



Cobourg Police Service **CCTV – Survey Results**

1.0 Introduction

This report summarizes the findings of a public survey of residents of Cobourg and surrounding area. Survey objectives were as follows:

To gain insight on public perceptions on closed-circuit television (CCTV) and their use in the Town of Cobourg.

2.0 Background

Between 2010 and 2014, there were four CCTV cameras installed in the Town of Cobourg, but since have been taken down or rendered inoperable.

Today there are no operational CCTV cameras in the Town of Cobourg.

3.0 Summary of findings

Generally, respondents indicated that CCTV would be effective to increase feelings of safety in the community (Q60) and make public places safer (Q62).

85% of respondents indicated 'yes' when asked if CCTV would be an effective use of resources (Q63) and 80% of respondents indicated that CCTV would not violate the personal privacy of citizens (Q65)

4.0 Respondent Profile

Total of **142** surveys submissions,

- 96 residents of Cobourg or business owners
- 34 from Northumberland County (other than Cobourg)
- 6 respondents from outside of Northumberland County
- 6 Unknown (did not respond)



Cobourg Police Service CCTV Survey Results

49. Thank you for your feedback on body-worn cameras. We have a few additional questions on the use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras. Would you like to contribute your thoughts on CCTV?

[More Details](#)

yes	142
no	68



50. During the day, downtown Cobourg is safe?

[More Details](#)

Agree	102
Disagree	29
I don't know	13



51. At night, downtown Cobourg is safe?

[More Details](#)

Agree	50
Disagree	59
I don't know	36



Would CCTV cameras in Cobourg help deter the following criminal activity?

52. Vandalism/Property Damage

[More Details](#)



53. Vehicle Damage

[More Details](#)



54. Theft / Robbery

[More Details](#)



55. Assaults / Fights

[More Details](#)



56. Drug offences

[More Details](#)



57. Alcohol offences

[More Details](#)



58. CCTV would be effective to catch alleged criminals?

[More Details](#)



59. CCTV would be effective to prevent crime?

[More Details](#)



60. CCTV would be effective to increase feelings of safety within the community?

[More Details](#)



61. CCTV would be effective to hold offenders accountable?

[More Details](#)



62. CCTV would make public places safer?

[More Details](#)



63. CCTV would be an effective use of resources?

[More Details](#)



64. CCTV would be effective to free up police officers to deal with other crime issues or emergencies?

[More Details](#)



65. CCTV violate the personal privacy of citizens.

[More Details](#)



66. In relation to CCTV in Cobourg do you have any further comments?

[More Details](#)

66

Responses

Latest Responses

66. In relation to CCTV in Cobourg do you have any further comments? (answers verbatim)

Downtown Cobourg doesn't feel safe to me anymore- I've been here 47 years and feel very unsafe with all the transients / drug use going on. I don't think CCTV will stop it but hopefully could help aid in catching some the unfavourables that habitually reoffend

anyone who is a thief wears a hoodie and covers their face so I dont see how this will help anyone identify someone they can't see

believe they are potentially useful after the fact and I wouldn't mind having a more around town but some of the issues we have in town won't be deterred by them. We need better supports and resources to address the issues

Implement it now in key strategic locations.

All of the crimes that were listed that CCTV would prevent would do nothing to stop them, all of those crimes are committed by the drug addicts that are all over Cobourg, they will not care if they are caught on camera. They will do it anyways and get released like they always do. I live in downtown Cobourg in one of the worst crack dens, I am a young single female living alone in my own apartment and I still will continue to go downtown at all hours of the night, I have never once felt unsafe or scared doing so. I do sometimes worry about my place being broken into, as that is more likely then me being mugged. I know a lot of the drug addicts because you keep seeing the same people over and over, so eventually you know what's up. All they want is crack and as long as you mind your business and use common sense they will leave you alone. They just want to get high and want nothing to do with you, if they need drug money they usually steal from each other or break into a car or a business when nobody is there. These business already have their own CCTV. I do not want CCTV in Cobourg, I want these people to get help and not be released over and over.

As long as they are not positioned towards a private residence, they would be acceptable. Residential areas should be treated as private, not public property. This rule should apply to all neighbourhoods as well as all police AND residential surveillance camera's. Neighbours should not be allowed to film other neighbours on their own property. It is a complete invasion of privacy and needs to be considered as harassment! There should be ZERO view of neighbours property.

CCTV are only as good as the equipment being used. This means they need to produce clear images that allow for the easy and proper identification of offenders. Further CPS needs to tout when the cameras have been successful when used to identify and solve crimes. Otherwise people think that the cameras are just objects on a wall and what have they done??

I have mixed feelings about this. Having a death sentence did not stop murderers so I am not sure that criminals knowing they are under the surveillance of a camera stops their behaviour. I do agree it would not doubt help convict criminals so the issue of privacy is a big one. I do believe that once you leave your home you are in the public so maybe I have no right to assume privacy exists if I am walking down King St. in Cobourg.

No

This would make me feel much safer walking around at night like I used to, but no longer do due to
August 17, 2020

the amount of crime, people overdosing on the sidewalk etc

If there was a serious crime and they need to find out who done it they would be a great help on finding said individual..

Unfortunately, people tend to behave better when they know they are being watched. Too bad we couldn't have enough to deter druggies from breaking into cars.

The town has turned into an unsafe and disgraceful place. I work downtown and I see and hear about how unsafe the residents and business owners feel. There are too many transients here with drug and mental health issues that are let roam our streets day and night. I don't even feel safe walking from the covert street parking lot to my work in the morning and afternoon. There are people sleeping and doing drugs and fighting in our public places all the time. I used to take my kids and grandkids to Cobourg all the time and now I won't even go there myself other than to work. It's a real shame

I agree with the effectiveness of it but am concerned about privacy violations. Finding the balance will be difficult.

As long as the cameras are good quality and have good night vision, they will be a great resource to police and the community

In the last 2 to 3 years I have felt more uneasy being in downtown area unless a number of people are on streets. There are now more homeless folks and people asking for money or being loud and inappropriate. I would feel somewhat more at ease if camera's where there to capture activity that harms the public or property.

No additional comments. Cameras have been used in other cities with some success.

Having CCTV in public places especially at night in the downtown area and certain other known unsafe areas would definitely deter petty crime and make for better use of our limited police personnel.

I'd be very interested to know why previous cctv cameras were removed or rendered inoperable

Though I believe that CCTV in Cobourg would deter crime, and would be a great community safety piece, it is imperative that we do not rely to heavily on this crime prevention tool allowing police presence to be less noted...if this happens our community could feel as though our police force is becoming less involved and using electronic means to benefit themselves instead of the community as a whole.

Cobourg has drug issues and more intervention is needed to make our town safer. Cameras in public places are a deterrent, will increase safety and help police gather evidence. Safety in public places is a higher priority than privacy in public places. Ensure clear policies and procedures regarding use of surveillance footage.

Thank-you all so much for the work that you do for our community.

I think cameras could deter everything I said yes to if the offenders are aware that cameras exist. Otherwise they won't deter anything.

Ensure you're not targeting minorities or areas that would consist mainly minorities. Learn from the stop and frisk program in N.Y.

I personally support the use of CCTV, but I don't think it will necessarily reduce crime. I think it would be a useful tool for police in identifying offenders. The reality in Cobourg is that much of the petty crime and vandalism is being committed by the same folks and I'm fairly certain the police are aware of who those individuals are. This may assist them in preparing more solid cases to the Crown.

No

No

I do not support the expense of CCTV in Cobourg for the following reasons: images are often unclear; Banks already have their own cameras; would be unnecessary if police body cams are approved

I don't feel that they are needed at this time.

not at the moment

I think that the police should maintain a list of residences with CCTV's in the event of an incident in a neighbourhood.

no

no

We have had to install our own security cameras on our personal property as we have a vacant municipal building nearby that has no cameras, bad lighting and has been a site for drug use/deals. Police do a great job of patrolling, but cameras would deter and give them an extra layer of protection, and an additional tool to do their jobs. It would also make citizens feel safe, and deter bad behaviour. Since installing our cameras we have seen a decrease in the "bad" behaviour on our property.

The excessive graffiti in town lately could perhaps be curtailed if we had CCTV as well as some of the suspicious (possibly drug related) group loitering in the north part of Victoria Park.

There were CCTV camera's installed some 10 years ago in the downtown why were they abandon?

Everything to protect the community is a help with the present changes in crime

Would the resources be better used for social assistance to address the root of the problems?

Restrict footage editing and copying. Otherwise it's a benefit to have one source for CCTV footage at various locations.

CCTV cameras would not replace policing. They may make it easier to collect evidence. I would want to know the statistics from other communities as to how the data on CCTV cameras is used and whether their presence results in significant improvement to public safety before supporting such an expenditure. If it is simply to make the public "feel" safer, but they do not statistically help to reduce crime nor lead to improved conviction rates for violators, then the money would be better spent on programs that are proven to reduce/prevent crime in communities similar in size and community com-

plexity to Cobourg.

CCTV may be useful in large public areas like the waterfront or multi-field sports areas. Also, at busy street intersections. Not sure if video would help hold offenders accountable but certainly there seem to be instances where offenders have been identified via CCTV.

Not at this time.

I am not in favor of facial recognition software being used nor routine or commercial use of meta tracking of cellphone users. I was also appalled that Cobourg Police favored a Venture 13 start-up 'Qoints' for a prize that uses Twitter in the same way that Cambridge Analytica used personal information gleaned from Facebook (without the knowledge of users) to manipulate them. you should have known better! The European rules on internet privacy and right to know and control one's personal information should be adopted here and in Canada generally.

Not only should cameras be installed but visible. Signs should be posted to advise that cameras are operating. One of the purposes of cameras is to make people think twice about their antisocial or illegal behaviour therefore the need for visibility of the cameras. Cameras should be an additional to public safety and therefore police presence is still necessary in the camera areas.

Citizens, particularly those with criminal intent, won't like the idea of either body cams or CCTV, however, these days, we need to do everything we can possibly do to maintain the laws, and ensure fair and equal treatment of all.

Use all these tools for court so Judges will stop catch and release

CCTV locations must be equipped with a sign that tells the community where they are and that they exist in a working form

There is no expectation of privacy in public . If you want privacy you need to create it yourself . Great idea if in budget for cctv make prosecuting easier will deter crime alot

I think that they are a great idea.

I was aware of the cctv on Swaine Street in the past. I believed that it created a "safer" public image and forced the illegal activities to take place elsewhere. As a business owner located near that area, it provided a sense of safety, that the police were watching.

I have nothing to hide. If CCTV keeps downtown safer may be I would go down there after dark

I thought that there were cameras downtown already at the beach area and the cenotaph.

I would watch this all day long.

Wish there were cameras outside of the library. Lots going on in that area that isn't captured. Needles regularly found, people congregating in evenings, particularly when the building is closed.

Only in certain areas were necessary?

I question whether downtown is where most crime occurs. If crime 'hotspots' are outside downtown,

then CCTV installed downtown may be of limited value

CCTV should not replace the officers on duty. It has to be used as an aid and not excuse for not patrolling or doing ones regular duties. Thanks

I think we should have them in our public spaces. On the main street, at the harbour and beach and other places shown to be active crime spots or where vandalism is occurring.

I think CCTV should be everywhere. I think it would save the police an enormous amount of time investigating crimes. People should not worry about their activities being video taped unless they are doing something wrong. Saying that, I do understand their are individuals that have stocking issues, and this could include people who could access the camera feed, or hack into it. So I can see their concerns, but those few would not out way the good to the community, very strict access to the feeds would have to be inforced.

I believe these CCTV are not fit for purpose and would rather see more pro-active patrolling. And if CCTV were to be approved, it would not be fair to taxpayers if they were installed only in downtown core. They would need to be installed in lots and lots and lots of places.

I believe CCTV would be effective to deter some crime more recently with more break ins to businesses and vehicles and thefts from businesses and vehicles vandalism and drug activity around the downtown core knowing I feel this could potentially help deter these crimes.

Technology changes rapidly. The idea that a camera should cost \$10,000 is ridiculous. An IP camera on a secure network is under \$100, so you could effectively purchase 100x IP cameras for the price on 1 single camera. Suggestion: INCENTIVE for HOMEOWNERS and BUSINESS OWNERS to install an IP camera. Should a crime take place, you have access to the recordings of those cameras. Imagine the coverage with such an initiative.

Can't believe they cost so much, I'm always amazed how poorly the procurement system is, try harder

Given that most businesses in the downtown core have poor to no video surveillance I believe CCTV would be a great addition to protect the law abiding citizens

They need to be High Definition

If CCTV were in place previously and are no longer active I have to assume they were not effective so don't think it would be a good use of funding resources. Although, camera footage can be used in identifying suspects of crime I as assume that most business have their own security cameras that the police could use in investigation. Cobourg has a serious drug problem and I don't think dealers are doing business in the middle of town. Petty crime could be deterred but not serious issues

END