



For Immediate Release

CAA South Central Ontario honours school safety advocates with provincial awards

The provincial award recognizes leadership and commitment to safety and education

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Thornhill, ON, June 18, 2018 – The safety of children in school zones has been a matter of public concern, which is why [CAA South Central Ontario](#) (CAA SCO) is proud to recognize the efforts and achievements of two road safety role models.

At separate ceremonies, one in Brampton, and the other in Guelph, CAA SCO proudly handed out two provincial awards. The first went to Nolan Butler, a grade five student at Tony Pontes Public School. The second award went to Wendy Painting, a teacher at Rickson Ridge Public School in Guelph.

“Both individuals are exemplary road safety role models. CAA’s School Safety Patrol® program (SSP) has a long history of ensuring that children remain safe on their way to and from school, and in school zones, and it couldn’t be done without the work of individuals like Nolan and Wendy,” says Tracy Nickleford, community relations manager, CAA SCO.

Nolan says the position of CAA School Safety Patroller at his school, is a very respected position. He values the SSP training and feels confident that he can now handle any school safety situation.

“Seeing all the smiles from the kindergarteners when they see a school bus patroller make s me happy, but knowing that they are safe makes me feel good inside,” says Nolan Butler, CAA School Safety Patroller of the year.

Wendy Painting is being recognized for her work as a CAA School Safety Patrol Supervisor, a position that coordinates safety initiatives at the school level. The award is given to someone that demonstrates leadership qualities, safety skills, dedication, morale building and a desire to advance the educational and safety benefits of patrollers.

“In just two years, we went from a small team of five students to a booming group of almost 20 students. Wendy’s organization and leadership helped the students get more engaged in the program and excited to be a part of this team,” says Sue Guest, principal at Rickson Ridge Public School.

The CAA School Safety Patrol program was developed in Canada in 1929. During this time, the automobile was quickly rising in popularity and children aged 4 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 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



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CAA SCO partners with over 55 police services to deliver the program. For more information, visit www.caaschoolsafetypatrol.com.

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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 Government

ments to help keep drivers and their families safe while travelling on our roads.

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