

news

Let the good times roll

Thousands of Winnipeggers turn up for the city's first Ciclovía



Helpful signs were posted on surrounding streets to direct cyclists en route to the event. Even more helpful, rows of orange cones were used to create bike paths on several high-traffic streets, allowing people on bikes to safely share the roads with people in cars.



About 30 people took part in a mid-afternoon zumba fitness class led by instructors Lana Maidment and Sharon Delbridge. The 40-minute workout was sweaty but fun; a fusion of Latin dance and aerobics with a few belly-dancing moves thrown in for good measure.



A bike polo tournament was held at the corner of Edmonton Street, where teams battled each other for a trophy made entirely of discarded bike parts. Other popular activities included street hockey, bike decorating and playing in sand boxes (a huge hit with the kids).



Seventeen-month old Ezri — nicknamed Danger Monkey by her parents for her fearless attitude and insatiable curiosity — tries out the homemade hula hoops for sale by the Ukie Menno Hula Hoop Connection (aka Winnipeggers Tanya and Melanie), one of many vendors lining the street.



Dean Medeiros (dressed in traditional apparel of the Fulniô First Nation from Brazil) takes a break from manning Climate Change Connection's info table to sit on Santa's lap. Santa (aka Elle Young from the Manitoba Environmental Youth Network) was raising money to send 50 local youth to the 2009 Power Shift conference in Ottawa.



Ciclovía wasn't just about physical activities. In addition to a rotating roster of musicians (including not one but two solo saxophonists), art was everywhere. Two paintings were auctioned off mid-day with proceeds going to the Coalition to Save the Elms. This one, painted by Graffiti Gallery artistic director Pat Lazo, sold for \$75.

news CICLOVIA RECAP

Marlo Campbell

Broadway was closed to cars but packed with people on Sunday, Sept. 13, as thousands showed up for Winnipeg's first Ciclovía.

Modelled after a weekly event in Bogota, Columbia, the street festival (pronounced with emphasis on the "via") closed the north

side of Broadway to vehicular traffic from Main Street to Osborne Street in celebration of active transportation and healthy lifestyles (mini donuts notwithstanding), allowing citizens to walk, cycle and take part in free outdoor activities.

No doubt helped out by the hot, sunny, weather, the day was a resounding success, with organizers from Downtown Winnipeg BIZ estimating overall attendance at upwards of 10,000 people.

And of course, *Uptown* was there to join in on the fun.