

July 01 – September 04  
**2020**

# Waterfront Trail Summer Report

**Officers:**

Noah Premru

Joshua Hill



Hamilton

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## Introduction

The waterfront cycling team is a new program that was introduced this year as a result of a council incentive by Ward 5 Councillor Chad Collins. We patrolled the Hamilton Beach Waterfront Trail to ensure it was safe and enjoyable for all.

### City of Hamilton

#### BY-LAW NO. 01-219

#### TO MANAGE AND REGULATE MUNICIPAL PARKS

**WHEREAS** Section 191(1) of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter M.45, as amended, provides that the council of every corporation may pass by-laws for acquiring land for the purposes of the corporation and for erecting and repairing buildings thereon and for making additions to or alterations of such buildings;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 191(6) of the Municipal Act provides that the council of every corporation may pass by-laws providing for the use by the public of lands of which the corporation is the owner and for the regulation of such use and the protection of such lands;

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton may exercise all or any of the powers that are conferred on Boards of Park Management by the Public Parks Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P.46, as amended, pursuant to Section 207, paragraph 52 of the Municipal Act;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 207(42) of the Municipal Act, provides for the prohibition of vehicles from sidewalks, pathways or footpaths in Parks;

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton Act, 1999, S.O. 1999 Chapter 14, Schedule C did incorporate, as of January 1st, 2001, the municipality "City of Hamilton";

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton is the successor to the following former area municipalities, namely: The Corporation of the Town of Ancaster; The Corporation of the Town of Dundas; The Corporation of the Town of Flamborough; The Corporation of the Township of Glanbrook; The Corporation of the City of Hamilton; and the Corporation of the City of Stoney Creek; all hereinafter referred to as the "former area municipalities";

**AND WHEREAS** the City of Hamilton Act, 1999, provides that the By-laws of the former area municipalities continue in force and effect in the City of Hamilton until subsequently amended or repealed by the Council of the City of Hamilton;

**AND WHEREAS** the Council of the City of Hamilton deems it expedient to enact a single by-law to provide for the maintenance, operation, management and regulation of Municipal Parks, in place of by-laws of the former area municipalities.

**Council Direction**

7.2

**CITY OF HAMILTON  
NOTICE OF MOTION**

Council: June 24, 2020

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. COLLINS.....**

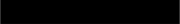
**City Ambassadors on the Waterfront Trail**

WHEREAS the use of the Waterfront Trail has become popular with out of town cyclists many of whom are speeding and racing down the trail, creating daily safety concerns for those in the area; and,

WHEREAS Licensing and By-law Services has previously hired summer students to act as City Ambassadors to educate the public and enforce City By-laws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That Licensing and By-law Services be directed to hire two summer students to act as City Ambassadors on the Waterfront Trail for the months of July and August at a cost of approximately \$12,000 which will be covered through the Hamilton Beach Reserve



## General Goals

The general goals of the waterfront cycling program were to:

1. Improve the overall safety and enjoyment of the Hamilton Waterfront.
2. Educate the public on trail etiquette and parks by-laws.
3. Build relationships with the beach community residents.

Our first goal was the most important out of all three. As Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, safety is always our top priority. We worked towards this goal by ensuring that people were behaving in a manner that is courteous to others regardless of what activity they were participating in. We were able to communicate with people in an effective tone which furthered our ability to improve their safety and enjoyment of Hamilton's Waterfront.

Our second goal was also of great significance as many people who were using the trail were not aware of the rules. We decided to make the month of July an educational campaign and instead of issuing any sort of tickets or fines, we focused on verbal warnings and conversations about etiquette. Some of the education included; using an audible warning when passing others, using the trail at safe speeds, and staying on the appropriate side.

We achieved our last goal by conversing with the residents and asking them about their thoughts and recommendations on how to make the trail a safer and better place for everyone. We enjoyed actively listening to them and always kept them up to date with any of our developments or stories we had to share. It was our priority to frequently engage with the community in order to help us create our recommendations.

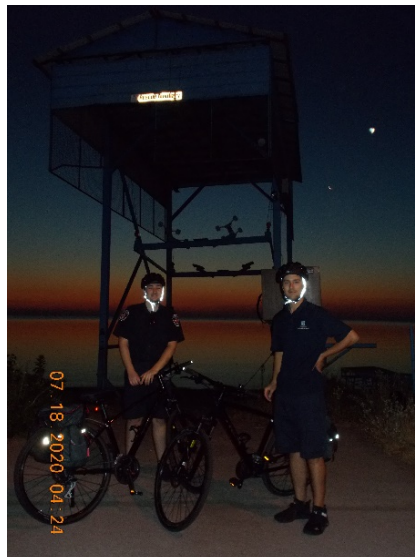


## Team Goals

As a team we set strict goals that we wanted to accomplish by the end of our temporary assignment. Our general goals were focused on the community and program whereas our team goals were focused on our own personal development and development as a team.

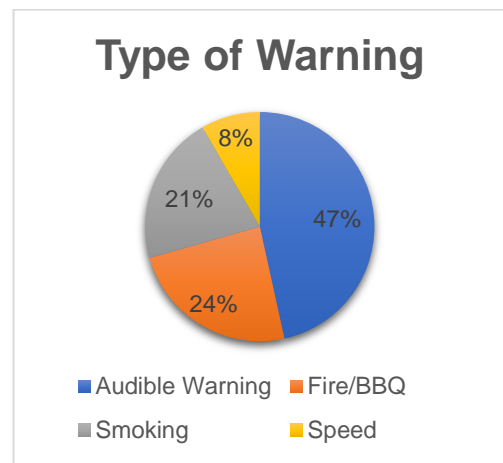
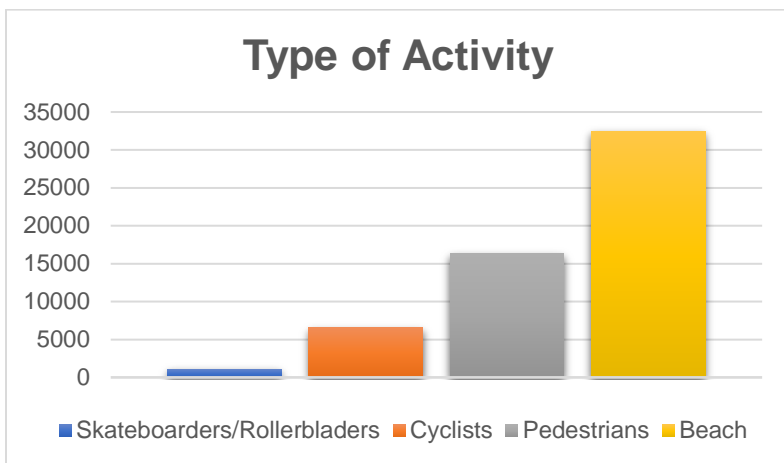
1. To be able to accommodate very flexible work hours alongside our personal schedules.
2. To get to know the area and work with local businesses.
3. Perfect our ability to positively interact with the public.

As students we are used to strict schedules that hardly change, be it work or school. As this program was new this year, we wanted to find out the best times for us to be patrolling the waterfront. We started as early as 4:00AM and as late as 2:00PM. We began to realize what to look out for at certain times. Some examples being: an increased number of packs of cyclists practicing in the early morning; a larger number of barbecues being brought out near lunch time; and fires on the beach usually occurring later in the evening. Throughout the summer, more vendors arrived at the waterfront trail to serve the public. We would always check on the status of their permits and ensure their health and safety inspection was passed. We wanted to work with businesses who came to the waterfront. If someone did not have a permit, we would inform them on what to do to get one and help them get licensed rather than issue a fine if it was the first occurrence. Lastly, as it was our job to interact with the public, we were able to perfect the ways in which we did this as each interaction was different.



### Month of July Statistics

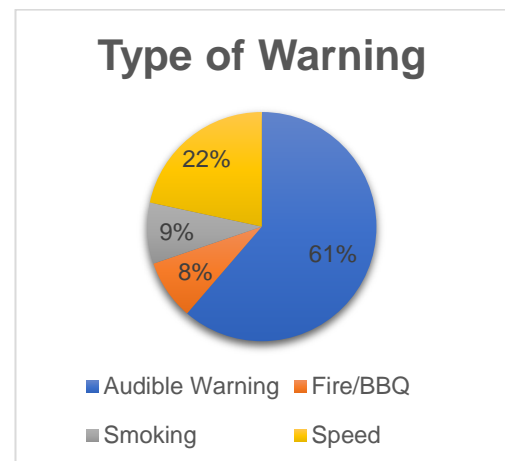
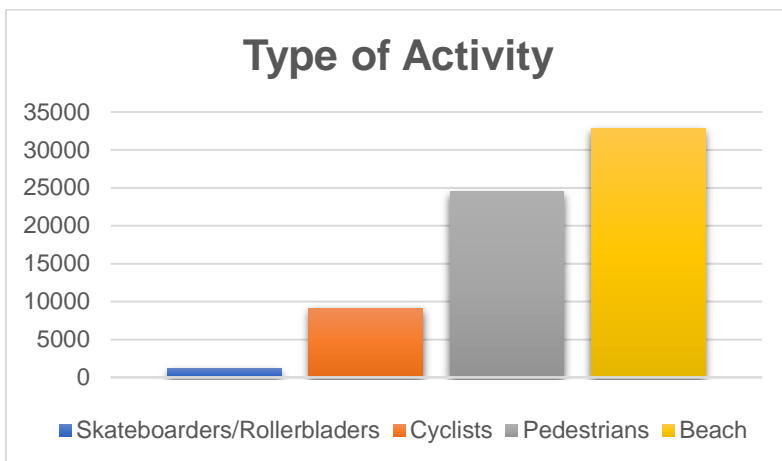
<b>Estimated Total # of Observed Visitors at the Park</b>	56,398
<b>Estimated Total # of Observed Mobility Devices on Path (EScooter, EBike, Etc)</b>	26
<b>Estimated total # of Observed Group Style Riders (5+ more in a pack)</b>	16
<b>Type of Activity:</b>	
<b>Skateboarders/Rollerbladers</b>	1,086
<b>Cyclists</b>	6,563
<b>Pedestrians</b>	16,331
<b>Beach</b>	32,418
<b>TOTAL # OF INTERACTIONS</b>	402
<b>Interactions</b>	198
<b>Warnings</b>	204
<b>Tickets</b>	0
<b>TOTAL # OF WARNINGS</b>	204
<b>Fire/BBQ</b>	49
<b>Audible Warning</b>	95
<b>Smoking (of any kind)</b>	43
<b>Speed</b>	17



\*All statistics are very close estimates

### Month of August Statistics

<b>Estimated Total # of Observed Visitors at the Park</b>	67,544
<b>Estimated Total # of Observed Mobility Devices on Path (EScooter, EBike, Etc)</b>	36
<b>Estimated total # of Observed Group Style Riders (5+ more in a pack)</b>	29
<b>Type of Activity:</b>	
<b>Skateboarders/Rollerbladers</b>	1,173
<b>Cyclists</b>	9,110
<b>Pedestrians</b>	24,485
<b>Beach</b>	32,776
<b>TOTAL # OF INTERACTIONS</b>	997
<b>Interactions</b>	395
<b>Warnings</b>	592
<b>Tickets</b>	10
<b>TOTAL # OF WARNINGS</b>	592
<b>Fire/BBQ</b>	50
<b>Audible Warning</b>	363
<b>Smoking (of any kind)</b>	51
<b>Speed</b>	128

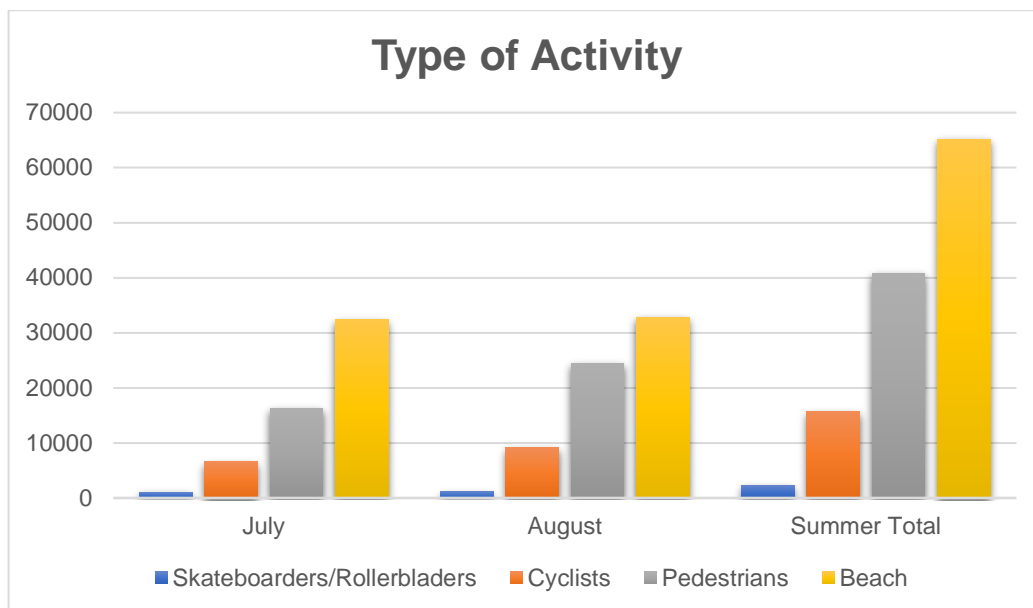


\*All statistics are very close estimates

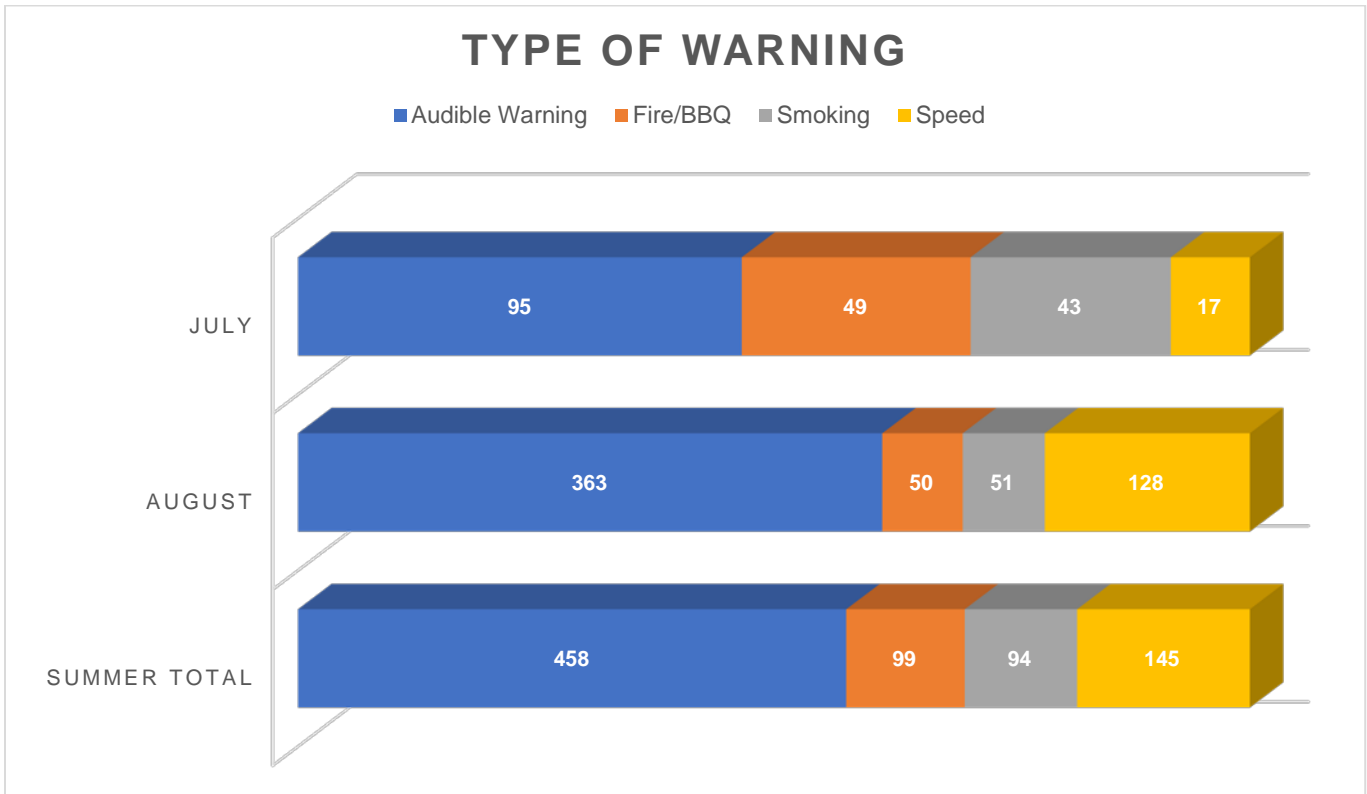


### Statistic Comparison & Totals

<b>Estimated Total # of Observed Visitors at the Park</b>	123,942
<b>Estimated Total # of Observed Mobility Devices on Path (EScooter, EBike, Etc)</b>	62
<b>Estimated total # of Observed Group Style Riders (5+ more in a pack)</b>	45
<b>Type of Activity:</b>	
<b>Skateboarders/Rollerbladers</b>	2,259
<b>Cyclists</b>	15,673
<b>Pedestrians</b>	40,816
<b>Beach</b>	65,194
<b>TOTAL # OF INTERACTIONS</b>	1,399
<b>Interactions</b>	593
<b>Warnings</b>	796
<b>Tickets</b>	10
<b>TOTAL # OF WARNINGS</b>	796
<b>Fire/BBQ</b>	99
<b>Audible Warning</b>	458
<b>Smoking (of any kind)</b>	94
<b>Speed</b>	145



\*All statistics are very close estimates



All tickets were issued in the month of August as our educational campaign was in July.

- 1 Ticket for 01-219 Sec. 14(a) stoke fire/bonfire in park
- 5 Tickets for 01-219 Sec. 14(b) use charcoal portable BBQ's in park
- 4 Tickets for 01-219 Sec. 14(c) use other than charcoal/briquettes in stationary barbeques

**TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY COUNT: 10**

## Final Day - Mounted Unit

Although we were only out for one day in September, it was an eventful one. Two officers from the Hamilton Police's mounted unit came out on the trail with us. We met Officer Ahmad, Badge #1106 and Officer Ladniak, Badge #312, in the parking lot of Wild Waterworks. They mounted two horses, Officer Griffin and Officer Lincoln. We gave them a copy of our short form wording for the parks by-laws and explained what by-laws we enforce and how we enforce them. They told us about what they do on their usual patrols and we biked beside their horses down the trail. It was a great collaborative effort, people really listen to when you have police on horses with you!



## Good News Stories



ABOVE: On July 12, 2020, we noticed that the CLOSED play structure was full of people. With help from the Conservation Authority, we managed to clear the structure.



ABOVE: Two significant accidents where EMS were called happened at this location. We asked some students on August 6th, 2020, if the shrubbery obstructing vision on the path could be trimmed. On August 28th, 2020 they cleared it and visibility has been improved.



LEFT: A phone was found on the beach by a pedestrian. He gave it to us, and we held onto it. We answered it when it rang and returned it to the owner. He was very grateful.

On August 7, 2020, we noticed politically motivated graffiti at multiple places along the trail. We took notes and pictures of the specific locations of the graffiti and contacted Hamilton Parks to get it cleaned off. These are some before/after pictures. of the graffiti removal process.



## Recommendations

The following recommendations to council are from our observations and from resident's input.

1. People walking on the wrong side of the path is an area of concern, especially in areas where there are blind corners. One resident gave us an idea to put a line down the middle of the path to indicate the flow of traffic always keeping to the right side.
2. Accidents have occurred at the blind corner near the Go-Kart track. We recommended to the students who worked for the Conservation Authority that the shrubbery obstructing the view should be trimmed. They followed our recommendation and cut the shrubs. The visibility on the corner is now much better and we recommend that the corner should be trimmed periodically and that a caution sign be added to this area.
3. Another recommendation that we received from a resident was that the speed limit should be painted on the path itself. Someone riding and looking down or straight may not see the signs posted on the sides of the path that indicate the speed limit of the path. Having the speed limit painted on the path every 500 meters or so would assist with the speed cyclists travel at.
4. In general, more signs need to be placed along the trail. There are no signs that indicate no barbeques or fires on the beach. There are only 5 speed limit signs and 7 "no smoking" signs visible from the trail and there are no signs indicating the rules surrounding e-bikes. There should also be a sign in the area of the corner next to the Go-Kart track that indicates the corner is a high crash site and to tell people to slow down and keep to the right.
5. Multiple people throughout the summer recommended to us that the number of garbage cans in the park and along the trail be increased. This may decrease the amount of litter and debris on the beach and trail.
6. Additional trees should be planted on the north side of the beach strip near the residential area. This would beautify that area, act as a barrier against strong winds, make the trail a shadier, and more environmentally friendly.
7. Promote the use of an audible sound when passing by having a few "bell give away" days. Bells could be purchased by sponsorship prior to the educational bell days.

## Conclusion

Throughout the summer of 2020, we learned plenty of new things. We improved the skills we already brought with us and left with great work experience. We learned how to interpret and enforce by-laws, issue penalties, generate detailed notes, use online databases to catalog and store information, and more. It has been an exciting experience developing this brand-new program for the City of Hamilton. We staggered our hours to see what would be best for the program if it continued next year, and found that all times except from 2-4PM are great to be out. Communicating with the public is not an easy task, especially when you are telling them that they cannot do something or issuing them a ticket. We have made a positive impact for the residents of the Beach Community by improving the overall enjoyment of the waterfront. We achieved our general and team goals that we set out at the beginning of our employment therefore we see that this program has been concluded successfully.

We would both truly like to thank the City of Hamilton Licensing and By-Law Services Division, and the Hamilton City Council for choosing us to be the leaders and ambassadors of a brand-new program. We hope to see it continue next year where other officers can follow in our footsteps.



Sincerely,

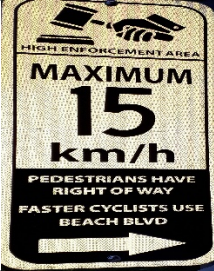





Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right, both appearing to be initials or short names.





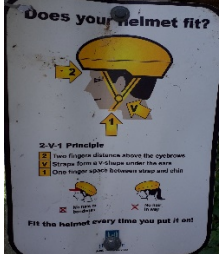

## Appendix

There is a variety of signs along the trail. These are all the signs and their count that are visible from the trail.

TYPE	PICTURE	COUNT
Barbeque Prohibited	 <p>A white rectangular sign with a black border. At the top, it reads "NO PORTABLE BBQ" in bold black letters. Below this is a red circle with a diagonal slash over a black silhouette of a portable BBQ grill. At the bottom, it says "BBQ IN DESIGNATED LOCATIONS ONLY" in smaller black text.</p>	27
Dog on leash and Dog waste cleanup	 <p>A white rectangular sign with a black border. It features two circular icons: the top one shows a person walking a dog on a leash, and the bottom one shows a person bending over to pick up a dog's waste. Below the icons, it reads "CITY OF HAMILTON BY-LAW 01-219 MAXIMUM FINE \$5,000.00".</p>	13
Safe Water Info Line	 <p>A white rectangular sign with a black border. It contains the text "Safe Water Info Line 905-546-2189 www.hamilton.ca/beaches". Below the text is a QR code on the left and the Hamilton Public Health Services logo on the right.</p>	9
Trail Etiquette/Park Rules	 <p>A white rectangular sign with a black border. It features the Hamilton logo at the top left and the text "FOR PARKS PROHIBITIONS OR TO REPORT CONCERNS, CALL 905-546-2189". The main body of the sign contains detailed regulations for park use, including hours of use, prohibited activities (like littering, vandalism, gambling, etc.), and regulated activities requiring a permit (like alcohol consumption, fireworks, etc.).</p>	7
No Smoking	 <p>A white rectangular sign with a black border. It reads "No Smoking in City Parks and Recreation Areas" in bold black letters. Below this is a red circle with a diagonal slash over a black silhouette of a lit cigarette. At the bottom, it says "CITY OF HAMILTON BY-LAW NO. 11-088 MAXIMUM PENALTY \$1000".</p>	7



<p>Speed Limit</p>		<p>5</p>
<p>No Littering</p>		<p>5</p>
<p>Water Pollution Warning</p>		<p>4</p>
<p>Tree and Shrub Cutting Not Permitted</p>		<p>4</p>
<p>Sand Dune Information</p>		<p>3</p>
<p>Cliff Warning</p>		<p>3</p>

Types of Ticks		3
Poison Ivy		3
Wildlife		2
Washroom Locations		2
Helmet		1
Turtle Nesting Area		1



LEFT: "The beach patrol fellows; Josh and Noah have been awesome! I wish the program was 7 days a week and continued into the fall. The trail is safer for seniors like myself, and still needs a great deal of improvement by removing bike racers and electric devices." – Carol Hughes

"It's good to have people down here monitoring activity. There should also be signs that say; 'no fires at the beach' and better posting of the speed limit on the trail." – Lisa

RIGHT: "Having a line down the centre of the trail would make a world of difference." – Donna

"I was very glad to meet you guys and very happy with the cycling program!" – Kelly Aver

