

School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is Wednesday, March 20

For immediate release (March 11, 2019) – On behalf of the Orillia Police Services Board, the City of Orillia is encouraging residents to show their support and appreciation for their neighbourhood school crossing guards during School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

This year's School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is the first time the event is being held province-wide, coordinated by the Ontario Traffic Council. Communities all across the Province will be celebrating and recognizing their school crossing guards together on the same day.

Join us in recognizing the individuals across our city whose reliable assistance helps young residents commute safely to and from school.

"We are very fortunate to have such a devoted group of crossing guards who take on this responsibility, and brave inclement weather and various traffic conditions, to safely escort pedestrians across the roadway. I encourage everyone to personally thank their neighbourhood school crossing guards for their dedication helping to create safe walking and cycling routes to school and work," said Mayor Steve Clarke, Chair of the Orillia Police Services Board.

Quick Facts

- The Orillia Police Services Board currently employs 13 regular and five substitute school crossing guards who cover 14 school crossings across the city.
- As of Jan. 1, 2016, all vehicles and cyclists are required by the *Ontario Highway Traffic Act* to stop and wait until children and crossing guards have cleared the entire roadway at school crossings before proceeding.
- Motorists are asked to support school crossing guards by remembering to STOP:
 - Stop when a school crossing guard raises his or her stop sign;
 - Take notice of whether a school crossing guard is on duty by slowing down when approaching school crossing locations;
 - Obey the law by remaining stopped until all children AND the school crossing guard have completely exited the roadway; and
 - Proceed with caution – obey posted speed limits, and observe all NO Stopping and NO Parking signs – park in designated areas only.

Crossing guards will be invited to attend a special reception with the Orillia Police Services Board on March 20, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the Tudhope-McIntyre Boardroom, First Floor of the Orillia City Centre, 50 Andrew St. S., Orillia.

Media interviews with crossing guards can be arranged by contacting Nancy Wilding at 705-325-6275.

The City of Orillia is a city of 31,000 people in the heart of Ontario's Lake Country on the shores of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. Visit our website at orillia.ca.

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