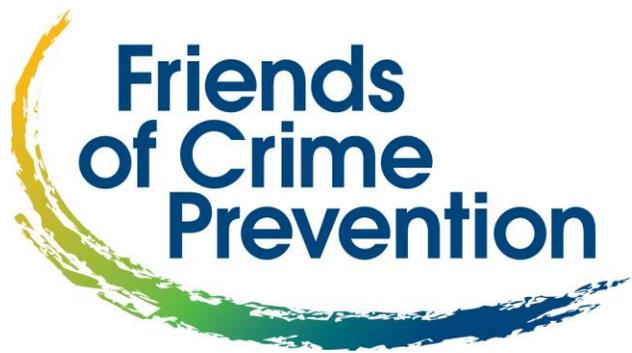


What is a Friend of Crime Prevention?

A **Friend** is someone who easily sees the connection between their daily lives, the work they do and the opportunities to work together for a safer community.

A **Friend** is someone who takes action, in small and big ways, to create change in their own neighbourhood, community, workplace or organization.

A **Friend** wants to become part of a larger web of building a community in which everyone can be and feel safe.



The Purpose

Crime prevention through social development is not something that can be accomplished by any one person or group alone. It takes a village to raise a child, so too, it takes a community to create safer neighbourhoods and cities.

You are part of this change when you are a Friend of Crime Prevention.

Community interest and participation in crime prevention is something we value. Research and community knowledge, when combined, create a powerful tool for preventing crime before it happens.

Getting involved as a **Friend of Crime Prevention** in your neighbourhood, your community, your places of faith and work, your school and your home helps to grow the **Smart on Crime** momentum in Waterloo Region. When we work together and keep our focus on what is most effective - now and in the future - we can create change that lasts.

Who can be a Friend?

Friends of Crime Prevention will become an important network of eyes & ears in our community, a web for exchanging and sharing knowledge, news and activities.

Anyone who has an interest in reducing and preventing crime or the fear of crime and victimization, who wants to help increase safety, and who wishes to foster the well being of everyone in our community is welcome to join.

Any individual or organization that supports the following values and principles of crime prevention through social development can be a **Friend of Crime Prevention**.

- **Commitment** – We believe that the creation of a safe and promising future for all people in our community takes time and perseverance.
- **Compassion** – We believe that a compassionate world is a peaceful world and this becomes possible when everyone is treated with dignity, equity and respect.

- **Courage** – We believe in honest dialogue, challenging misconceptions, facing uncertainty and, at times, making bold decisions.

Become a Friend – it’s FREE to join!

- Use your best skills, passion and knowledge to promote a broader understanding of crime prevention
- Contribute your experience and expertise
- Learn from and network with other community leaders and practitioners
- Directly contribute to education and awareness activities that focus on innovation and collaboration
- Help build the crime prevention resources [social capital] that will continue the path of making our community one of the safest in Canada



[Join today, sign up!](#)

How to Get Involved

You may already contribute to crime prevention but haven’t made the connection between what you do and how it contributes to the larger picture. Becoming a **Friend of Crime Prevention** will make those connections clear for you.

Being a **Friend** does not require you to be a member of the WRCPC, serve on any of its committees or attend all events, but there are many ways, those included, in which you can contribute. Options for areas of involvement include:

- Attending WRCPC meetings and/or partner meetings
- Volunteering for a WRCPC committee
- Public Speaking / Presentations
- Writing a blog post or article
- Event volunteering (Say Hi, In The Mind’s Eye, Justice Dinner)
- Participating in community consultations, workshops, forums
- Following WRCPC on Twitter and Facebook, sharing these links with others, engaging in discussions via social media
- Organizing and planning a neighbourhood or community event



- Reporting on community challenges that may affect crime
- Creating or joining a neighbourhood mobilization team
- Promoting crime prevention efforts and events (e.g. distribute posters, share info with your organization, link to www.preventingcrime.ca from your own website)
- Advising our Council on topics and/or policy that have an impact on community safety

About the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council brings a wide range of services and citizens together to build healthier and safer communities. Our multi-disciplinary, community-based council acts as a resource and an advisory body for local communities and the Region of Waterloo.

We have come to learn that the role of a crime prevention council is not to 'do for' the community, but to 'do with' the community. The role of a crime prevention council is to be a catalyst for action, an educator, a connector, a researcher, a resource and support.

Many people perceive the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council as the centre of crime prevention activity. This perception is evidenced by frequent inquiries received about joining WRPCPC and constant pressure to accommodate more and more stakeholders at the table. Through consultations we learned that many people are already engaged in activities that address the root causes of crime, but don't necessarily perceive themselves as 'doing' crime prevention work because they are not a member of WRPCPC.

So in 2011, WRPCPC began to take steps to create new and different opportunities for people to participate in the work of crime prevention according to their own interests and desire for involvement. **Friends of Crime Prevention** quickly evolved to engage a growing network of individuals and organizations committed to advancing the work of crime prevention through social development.

We would love to add you to our Friends network! [Join today.](#)

