



## Bike patrol rolls into 11th season

### Patrollers become the eyes and ears for police

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The Cambridge Core Area Patrol Program is about to roll into its 11th summer.

For more than a decade the City of Cambridge has partnered with the Hespeler Village, Preston Towne Centre and Downtown Cambridge business improvement associations to cover the cost of the program.



Andrea Stebbings

The purpose of the program is two-fold: it provides people with a greater sense of security in the core areas by providing a visual uniformed presence; and the patrollers promote safe cycling, skateboarding and rollerblading in addition to enforcing city by-laws.

The Downtown Cambridge BIA oversees its operation.

From May 20 to Aug. 29, the CCAP patrollers are the "eyes and ears on the street" in Cambridge's core areas.

"We have nine returning patrollers from last year, which I believe speaks volumes about the program," said Andrea Stebbings, executive director of the Downtown Cambridge Business Improvement Association (BIA).

Program organizers have also hired five new patrollers this year.

CCAP patrollers travel in pairs, either on foot or by mountain bikes, throughout the three core areas. In addition to being a deterrent to crime, the patrollers act as community goodwill ambassadors assisting visitors with directions and inquires.

"Patrollers this year have had the privilege of being introduced to the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principle and will be passing that education onto the businesses in the cores," said Stebbings. "With this initiative, the CCAP program is hoping to contribute to the Business Watch Initiative being introduced by the core area businesses and the Waterloo Regional Police Service."

The long-standing partnerships forged between the city, Waterloo Regional Police, the three BIA's along with effective communication are the key reasons that the program has been such a success, Stebbings said.

"Add to this Bruce Cole, our CCAP co-ordinator, Const. Graham Hawkins and Const. Ray Mitton of the Waterloo Regional Police Community Relations branch, and we have a dynamic group of individuals who want to make the downtown core areas a place where people can visit and feel safe."

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