

# NEWSLETTER

**Sault  
Cycling Club**

ISSUE 4 | DECEMBER 2020 | PAGE 1

Editor: Cindy Pruce, Communications Director

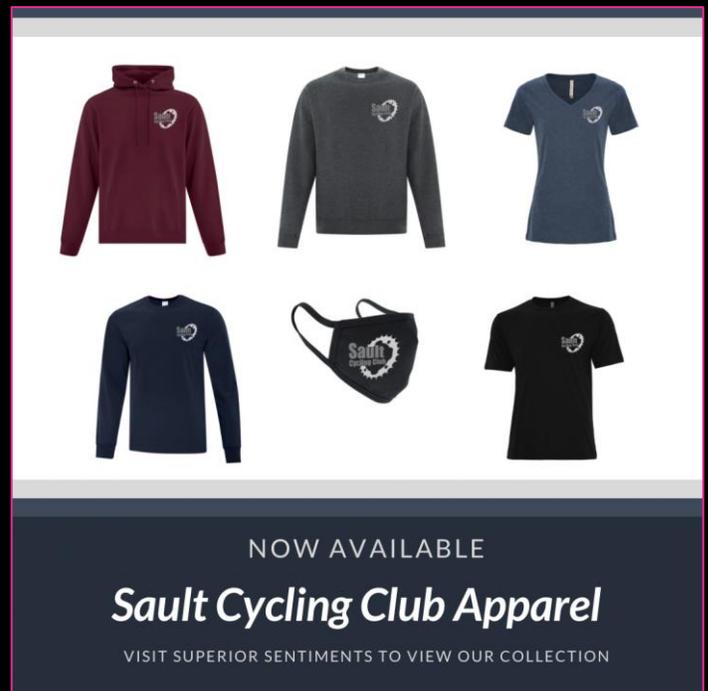
## He's making a list & he's checking it twice.

Worried you're on the naughty list and want to buy yourself a gift? Or are you still looking for the perfect idea for the cyclist in your family? Look no further, we've got you covered!



**2021 MEMBERSHIPS**  
AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW!

Memberships valid January 1 to December 31



NOW AVAILABLE

**Sault Cycling Club Apparel**

VISIT SUPERIOR SENTIMENTS TO VIEW OUR COLLECTION

2021 Sault Cycling Club Memberships  
Youth: \$15, Adult: \$30, Family: \$70

<https://saultcyclingclub.ca/about-sault-cycling/join-our-club/>

A portion of each sale of clothing goes back to the club to help us achieve our mission of promoting cycling and cycling related activities.

<https://superior-sentiments.myshopify.com/collections/sault-cycling-club>



# Stronger in the Spring.

Mark Santana  
Club President

As winter approaches, many think of putting their collective cycling mind and equipment in storage for the winter. I encourage you on many fronts not to do this. Subscribe to a cycling journal, ride on a trainer, get outdoors on your fat bike (a Covid-19 safe gathering strategy) and think of ways to improve your life and that of those around you with cycling. If you keep cycling foremost on your mind, you will find many ways to stay motivated, fit and healthy over the winter so that you come back strong in the Spring.

For our part, the SCC will be busy strategizing all winter. We had our Finn Hill Trail initiative kickoff on November 26 with a Zoom public information session. From here it goes to City council for approval and then back to us for fund raising and development.



Have a look at this from Tom Walton, the grandson of Sam, founder of Walmart. Remember, this guy has the wealth to spend his life any way he wants. He chooses to build better his community through bicycles. "For me riding a bike is about the most fun you can have," said Walton. "It's something that allows you to stay mobile throughout your life. I don't think of mountain biking as exercise. It's about going out and having fun. My dad is 70 and it's something he and I continue to do together. It's also a way to build community. Cities need to include safe streets and make it possible for kids to get around without their parents driving them all the time. I call it tactical urbanism."

Our Fat Bike Director, Reg, is going to talk about winter Fat Biking opportunities for everyone in the Sault. Have a look at these two images from last weeks ride at Hiawatha. Does this look like winter sucks for cyclist? (Thanks to John Santana & Pedro Antunes for the images). Need I say more!

Finally, here is motivation for you. Think Farmer Lake trail system and Sentier Boreal. I have never been more excited about a few meters of mountain biking trail in my entire life than when the world class professional trail building company, Sentier Boreal came up a few weeks ago to give us a taste of what is to come in the spring. With many hours of thought and a few hours of machining that put thought to action, they literally transformed the future of mountain biking in Sault Ste. Marie. As Reg reminded me last night, to boast now that we have the finest organic and machine made trails in Ontario is huge. Nuff Said. Keep you pedals spinning and your mind warm.



By Reg Peer  
Fat Bike Director



With winter fast approaching, cyclists are preparing for hibernation where they will spend next five to six months of winter competing for world domination on Zwift or on their trainers in front of the TV watching recordings of the the Tour, visualizing themselves riding next to Julian Alaphilippe in the peloton. But for some, the cold weather kickstarts a natural transition - like a snowshoe hair changing it's dark brown coat to camouflage white, some cyclists are transitioning to big fat tires.

Originally my plan was to host two fat bike group rides a month, one at the start of the month and one at the end of the month. Unfortunately, due to COVID19, I will not be doing so. During the pandemic, while we are able to host group outdoor events (max 25 people), we are concerned that it will be difficult to monitor distance between riders. Our priority is to ensure safety of riders and members in the wider SSM community. To that end, the Sault Cycling Club has decided against proceeding with scheduled group fat bike rides this winter. We will however be posting gpx files of fat biking routes on our website and social media pages.

We are excited to announce that in partnership with the **Kinsmen Club** and **Soo Finnish Ski Club, and Conservation Authority**, **20+km of groomed fat bike trails will be available this winter at Hiawatha Highlands**. Season Fat bike passes are 80\$ and can be purchased at <https://hiawathahighlands.com/passes>

Crimson Ridge the OG sport for groomed fat biking in Sault Ste. Marie will continue to offer groomed trails for the 2020/2021 winter season. Details on Crimson Ridge passes can be found here, <https://www.crimsonridge.com/winter>

While we are out on the trails, enjoying lines that are only rideable during the winter, it is important to remember trail etiquette:

- Do not ride the trails when they are soft
- Adjust tire pressure according to trail conditions (2-5 psi is usually all you need)
- Slow down or stop when the trail intersects a ski trail.
- Stay out of the classic ski tracks when out on ski trails.
- If you have to walk a hill on the ski trail, stay as far left as possible
- Give the right of way to snowshoers & skiers
- **And always keep the stoke high!**

I will wrap things up with a fat bike video filmed by our neighbours in Marquette. This video always gets me in the mood for winter rides, enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/Gj4i09nZbjA>

We are fortunate to have access to opportunities to get outside and connect with nature in Sault Ste. Marie. Looking forward to a great winter season, as always, keep it rubber side down!



Photo Credit: Carrie Stewart



Photo Credit: Red Pine Tours Canada

ARE YOU?  
*ready?*

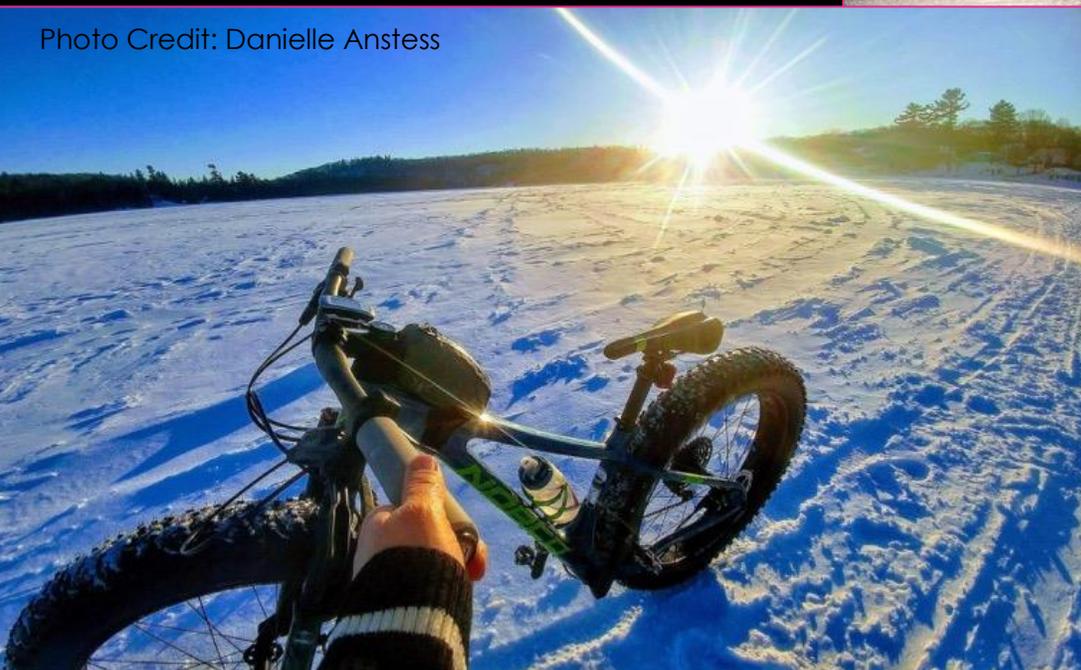


Photo Credit: Danielle Anstess



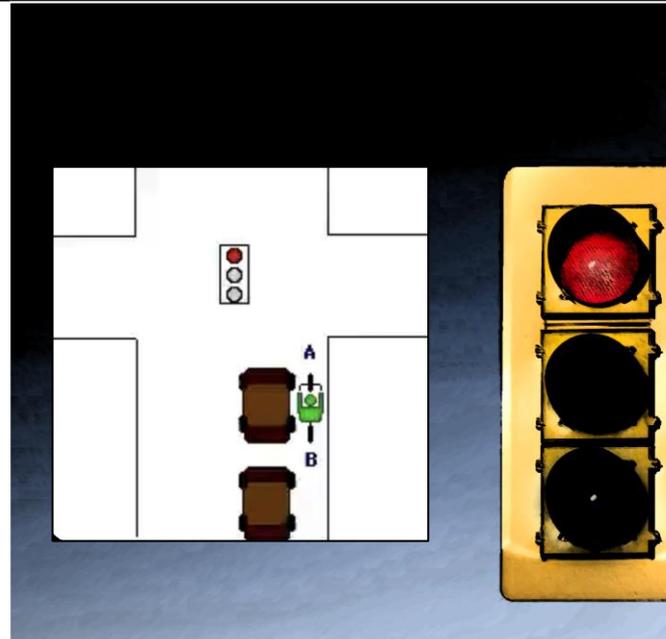
Photo Credit: Michele Irwin

## The Red Light of Death

You ride up and stop at a Red light to the right of a car that's already waiting. They can't see you. When the light turns green, you move forward and they turn right into you. This can happen with small cars but is especially dangerous with a bus or truck.

How to Avoid this Collision: Don't stop in the blind spot. Stop behind the vehicle ("B" per diagram to the right).

While we're not advocating running red lights, notice it is in fact safer to run the red light if there's no cross traffic, than it is to wait legally at the red light directly to the right of a car, only to have it make a right turn right into you when the light turns green. The moral here is not that you should break the law, but that you can easily get hurt even if you follow the law.



(reprinted by permission [www.bicyclesafe.com](http://www.bicyclesafe.com) from How Not To Get Hit By Cars)

Cycling Safety Tips brought to you by Jeff Coutu, SCC Director at Large

## SCC NOSTALGIA



Take a walk down memory lane with this article from The Sault Star circa 2001.



### Cycling club looks for tax dollars to improve paths in the city

By ELAINE DELLA-MATTIA  
The Sault Star

They're calling it *The Missing Links*. The Sault Cycling Club — with help from the community at large — is embarking on a project designed to improve the city's existing infrastructure for avid cyclists.

"Sault Ste. Marie already has an extensive network of roads and paths in the city for cyclists," said club president Andre Riopel.

"But what we'd like to see is some of the problem areas improved to link the already-good existing areas to improve cycling routes," Riopel said.

The Sault Cycling Club believes that integration of cyclists into existing infrastructure is a better solution than creating separate, segregated bicycle paths throughout the city.

"The fraternity of avid cyclists believes that integration is the better route because infrastructure is already there, it offers a shorter route from point A to point B and it helps get rid of the erroneous idea that bikes don't belong on the roads," Riopel said.

The Missing Links project to be launched at

**'We've developed a list of achievable projects that would expand the existing network for cyclists...'**

Andre Riopel

the Sault Cycling Club's annual general meeting Saturday, is designed to examine the areas of improvement needed for cyclists.

Riopel said the club plans to present its ideas to city council early this spring. The club will be looking for city fathers to budget for the projects.

"We've developed a list of achievable projects that would expand the existing network for cyclists based on three criteria," he said.

The club wants routes that would include low traffic volumes, low speed limits and wider curb lanes to ensure safety for cyclists.

Examples of the "missing links" that cyclists note include:

- all existing snowmobile trails within city

- a bicycle path from Willow Avenue to Old Garden River Road via former MTO property;
- a path connecting Industrial Court to Sackville Road via the city works center;
- a path through Fort Creek to link Fort Creek Road to Second Line and St. Patrick;
- a connecting link on Third Line west of Industrial Park;
- Lake Street to Heritage Place parking lot below the hill;
- YMCA parking lot;
- paths along rail tracks east and north;
- path along waterfront from Bush Plane Museum to hospitals;
- 2.5 miles of paved shoulders on Landslide Road;
- a path connecting the east end of Northern Avenue to Paroissiac;
- a path connecting Princess to Pine;
- 2.5 miles of paved shoulder on Fourth Line from Great Northern to Old Gaslais Bay;
- bike lanes on Queen Street;
- trails from Shingwauk to Mark Street;
- minor improvements from Bellevue Park to Shore Road.

Riopel said the Missing Links Project isn't geared just to cyclists but to the community at large.

"There are three groups of cyclists," he said. "The hard-core cyclist like me who rides to work, the middle cycle group, which is the majority of cyclists, and the low-impact or fair-weather cyclist."

Riopel said the middle group, which is the most influential, is the cyclist who cycles regularly for exercise or sport. "These are the motivators who may want to increase their cycling and may not know the paths that exist," he said.

Riopel said that if the city plans to improve some of the missing links, the cycling club may be able to assist by holding various rallies or fund-raising events but the club doesn't feel it should have to finance city infrastructure.

The Sault Cycling Club will hold its annual general meeting at the Marconi Club Saturday at 7 p.m. Memberships will be available at a special \$5 rate. It will be open to the public to discuss the project and survey the community for additional ideas about how to develop or improve cycling facilities in Sault Ste. Marie.



If you're looking for something fun to do this holiday season with your family or friends, check out what we have planned for you!

## Fat Bike Rides

Keep an eye on our social media for details on 2 upcoming virtual fat bike rides. Mark your calendar for December 13<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> (New Years Eve!) to show you've got plans to bike!

## Light Up Your Bike

Get Festive, light up your bike and head out for a ride!! Be sure to tag us in your pictures! We'd love to see what you come up with 🤪  
#saultcyclingclub



## Kids Contest Winner

Congratulations to **Aurora** for being the the winner of our Kids Colouring Contest. She's the winner of a SCC Kids T-Shirt!

Thank you so much to everyone who participated.

We loved all of the entries we received. We've added a few here to share with you!