

# **Crosswalk:**

## **Shatford Memorial Elementary School**

### **Who we are:**

- Shatford Memorial Elementary School's location is at 10089, Highway #3, in Hubbards, Nova Scotia.
- The school has 81 students, from Primary to Grade 6.
- It is part of the Halifax Regional School Board, in Halifax Regional Municipality.

### **Authorities involved:**

- Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)
- Province of Nova Scotia (TIR)
- Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB)
- Halifax Regional Police, Traffic Division
- RCMP
- Because SMES is located on a secondary highway, the crosswalk falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR).

### **History of the Crosswalk:**

- In place for several decades.
- The crosswalk was deemed “out of date” in 1997, and the Province began to remove orange crosswalks signs, replacing them with newer designs.
- The crosswalk at SMES remains untouched to this day, with an orange, unlit, outdated sign.
- This section of #3 contained a passing lane through the crosswalk.
- In 2007, during a routine scheduled repainting of the passing lane, a local resident convinced TIR to change the passing lane line to a solid line.
- During the summer of 2012, TIR received a complaint from a resident of Hubbards about upgrading the crosswalk.
- TIR determined that the crosswalk should be removed entirely, as of September 30, 2012.
- HRM Counsellor Peter Lund communicated to HRM that this removal was not feasible, as no replacement crosswalk was planned.
- HRP Traffic Division agreed to monitor numbers of crosswalk users.
- If there were sufficient numbers of users, HRM would upgrade the crosswalk, and implement a crossing guard.
- HRM's criteria were based on crosswalk usage in city zones, and not in rural areas of HRM.
- As such, HRM determined that the number of users measured was not sufficient

to warrant an upgrade of the crosswalk.

- In September 2012, the Province changed the speed limit to 30km/hr. when children are present in the school zone.

### **Who uses it?**

- 12 SMES students who are not offered courtesy bussing.
- 29 students who are offered courtesy bussing.
- Preschool children on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Community senior walkers.
- Mothers' walking group.
- Other community residents.
- Junior high school students waiting for their morning bus.

### **How it is used:**

- To convey students going to and from school twice per day.
- Access for various walking groups crossing #3.
- Access to the multi-use connector trail leading to the rails-to-trails behind SMES.
- Weekly evening activities (Scouts meetings, Hubbards Area Recreation Association meetings, etc.).
- Christmas and Spring school concerts.
- Overflow parking during school events, such as dances 4 times per year.
- After-school program (Excel) students, until 6pm.
- Access to playground for local children.
- Access for Halloween trick-or-treaters, including groups of 20 kids, plus strollers.
- Local women's club evening bicycle rides.
- Bike-to-school week (SMES achieved the highest percentage of participants from HRSB in 2011).
- International Walk-to-school events, each October.
- Community Terry Fox Walk

### **Crosswalk issues:**

- Overgrown trees blocking drivers' view of crosswalk.
- The road runs east-west, so the sun creates blinding light and shadows at various times of the year, and during the day.
- Crosswalk is on a rise in the road; difficult to see.
- High volume traffic, including dump trucks, tour busses, tourists.
- It is located at an angled intersection (Shankel Rd.).
- Outdated signage.
- Threat of complete crosswalk removal by TIR.
- No crossing guard as it is outdated. Volunteer crossing guards forbidden due to

liability issues.

**Possible solutions:**

- Reclassify crosswalk zoning as a pedestrian crosswalk, not a school crosswalk.
- Improve signage (neon yellow, larger signs)
- Improve infrastructure (lights, etc.).
- Install speed monitor display for drivers.
- Paint zebra lines on road.