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## February 2, 2026

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### In This Issue:

- Join the team!
- Upcoming walk
- Unusual bikes
- ...and more!

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## From the Board

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### Become a 2026 EBTC Member

Join the 128 members who have already renewed their memberships or signed up as new members for 2026. EBTC's membership year is from January 1 to December 31, so there's no reason to delay. As a member, you can register for winter 'pop-ups' like cross-country skiing and walking, as well as for socials and an informative AGM/Volunteer Appreciation brunch. Click to [join EBTC or renew](#) your membership.

### Sign up for EBTC Pop-Ups

In winter, EBTC's outdoor activities are weather-dependent pop-ups. By adding your name to EBTC's Pop-up List [here](#), you'll receive an email with the link to register whenever a pop-up is available, so no need to check the Calendar.

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## Join the Board's Communications Team

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EBTC needs **two new** Board members to join our team. Contact June MacGregor, [President@bikeclub.ca](mailto:President@bikeclub.ca) for more information.

**1. Marketing Coordinator (new position):** If you're interested in what marketing is all about, this is a good position for you. You don't need marketing experience as the Club aims to support this new position with external expertise. What you need is an interest in cycling, planning and organizing and working with others to sustain EBTC as a vibrant club into the future.

You will plan and organize initiatives to better market EBTC and attract new members. In addition to external expertise, you will have the support of other Board members.

**2. Social Media and Apparel (incumbent, Sonja Taylor, who is stepping down to take on another Board role but can help get you up-to-speed):** If you enjoy social media and want to see how it evolves over time, this is a great role without a significant workload. 'Apparel' (e.g., jerseys) is part of this role, for which EBTC has a standard design and vendor.

In this position, you will manage EBTC's private Facebook Group where members can post about rides, bikes for sale, etc. and comment on posts. This includes approving requests to join this members-only group. You will also post EBTC content on the public Facebook Page and Instagram, where the public cannot post, in order to spark interest in EBTC.

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### **What do Board members say about their roles on the Communication Team?**

**Sonja Taylor, Social Media and Apparel** *There are many reasons I've enjoyed serving on the Board in this role. It's satisfying to see the ever-growing readership of our public Facebook Page and Instagram - the word is getting out about all EBTC offers! Members' use of the private Facebook group also shows the value of social media.*

*For personal or professional growth, this role offers hands-on experience with two different social media platforms in a 'no stress' environment. I've even tried my hand at creating reels to tell stories – and I'm sure there are other ways to use the technology and communicate about EBTC.*

**Ann Sutherland, Newsletter Coordinator & Communications**

**Generalist** *I had zero board experience when I took this role. In a volunteer-run non-profit like EBTC, you 'learn as you go' and get a lot of support from others. Nothing is that difficult, not even learning the software to create the weekly newsletter!*

*Also, although we want things to go smoothly, members are understanding if there are a few glitches. They know we are all volunteers.*

**Phil Davidson, Webmaster and IT Generalist** *Unlike starting a position in the work world where you 'Sink' or 'Sink Farther' if you don't know what you're doing, EBTC allows you to 'Swim'. As Webmaster, I've learned how a modern content management system works. My role also gave me an opportunity to refresh my IT and Excel skills and provide the Board with tables/charts of registration data to improve decision-making.*

*I've also enjoyed learning about our rides, getting to know our ride leaders, and having an influence on EBTC's future.*

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## Upcoming Event

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Thursday, Feb. 5: Walk the Trails of MacTaggart & Macgrath  
June McGregor, Walk Leader

With the forecast for more warm weather, we'll walk the paved trails above Whitemud Ravine and enjoy snacks/lunch at Freson Brothers Rabbit Hill. If you are on EBTC's Pop-Up List, you have already received an email with the link to register. If not, the walk is in the Calendar and you can register [here](#). Hoping to see you on Thursday.

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## Weekly Recap

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Tuesday Jan. 27, 2026: Strathcona Wilderness Centre Ski  
Phil Davidson, EBTC Webmaster

It didn't last long but it was good while it lasted – the weather and ski tracks. As usual, the Strathcona Wilderness Centre had the best grooming possible under the circumstances and it was great. After the first go around of 5+ km, we split into two groups – more relaxed pace and slightly less relaxed.

The former lodge has been repurposed for ski rentals and admin while the admin side is closed for renovations.



## Friday, Jan. 30: Walk in St. Albert

Liz Timlek, Walk Leader

On Friday we walked from St. Albert Seniors Centre to the Enjoy Centre. There were only the four of us, but it was the perfect walk and the trail surfaces were great. This was pretty much an out-and-back through quiet trails for a distance of 6-7 km. We stopped at the Wild Earth Bakery for coffee, yummy snacks and great conversation. Phil wasn't able to join us, so no photographer and no pictures of us, but here's a nice photo courtesy of the Enjoy Centre!



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## From the Saddle

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### Unusual Bikes: Yahoo for Bamboo!

Phil Davidson, EBTC Webmaster

EBTC has had two members with bamboo bikes: one long-time member who likes odd bikes and one who just brought his regular (bamboo) bike with him from the Philippines.

Bamboo is an inexpensive material, stronger than steel and absorbs vibration for a smooth ride. Most use metal or carbon forks but some have bamboo with just metal fittings.

If you are at all handy, there are resources on the Internet for making DIY bamboo bikes. There is even a company in Calgary that rents bamboo bikes.

Read more: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo\\_bicycle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bamboo_bicycle)

Photo credit: [Facebook](#)



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## Helpful Links

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Sign Up:

Click here for  
EBTC  
membership

Click here to join  
the Pop-up  
Email List

Click here for  
RideWithGPS  
member access

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Dive deeper into the EBTC community:

Click here to contribute to the  
Newsletter

Click here to connect with  
EBTC on Instagram

Click here to see the public  
EBTC Facebook page

Click here to connect with the  
members Facebook group

Click here to bring a friend on  
an EBTC ride

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**Edmonton Bicycle and Touring Club**

11660 79 Ave NW, #304, Edmonton  
Canada T6G 0P7

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