



**Media Release**  
Town of Collingwood  
97 Hurontario Street, PO Box 157  
Collingwood ON, L9Y 3Z5  
www.collingwood.ca

## Collingwood wins Bronze Bike Friendly Community award

*Collingwood, ON [12 April 2017] –* The Town of Collingwood has been awarded a new Bicycle Friendly status. Mayor Cooper was on hand to receive the Bronze Award at the Annual Ontario Bike Summit dinner in Toronto last night.

“I am so proud that the Town of Collingwood has received this award and recognition resulting from the hard work and collaboration among several staff members, the Trails Advisory Committee, the Collingwood Cycling Club, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Collingwood OPP and many others,” said Mayor Cooper.



*Pictured left to right: Bill Abbotts, Collingwood Cycling Club, Martin Rydlo, Director, Marketing & Business Development, Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director, Share the Road Coalition, Teresa Di Felice, Director, Government and Community Relations, Deb Doherty, Councillor, Brandon Matheson, Cycle Simcoe, Mayor Cooper and Justin Jones, Manager of Bicycle friendly communities*

Others on hand from Collingwood to receive the award were Councillor Deb Doherty, Martin Rydlo, Director of Marketing & Business Development, Brendan Matheson from Cycle Simcoe and Bill Abbott from the Collingwood Cycling Club.

A team effort in compiling the application included an audit by a Bicycle Friendly expert during 2016. Applying for the award requires the aggregation of data and information in several categories including education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation/planning.

The Town of Collingwood is now one of twenty-seven of Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Communities in Ontario. In Southern Georgian Bay, one of the top cycling destinations in Ontario for cycling, Collingwood now connects other Bicycle Friendly Communities in the region including the Town of Wasaga Beach and the Town of Blue Mountains.

One of the top recommendations in the report card Collingwood received was ensuring strong coordination among various departments and community groups with a focus on cycling. Among our next steps moving forward is planning a meeting with community

stakeholders to share the report card and discuss how collaboration with community groups will continue.

“Share the Road is thrilled to recognize this new group of Bicycle Friendly Communities,” said Jamie Stuckless, Executive Director of Share the Road. “The continued expansion of the Bicycle Friendly Communities Program is indicative of the growing interest in cycling across the province. With 66% 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.”

#### About Share the Road

Share the Road is a provincial non-profit organization working to build a bicycle friendly Ontario. We work in partnership with municipal, provincial and federal governments, the business community, road safety organizations and other non-profits to:

- Enhance access for bicyclists on roads and trails
- Improve safety for all bicyclists
- Educate citizens on the value and important of safe bicycling for healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

#### About Collingwood

Nestled against the shores of South Georgian Bay, Collingwood is a vibrant community rich with history and culture. Enjoy breathtaking views from Sunset Point Park and the Hen & Chickens Boardwalk, or unwind at the peaceful Arboretum. Explore the downtown heritage district and visit art galleries, trendy boutiques, and award-winning restaurants and cafés. With nearly 70 km of recreational trails for biking, hiking, skiing & snowshoeing, and both Blue Mountain and Wasaga Beach just down the road, this harbourfront town is a four season getaway for all visitors.

-30-

#### **For more information contact:**

##### **Communications Officer**

Christa Carter

T. 705-445-1030 Ext. 3293

[ccarter@collingwood.ca](mailto:ccarter@collingwood.ca)

##### **Director, Marketing & Business Development**

Martin Rydlo

T. 705-445-8441 Ext. 7421

[mrydlo@collingwood.ca](mailto:mrydlo@collingwood.ca)