



COBOURG POLICE SERVICE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Authorization: Acting Staff Sgt Jeff Sheils #253, 905-372-6821 ext. 2218

Subject: Sidewalk Safety – Bicycles and Skateboards

As part of our Vision to be a trusted community partner in protecting the safety, security and quality of life in Cobourg, the Cobourg Police Service looks to engage and educate our community members by sharing information that can enhance everyone's safety.

Every year, around this time, the Cobourg Police Service receives a higher than normal volume of complaints related to the safety of pedestrians and property in downtown sidewalks. These concerns arise from the increase in bicycle and skateboard traffic, as youth return to school, and travel to the downtown core.

Pedestrians may be unaware of someone who is using a bicycle or skateboard, for a variety of reasons. This may be due to physical conditions or ailments, exiting from a local business outlet or even due to distraction from personal mobile devices. Movements into the path of a bicycle, that a pedestrian didn't see or hear, can result in many varied types of injuries and damage to both the walker and the cyclist.

The riding of bicycles, skateboards or similar devices such as hoverboards, is prohibited on any Cobourg sidewalk. As well, you can't leave these items unattended so as to obstruct or pose any type of danger to users of highways, sidewalks or building entrances.

If you cycle in the Town of Cobourg, please be sure to use the bike lanes, paths and roadways that are provided for you, in accordance with municipal and provincial legislation. There are many markings to indicate to vehicle traffic to share the road, so awareness of cyclists has increased significantly.

As part of personal safety awareness, users of the roads and sidewalks in Cobourg should be sure to stay aware of your surroundings. Step out of a doorway, expecting that you may encounter cyclists or skateboarders that shouldn't be there. Check your surroundings, as you walk, so you aren't startled, or step into the path of another person or a cyclist.

For further information and clarification, you can always go to the Town of Cobourg website:

<http://www.cobourg.ca/en/town-hall/Bylaws.aspx>

The Cobourg Police Service encourages everyone to report any suspicious or criminal activity:

Cobourg Police Service: 905-372-2243 or Crime Stoppers: 1-800-222-8477