

# Glen Alda Seniors

by Doug Field

*A friendly, active and open group.*

Late this past August, Bob A. and I were heading off to Lakefield, to transfer ownership of a vehicle. We had just driven west past Chandos Beach on 620, when we encountered a young girl of about ten years of age riding her bicycle toward Apsley. To be safe, Bob slowed down and switched to the oncoming lane to prepare for passing her slowly, when she suddenly swerved in front of us and headed off down Moffat Road. No looking over her shoulder, no signalling her intentions, in fact no indication that she was even aware there was anyone on the road besides herself. She could have died right there. Bob and I still shiver at how close we came to hitting her. It was a frightening experience I wish to never encounter again. This was entirely preventable.

When we were in our youth we all were given instructions in school, and by our parents, on how to ride bicycles safely. Our bicycles had to be registered, we had to pay for and affix license plates to them as well. Signalling was mandatory, and you always got off the pavement when automobiles were approaching as you knew you would be squished if you didn't.

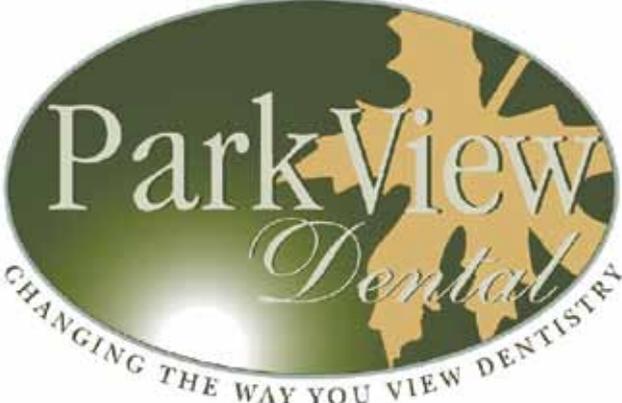
Not so today. Now, thanks to lobbying for special bike lanes, massive money is being spent on paving the shoulders so cyclists do not have to ride over bumps. I now rarely see a cyclist of any age, signalling for turns, or for stopping. The bicycles are not registered, their riders are apparently untrained on the responsibility they have to obey the rules of the road, and they contribute absolutely nothing towards the cost of all the specialized riding zones they lobby for. This young girl should never have left her parents property without proper instruction on the basic rules as they apply to all traffic on our roadways. Where were her parents in regard to their responsibility to instruct her in basic riding skills? She almost died because she apparently had not even the most basic concept of road safety, and the responsibility she had to ride safely. No wonder people are getting tired of encountering cyclists on our highways who are seemingly oblivious to even the most basic responsibilities they have to ride with caution and to share the road with other users.

A small group of us rode and drove to the Tweed area on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September for a vintage bike display at the Potters Settlement Winery. I left at seven in the AM on our 40 year old BMW sidecar rig as I was scheduled to work the early parking detail. Interesting ride as there was considerable fog that morning at this end, but it was particularly heavy in the Tweed area. It was a real *pea soup* fog in my estimation. The setting was beautiful what with the vines, ponds and areas of native rock protruding through the groomed grounds. There were approximately 65 vintage bikes, among them some absolutely magnificent restorations. The owners came from

as far away as Ottawa and Toronto, and lots of places in between. Bev drove down with Tom, Cliff, and Brian, so I knew she was in good company. We did not get to join the winery tour which involved tasting samples of the winery's wares, but we did spend lots of time visiting and viewing bikes. It was a good way to spend a Saturday in a beautiful setting.

September was good to the Glen Alda Seniors group. We enjoyed a great chicken meal with all the trimmings at Beth's cottage on Chandos to start the month, and followed it up with Spaghetti prepared by Nancy and Gary for our second meal of the month. Cannot say more as I write this well in advance, but I am sure it will be as good as it gets, because it always is.

October will see Sally and Barry preparing the first meal of the month. I know that it will be good as it always is when they prepare the meal. Penny, with I hope Peter's help, will share their cooking expertise with us for the second meal of the month. Again, this is a couple who know how to satisfy our culinary appetites. If any of you reading this wish to share our company and culinary pleasures give our president Barry a call at 705-656-1850. Remember we are a friendly, active, and open group who will welcome your company.



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