

August 15, 2022

## Haliburton Launched Free Bike Share Facility

The Rotary Club of Haliburton is pleased to announce the launch of a free, 6 bicycle Bike Share facility next to the historic Caboose and Visitors' Centre in Head Lake Park. Our Grand Opening is planned for Thursday Aug 25 at 4:30 pm at the Visitors' Centre but the bikes are now available for use.

There will be no cost for visitors or residents to use the bicycles which can be unlocked with a smart phone by anyone over the age of 18. The project is intended to contribute our community's health and well-being by encouraging safe, fun outdoor activity while enhancing and contributing to Haliburton's reputation as a fun tourist destination.

To unlock a bike, users need to download the ON Bike Share app onto their smart phone. Users are reminded to download the Canadian version of the app. Users are asked to provide a credit card as a security deposit, but the bikes are free to use for both Haliburton residents and visitors. Helmets are provided at no cost and users are strongly recommended to use a helmet.

We anticipate most users will cycle along the Rail Trail. Usage of the bikes is limited to Dysart et al. Users may check out a bike for up to 3 hours at a time.

The bikes are available during daylight hours (currently 8:00 am to 8:00 pm but the hours of operations will be amended as the days shorten). The Bike Share will be operational from mid-April until the end of the Thanksgiving weekend when they will be stored indoors for the winter.

The system is completely self-serve and does not require any staffing. However, the staff at the Visitor Centre would be happy assist any visitors who need help unlocking a bike.

Haliburton Rotary owns all the bicycles, racks and associated hardware and will maintain the bicycles and system at no cost to the municipality with the assistance of our exclusive sponsor, Algonquin Outfitters. The bicycles are rugged, sturdy, and built to withstand outdoor weather conditions with minimal on-going maintenance.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Haliburton Rotary would like to thank our exclusive sponsor, Algonquin Outfitter. We would also like to thank Sunbelt Rentals, Leveque Brothers and Spencer Mathew Licenced Carpenter who provided labour, material and expertise in this project and the Municipality of Dysart et al, the County of Haliburton and the Haliburton County Echo for their support.

**Background:**

The Rotary Club of Haliburton has a long tradition of contributing to Haliburton's infrastructure. Previous projects include, our historic Locomotive (1961), the Head Lake Bandshell, the Town Clock (2013) and last year's Visitors Center (2021). The vast majority of Rotary's funding is raised within Haliburton and the Club is committed to spending these funds for the benefit of Haliburton and its residents.

**The Bike Share System:**

Bike Share programs are popular in both large cities to promote public health and reduce traffic congestion and in smaller communities, to encourage recreation and tourism. A bike share system consists of a station consisting of a rack of bicycles specially manufactured for low maintenance durability, an electronic lock, user software to allow qualified users to unlock the bikes and administrative software to track the bicycles, users and usage of the system. Most large systems charge users an annual membership fee and/or an hourly fee to use a bicycle. Our system, however, will be free to anyone over the age of 18 who has a smart phone and a credit card for a security deposit.

The Supplier of our system is Dynamic Bicycles Inc. of Pawtucket, R.I who also installed the Fenelon Falls and Bobcaygeon Bike Share systems.

The system includes:

- Six 7-speed bicycles with white aluminum frames, 7-speed Shimano gear shifter, V-brakes, full coverage fenders, front basket with cup holder, chain guard, puncture resistant tires, bell, kickstand and rear wheel lock
- Six Bluetooth Electronic locks
- Three Double-Bike Docking racks (2 bikes per rack) with concrete mounting hardware
- Rider App for riders to access bikes (free downloads) and a Maintenance app for the administrator