

# U.S. cyclists ride to Erie St.

CRAIG PEARSON  
*The Windsor Star*

About 70 Americans made a rare Detroit River crossing Sunday — on bicycles.

"They were really excited," said Windsor Coun. Alan Halberstadt, who helped organize the expedition. "It was the first crossing on bicycles in about 20 years."

Halberstadt joined the group on Huron Church Road, and then took them on a tour of Windsor, including the Duff Baby House and Mackenzie Hall, before they made their way to Erie Street to check out the 51st annual Tour di Via Italia bike races.

Though the group rode over the Ambassador Bridge in the morning — with the blessing of management which briefly closed a lane — they loaded their bikes onto trucks and took the Transit Windsor Tunnel Bus on the way back — since traffic was then too heavy to close a lane.

Halberstadt said the American cyclists had contacted him, as the council representative on the Windsor Bicycling Committee, because they wanted to be able to ride to Windsor. The bridge and tunnel rules currently prohibit cyclists from crossing the border.

"So we said, why don't we do a special event to promote the idea of cross-border cycling?" Halberstadt said.

Halberstadt hopes to create a "bigger and better" annual bike crossing that includes Canadians, as well, though he would like to try a less busy time than Labour Day weekend. One idea is to include cyclists on the same day as the annual Detroit marathon that comes across the bridge.

Halberstadt said he ultimately hopes that any new crossing, with the Ambassador Bridge or a government-owned bridge, will include a bike lane — noting that people can cycle over the Blue Water Bridge between Sarnia and Port Huron, Mich.

"Cycling is the wave of the future in North America," he said.