
Haldimand County

Report ENG-14-2025 Additional Crossing Guards and Speed Limit Reduction, New Elementary School, Avalon Subdivision, Caledonia



For Consideration by Council in Committee on June 17, 2025

Objective:

To receive Council approval to install two crossing guards and create a 40 km/h speed zone in preparation for the anticipated opening of the joint Grand River Public and Pope Francis Catholic Elementary Schools in Caledonia.

Recommendations:

1. THAT Report ENG-14-2025 Additional Crossing Guards and Speed Limit Reduction, New Elementary School, Avalon Subdivision, Caledonia be received;
2. AND THAT a permanent school crossing guard be implemented at the intersection of Thompson Road and Patterson Drive for the Grand River Public and Pope Francis Catholic Elementary Schools in Caledonia;
3. AND THAT a permanent school crossing guard be implemented at the intersection of MacLachlan Avenue and Whithorn Crescent for the Grand River Public and Pope Francis Catholic Elementary Schools in Caledonia;
4. AND THAT future costs associated with these recommendations be included in the Draft 2026 Tax Supported Operating Budget for consideration during budget deliberations”;
5. AND THAT the Rate of Speed By-law 2356/22 be amended on Whithorn Crescent, MacLachlan Avenue and Thompson Road as outlined in Report ENG-14-2025;
6. AND THAT the by-law attached to Report ENG-14-2025 be approved at a future Council meeting.

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Reviewed by: Kristopher R. Franklin, Manager, Engineering Services

Respectfully submitted: Tyson Haedrich, M. Eng., P. Eng., General Manager, Engineering & Capital Works

Approved: Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

A new joint-use elementary school, shared by the Grand Erie District School Board (GEDSB) and the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCBSB), is scheduled to open this September in the Avalon Subdivision in Caledonia. The schools will be named Grand River Public School and Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School, and will serve an estimated 746 elementary-aged students.

To support the safe and efficient movement of pedestrians and vehicles near the new school, staff are recommending the installation of two supervised school crossings, one at MacLachlan Avenue and Whithorn Crescent, and another at Thompson Road and Patterson Drive.

If approved, the cost of these additions will have an estimated negative financial impact of \$11,410 on the overall surplus/deficit in the 2025 Tax Supported Operating Budget and will appear as a Council-Approved Initiative in the 2026 Tax Supported Operating Budget.

In accordance with the Haldimand County School Speed Limit Warrant Guidelines, 40 km/h speed zones are recommended for Whithorn Crescent and portions of MacLachlan Avenue and Thompson Road. To implement these changes, an amendment to the Haldimand County Rate of Speed By-law 2356/22 is required.

Background:

A new joint-use elementary school, shared by the Grand Erie District School Board (GEDSB) and the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board (BHNCBSB), is scheduled to open in Caledonia in September 2025. The schools will be named Grand River Public School and Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School, respectively. Together, they will serve an estimated 746 elementary-aged students and will be located at the intersection of MacLachlan Avenue and Whithorn Crescent in the Avalon Subdivision.

Although the school block was included in the original subdivision planning, the timing of the school's construction was not confirmed during the initial development phase. As a result, the original traffic control by-laws did not include provisions for supervised school crossings or reduced speed limits consistent with Haldimand County's School Zone Policy. Currently, MacLachlan Avenue, Thompson Road, and Whithorn Crescent all have a posted speed limit of 50 km/h.

With the school's opening scheduled for this fall, the implementation of appropriate traffic control measures and supervised crossings is recommended to ensure the safe and efficient movement of both pedestrians and vehicles in the area.

Under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), municipal Councils are authorized to:

- Provide crossing guards at designated locations where appropriate signage is posted.
- Modify posted speed limits on roads under their jurisdiction.

To implement the necessary speed limit changes, amendments to the Haldimand County Rate of Speed By-law 2356/22 are required.

Analysis:

Haldimand County staff met with representatives from Grand River Public School and the Grand Erie District School Board (GEDSB), as they are coordinating the students walking to school, to discuss anticipated student travel patterns and the need for appropriate traffic safety measures. These discussions focused on the establishment of supervised school crossings and the implementation of consistent speed limits in accordance with the Haldimand County Rate of Speed Policy and Haldimand County School Speed Limit Warrant Guidelines.

While exact pedestrian traffic patterns will not be fully known until the school becomes operational, Haldimand County staff and school representatives will collaboratively monitor pedestrian activity during the school year and assess the need for any modifications to traffic controls as conditions evolve.

School Crossing Guards:

The opening of the new school is expected to generate significant pedestrian and vehicular traffic. To support safe and efficient student crossings, staff recommend the installation of two supervised school crossings, one at MacLachlan Avenue and Whithorn Crescent (east approach) and another at Thompson Road and Patterson Drive (see Attachment 1). The need for additional supervised crossings will be evaluated throughout the school year in accordance with the Haldimand County School Crossing Guard Warrant Guidelines and, if warranted, will be addressed in a future report to Council.

Rate of Speed:

The new joint use elementary school is located on a block of land that also includes the Avalon Park. The roads surrounding the block are fully urbanized and based on the recommended speed limits in the Haldimand County Speed Limit Policy and the Haldimand County School Speed Limit Warrant Guidelines, a 40 km/h speed zone is appropriate on Whithorn Crescent, and portions of MacLachlan Avenue and Thompson Road (see Attachment 2).

To amend the posted speed, the following changes to the Haldimand County Rate of Speed By-law 2356/22 are required:

Rate of Speed By-law 2356/22 Schedule "A" to Delete

Highway	From	To	Maximum Rate of Speed
MacLachlan Avenue	McClung Road	Fleming Crescent	50 km/h
Thompson Road	Fleming Crescent	McClung Road	50 km/h
Whithorn Crescent	MacLachlan Avenue	MacLachlan Avenue	50 km/h

Rate of Speed By-law 2356/22 Schedule "A" to Add

Highway	From	To	Maximum Rate of Speed
MacLachlan Avenue	McClung Road	Whithorn Crescent (east approach)	50 km/h
MacLachlan Avenue	Whithorn Crescent (east approach)	Whithorn Crescent (west approach)	40 km/h
MacLachlan Avenue	Whithorn Crescent (west approach)	Fleming Crescent	50 km/h
Thompson Road	Fleming Crescent	Montrose Avenue	50 km/h
Thompson Road	Montrose Avenue	Patterson Drive	40 km/h
Thompson Road	Patterson Drive	McClung Road	50 km/h
Whithorn Crescent	MacLachlan Avenue	MacLachlan Avenue	40 km/h

Financial/Legal Implications:

School Crossing Guards:

The current crossing guard contract includes twenty-one locations across Haldimand County. Under this contract, the estimated annual cost to add two crossing guards for the new joint-use school site is \$28,020.

The proposed addition of two crossing guards will result in a negative variance of approximately \$11,410 on the net surplus/deficit for the 2025 Tax Supported Operating Budget. If approved, this initiative will be included in the Draft 2026 Tax Supported Operating Budget for consideration, and will result in a corresponding levy increase.

It should be noted that the current crossing guard contract is set to expire on August 31, 2025, and a request for proposal for a new contract is currently underway. The net financial impact of the new contract will be addressed in a separate report, if required.

Rate of Speed Changes:

Roads Operations will be responsible for installing the required signage to implement the 40 km/h speed zones on Whithorn Crescent and portions of MacLachlan Avenue and Thompson Road. The estimated cost is approximately \$9,000 and will be funded from the Roads Operation regulatory/warning signage operating account.

Stakeholder Impacts:

Haldimand County staff and school representatives will collaboratively monitor pedestrian activity during the school year and assess the need for any modifications to traffic controls as conditions evolve.

Report Impacts:

Agreement: No

By-law: Yes

Budget Amendment: Yes

Policy: No

References:

1. [The Highway Traffic Act](#)
2. [Policy No. 2007-02 Speed Limit Policy](#)
3. Haldimand County School Crossing Guard Warrant (available upon request)
4. Haldimand County School Speed Limit Warrant Guidelines (available upon request)

Attachments:

1. Map Showing Crossing Guard Locations
2. Map Showing Proposed Speed Limit Reductions
3. Draft By-law