



*"A Hand for the Downed Rider"*

# *The Helping Rider*

A.I.M VANCOUVER



AIM President Dave Munro and Vice President Joe Pyringer representing the Association For Injured Motorcyclists on CISL Radio 650 AM Monday evening "Rolling Thunder Radio" which was held on March 17th @ 8:00 pm.

Rolling Thunder Radio is "Live" every Monday evening at 8:00 pm. Special thanks to Brodie and Roberta!

**"HELPING INJURED RIDERS SINCE 1983"**

*Serving over 250,000 on-and-off road motorcyclists throughout the province, A.I.M. is a benevolent, non-profit society registered under the provincial Societies Act and holding a Federal Charitable Tax Number. A.I.M. is committed to assisting injured motorcyclists by providing legal assistance, knowledge of rights, assistance with emotional support as well as regular hospital visits and helping with aspects of recovery not covered by other agencies. It is operated solely by volunteers and relies on memberships and donations for funding.*

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# The Helping Rider

#94 ~ Spring ~ 2008

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Fax: 604-580-0114

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The Helping Rider is published by the Association For Injured Motorcyclists *Vancouver Chapter* and is free to all interested readers. Advertisements are welcome. Articles and letters to the editor are also welcome.

## Disclaimer

Although we welcome your input, articles submitted and printed in the newsletter do not reflect the opinions of the Association For Injured Motorcyclists as a whole.

## A.I.M CHAPTERS

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## **Visitations Report**

Visitations	125
Riders helped	8
Family members helped	2

Visitations were frequent and demanding at the beginning of this year. Several downed riders were visited several times as a number of them had been injured early last year and were still in GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre. Some assistance was also provided to family members, mainly spouses who were asking questions related to benefits warranted by ICBC. President Dave Munro fielded these inquiries, clarifying for the wives what they could reasonably expect. They were encouraged to discuss the issues with their lawyer as well.

Currently there are still two downed riders in GF Strong and one is to be discharged soon – probably by the end of March. The remaining rider will still be in for a while and requires continuing visitations which will be provided. We have provided him with various motorcycle magazines as well.

One hopes that by the time Spring arrives, all of the riders injured the previous year are back functioning, however if they are seriously injured and left with a significant disability, we continue to visit them during their hospital and rehab stay and continue to offer them assistance, even after their discharge home. Recovery can sometimes be slow. Our support helps.

We have two more people added to our complement of volunteer visitors. In addition to their willingness to do visitations, both have demonstrated an innate ability to relate easily to our clients and give them the emotional and moral support they require. We look forward to working with them this year.

Currently underway are three projects to create: a) a daily diary for the injured rider to keep track of events for their lawyer; b) a set of guidelines for Visitation Volunteers to follow when visiting and; c) a handout to give to the downed rider outlining various benefits available and what steps are important to take and when, in order to ensure their financial stability during and after their recovery (eg. when to apply for unemployment benefits and CPP disability benefits). Also included will be information regarding the SPARC disability parking permit, ferry boarding permit (they place you next the elevator), etc. We are looking for sponsors willing to donate a few hundred dollars to finance these projects so if you know anyone let me know and I will follow up.

I keep my fingers crossed that I won't be busy this year. Everyone ride safe !

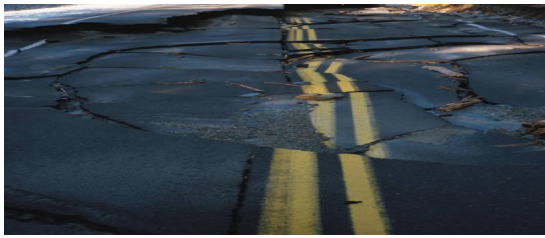
Gary Richardson,  
Visitation Director

**Meetings are held every Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm at the Cloverdale Library 5642  
176A, Cloverdale, BC, Just off Hwy # 10...**

**Nominations in October and Elections in November. All are Welcome! Rain or Shine.**



## **Taking AIM at Potholes – Please Report Them!**



Spring is here and it is pothole season which can cause some pretty nasty hazards to motorcyclists if you are caught off guard. Be sure to leave lots of room ahead of you between cars or other bikes you are following so you have a chance to counter-steer around the hazards. Remember to look for dark patches in the roadway as a good indicator of an approaching pothole. Keep this in mind especially during night-time rides, and try not to "out ride" your headlight at night.

AIM would like to see fewer motorcyclists getting injured from road hazard like potholes, so we put together some information to make it easier to report these hazards. If you see a road hazard while you are out on a drive or a ride, please remember the location and report it to one of the numbers listed below that are responsible for maintenance issues in that area. Please share this information with your friends and family too, because the more eyes we have looking for and reporting these hazard the better off we all are. That one phone call you make may just prevent a fellow rider, and their friends and family, from some very difficult times to get through. That one call can make a big difference for all of us.

You can report potholes or other highway maintenance issues by contacting your local highway maintenance contractor. This information is listed in the government of B.C. listings under Transportation in the blue pages of your telephone book, and in most cases are 24-hour numbers.

**Fraser Valley** - 800-667-5122 or Emil Anderson Maintenance Chilliwack - 604-795-2208

**Howe Sound** - 866-904-0209 or Miller Capilano Maintenance Corp. Squamish - 604-892-1010

**Lower Mainland** - 866-918-1010 or Mainroad Contracting Surrey -604-574-3164 or Delta - 604-581-3710

**North Vancouver** - 866-904-0209 or Mainroad Contracting Burnaby - 604-433-3002

**Pemberton** - 866-904-0209 or Mainroad Contracting Pemberton - 604-894-1468

**Whistler** - 866-904-0209 or Mainroad Contraction Whistler - 604-935-1877

If you happen to have damage to your vehicle related to highway property or highway activity you can file a claim by Obtaining an H0050-NOTIFICATION OF CLAIM form from any ministry district or regional office. The [H0050 claim form](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/forms/getForm.aspx?formId=675) can also be viewed and printed at... <http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/forms/getForm.aspx?formId=675>

In this form you will outline the details of your claim, including your name, where and when the accident happened, if the accident was discussed with a ministry representative (if yes, please provide their name and telephone number). Describe any losses or damages sustained and whether police attended (if so, please provide a copy of the police report). In those instances where your vehicle or another person's vehicle was involved, please provide license plate and insurance information. Please ensure your address and telephone number is included with the claim to enable a ministry adjuster to contact you as soon as possible. Please fax or mail the H0050 form to:

Claims Unit  
Construction and Maintenance Branch  
Ministry of Transportation  
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VICTORIA BC V8W 9T5  
Telephone: (250) 387-7575  
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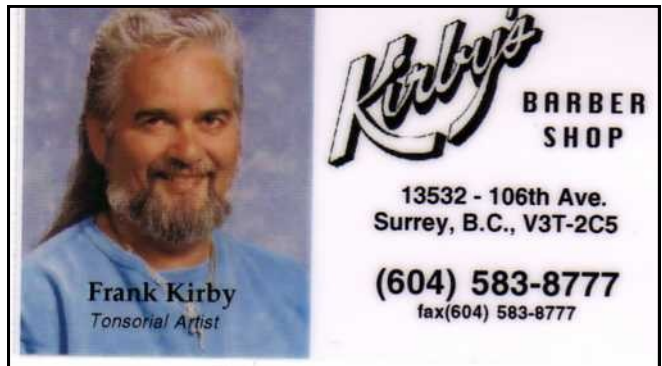
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**Meetings are held every Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm at the Cloverdale Library 5642 176A, Cloverdale, BC, Just off Hwy # 10 All are Welcome! Rain or Shine!**





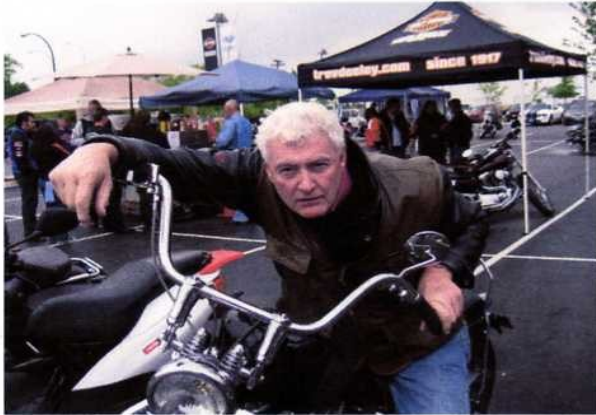
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**Q: Do you offer special services for people with disabilities?**

A: We provide special vehicle loading for people who have difficulty with stairs. If you use a wheelchair or walking aid, please tell your ticket agent when you arrive at the terminal and we'll load your vehicle as close to an elevator as possible.

If you are a resident of British Columbia and have a permanent disability, reduced fares are available (this applies to passenger fares only). To receive them, you must present your BC Ferries Disabled Status Identification (DSI) card when you arrive at the terminal. Please call us for details, or download the Information for Passengers with Special Needs Brochure.

Passengers requiring the use of an "over height" vehicle equipped with a mechanical wheelchair lift or ramp may travel at the posted "under height" vehicle (or car) tariff with or without a DSI card. Please tell the ticket agent of your vehicle's special status.

Let us know if BC Ferries can assist in any way to make your experience travelling as a foot passenger more comfortable. Please contact our Customer Service Centre at 1-888-BC FERRY (1-888-223-3779) 48 hours prior to your intended departure date to arrange for assistance and additional information on the range of services provided to our customers with varying abilities.

More information at BC Ferries Website at [https://www.bcferrys.com/travel\\_planning/frequently\\_asked\\_questions.html#specialServices](https://www.bcferrys.com/travel_planning/frequently_asked_questions.html#specialServices)

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# 19<sup>th</sup> Annual British Columbia Coalition of Motorcyclists **MLA RIDE**



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This is a chance to speak directly with your individual Member of the  
Legislative Assembly on motorcycling and safety issues that affect you  
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**May as Motorcycle Awareness Month!**

**VANCOUVER:** Riders assemble at Tsawwassen Ferry  
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**VICTORIA:** Assembly Point: Mayfair Mall  
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**For info call: (604) 580-0111 or 1-877-580-0111**

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### Motorcycles and Ferries

**Q: Do you handle motorcycles differently from other vehicles?**

**A: Motorcycles are usually loaded onto the ferry before other vehicles.**

Here are some more tips for motorcycle riders:

- Always ride your motorcycle onto the vessel slowly.
- Motorcycles should be parked at a 45-degree angle to the ship's centre line.
- Motorcycles should be left in low gear.
- Your motorcycle should be parked on the side stand so that it won't fall over to the left. The opposite side should then be blocked with wooden car blocks (available on the car deck) so it won't fall over to the right. Return to your motorcycle prior to docking to prevent it from falling over when the ferry docks against the shorepilings.

Information is from: [https://www.bcferries.com/travel\\_planning/frequently\\_asked\\_questions.html#specialServices](https://www.bcferries.com/travel_planning/frequently_asked_questions.html#specialServices)

If you know of a downed rider that wouldn't mind a visit from A.I.M please let us know by calling us at 604.580.0112

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## **Safety Statistics – Gleaned from the Canada Safety Council website.**

### 1. New Buyer Demographics

- average age rose from 25 to 39 during the 90s
- the average Canadian buyer is 46 years old ( *year not indicated* )
- in Canada sales have more than tripled from 24,000 in 1996 to 76,000 in 2003

### 2. Fatalities

- fatalities peaked in 1973 when 903 motorcyclists died on Canadian roads
- in 2002 172 motorcyclists died on Canadian roads. This represented 5.9 % of the
- total road fatalities in Canada, down substantially from 10.7 % in 1983.
- n the 11 years from 1987 to 1998 the motorcycle fatality rate decreased by 40 %. The injury rate went down by 48 %.
- from 1983 to 1999 the total number of all traffic fatalities only dropped by 30 % at that same time, while motorcycle fatalities dropped by 65 %, motorcycle registrations only dropped by 33 %.

### 3. Rider Profile / Fatalities

- Single vehicle**
- Weekend**
- Summer**
- Nighttime**
- Rural location**
- On a road with a posted speed limit of 90 km/hr and over**
- Alcohol was involved in about 1/3 of them with over half of them having excessively high BACs (over 0.15)**
- Young riders account for only 11 per cent of motorcycle fatalities**
- These crashes were typically the fault of the motorcyclist**

#### **What Does This Tell Us?**

Unfortunately these statistics are stale-dated and only give us a “snapshot” of what things were like 10 to 20 years ago. It is difficult to match their relevance to today’s riding world. Have fatalities continued to decline during the last ten years? Have injuries also declined in the same period of time? Have sales continued to increase since 2003? Have registrations continued to drop during the same time period?

During the last five years there have been enormous and significant changes, not the least of which was the closing down of the largest motorcycle dealerships in Ontario, one causal factor being the exorbitant insurance rates.

Observing that “...the decline in motorcycle fatalities has outpaced the general downward trend as fewer people in general are being killed in motor vehicle accidents...”, the Canada Safety Council notes that most riders are now trained. I have to wonder where they got this statistic from. Most of the riders I talk to have never taken any course at all. Clearly, these statistics have little to do with today’s motorcycle riding world and even the trends may now be reversed.

One statistic though, blows a commonly held myth right out of the water – the fact that young riders only account for 11 % of motorcycle fatalities. So all those young whippersnappers roaring around on their sport bikes are not killing themselves off wholesale. Who would have thunk.

These statistics were provided by an organization selling motorcycle rider training lessons. In the “Rider Profile” they conclude that the crashes were the fault of the motorcyclist. One has to ask how they arrived at this conclusion. Was it their own just based on the fact that it was a single vehicle accident? Was it based on the police report? Was it based on the testimony of an expert accident reconstructionist? Was it based on the result of a court case?

While it is obvious that single vehicle accidents may most likely be seen as the fault of the operator, there can be many reasons why they are not. Police reports are not always accurate as lawyers in court demonstrate. The rider is not able to report what happened. What were the various conditions and what was their contribution?

Any professional accident reconstructionist will tell you that they try to identify all the factors involved: some are causal and some are not, but all combine together to present an overall picture of causality. Since statistics also show that overall, motorcyclists are generally not the cause of their accidents, why such a radical change in causality in single vehicle accidents? And remember, alcohol was not involved in 2/3 of them, this often being touted as a cause.

Certainly we all have to take responsibility for our riding, and the Rider Profile is the most valuable information to come out of the statistics and is likely universal, regardless of “when”. Do you or I fit the profile which puts us at greater risk? You might think about that the next time you ride home from the pub on a summer weekend night in the countryside on a road with a posted speed of 90 Kph...

**Gary Richardson, Visitation Director**



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## ASSOCIATION FOR INJURED MOTORCYCLISTS

**Status** *The Association for Injured Motorcyclists ( AIM ) is a Non-Profit Society registered under the British Columbia Societies Act, and was created in 1983 to foster the necessary measures to assist motorcycle accident victims and their families.*

**Structure** *At present AIM serves over 250,000 motorcyclists throughout British Columbia with four Chapters provincially and one in Alberta. Total membership is over 1,000. A person does not have to be a motorcyclist to be a member of AIM; they just need to have the drive to assist injured motorcyclists and their families by paying a yearly membership fee.*

**Charity** *The Vancouver Chapter of AIM is also a federally registered Canadian Charity. Donations are utilized in accordance with the Federal Regulations and Law to assist motorcycle accident victims and their families. Official receipts of charitable donations for Income Tax purposes are issued by the Vancouver Chapter, which administers these funds to achieve the objectives of AIM throughout British Columbia.*

**Services** *AIM's services are available to all injured motorcyclists; they do not have to be an AIM member. Our services have grown from simple hospital visits to include legal and moral support, rehabilitation and vocational guidance.*

**Legal** *AIM provides a list of lawyers experienced in motorcycle accidents, in ensuring the provision of Part 7 benefits, and providing legal counsel and support to individuals and to the society as a whole.*

**Morale** *AIM provides input through hospital visits, guidance through the bureaucratic maze of the insurance claim issues, meetings, recreational activities and advice regarding various benefits available. We supply the downed rider with reading materials and TV rentals, we locate specialty wheelchairs as needed, and we can arrange assessment for vehicle modifications and driver retraining and relicensing.*

**Vocational** *AIM seeks to assist victims unable to return to their former occupation. Presently, this is achieved by referral to existing education and rehabilitation agencies and institutions.*

**Public Awareness** *Through education we help the general public realize the road must be shared. Consistent with this goal, AIM assists other motorcycle organizations in promoting safety and awareness. AIM also publishes a quarterly newsletter "The Helping Rider" that is mailed to our membership, can also be picked up at various motorcycle shops, and is posted on our website: [www.aimvancouver.com/news](http://www.aimvancouver.com/news).*

**Board of Directors** *Serve the Association on a volunteer basis and are voted into these positions by members in good standing on a yearly basis in accordance with the Societies Act of British Columbia.*

**Funding** *Attained by membership fees, donations and recreational activities. In the past we have held fund-raising dances and events for downed riders' families.*

**GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre** *AIM works closely with staff at the GF Strong Rehabilitation Center and hold an annual fund raising motorcycle "Show-'n-Shine" for the benefit of the residents there. Proceeds of this event are donated to GF Strong.*

[www.aimvancouver.com](http://www.aimvancouver.com)





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The elderly gentleman went  
back in a month to the doctor  
and the doctor said, "Your  
hearing is perfect. Your family  
must be really pleased that you  
can hear again."

The gentleman replied, "Oh, I  
haven't told my family yet.  
I just sit around and listen to  
the conversations. I've changed  
my will three times!"

Note the above poster has Limited entry so please call them in advance

2008 Boogie Bash Info Coming soon

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AIM Directors attended a Seminar/Workshop on the duties and obligations of a Volunteer Board Officer, how to be an effective Director and our fiduciary responsibilities, put on by Maria Williams of Volunteer Vancouver. This was sponsored by James McNenney of McNenney & McNenney lawfirm .



**Some Web pages for Riders**

- http://www.cmdra.com/
- http://www.motorcycling.ca/index.html
- http://www.bccom-bc.com/index.html
- http://www.gvmc.ca/index.asp
- http://www.beltdrivebetty.com/joomla07/index.php
- http://www.toadrockcampground.com/index.php
- http://www.bustedknucklenews.com
- http://bikersmag.com/html/canadian\_bikers.html
- http://members.tripod.com/~Jinksd/CanMotorcyclelink.html
- http://groups.msn.com/BikersfromBC/

**APRIL 2008**

April - 22 Deeley Ride, All Riders Welcome, [www.trevdeeley.com](http://www.trevdeeley.com) or (604)-291-2453  
 April - 26 BYOB Bike Sale (bring your own bike) [www.trevdeeley.com](http://www.trevdeeley.com) or (604)-291-2453  
 April 27 - 23rd Annual Classic & Vintage Swap Meet & Show n' Shine - South Delta Recreation Centre, Tsawwassen - (604) 299-0020 or [www.classicbikeswapmeet.com](http://www.classicbikeswapmeet.com)

**MAY 2008**

May 1 - 19th Annual MLA Ride, Tsawwassen to the Legislature in Victoria, BC - (604) 580-0111 or 1-877-580-0111  
 May 17 & 18 - CMDRA Season Opener Race - NI'akapxm Eagle Motorplex, Ashcroft, BC [www.cmdra.com](http://www.cmdra.com), (604) 580-9008 or 1-877-580-9008  
 May - 24 Annual Show N' Shine & Spike your Bike contest, [www.trevdeeley.com](http://www.trevdeeley.com) or (604)-291-2453  
 May 25 - 16th Annual Gord Heppler Memorial Run - (604) 888-8152 or [www.gvmc.ca](http://www.gvmc.ca)  
 May 31 - Ride for Dad Charity Ride - 230 km ride up the valley finishing at Fraser Downs - <http://www.motorcyclerridefordad.org/van/>

**JUNE 2008**

June 7-8 - 1st Annual Vancouver Island Custom Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet - [www.members.shaw.ca/vanisleshow/mainpage.htm](http://www.members.shaw.ca/vanisleshow/mainpage.htm)  
 June 7-8 - CMDRA Race - MHDRA Drag Strip, Medicine Hat, AB [www.cmdra.com](http://www.cmdra.com), (604) 580-9008 or 1-877-580-9008  
 June 25-27 Back to the Blues, see poster on Page 5 in this newsletter  
 June 27-29 - Toad Rock Motorcycle Rally, Balfour, BC - [www.toadrockcampground.com](http://www.toadrockcampground.com) or 1-877-229-5448 - Proceeds support BCCOM  
 June 27-30 - Bikers Reunion - [www.bikersreunion.ca](http://www.bikersreunion.ca)



**Association for Injured Motorcyclists**

#37— 13320 116th Ave, Surrey BC V3R 0R8  
 Ph. 604.580.0112 Fax. 604.580.0114  
[www.aimvancouver.com](http://www.aimvancouver.com)

Meetings are held every Third Thursday of the Month 7:00 pm at the Cloverdale Library 5642 176A, Cloverdale, BC, Just off Hwy # 10 All are Welcome! Rain or Shine!

Whether you are an accident victim or a sincerely interested party, please take our appeal earnestly. We are serious about our livelihood. **WE NEED YOU!** ... Become a member and give us support for effective representation on all matters of concern to Injured Motorcyclists.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this application with your payment to the address above. Make checks payable to  
**Association for Injured Motorcyclists**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 VISA ONLY please Expirey  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

**OFFICE USE**

Receipt  
 Cash  
 Computer DATE  
 Cheque #  
 VISA only Initial

Would you like to Volunteer?  
 Would you like info by Email  
 Single Membership \$20.00  
 Couple Membership \$30.00  
 Club Membership \$30.00