



Ambassador Level 4 Community Project



Project Summary:

The Ambassador Program is for students looking to get involved, positively contribute to the campus community and become leaders on campus. Once Ambassadors have successfully worked their way through Levels 1 to 3 of the program, they become eligible to participate in Level 4. This year, the Level 4 Community project was tasked with creating a survey connected to transportation and mobility to be shared with the wider Ontario Tech student community. The team was also responsible for coordinating students to attend a community based event which took place on Monday, March 27, 023 at Whitby Library - Brooklin Branch.

Project Goals:

The goal of the project was to learn more about how students travel within Durham Region. The community event that was held in March was also an opportunity to encourage Ontario Tech students to engage with the Durham Region community.

Methods:

To reach as many Ontario Tech students as possible, a digital survey was distributed and consisted of questions connected to using Durham Region Transit (DRT), driving, biking, walking, and general well-being. To incentivize students to complete the survey, they were also entered into a raffle draw to win one of four \$25 gift cards. To encourage participation in the community event, email invitations were sent out to students.

Outcomes:

The survey collected 117 responses in total from students. Based on the findings, it is evident that a majority of students rely on Durham Region Transit (DRT) and a vehicle to travel around the Region. Those who don't use DRT as their primary transportation method cite that they prefer using GO Transit when they commute from a farther distance, that there are too many instances where busses do not show up, they are either already full or they are late, the nearest bus stop is too far away, and/or that there is a lack of bike infrastructure on busses. Students who completed the survey were also interested in walking and biking as their transportation methods but want to feel safe when doing so. For biking, students would like to see implementation of bike lanes across the Region creating safe distances between cars and bikes. Students who walk would feel safer if sidewalks and streets were well lit.

Why is this important?:

It is important for Durham Region to have an awareness of how many students rely on transit and municipal roads to get around Durham Region, especially as students make their decision whether to stay in the Region post graduation. The Region also needs to take into consideration that alternative forms of transportation such as taking the bus, biking, and/or walking, are just as if not more efficient than using a vehicle.