

## **Martine Donahue (1926 — 2023)**

Thirty-seven years ago a young “senior” lady, accompanied by her bicycle, moved from Halifax to Vancouver. Shortly after settling into her new West End home she heard a story about a group of cyclists that were planning their second Cross-Canada cycling tour. It was an adventure that triggered her interest and she joined the Club, *CCCTS*. That was 1986 and it would be another two years before she became involved in the group’s events. Her work seemed to interfere with her interest in cycling and she eventually took early retirement from Canadian Airlines. Her interest in a major cycling adventure soon got her into more serious riding as she planned to do the *CCCTS*’s Cross-Canada Tour in 1990.

Martine had cycled when living in Halifax, but unlike the West Coast attitude towards cycling, her former home saw cyclists as “those eccentrics at Dalhousie!” Living in the West End gave her the incentive to cycle around Stanley Park in traffic free and non-intimidating surroundings. But if she was to do a major cycling tour she would have to do some preparatory work. This involved doing a major ride on Vancouver Island. Hydro Hill, on the road near Cameron Lake, was a major challenge and she said that “I did it twice and had a witness to prove it!”

Martine did numerous tours other than the Cross-Canada ride. A few other memorable rides included the “beautiful landscapes of B.C., the Columbia Ice Fields and going into Lillooet on the Duffy Lake Road.” These were no small feats. “Why I continue to enjoy the Hub and Spoke events is the fun camping. It was most enjoyable sitting around the picnic table and socializing.” Of course, appreciating a few sips of wine during the evening!

Martine was a truly independent cyclist and enjoyed riding at her own pace. The weekly rides in Ladner and Richmond were always looked forward to and the flat terrain made them “most pleasurable”. Especially when she joined the group at coffee time and she treated herself to a cup of Espresso and a nice piece of chocolate.

How many Club members acquire a new bike in their mid-eighties? Martine did and for convenience of travelling on transit and the ease of riding she

purchased a lightweight folding bike. This she used until her health didn't allow her to continue spinning those gears.

Off her bicycle, she was fashionable and up to date, but claimed to be no "fashionista" when it came to cycle clothing but did say that "the items were quite attractive. It should be kept in mind that clothing was and is very functional for the activity." She did say that she had an incentive to be in style as her daughter worked at Louis Garneau!

Martine was a strong supporter of *CCCTS* and we would see her at many General Meetings, even when she had hung up her bike. Who would be signing in the members? Martine.

Off the bike Martine had other interests in both literature and the political realm. Her being bilingual in both English and French gave her many opportunities to enter into thought provoking discussions.

We are left with some very fond memories of a *Feisty* and *Classy Lady*.