

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Barb Armstrong of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville adjusts the helmet strap of Connor Prestwich, 4. Armstrong is the co-ordinator of the town's Helmet Patrol program, which tries to get everyone on a bike to wear a helmet.

Instead of \$75 fine, you could receive positive ticket

Patrollers looking for your helmets, cyclists

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Wearing a bicycle helmet may not be cool or it might mess up your finely coiffed 'do, but by not wearing one, you have an 85-per-cent chance of suffering a serious head injury.

That information, however,

does not seem to resonate with Whitchurch-Stouffville residents as the majority of cyclists, from very young to senior citizen, do not wear a helmet while cycling through town.

Which is why the town's leisure services department is launching the Helmet Patrol

program.

"As an avid cyclist myself, it drives me crazy people don't wear helmets," said Barb Armstrong, fitness supervisor for the municipality.

Starting on May 11 and running for six weeks, volunteers will be giving out positive tickets

that include raffle tickets and discount coupons, to cyclists wearing their helmets.

"Stouffville is growing, but we're still small enough that a community-based program will work," Ms Armstrong said.

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\$100,000 club grows

Seven town employees on list

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Whitchurch-Stouffville fire chief Chris Powers is the municipality's newest member inducted into the \$100,000 club.

Mr. Powers joins six other town staffers who earned between \$108,000 and \$154,000 last year.

They are among the more than 53,000 employees on the 2008 Sunshine List released on Tuesday.

"I was not here when they hired (Chris Powers) as fire chief and I wasn't here for his contract," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Wayne Emmerson. "I have to honour contracts."

Mr. Powers joins Whitchurch-Stouffville CAO Dave Cash, who brought home \$154,707 last year. The remaining six municipal employees on the list all earned \$108,771 in 2008 and they are clerk Michele Kennedy, director of development services Tom Parry, treasurer Marc Pourvahidi, director of public works Paul Whitehouse and former director of leisure services Tom Graham. Mr. Powers also earned \$108,771 last year.

"Council was very concerned about the increases," Mr. Emmerson said. "(But) we planned this before the economic downturn."

Staff contracts are negotiated every two years, however Mr. Emmerson said the municipality may investigate renewing contracts every three years.

Provincial law, brought into effect under premier Mike Harris, sets out that the provincial government, crown agencies and corporations, Ontario Power Generation, Hydro One, hospitals, municipalities, school boards,

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