



YikeBike Newsletter

NUMBER THREE

The Discovery Channel in Canada has done a great story summarising the YikeBike. Click the image below to see it:

The YikeBike endurance testing is coming along very nicely, with over 15,000 km on key parts and looking good. We will post more details, photos and videos of testing in the coming months.

Below is a collection of our recent blog posts as well...

Kind Regards

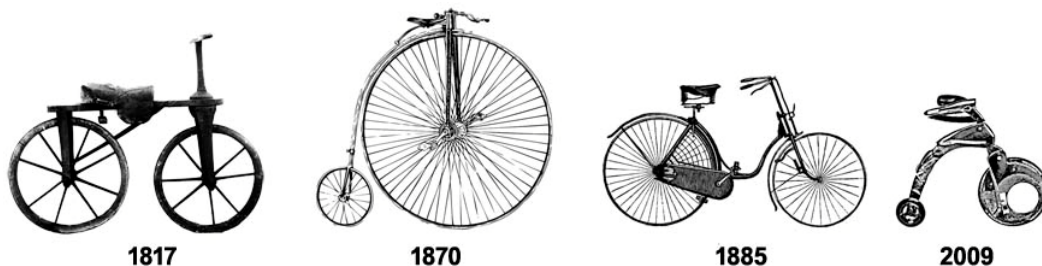


YikeBike team



Undignified, complicated, inefficient, expensive and distasteful

Posted on December 16th, 2009 by grant



"Undignified riding position," "overly complicated," "intolerably inefficient," "expensive," "nothing more than a passing fancy," "no chance of success," "distasteful".....interestingly these criticisms are about the what we now call a normal bicycle on its introduction in 1885 ("Bicycle - The History", by David Herlihy). A criticism you may read on some blogs about the YikeBike is that some think the riding position looks wrong, stupid or ridiculous.

The main reason people think it looks weird is that they are not used to seeing something different. Interesting to note that while there are a number of comments about how unstable the YikeBike looks none of them are from the hundreds of people who have actually ridden it. Yes, In our promotional video it looks a bit shaky at times because for complicated reasons we didn't have our best YikeBike ready for the day we had to shoot. Check out the latest test [video](#) to see how stable it actually is over all sorts of terrain.

Oh the lovely money I will save

Posted on November 30th, 2009 by grant

If you are lucky enough not having to rationalise your YikeBike purchase feel free to skip this blog post. If you happen to need to justify it either to yourself or a significant other here are a few snippets

- The total cost of a YikeBike is about the same as the cost of just running a car for a year.
- The average cost of running your YikeBike on electricity for a month is less than a Big Mac meal. For the technically minded this assumes 20 km per day 5 days per week @ 20c/kWh and not up-sizing your Mac meal.
- Slash your mortgage. I'm sure you've noticed how consistently expensive apartments in central cities or close to good train stations are. Well you can get one 3 times further away, still get home at the same time on your YikeBike and save thousands on your apartment. If you throw a party to celebrate your new found wealth, feel free to send us an invitation....
- How much do you pay for parking? How much do you like looking for parks and wandering around car parking buildings?
- What is your time worth? I'm guessing most of you will not be lying on your death bed wishing you had spent more time stuck in traffic or sitting at home because getting out and about was just too much hassle.

Given the compelling economics you really should buy two and double the savings.....no, wait that only applies to lipstick and dresses on sale.....

Save the planet – dump your bike and use a YikeBike

Posted on November 3rd, 2009 by Grant

I've always found that when I use a conventional bike for commuting I end up eating more than I would normally. I've also wondered how that would affect the greenness of biking and thanks to the good work of Justin Lemire-Elmore I now know. "Despite the intuitive sense that electric bikes would require more resources than regular bikes, life-cycle analysis shows that they actually consume 2-4 times less primary energy than human riders eating a conventional diet." I'm guessing that conclusion will be hard to swallow for some. It could be that if your exercise requirements exactly match when you need to transport yourself around then this analysis wouldn't necessarily pan out – unfortunately most folks don't lead such idealized lives.

By the way we don't really want you to dump your bike. We love our bikes too but just wanted to

prod the nerve of those who can be a little sensitive about how great bikes are.... If you compare a YikeBikes environmental foot print to a car then there just is no comparison. When you go from place to place instead of taking 1500kg of machine with you the Yike is only 10 kg. No degree in rocket science required to see the vast benefits to the environment.

Now a YikeBike doesn't necessarily replace a car but it may well mean that a family can get by with one less or someone living in central city or near a train station has less need to own one. I typically use my YikeBike more to replace car trips than bike trips. When I have a set of meetings in town it is quicker and easier to get around on the YikeBike and less hassle because of parking and not getting stuck in traffic.

About those handle bars - don't you feel exposed?

Posted on January 25th, 2010 by Grant



Which of the following two statements sound more likely in the event of a cycling accident?

- > Cyclist saved from injury by handle bars in front
- > Cyclist flies head first over handle bars

The steering stem crushing into your groin is hardly a crumple zone designed in safety heaven. If anything the handle bars in front are a mechanism for accelerating your head into an obstacle when a collision happens.

If I was traveling at 50km per hour there is no doubt a normal bike would be safer than a YikeBike. However YikeBike speed is restricted to go no faster than you can run (25km/h) and worst case you just step off the front. We have had very few people ever hit the ground when learning because it is so easy to jump off. A notable exception was someone wearing high heels who went to step off at speed - learning in high heels is not recommended.

We do think bikes are great and we will continue to love cycling but it doesn't mean a 120 year old design is the solution for everything. Yes, the YikeBike feels different but it is surprising how quickly you get used to it - just like learning to ride a bike ;-)

