

# New school crossing signs more visible

Children went back to school a little safer than in the past thanks to new fluorescent school crossing signs.

The Town of Halton Hills installed approximately 140 of the yellow/green signs around schools and intersections often used by children. The signs were an initiative of the Halton Hills Injury Prevention (HHIP) Committee and the Halton Region Health Department.

The committee identified the need for new signs after three accidents involving school children and cars over a 16-month period in 1995-97. The new fluorescent signs, which can be seen 40 per cent further than conventional signs, were installed as a six-month pilot project in February 1999.

There were positive comments about the signs, leading Halton Hills council to improve the new signs at all school locations. The new signs replace the old blue and white school zone signs.

"The blue and white signs were distinctive in both shape and color when they came out but over the years they have lost their impact because of the proliferation of

signs," said public health nurse and HHIP Committee member Shirley MacKay. "The yellow/green color is the most visible for the human eye and they are more effective in low light."

The signs cost twice as much as the old signs but the town felt the expense was worthwhile.

"Where these signs perform well is at dusk and in fog," said Bob Butrym, traffic co-ordinator for the Town of Halton Hills. "You don't have to have a headlight shining on it, they illuminate themselves."

The reflective ability of the signs

is more than 12 times greater than the old blue signs. Signs have now been installed at every school in Halton Hills, except for Limehouse Public School. They will be installed there once other work is completed.

The blue house-shaped signs remain the official school zone signs but members of the Halton Injury Prevention Committee will be attending the Canadian Conference on Injury Prevention and Control to discuss the benefits of the signs.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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