



# The Bicyc'letter

The newsletter of the Tour of the Americas

N° 7, April 2005

www.velopax.org

## 45000 km to Get the Environment Moving Rendez-vous May 18 in Chicoutimi !

Marie Collin has arrived in the New World, Our bicycles are in the hands of Nicolas at General Bicycles in Quebec city and the official departure date is now scheduled. An excitement that is out of the common is gaining us as we think about **May 18, 2005**.

At this moment we will leave Chicoutimi to get to Quebec City on May 21st, and then spend some time in the Granby and Montreal area between May 25 to 30 before heading full west for the great crossing.

- *Christian Blanchard*

### The Support of Bernard Voyer

On [www.velopax.org](http://www.velopax.org), you can find two new support messages from personalities: Bernard Voyer and Mario Bilodeau They join their encouragements to those of Pierre Harvey, Nicolas Vanier and Louis Chedid. Both those adventurers have climbed the Everest, but also they achieved other actions that are less spectacular, but that are humanly rich. We thank them greatly for their support!

### T-shirts in America

In Quebec, 150 t-shirts will be printed. We will mainly try to sell them at our cyclo-don, but there could be some left. They will be available in the following colors, terracota, grey and blue navy. The logo impression will remain the original illustration of Stéphanie Vacqué.

Some pictures should be on our website in the weeks to come and we will tell you then what you can order and how!

### Growing Media Attention

Local media exposure is becoming more provincial and is slowly getting oriented toward national. Following our Press Conference on April 4th, an article was edited in the weekly newspaper *Le Plus* in Granby. But almost at the same time, in Montreal, we got a full page in the bicycle special of the University of Montreal student's paper *Quartier Libre*. Then another big article in *Le Quotidien du Saguenay* where Pierre was starred. Also to come, a paper for our departure in the next issue of *Espaces*, the outdoor magazine for which we will write, and finally this week we are recording a TV show on *VOX channel* in Granby.

Even if all this media coverage is getting the public to know the project, the ultimate goal is to broadcast information about original initiatives that we will discover during the tour. In this regard we are happy to tell you that we will collaborate occasionally with the radio show *D'un soleil à l'autre*, which is broadcasted daily on French CBC between 18h30 and 19h00. First step: participation at the show on May 20th in the Quebec City studios. If you are reading this English version it might not touch you much, but you can listen to us via Internet at: <http://radio-canada.ca/radio/dunsoleil>

## The Cyclo-don, a bicycle Fest

A potential of 400 hours of cycling during 4 days, that is what we offer people of Granby at our Cyclo-don which will be held from April 21 to 24 at the *Galleries de Granby*. It will be our main fundraising activity, but also an occasion for the people of Granby to know more about our project and to pedal along with us. For 4 days, Marie, Pierre or Christian will be pedalling constantly.

About ten stationary bikes will be available. People will pedal for an hour or so and together we will try to raise \$ 5000 in order to get closer to the final budget. If you want to encourage us and you are from the United-States, please do not send checks. It costs us almost 10\$ to change one check. Money order is much better (to pay to Christian Blanchard, at the following address: 196 A court, Granby, Qc, J2G 4Z6, Canada)

**For more information (450)-372-7745**

## *Environment*

- 🍌 From April 10 to 16 2005, watch the **Global week of action**. Gathering all those who think we need a fair trade rather than a free trade system. It will be an occasion to light up fair alternatives that already exist. To know everything about the local activities in your area, get to <http://april2005.org>
- 🍌 **Americana 2005**, the Pan American environmental technology trade show and conference just ended. It was held in Montreal from April 6 to 8. Were present, companies, municipalities, associations from all many countries from Americas, Africa and Europe. The objective of the conference program was to promote the spreading and the sharing of the techniques, the knowledge, the solutions and the technologies allowing us to minimize or eliminate pollution. Certain speakers presented concrete examples that showed positive results. <http://www.americana.org>
- 🍌 In 2001 Christian has worked in Washington D.C. for Alaska Wilderness League. This organisation was fighting to prevent **oil drilling in the Alaska wilderness refuge** and more particularly in a caribou migration way. Unfortunately, on March 16, the project has been voted in the senate 51 against 49 to open up the zone. In 2000 and 2004, in his campaign for the White House, George W. Bush has promised to reduce the energetic dependence of the country. Presently the United States are consuming 21 millions of barrels of oil each day, including 58 % that is imported. It seems absurd to think that this exploitation will solve the energetic problem, and even if so, 55 % of the American population is opposed to this project. So, is the Congress right to listen only the oil lobbies? Is that the democracy that the Bush government wants for Irak and Afghanistan? The oil democracy?

## Fundraising Campaign, soon to end

Here's what's left on the menu in the following weeks for us in order to get total budget :

- 🍌 Research of sponsorships with diverse companies.
- 🍌 Get donation boxes in businesses
- 🍌 Theatre improvisation game on May 7th at the Granby CEGEP
- 🍌 Sales of t-shirts and post cards