Cycling club looking to attract new members

It looked like a flock of tropical birds had invaded Wilson Park Sunday afternoon as brightly-coloured, spandex-clad mountain bikers gathered for the first Prince

George racing event of the season.

Cyclists raced on the trails through Wilson Park on the banks of the Nechako river, competing in three different racing divisions. Young bikers raced in the 15 minute pee wee division, older racers biked the 30-minute race and expert trail-riders raced for 45-minutes. When not racing, the cyclists passed the time cheering for fellow riders or munching on the hot-dogs being served up by volunteers.

"The purpose of today's race is basically to get new riders out for the cycling club. It's a family oriented race," says organizer Merle Tutte. Wilson Park was cho-

sen specifically for this race because it's a gentle ride and well-known to a lot of the local riders

Although the race attracted a lot of riders from all Prince George and the surrounding area Tutte says that the Prince George Cycling club is suffering from a declining membership.

The cycling club is going to die if we don't get more members. The memberships needs new blood - It was definitely dying out last fall," says Tutte. To combat waning interest in the club, organizers are trying to target less seriously competitive cyclists with events like the Wilson

The cycling club is also focusing on building new trails to renew enthusiasm for mountain bike racing

"If people get bored of a trail they tend to stop coming

out to race," says Tutte. "We put a lot of time into this course and a lot of people are saying it's good." Another good sign that the new strategy is working are the number of people volunteering to help out. "If you get volunteers you know people are interested."

Randy Kashmark, 38, a five-year racing veteran, agrees. An increased interest in events like bike racing is a consequence of a growing interest in sports and health in general in Prince George says Kashmark. He credits Olympia Cycle and Ski's involvement in organizing and sponsoring the club for bringing about the renewed

The next race for the PGCC is May 16 and 17 at the Prince George BMX track off Massey Drive. For more information call 563-2453.

'Extreme' violence at Roll-A-Dome

The Roll-A-Dome is getting ready to play host for another violent clash in the ring. But this isn't the sweet science of boxing that was featured last month, this is the downand-dirty art of championship pro wrestling.

Moondog Manson, Lumberjack Bubba, Count Monsterod Von Hugen-stein — not the sort of people you'd take home to meet the family, but exactly the kind of the people to call on if you're in the mood for wrestling mayhem.

This isn't the first time Extremely Canadian Championship Wrestling has brought it's travelling show to Prince George before and received a very positive reaction from the crowds, says event organzier Stuart Kemp.

"A lot of our matches are very high-flying and fast-paced. Things the fans might occasionally see on television, but will see regularly with us," says Kemp.

Anyone attending the Friday night show is encouraged to bring their own weapons from home for the wrestlers to use in 'Doomsday Battle Royale.' Weapons are collected at the door and the wrestlers select the most entertaining from the pile. "In the past we've had all sorts of stuff like cookie trays, even toasters. Stuff like knives are, of course, not accepted," says Kemp.

Wrestling fans will also have the chance to see the first all-female ECCW match in Prince George. Buffy is a "hardcore grappler" and Samantha, who "has been working on some high-flying moves. Kemp says that the ECCW "equal opportunity employer

EECW wrestling begins at 8 p.m. on Friday at the Roll-A-Dome. Tickets are \$12 for ringside and \$10 for general seating.

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