

DECEMBER 2020

# Waterloo County Wanderers

## The Year in Retrospect

This has been the most unusual year in the 22 seasons of our club. Not a surprise, is it? First, we had to cancel the March pot luck because of the COVID-19 guidelines from the Ministry of Health. Then we had to postpone the start of our ride season from April 14<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup>.

When we were able to start riding again, members chose who they rode with and maintained comfortable distances for themselves. "Après Ride" gatherings virtually disappeared too! Many members were not comfortable going out to the group rides. They chose to ride at other times, alone or with a few select friends. With our extensive Ride With GPS route library, members were able to use RWGPS to plan their own rides.

In July, your club made a donation for the maintenance and improvement of the Guelph to Goderich (G2G) Rail Trail. This "Adopt-A-km" donation qualified WCW to have two plaques posted (1 km apart) just west of Middlebrook Road. Many of our routes use this important cycling/walking/hiking trail to avoid the highway from West Montrose to Wallenstein. Here are photos of the plaques that were recently installed.



Looking West



Looking East

A special thanks to the folks at Ziggy's Cycle in Kitchener, McPhail's Cycle & Sports in Waterloo, Wheels on Peel Cycle & Sports in New Hamburg, for all their help and support. It was great to see the surge in bicycle sales this year as many more people discovered cycling.

Your club executive will be hard at work this winter, to do the many things needed for a successful riding season, such as planning start points (getting permission for their use), selecting appropriate routes, contacting the "watering holes" to be ready for us, meeting with our partner stores to obtain their support, arranging club insurance, asking for volunteer help on ride nights and determining if a pre-season gathering is feasible, and if not, plan for an end of season event.

The threat of the COVID virus was ever present and is still here. The pending approval of a vaccine, and the news that there are a number of other vaccines that may be close to approval, gives us all hope that 2021 will be a year of more positive news and health. Next year we hope that we will be able to return to a regular season, so members can safely ride with their club friends, socialize "après ride" and do some electrolyte replacement therapy together.

Your club executive wants to wish you all a good, safe holiday season and a much more positive 2021.

**YOUR ORGANIZERS**

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