



Promoting Active  
and Safe Journeys  
to School

The **Walk 'N Roll** program continues to support schools and communities in the Timiskaming district with the promotion of active school travel and safe routes to schools. In the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the implementation, the program was expanded to include more schools and community partners. In addition to delivering education and encouragement events, school zone safety assessments were also completed in 3 communities. In active school travel planning, issues affecting the routes to schools were documented and potential solutions were leveraged with community partners using best practice.

## Walk 'N Roll 2023 - A Year in Review

January 2024

9

Schools participated in the Walk 'N Roll program.

8

Schools (1,621 students) participated in IWalk/j'Marche and Winter Walk Day/Jour de la march hivernale.

The above represents 647 students from the 3 French schools and 974 students from the 5 English schools.

School Zone Safety Assessments were completed for 3 schools. 2 of them found some immediate solutions while the 3rd school is looking at infrastructure improvements with the municipality.

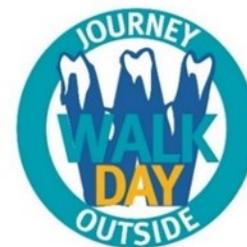
Social Media engagement - 281 Facebook followers and 218 followers on Instagram.



## EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL

February - 8 schools participated in **Winter Walk Day**; there was good awareness and participation from classes across the district. Recess walkathons were introduced in the judging of the contest for the golden shoe trophy.

Leading up to Winter Walk Day the **Winter Walk Photo Challenge** was promoted. This provided a great way to connect with families and extend the message home. Many photo entries were received and 6 snow scooters were awarded to draw winners.



May/June - **Bike rodeos** were scheduled at 3 schools and 1 community bike rodeo was delivered in Earlton. These events helped students learn how to ride their bicycle or scooter safely and learn the rules of the road.

October - In addition to 6 core schools, **Walk/j' Marche** was expanded to include École publique des Navigateurs and Federal Public School this year. Teachers at all 8 schools were provided with resource packages and a week of activities to support **Walk to School Day**.



# SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

3 schools were supported with **School Zone Safety Assessments** this year. While each school had different priorities to address, each assessment:

A. Proposed solutions to transportation and safety problems in the school zone and involved collaboration with concerned groups.

B. Created safe and active travel routes to school.

C. Aimed to increase the number of students walking and wheeling to school.

## St. Jerome Catholic School in Kirkland Lake



After receiving reports from the community regarding concerns about school travel safety, the Walk 'N Roll program staff and partners formed a working group to address the concerns. Site visits were performed and potential solutions identified. A report was written and submitted to the Town of Kirkland Lake for

consideration. The school board, school transportation services, Town of Kirkland Lake, and Timiskaming District Road Safety Coalition were all involved. Town Council hosted a Public Meeting and resolved to move forward with the proposed remediations. Which included making the intersection at Queens Street and Woods Street a 4-way stop and reinstating a section of sidewalk on Woods Street leading to the school.



## École Catholique St – Michel in Temiskaming Shores



Proposed recommendation for increasing safety and walkability at École Catholique St. Michel were compiled and submitted to the City of Temiskaming Shores. The memo advocated for an enhanced walkway with lighting to the back entrance of the school.

The municipality was already aware of the connectivity issues and is looking at potential cost sharing with the school board to make the improvements.

Advocacy efforts by TDRSC and the municipality have also resulted in a reduced posted speed limit on Hwy 11 in front of St. Michel, now posted at 70km/hour with plans for it to be further reduced to 60 km/hour during bus hours.

# École Catholique Assomption in Earlton

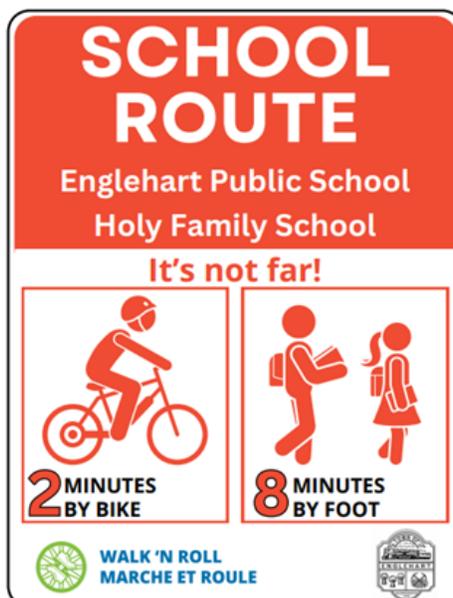
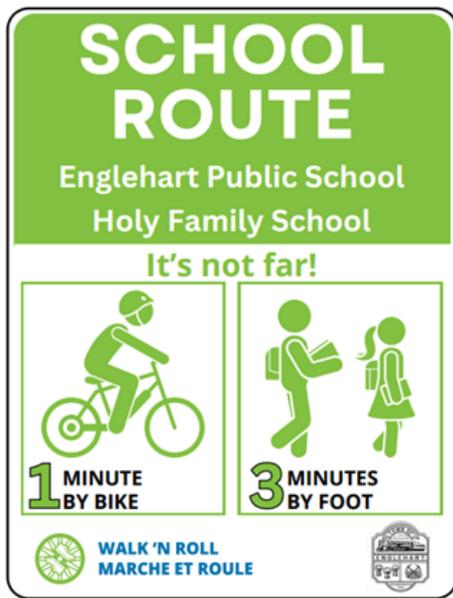


The community and the school in Earlton have been working closely with the Walk 'N Roll program since its inception, and the timing was right this year to formally suggest some improvements based on identified gaps in safe routes to the school. Proposed recommendations, including the installment of a pedestrian crossover at the intersection of 10th Street at 8th Avenue were submitted to the municipality for consideration. The Township was receptive to the idea and has plans to install the enhanced crossing in 2024. They have been a true active school travel community partner and are willing to look at solutions and work collaboratively with partners.

*“We had a great year contributing to school zone safety in local schools and neighbourhoods.”*

## WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PILOT

The year culminated with this fun project that will add route to school signage to the community of Englehart. In partnership with the town, 3 routes to the schools were identified and will be promoted with Wayfinding signs (3 signs on each route - actual design shown below). The signs are to be located along preferred walking routes and will remind families that it is not too far to walk or cycle to school. The signs also highlight the safest routes from various points in town to the schools. The project will be evaluated in 2024 for effectiveness.



**WALK 'N ROLL  
MARCHÉ ET ROULE**



Services de santé du  
**TIMISKAMING**  
Health Unit

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