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# Family big fans of car sharing



**Raimey Gallant**

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

A Riverview family has done what some would consider impractical. They are raising their children without a car. Well, almost. Parents of three, Betty and David Walker sold their car in April, and were delighted when Peg City Car Co-op opened a month later.

The Walkers cycle and walk to most destinations, but admit the car share has come in handy. The first big car-free dilemma the family faced was getting to a piano recital a half hour drive away from their home. "It was too expensive to cab. It was too far to bike," says Betty. The car share was the solution.

Though the Walkers' decision to go car-free was environmentally-based, it was also financially motivated. The Walkers didn't use their car for daily commutes, and they realized it was costing them \$500 a month to mostly sit in their garage.

Founding Peg City Car Co-op member and manager Beth McKechnie says, "If you drive fewer than 10,000 kilometres [per year] in any city, generally speaking, it's cheaper to use a car-share program."

Now the Walkers pay per use. Betty says the Car Co-op's cars make sense financially for errands and shorter trips, because of the hourly plus per-kilometre rate. This might seem discouraging to potential car-share members, but for longer trips, renting a vehicle is recommended. The Walker's recent camping trip rental rang in at less than \$100 for the four-day excursion.

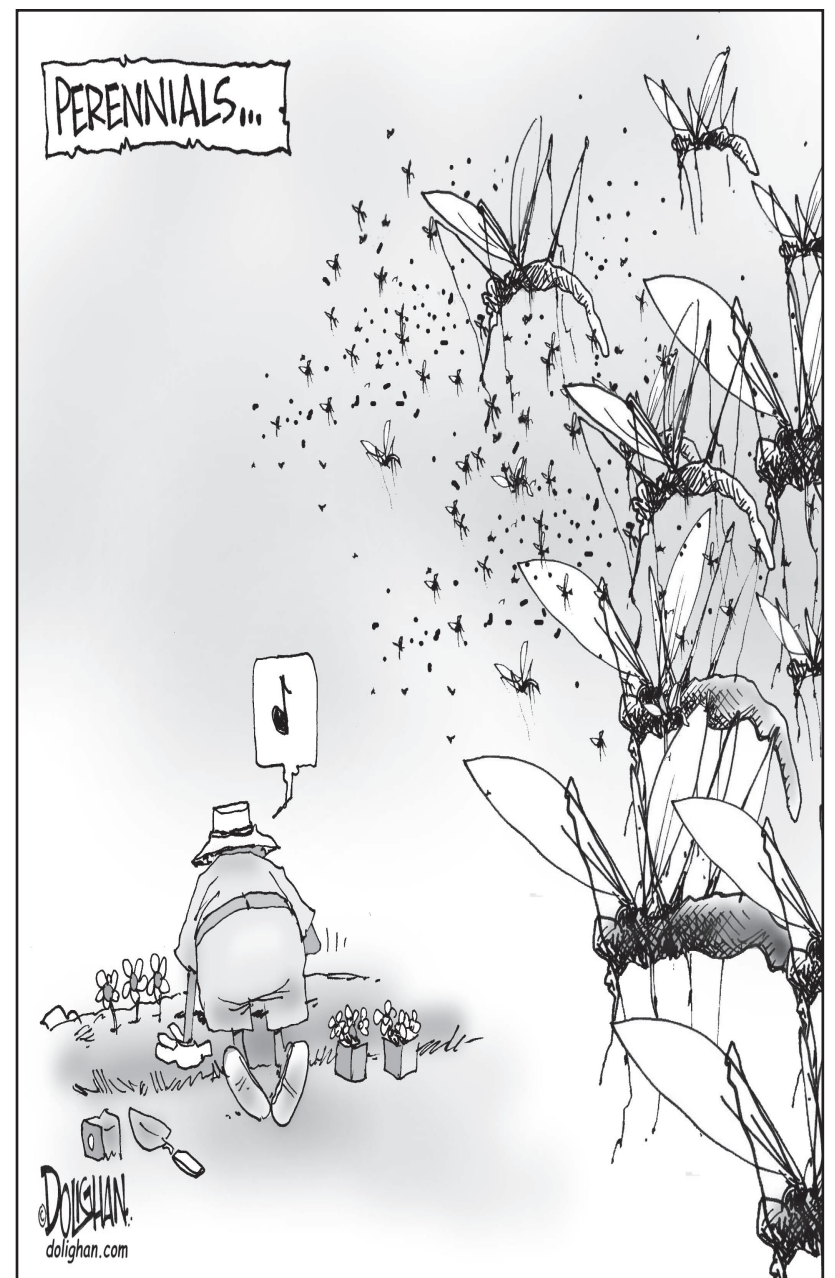
Peg City currently has two cars located near the north side of Osborne Village, with plans for a third closer to Confusion Corner. McKechnie says the co-operative's long-term goals include adding cars to the West Broadway, Corydon and south Osborne neighbourhoods. Expansion decisions are based on population density of neighbourhoods, member-to-car ratios and potential utilization rates.

Betty says her dream is to eventually have a car parked at the Safeway on south Osborne. "It would be just like having my own car, because it's so convenient. It might be a few years off, but we're willing to wait." Currently, only four of Peg City Car Co-op's members are residents of the south Osborne area.

McKechnie says the choice to operate as a co-operative was what the community asked for. It means members get to vote on the future of the organization, and paid dividends are a possibility in the distant future.

*Raimey Gallant is a communications co-ordinator with the Community-Led Emissions Reduction program in Riverview and Lord Roberts.*

*Neighbourhood Forum is a readers' column. If you live in The Sou'wester area and would like to contribute to this column, contact [john.kendle@canstarnews.com](mailto:john.kendle@canstarnews.com).*



## Canadians should offer their thanks to troops

### Readers' roundup

#### To the editor:

As the combat mission in Afghanistan transitions into other military activities, the Royal Canadian Legion would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to those service men and women, and their families, who have served with distinction and sacrificed on behalf of Canadians during these past several years.

Their contribution to the well-being and care of another country's populace is a tremendous reflection of

Canada's efforts toward maintaining global peace and we are proud of the way you have represented us.

Words are not enough to convey how grateful we are for their commitment and dedication.

As a national endeavour, I am encouraging local branches to hold appreciation events for veterans of the Afghanistan mission this coming August, in order to remember those who have fallen, thank those who have returned and to celebrate how proud you and your families have made us to be Canadian.

**Patricia Varga,**  
**Dominion President,**  
**Royal Canadian Legion**