



South Crosby Public School

School Council

1 Halladay Street, PO Box 160
Elgin, ON K0G 1E0



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Dear Mayor Hoogenboom and councillors,

We are writing concerning the safety of the intersection closest to South Crosby Public School. We are requesting council consider implementing a crossing guard at Halladay and Church Streets in the Village of Elgin.

In recent years, South Crosby Public School has grown wonderfully to double in size. The student population is now sitting at a record 330 students.

Being a rural school, many of our students ride the bus to and from school. However, many also walk or get rides from neighbouring communities. This results in a bottle neck of walkers with parents and caregivers, students being dropped off and buses twice per day at the intersection of Halladay Street and Church Street. The side streets are quite narrow and there is limited parking in the area.

The school has already taken the initiative to close the school's parking lot to vehicular traffic during these times of the day, between 9:10 a.m. and 9:40 a.m. as well as between 3:30 p.m. and 3:55 p.m. to alleviate the safety concerns of personal vehicles mixing with buses and children walking. In addition, a walking guideline has been painted on the parking lot pavement in an effort to flow local children safety through the parking lot zone to the schoolyard gate.

Our concern lies with the intersection of Halladay and Church Streets, at the entrance of the school parking lot. It would be beneficial to have a crossing guard at this intersection during those 30 minutes, twice a day, to control the flow of vehicular traffic and ensure the safe crossing of students to the school's parking lot.

The school's principal, David Balfour, already approached the Upper Canada District School Board with the request where we learned that crossing guards are a municipal responsibility. Indeed, the Ontario Highway Traffic Act assigns the responsibility for establishing and maintaining school crossings to municipal government.

We realize that the nature of our rural township may mean this is an unprecedented request. However, we are hopeful that you will give it thoughtful consideration as this affects hundreds of young families within your municipality. We invite the mayor and any interested council members to visit the school yard and intersection during morning arrival or afternoon dismissal to see where our concerns lie. Mr. Balfour and members of South Crosby School Council would be happy to host you and discuss further, should any questions arise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Harley Day
Chair, South Crosby School Council