

Feb. 23 proclaimed School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day in Orillia

For immediate release (Feb. 16, 2017) – Mayor Steve Clarke has proclaimed Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, as School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day in the City of Orillia.

Since January 2015, the Orillia Police Services Board has administered the School Crossing Guard Program. The Board employs 19 dedicated crossing guards, who are stationed at 14 crosswalk locations throughout the community. At the Board’s request, Mayor Clarke has designated a special day for citizens to show their gratitude to crossing guards and acknowledge their commitment to pedestrian safety.

“School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is a great opportunity to personally thank your neighbourhood crossing guard for helping to create safe walking and cycling routes to school and work,” said Mayor Steve Clarke, who is also the newly elected Chair of the Orillia Police Services Board. “School crossing guards provide a great service to the Orillia community and we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals committed to promoting traffic safety to children and motorists.”

Parents, children, and schools that are interested in showing their appreciation to their crossing guards can write letters of appreciation, personalize thank you cards, draw pictures, or simply thank their crossing guard with a friendly smile.

“While School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is about recognizing the important work crossing guards perform each day, it is also a chance to remind pedestrians how to cross the road safely,” said Nancy Wilding, City of Orillia Health and Safety Officer and Supervisor of Crossing Guards. “Pedestrians should remain on the sidewalk curb until the crossing guard signals that it is safe to cross. Remember to look left, right, and behind before entering the crosswalk, and listen to the crossing guard’s instructions.”

Wilding added that motorists can also show their recognition to crossing guards by approaching school zones with caution and waiting for pedestrians to completely cross the roadway.

Crossing Guards will be invited to attend a special reception with the Orillia Police Services Board on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, at 4:30 p.m. in the Mayor’s Office at Orillia City Centre, 50 Andrew St. S.

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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