

Press Release: Back to School 2015/2016

The latter parts of summer are starting to yield to the first signs of fall. One of those signs is the 21,000 or so students gearing up for the return to school on Tuesday, September 8th.

These students will be traveling back and forth to area schools in many different ways.

They will be walking, bicycling, roller blading, skateboarding, as well as travelling by school bus, private vehicle, and city buses and we want to get the message out to the motoring public to be ready and mindful of this upcoming event. "We all have to be extra vigilant during this time." Regional Traffic Safety Officer Dave Gibson says.

"We are used to going through school zones without reducing our speed to 30kph during the summer months." School zone signs go back into effect September 8th and are in effect from 8:00am until 5:00pm on days that schools are in session. Gibson also wants to remind the public about the re-appearance of school buses on our roadways. Traffic must stop in both directions when a school bus is stopped and displaying red flashing lights with an extended stop sign.

Every year we pick a different school site to be the "focal" school of the back to school safety campaign. This year we have chosen Anne McClymont Elementary at 4489 Lakeshore Rd. in Kelowna.

The City of Kelowna has been responsive to the concerns of citizens that have been petitioning for upgrades to enhance the safety of students traveling to and from this school.

City crews and contractors have been busy during the summer months to bring about these major infrastructure changes and enhancements. A good portion of the construction in front of the school will be completed for the start of school and most of the on-going construction will be at either end of the school zone.

Purvez Irani, Infrastructure Delivery Project Manager for the City of Kelowna, suggests that those needing to visit the school should park a short distance away and walk onto the site, thus alleviating some of the vehicular congestion. A new drop-off zone has been created in front of the school, in the drive through area.

Press: Coverage opportunities:

We will have representation from the RCMP, SpeedWatch, Bylaws and Regional Traffic Safety available for comment. The address is 4489 Lakeshore Rd and we will be on hand from 8:00 am until 9:00 am.

For comments:

Regional Traffic Safety Officer, Dave Gibson: dave.gibson@sd23.bc.ca or (250) 470-3283

RCMP Traffic Services, Cst Steve Holmes: steve.holmes@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or (250) 980-5353

Central Okanagan School District, Superintendent of Schools, Hugh Gloster: hugh.gloster@sd23.bc.ca or (250) 470-3256

SpeedWatch Coordinator, Colleen Cornock: Colleen.cornock@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

Bylaws Supervisor, Greg Wise: gwise@kelowna.ca or (250) 469-8618
