

Whitby achieves bike friendly community status

Award to be presented during Ontario Bike Summit this spring

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WHITBY -- Whitby has been awarded bicycle friendly community designation - bronze level by the Share the Road Cycling Coalition.

The coalition is a provincial cycling advocacy organization that's working toward a bicycle friendly Ontario. Through focused partnerships the organization strives to enhance access for cyclists on roads and trails, improve safety for all cyclists, and educate citizens on the value and importance of safe bicycling for healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

Whitby was among five communities - the others were Cambridge, Collingwood, Cornwall and Temiskaming Shores - to be awarded new bicycle friendly status.

"Share the Road is thrilled to recognize this new group of bicycle friendly communities," said Jamie Stuckless, executive director of Share the Road, in

a release.

"The continued expansion of the Bicycle Friendly Communities Program is indicative of the growing interest in cycling across the province. With 66 per cent of Ontario residents agreeing that investing in cycling benefits everyone, not just people who bike, the case is clear for communities of all shapes and sizes to invest in providing their residents with the option to choose cycling."

Whitby invests in cycling "to build strong neighbourhoods with safe streets and healthy transportation choices," said Mayor Don Mitchell.

"This designation recognizes the ongoing commitment of our residents, staff and council to achieving that

goal."

The designation highlights the work of the town's Active Transportation and Safe Roads Committee, which was established last year and is made up of community members, town staff and the mayor.

"We know that more people would bike if there was more and better cycling infrastructure," said committee chair Bruce MacDonald.

"We're well on our way to improving that here in Whitby."

An official award presentation will take place during the Ontario Bike Summit in April.

To learn more:

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