

# Pedaling Together: Facilitating Cycle Hamilton's AGM & Social



Cyclists arriving at Cycle Hamilton's 2022 AGM.  
Photo credit: André Morgan



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## Community Project Champions

**Abbie Little**, Cycle Hamilton Secretary and Board of Directors Member  
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## Overview

Cycling is one of the most effective, sustainable alternatives to vehicular transportation, helping to mitigate the effects climate change and providing environmental,<sup>1</sup> societal,<sup>2</sup> and human health benefits.<sup>3</sup> Local not-for-profit cycling organization, Cycle Hamilton, strives "to make Hamilton the best place for anyone to get around by bike."<sup>4</sup> Every year they host an Annual General Meeting (AGM), open to the community, to review yearly accomplishments, finances, and policies. Past AGMs hosted by Cycle Hamilton were harmoniously successful, however the COVID-19 pandemic hindered the organization's ability to come together. With greater opportunities for in-person gatherings, the goal of our project was to unite Hamiltonians by facilitating the return of an in-person Cycle Hamilton AGM & Cycle Social, focusing on community engagement.

## Objectives

1. Plan and host an enticing AGM
2. Facilitate community group rides to the AGM
3. Co-create community engagement at the AGM

## Reporting

To achieve our first objective, we hosted the Cycle Hamilton AGM at the accessible, downtown restaurant, Radius. At our event check-in, we welcomed 85 community members and provided the opportunity to buy Cycle Hamilton t-shirts and memberships. Throughout the evening, individuals were encouraged to enjoy food, connect with others, and contribute to a collaborative music playlist made available through a Linktree.

To achieve our second objective, three cycle-friendly routes were selected and led by four riders, starting from Dundas, Gage Park, and Mohawk College, and ending at the event venue. An Eventbrite helped encourage 45 local riders to register for their route of choice. By collaborating with the City of Hamilton, bike storage equipment was obtained to run a bike valet led by two high school volunteers. These community rides helped bring individuals from different parts of the city together, whilst being mindful of our carbon-footprint.

To achieve our third objective, we selected three community members to share their personal stories on what cycling and the cycling community means to them. We also created a slideshow based on 98 photo submissions to celebrate the joy and diversity of cycling within our community. Using the power of stories and images to engage and educate our community, this year's AGM helped build a more interconnected, resilient, and sustainable society.

## Collaborators

The success of the AGM was made possible by the extraordinary help from the community. We wholeheartedly express our gratitude to the following individuals for contributing to the success of this event: Community Project Champions, Abbie Little & Rachel Weldrick; Liana Bontempo; Cycle Hamilton Board Members; SUSTAIN 3S03 Communications Team, Fatima Arshad, Heba Fahed, Noor Al-Humuzi, and Huda Al-Humuzi; Radius; Event Storytellers, Tyler Roach, Shelley Carr, and Chris McAnally; Dr. Kate Whalen; Local Bike Shops; Helena Teng; Ride Leaders, Cora Muis, Richard Gelder, Julia Hamill, and Anthony Magliaro; SUSTAIN 4S06 Student Researchers; Bike Valet Volunteers.

See a full list of references [here](#).