



Initiate an Adult School Crossing Guard Program in Barrie

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Presentation to the Community Safety Committee 2023

Residents' Concerns:

- An Adult School Crossing Guard Program is requested because:
 - Experienced or witnessed 'near misses'
 - Increasing traffic
 - Distracted/unexperienced drivers
 - Speeding
 - Congestion at drop off/pick up
 - Illegal parking
 - Poorly placed pedestrian lights

*Independent research from canvassing neighbourhood (2023)

Statistics:

According to “Parachute” —Canada's national charity dedicated to injury prevention:

Overall, pedestrian and bicycle-related injuries are among the **leading causes of death and hospitalization for youth**. Often, these preventable injuries **take place near busy schools**.



<https://parachute.ca/en/program/elementary-road-safety/>

Why Adults?

- Student safety patrols are 11-13 years old.
 - Only appropriate in low risk areas
 - Have no authority (peer-peer relationship)
- Adult School crossing guards:
 - Direct children with authority (adult-child)
 - Have authority to carry a stop sign
 - Can help report violations that impose fines
 - Can better assess situations
 - Can assist in an emergency
 - Give parents greater confidence



Benefits:

Program objectives include:

- Encourage safe crossing and street behavior
- Deter pedestrian violations
- Enforce motorist compliance with the law and safe behavior
- Report hazardous conditions to school and city/county
- Create safe gaps for crossing
- Provide one-on-one instruction with children on skills development.”

<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferjourney1/library/countermeasures/57.htm>

Study:

The Creating Safe Routes for Active School Transportation Guide states that studies show:

“the presence of an SCG was related to 14% more walking to school. Children were more than 2x more likely to engage in active transportation when SCGs are employed”.

<https://ontarioactiveschooltravel.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/OTC-Creating-Safe-Routes-for-AST-Final-A.pdf>

Compared to other Municipalities:

“Barrie Taxes Are Comparable

The following tables present the average 2022 property tax bill for common types of detached homes in cities with populations greater than 100,000.” (City of Barrie website, 2023)

MUNICIPALITY	DETACHED BUNGALOW
1 Markham	\$ 6,771
2 Toronto (South)	\$ 6,301
3 Mississauga	\$ 5,313
4 Toronto (North)	\$ 5,212
5 Oakville	\$ 4,985
6 Whitby	\$ 4,980
7 Vaughan	\$ 4,977
8 Ajax	\$ 4,875
9 Oshawa	\$ 4,815
10 Hamilton	\$ 4,579
11 Ottawa	\$ 4,470
12 Brampton	\$ 4,446
13 Burlington	\$ 4,329
14 St. Catharines	\$ 4,244
15 Toronto (West)	\$ 4,189

MUNICIPALITY	DETACHED BUNGALOW
16 Barrie	\$ 4,079
17 Guelph	\$ 4,075
18 Thunder Bay	\$ 4,062
19 London	\$ 3,975
20 Milton	\$ 3,922
21 Brantford	\$ 3,879
22 Kingston	\$ 3,876
23 Cambridge	\$ 3,861
24 Clarington	\$ 3,814
25 Kitchener	\$ 3,714
26 Waterloo	\$ 3,667
27 Toronto (East)	\$ 3,646
28 Greater Sudbury	\$ 3,550
29 Windsor	\$ 3,511
30 Chatham-Kent	\$ 3,339

Deterrents:

- Turnover
- Liability
- Difficulty measuring success
- Cost

Yet, both major and minor municipalities all across Ontario find a way to run this program and find merit in it!

Study:

A study published in 2022 by the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health found that:

“The presence of crossing guard was related to lower perceived danger by parents along school routes ...[and] that children feel safe when crossing guards are present.”

https://mdpi-res.com/d_attachment/ijerph/ijerph-19-02641/article_deploy/ijerph-19-02641.pdf

Responsibility for ASCG Programs:

- Who employs Adult School Crossing Guards?
- Contacted MPPs office & Ontario Traffic Council:
 - Ontario Highway Traffic Act sect. 176
 - Crossing guards are employed by municipalities
 - Precedence in Ontario

ASCG & The City of Barrie:

- What are our Strategic Priorities?
 - Thriving Community
 - “create and foster programs and opportunities to support community wellness
 - Community Safety
 - Community Safety and Well-being plan, Action area 3 states: “Safety is for everyone”.

In Closing:

- Not asking for a tax hike, rather implement over time, increasing locations incrementally
- Start with most essential locations as warranted by the Ontario Traffic Council's "Crossing Guard Guide"
- Opportunity to make residents feel safe
- when canvassing so many said to me, "it's only a matter of time" before someone gets killed or injured here--Be proactive, not reactive
- Follow through on stated priorities
- Be the Mayor and Council that finally gives us an Adult School Crossing Guard Program in Barrie

Thank-you!