



For Immediate Release

## Hamilton Police Service awarded for its dedication to school safety

*The provincial award recognizes leadership and commitment to safety and education*

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**Hamilton, ON, November 27, 2018** – Hamilton’s CAA School Safety Patrol (SSP) program is one of the most successful in the province. The program is a shining example of collaboration and teamwork in action, with police, busing consortia, school boards, school bus companies and drivers, teachers, parents and dedicated student volunteers, all working together.

Each year, for the past 21 years, [CAA South Central Ontario \(CAA SCO\)](#) has recognized one police service whose valuable contributions to school safety and the SSP program, stand out above the rest. This year, CAA SCO is proud to acknowledge the work done in Hamilton by awarding the CAA School Safety Patrol Program Achievement Award to the Hamilton Police Service and Sergeant Barry Mungar.

“Barry’s work with Hamilton’s CAA School Safety Patrol program is invaluable. His collaboration with program partners has set a model foundation for SSP training in Hamilton. Barry is a true leader, an incredible role model, and his commitment and dedication to the safety of school children is remarkable.” said Leslie Rocha, community relations specialist for CAA SCO.

Barry began facilitating the SSP program in the fall of 2009, following his appointment as the Crime Prevention Coordinator. Over the past nine years, Barry and his Crime Prevention team have trained **6,316** Hamilton Safety Patrollers.

The School Safety Patrol program was first developed in Canada in 1929. During this time, the automobile was quickly rising in popularity, and collisions involving children aged 4 to 14 were at an alarmingly high rate. The program aims to protect and educate these young children from being injured or killed in traffic collisions by teaching them safe-street crossing practices and bus safety.

The Hamilton Police Service receives a \$1,500 cheque to be used towards the SPP program in their region, a CAA Plus Membership for the police officer being acknowledged, a plaque for the police service, and a special awards ceremony.

The CAA School Safety Patrol program is a joint effort between CAA, the police, school boards, busing consortia, 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 SPP program and CAA SCO partners with over 55 police services to deliver the program. For more information, visit [www.caaschoolsafetypatrol.com](http://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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