



For Immediate Release

Guelph Police Service awarded for its dedication to school safety

Provincial award recognizes leadership and commitment to safety and education

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Guelph, ON, August 28, 2017 – Guelph’s CAA School Safety Patrol® (SSP) program is one of the most successful in the province. Over 95 percent of schools in Guelph participate, representing a 70-year-old legacy of community commitment to keeping kids safe on the way to and from school.

Each year for the past 20 years, CAA South Central Ontario (CAA SCO) has recognized a local police service whose valuable contributions to school safety and the CAA SSP program stand out above the rest. This year, CAA SCO is proud to recognize the work being done in Guelph by awarding the Ontario CAA School Safety Patrol program Achievement Award to the Guelph Police Service and its school safety officer Robin Clark.

“The School Safety Patrol program in Guelph has a strong presence in the community with over 95 percent of schools participating,” said Tracy Nickleford, manager, community relations, CAA SCO. “These important community programs wouldn’t be possible without the dedication of local partners and police officers. We are pleased to recognize such a deserving group of longstanding community leaders here in Guelph.”

Prior to taking on the role of school safety officer, Clark worked in the traffic division for 10 years. In 2010, she made the move to the police service’s school safety program.

“I have worked in traffic safety for a long time, and it has been an honour to be a mentor and a role model for so many children across the city of Guelph,” said Robin Clark, school safety officer, Guelph Police Service. “The program provides an opportunity for patrollers to get leadership experience and develop self-confidence. I have had the privilege to see students flourish in many ways after getting involved – that’s what it is all about.”

The 30-year police veteran oversees 1,200 safety patrollers in grades 5 to grade 8 from 42 schools as the school safety officer.

The School Safety Patrol program was first developed in Canada in 1929. During this time, the automobile was quickly rising in popularity and children aged four to 14 were being struck by vehicles at an alarmingly high rate. The program’s aim was to protect and educate these young children from becoming injured or killed in traffic collisions by teaching them safe street-crossing practices and bus safety.

The winning Program Achievement Award recipient receives a \$1,500 cheque to be used towards the CAA School Safety Patrol program in their region, a CAA Plus Membership for the community service officer being acknowledged, a plaque for the police service to display at their headquarters and a special awards ceremony.



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The CAA School Safety Patrol program is a joint effort between CAA, the police, school boards, teachers, parents and approximately 20,000 dedicated student volunteers. Those involved give their time to ensure their peers remain safe at road crossings and on school buses throughout Ontario.

Approximately 800 schools in Ontario participate in the CAA School Safety Patrol program and CAA SCO partners with over 55 police services to deliver the program. For more information, visit www.caaschoolsafetypatrol.com.

About CAA South Central Ontario

As a leader and advocate for road safety and mobility, CAA South Central Ontario is a not-for-profit auto club which represents the interests of over 2 million Members. For over a century, CAA has collaborated with communities, police services and governments to help keep drivers and their families safe while travelling on our roads.

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