[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Winnipeg Free Press - PRINT EDITION

They say the bikes are out in droves on Broadway...

By: Lindsey Wiebe

10/09/2009 1:00 AM | [Comments: 0](#)

In Spanish, the word is used to describe a bike path, whether it's a permanent route or a street where gas guzzlers are temporarily turfed in favour of people-powered transportation.

By that definition, Winnipeg already hosts a few small *ciclovias* during the scant summer months.

But this Sunday the term gets a capital C, and the city gets a bike path stretching from Assiniboine Park to The Forks, not to mention a slew of activities on the Broadway-centred route.

Inspired by similar pedestrian and cycle-centric events in Bogota, Colombia, Winnipeg's first Ciclovía will also be the first in Canada, Downtown BIZ marketing and communications manager Nisha Tuli says.

"It's become an international movement of people taking to the streets," she says.

The pedal-pushing street party will see the entire north lane of Broadway closed from Main Street to Osborne Street, a part of the downtown where 9-to-5-ers on lunch breaks typically make up most of the pedestrian traffic. A few other curb lane closures will link the route to The Forks and the Wellington Crescent and Wolseley Avenue Sunday bike paths, with plenty of street signage to highlight the route and keep drivers informed.

The event is organized by the Downtown BIZ, paid for by the city and a number of corporate sponsors, and organized in conjunction with Manitoba Homecoming 2010. Dozens of groups and businesses are taking part, and organizers hope thousands of car-free Winnipeggers show up. If the event takes off, they'd like to expand it to a few weekends next year.

Activities run the gamut: visitors can sample the wares at a farmer's market, take up a game of street hockey, check out a cycling fashion show and listen to music by the Crooked Brothers and Julien Desaulniers, among others.

There's a hay maze planned for Memorial Park, a wrap-up concert by Oh My Darling on tap at The Forks, and daytime demos galore -- yoga, tai chi, mom-and-baby dance classes and the Zumba exercise craze, to name a few.

"It's specifically targeting active transportation and healthy living," says Tuli.

Along with familiar festival fare like a balloon bouncer and face painting, there are plans for a bike decorating zone and a presentation on commuter cycling. Bike breakdowns can be repaired on-site by staff from

Mountain Equipment Co-op or en route by Natural Cycle's mobile team of bike mechanics and their cargo trike.

Although the event hinges on cycling, organizers say all types of active transportation are welcome.

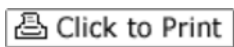
"Skateboards, pogo sticks, camel, whatever you have," one of the event's organizers, Anders Swanson, says with a laugh.

Ciclovía runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For event details and a map of the bike route, check out www.cicloviawinnipeg.com.

lindsey.wiebe@freepress.mb.ca

Find this article at:

http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/entertainment/the_tab/they-say-the-bikes-are-out-in-droves-on--broadway-58437797.html



[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.