City of Barrie



GOALS: Education

- To educate youth and the public on bicycle safety, repair and maintenance by providing appropriate level courses, workshops, school outreach programs and seminars
- To promote the health benefits of cycling
- To establish, maintain and operate an educational training centre that will provide instruction on the repair, maintenance and building of bicycles



GOALS: Provide skills & training

- To provide youth, low income and the general public with access to a fully-equipped, do-it-yourself bicycle repair shop
- Allow an opportunity for students to complete their community service hours toward graduation
- Give students an opportunity to gain work experience and provide a resume reference



GOALS: Sustainability

- Circular Economy: Divert bicycles from landfill
- Provide refurbished/ recycled bikes
- Climate Change Action: promote cycling as an environment-friendly mode of transportation



GOALS: Community

- To provide affordable access to bicycle ownership and maintenance to persons of low income
- To provide an extensive cycling themed programs for youth in their community.
- Increase mobility to participate in the local economy by providing access to work, shopping, appointments, etc.

Firebird Achievements

- Program at Barrie Central for 3 years
- Established Not-For-Profit since 2011
- Trillium and OSRCF grant recipients
- Partnered with many organizations (City of Barrie, Simcoe County District School Board, MEC, CMHA, Living Green Barrie, Cycle Simcoe)
- Received 2011 Active Transportation Award from the City of Barrie



Current Location: The Tour



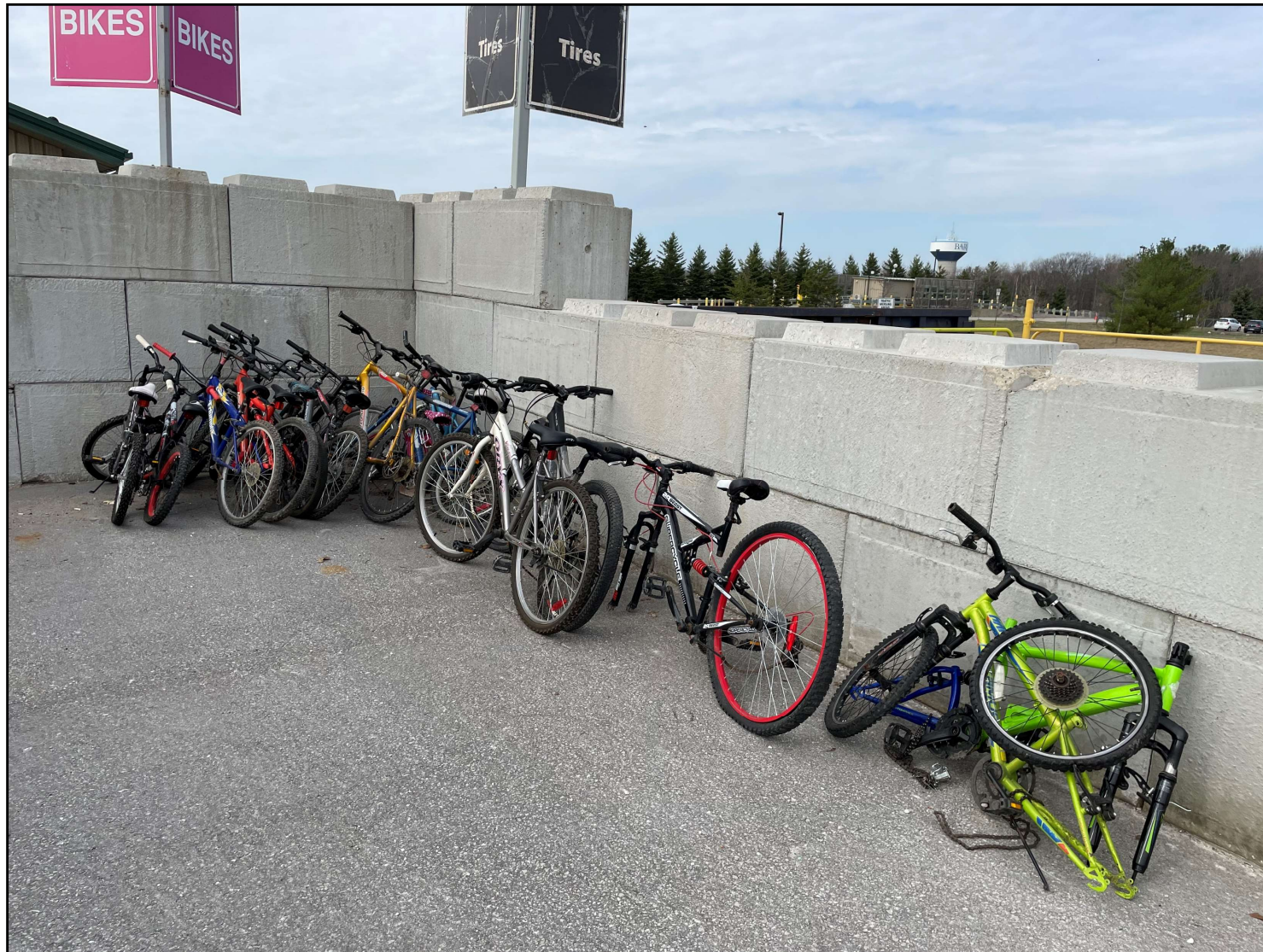
Current Operational Challenges

- Working out of two 20' shipping containers; no hydro; no washrooms for staff and volunteers
- Inefficient, time-consuming operations, to unpack and repack stands, bikes, tools, etc.
- Cramped; bike storage, tools, stands etc.
- Outdoors: subject to rain, cold, daylight, seasons
- Located in rear parking lot of commercial/ industrial area (134 Anne St. S, behind CMHA bldg.); Not very welcoming space for participants, volunteers, youth
- Limited public transportation; one bus per hour.

Current Activities

- One part-time paid staff (4 hrs./week)
- Volunteer, 7-member board of directors, meet monthly
- Open shop one night a week (Sundays 4-8pm)
- In 2022, avg. 4 repairs a night and numerous volunteers
- Accept dozens of used bikes per year (without advertising)
- Redistribute (sell/give) 50 to 100 bikes per year
- (Pre-COVID) provided educational workshops/programs for youth (North Collegiate) and female-specific (The Revolution)
- Revenues: Pay-what-you-can basis, donations, grants
- Pilot with City to accept diverted bikes at the landfill

Barrie Landfill Bike Diversion



The Proposal

- Trillium Capital Grant of up to \$150k over 12 months
- Firebird collaborative application with City of Barrie to create a community bike shop
- Firebird is main applicant; grant pays for the creation or renovation of a City space which is leased to Firebird (in-kind/\$1/yr)
- In return, Firebird takes landfill-diverted bikes, refurbishes them with help from community volunteers and provide FREE bikes to residents in need
- Timeline: Grant application deadline is **June 14, 2023**

The Ask

- 500 to 1,000 sq. ft. indoor, heated space
- Ground level, access to washroom
- Outdoor location for two shipping containers for bike storage
- Publicly accessible, in 'the core' of city, ideally on frequent bus routes and/or along busy cycling route/path
- No special requirements (no need for extra ventilation, hydro, tall ceilings, etc.)
- 5-year lease (grant requirement)

Other Community Bike Shops

- B!KE - Peterborough; not-for-profit; support from city, and others
- Brampton Bike Hub; leased a city owned property to serve residents
- London's Squeaky Wheel Bike Co-op; supported, in part by multi-year city grant
- Guelph; bicycle recycle program – landfill drop off = free bikes for residents

B!KE – Peterborough

Charitable status; Funding from city, and others



Brampton Bike Hub – Different Spokes

Leased a city owned property to serve residents



London's Squeaky Wheel Bike Co-op

Supported, in part by multi-year city grant



London's Squeaky Wheel Bike Co-op

Supported, in part by multi-year city grant



SUMMARY

- A valuable community partner with a direct focus on active transportation, environmental responsibility, education and community social support to make cycling accessible to all
- An established organization whose programs have a proven track record seeking partnerships to its year-round services to the greater community
- With a strategic partnership, we could do MUCH more!

THANK YOU!

Questions?



Contact: firebirdcommunitycycle@yahoo.ca
<http://firebirdcycle.ca/>
Facebook and Instagram