We won a Pillar Award!
Our Free Rides for Essential Workers program, led by Big Bike Giveaway, won the [Community Collaboration Award](#). We are humbled and grateful to Pillar for the recognition.

**Save the Date: Annual Meeting on Jan 13th**

We are having our Annual Meeting on Wednesday January 13th - only members can attend so become a member or renew your membership very soon! You'll get to choose who is elected on our board, hear about our year in review, and be entertained by some local musicians! We'll send out the meeting details to all active
If candidacy for London Cycle Link’s Board is any indication, we’re living through a time of strong forward momentum! [Click here](https://www.example.com) to read about the candidates who have put their names forward to serve on our Board of Directors to start three-year terms in 2021.

**Update on Covid Resilience Funding**

Last month we let you know about the City's exciting proposal for 39km of all ages and abilities cycling infrastructure, 8km of sidewalks and 4km of park pathways. Well what happened?

Council decided quickly to allocate $3.5M toward cycling (of the total $5.5M federal/provincial fund). This means **2021 will be a banner year for new cycling infrastructure** as the City will invest at least $6.1M to make our streets safer.

Thank you to everyone who helped develop this proposal, and to all of you who supported it through conversations, emails and phone calls to neighbours and city councillors!

We heard widespread support from council for investing in cycling infrastructure and we've got a dedicated advocacy committee working to ensure the vision of a **safe and convenient connected cycling network becomes a reality.**

**Squeaky Wheel Updates**
Winter Sale - 10-25% off bikes, starts Saturday
Women Trans Femme returns - January 3rd & 24th
New Ride More Sweatshirts - $30

December hours, Tues & Thurs 1-6, Sat 11-5, run until Dec 22
HOLIDAY BREAK - closed Dec 23 until Jan 4
January/February Hours, Tuesday 1-6 & Sat 11-5, starts Jan 5
Member Profile: Allison Blackshaw
Life begins again... this time, on a bike!

Allison Blackshaw recently became a Sustaining Member of London Cycle Link, after returning to cycling during the pandemic. She and her husband are now rediscovering the joys of two-wheeling, along with the wonder of riding safely over snowy patches and the whimsy of tooling from their downtown home all the way out to Masonville, just for coffee! LCL caught up with Allison on Zoom recently.

How did you first get connected with London Cycle Link and the Squeaky Wheel?
"My daughter's girlfriend told us that there was a bike co-op, and so I looked it up. At that time, we were just kind of dipping our toe in the water, so we bought a couple of used bikes and I took mine into the Squeaky Wheel to tune it up. And I'm telling you I was just
so impressed and overjoyed to find this space where people are willing to teach you and to help you. Dave is a volunteer, and the fact that he was taking time out from his day to teach me the basics, how to adjust my brakes, I felt really grateful and blessed to have this. I love going there. I've always felt so welcome. They're just so eager to help."

**When you picture yourself riding a bike, what are the words that come to your mind first?**

"Joy. Freedom. Youth! It reminds me of when I was a kid... It's so liberating and exhilarating. I'm constantly looking people in the eyes as I pass by them and smiling, because I just feel so happy to be out there on the bike. It feels like the reverse of what I thought would be happening at my age."

*Thanks to Allison for kicking off our member profile feature, look for more in future Chain Mail newsletters*