



Municipality of Wawa

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE UPDATE – JULY 2023

Department of Infrastructure Services

Prepared By: Rebecca Weatherall	Report No: RW 2023-10
Agenda Date: July 11, 2023	File No: C11

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the results of the Community Safety Zone (CSZ) Survey and Open House as they relate to school-aged pedestrian safety within the vicinity of the Municipality's three (3) school areas. This report aims to provide Mayor and Council with community stakeholder feedback on designating streets adjacent to the three (3) school areas as CSZs.

Background

As stated in the previous Community Safety Zone report to Council, CSZs are sections of roadway that are identified as being of special concern for public safety. Generally, CSZs include roadways near schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centres, hospitals, senior citizen residences, and are also used in areas that are prone to traffic violations. CSZs are designated sections of roadway, recognized under provincial legislation, which when marked with community safety zone signs allow for the doubling of fines associated with speeding as applicable through section of Bill 65, Safer School Zones Act, 2017. The signs that include "BEGINS" and "ENDS" tabs define the legal limits of the CSZ. The rules of the road do not change within the zone (ie. speed); only the penalties for the violations are increased.

At the May 16th, 2023, Council Meeting, Mayor and Council were in agreeance that identifying community need for the CSZs was an important next step to determine the validity of designating the streets within the three (3) school areas as CSZs. The May 16th report identifying street sections considered for the CSZs and maps are attached to this report for reference. The results of the survey and open house are summarized in the following section.

Community Safety Zone Survey and Open House Results

To collect stakeholder feedback, an advertisement including a link to an online survey was included as a maildrop with tax bills and an Open House was held on June 12th, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office.

Online Survey Results

There was a total of 33 respondents to the online survey. The online survey asked residents the following three (3) questions:

1. Do you agree with designating the roads highlighted in red around the Churchill Ave. school area as a Community Safety Zone? (Schools located in this area include Ecole St. Joseph, St. Augustine and Michipicoten High School);
2. Do you agree with designating the roads highlighted in red around the Mackey school area as a Community Safety Zone? (Schools located in this zone include Sir James Dunn);
3. Do you agree with designating the roads highlighted in red around the Winston school area as a Community Safety Zone? (Schools located in this zone include Ecole Publique de l'Escalade); and
4. Please provide additional comments.

The following graph demonstrates the respondents' agreement with the proposed CSZ as illustrated by the maps provided to Mayor and Council on the May 16th, 2023 Council Meeting. For each proposed CSZ, a majority of the respondents agreed with the proposed CSZ. For the minority that indicated they did not agree with the proposed CSZ, explanations such as expanding the zone to include other streets are cited as the reason for disagreeing with the proposed zone.



A summary of the reasons behind the disagreement with the proposed CSZs and additional comments is attached. It should be noted that most of the additional comments provided support the implementation of CSZs and included opinions on how to further improve road safety for pedestrians within the Municipality.

Open House Results

There was a total of 12 attendees at the Community Safety Zone Open House that was held on June 12th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office Boardroom (former OPP Station). Generally, the attendees agreed with the implementation of the CSZs and had specific CSZ feedback such as:

- Public agrees with increased fines and wants the CSZs to be enforced by police as signs are not enough; and
- Why are the speed limits for these zones not decreased? Consider reducing the speed in CSZs to 40km/hr.

Comments and concerns regarding safety that were not directly related to the implementation of the CSZs are summarized with the results from the online survey.

CSZ Comments to Note

Out of the 45 total participants in the study, a few key points regarding expanding or modifying the CSZs were noted:

- To extend the CSZ in the Mackey school area to include Ganley Avenue, from McKinley Avenue to Mackey Street (would require approximately 6 additional signs);
- To extend the CSZ on Winston Street to the crosswalk on Mission Road (no additional signage required); and
- To extend CSZ in the Churchill school area to include more of Magpie Road towards Mission Road, include George Street, and include 3rd Avenue at the top of Queen's park (would require approximately 8 additional signs).

In prior consultation with the OPP, Staff Sargent and Community Officer, it was agreed that the (3) three points identified above are not necessary, and therefore are not recommended at this time. It should be noted however, that the Community Safety Zone by-law can be amended at any time to include and/or remove streets (or sections of) from the by-law.

Staff Recommendation

To approve of the proposed Community Safety Zones, as illustrated in the maps provided at the May 16 Council Meeting.

Recommended Next Steps

The recommended next steps include:

- That Council acknowledges receipt of the Community Safety Zone Update Report, submitted by Rebecca Weatherall, dated July 11, 2023 for information;
- That Council acknowledges receipt of Community Safety Zone By-Law submitted by Maury O'Neill dated July 11, 2023 for implementing Community Safety Zones in the Churchill, Mackey and Winston school areas as agreed upon at this Council Meeting; and
- That Municipal Staff proceed with purchasing Community Safety Zone signage to be installed for September.

Attachments

- Attachment 1: Community Safety Zone Recommendation Report and Maps for May 16th, 2023 Council Meeting
- Attachment 2: Community Safety Zone Survey and Open House Response Summary

Respectfully submitted by:

Rebecca Weatherall, P.Eng, Assistant Director of Infrastructure Services



**The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa
Community Safety Zones**

Office of Infrastructure Services

Prepared For: Committee of the Whole	Report No.: DB-RW 2023 - 06
Agenda Date: May 16, 2023	File No.: C11

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to address safety concerns as they relate to public and high school aged youth walking to and from the three (3) school areas within the Municipality, and the introduction of designated Community Safety Zones. This report aims to provide Municipal Council with the background information required to determine whether designating the roads immediately adjacent to the three (3) school areas as Community Safety Zones is required.

Background

Community Safety Zones (CSZ) are sections of roadway that are identified as being of special concern for public safety. Generally, CSZs include roadways near schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centres, hospitals, senior citizen residences, and are also used in areas that are prone to traffic violations. CSZs are designated sections of roadway, recognized under provincial legislation, which when marked with community safety zone signs allow for the doubling of fines associated with speeding as applicable through section of Bill 65, Safer School Zones Act, 2017. The signs that include “BEGINS” and “ENDS” tabs define the legal limits of the CSZ. The rules of the road do not change within the zone (ie. speed); only the penalties for the violations are increased.

The Municipality of Wawa has received complaints from residents regarding the speed of vehicles within the immediate vicinity of the three school areas of Town. The ability to effectively enforce offences must be taken into consideration when establishing a CSZ. Therefore, the number and location of CSZs within the policing area is critical to successful enforcement. Municipal Staff, in consultation with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), have come to acknowledge that the thoroughway appearing streets adjacent to the three (3) school sites is susceptible to commuters travelling at speeds faster than the posted limit. The three school areas have been identified as:

- Churchill School Area;
- Mackey School Area; and
- Winston School Area.

Respectfully Submitted By: 	Prepared By: Dan Beach / Rebecca Weatherall Infrastructure Services
--	--

The Churchill School Area encompasses three (3) of the Town's larger schools: E'cole St. Joseph, Michipicoten High School, and St. Augustine. The sections of roadway identified as being of special concern in this school area are summarized in Table 1 below:

Table 1 - Churchill School Area Proposed Community Safety Zone Roadway Sections

Roadway Name	From	To	Adjacent Schools
Churchill Avenue	Grace Street	Maple Street	E'cole St. Joseph
Magpie Road	George Street	Churchill Avenue	Michipicoten High School
Boyer Street	Churchill Avenue	Magpie Road	St. Augustine
Arnott Avenue	Darwin Street	Boyer Street	E'cole St. Joseph
			St. Augustine
Darwin Street	Churchill Avenue	Arnott Avenue	E'cole St. Joseph
Parkhill Street	Churchill Avenue	Arnott Avenue	
Grace Street	Churchill Avenue	Parkhill Street	

The Mackey School Area surrounds the Sir James Dunn Public School. Due to school's immediate proximity to the downtown core and the use of McKinley Avenue as a main throughway for vehicular traffic, the sections of roadway identified as being of special concern in this school area are summarized in Table 2 below:

Table 2 - Mackey School Area Proposed Community Safety Zone Roadway Sections

Roadway Name	From	To	Adjacent Schools
Mackey Street	Broadway Avenue	2 nd Avenue/ Ganley Street	Sir James Dunn
McKinley Avenue	Mackey Street	Ganley Street	

The Winston School Area surrounds E'cole Publique L'Escalade. Winston Road is accessed directly from Mission Road and has no traffic calming measures as vehicular traffic approaches the school, the sections of roadway identified as being of special concern in this school area are summarized in Table 3 below:

Table 3 - Winston School Area Proposed Community Safety Zone Roadway Sections

Roadway Name	From	To	Adjacent Schools
Winston Road	Winston Road – 165m from Mission Road	Winston Road – 50m from Queen Street	E'cole Publique L'Escalade

Maps illustrating the proposed CSZs have been attached to this report.

The OPP noted that under the Highway Traffic Act, 10km/hr over the speed limit is a fine of \$40 with no demerit points; implementing CSZs would allow for these fines to be doubled. Based on the culture shift to increase traffic violation penalties in areas where vulnerable populations are present, the OPP agrees that establishing CSZs would assist with enforcement while protecting vulnerable populations such as school aged youth.

MTO Book 5 – Regulatory Signs, indicates that CSZ signs are meant to inform drivers that they are entering a zone that the community has designated an area where safety of its children/citizens is paramount. Ideally, there should be evidence that public safety is of special concern in the area that is being considered for the CSZ.

Staff Recommendation

Municipal Staff, in consultation with the OPP, recommends implementing the CSZs as described in the previous section of this report and illustrated in the attached maps. It should be acknowledged that due to few traffic calming measures, and the nature of the road orientation, streets such as Churchill Avenue, Mackey Street and Winston Road are susceptible to high-speed vehicular traffic. Establishing CSZs would protect vulnerable pedestrians and active transportation users by alerting drivers in advance of approaching the schools in each respective zone.

Recommended Next Steps

If Council finds it agreeable to move towards changing the speed limit to 40km/hr on the residential streets indicated on Figures 1 and 2, Municipal Staff will take the following next steps:

- 1) Host Public Consultation Opportunities (open houses and/or surveys)
- 2) Amend Traffic By-Laws and/or Develop New Municipal Policies
- 3) Order Signage
- 4) Provide Public Education Opportunities
- 5) Implement Signage for Fall 2023

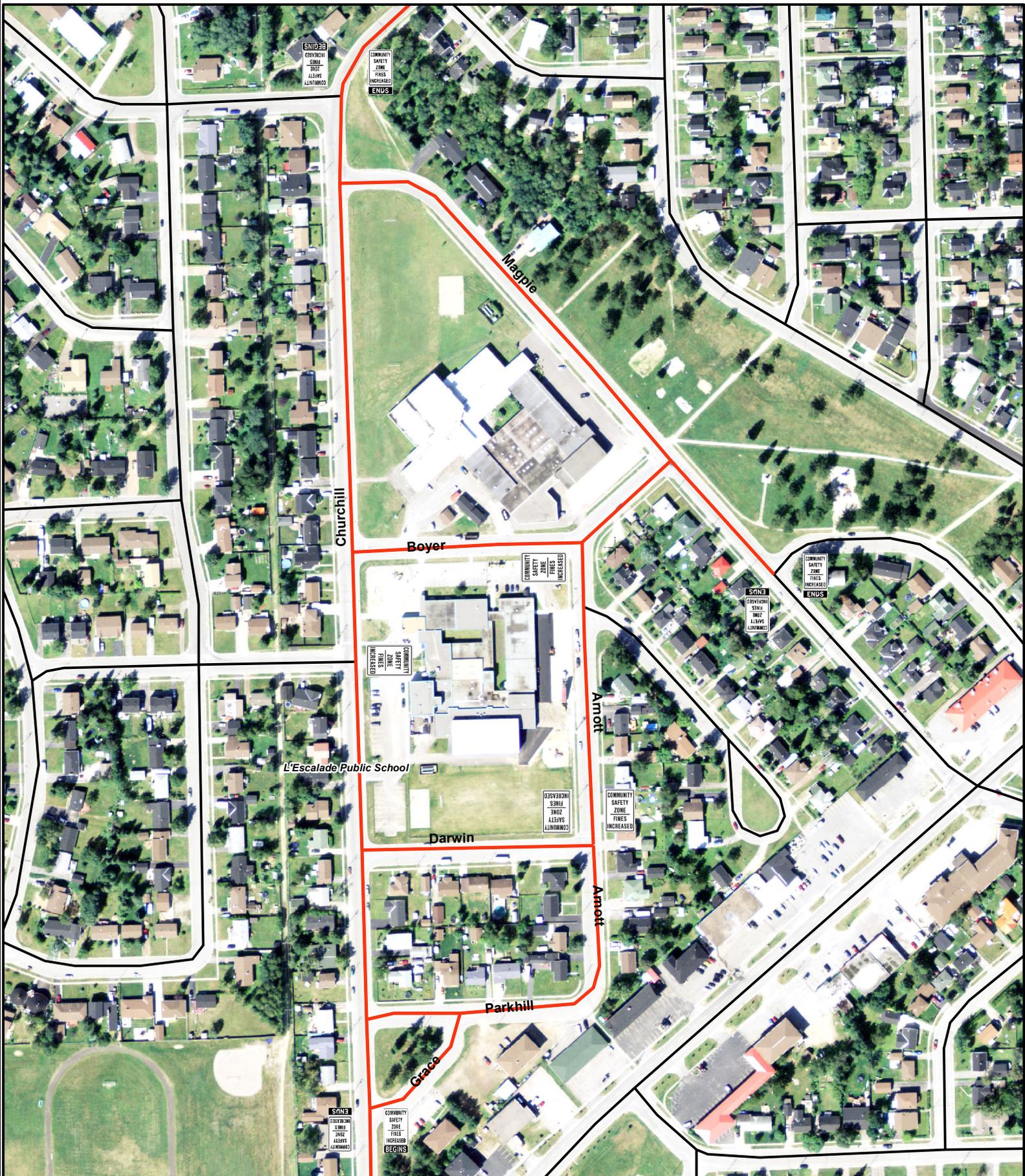
Council should note that Municipal Staff have increased the Operational Budget for signage in anticipation of implementing the three (3) CSZs.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Churchill Community Safety Zone

Attachment 2: Mackey Community Safety Zone

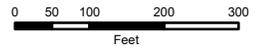
Attachment 2: Winston Community Safety Zone



Legend

- Churchill Community Safety Zone Roads
- Wawa Roads

Churchill Community Safety Zone Signs



Maps are provided as a courtesy only and the Municipality of Wawa makes no warranties as to the accuracy of this information. This map is not intended to be used for conveyance, authoritative definition of the legal boundary, or property title. This is not a survey product.



COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED
ENDS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED
BEGINS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED
BEGINS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED
ENDS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED
ENDS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED
ENDS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED
BEGINS

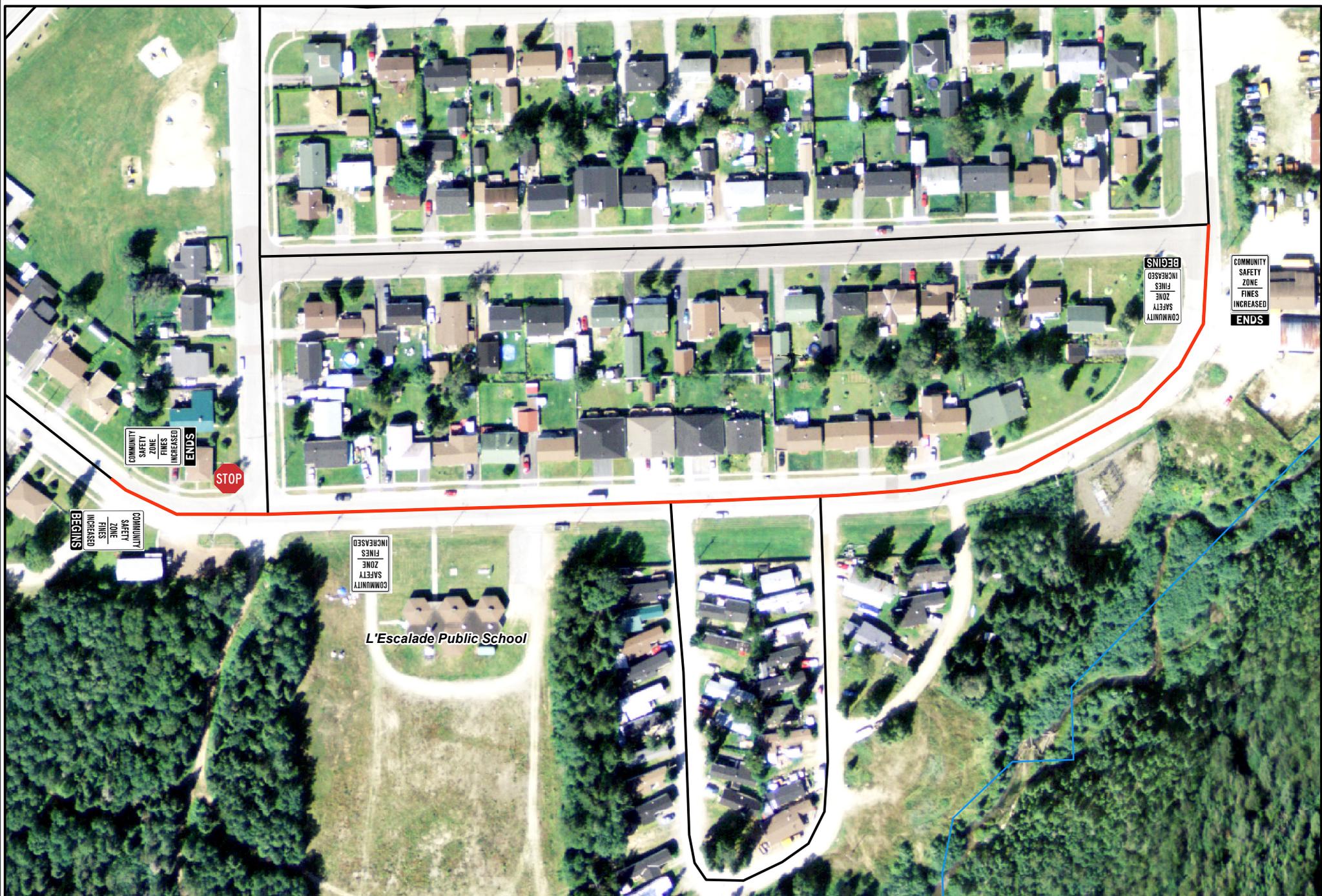
Legend

- Mackey Community Safety Zone Roads
- Wawa Roads

Mackey Community Safety Zone Signs



Maps are provided as a courtesy only and the Municipality of Wawa makes no warranties as to the accuracy of the information. This map is not intended to be used for construction, without proper definition of the legal boundary, or property line. This is not a survey product.



COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED ENDS

STOP

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED BEGINS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED ENDS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED BEGINS

COMMUNITY SAFETY ZONE FINES INCREASED

L'Escalade Public School

Legend

- Winston Community Safety Zone Roads
- Wawa Roads

Winston Community Safety Zone Signs



Feet

Wawa



Maps are provided as a courtesy only and the Municipality of Wawa makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of the information. This map is not intended to be used for commercial, political or other purposes. This is not a survey product.

School Zone Survey Results

Total Responses 33

Churchill
Yes 29 88%
No 4 12%

Mackey
Yes 29 88%
No 4 12%

Winston
Yes 31 94%
No 2 6%





Community Safety Zone Respondent Comments

Online Survey

Churchill Safety Zone

1	There is a corner on the top of Queen's Park Hill (3rd Ave) that many children travel down and around for their walk to/from school and vehicles WHIP around that corner. This is a major area where children walk (and they don't usually use the sidewalk side of 3rd either). As someone who lives nearby, I can tell you that if there is not a speed change made at that top corner, a child WILL be hit by a car one day.
2	Magpie and George Streets should be included as well. Those areas are the worst and nobody is ARO to enforce the speeding. Churchill should be from Mission road the same for George and Magpie
3	Area highlighted is too large of an area as compared to Sir James Dunn. A standard of having the same safe zones for all schools should be prioritized.

Mackey Safety Zone

1	As I live in this area, I can also tell you that vehicles go quite fast on the road behind the school, where the field is. I have also seen children play nearly next to the road on that field with vehicles moving fast.
2	I think it should also include Ganley around the curved side of the school block.
3	Insufficient safe zone area. Excessive safe zones for the catholic schools should be reduced to supply additional safe zones to the public school.

Winston Safety Zone

1	Safe zone should continue west to the crosswalk on mission road.
---	--

Additional Comments

1	Children are our future. Please respect school zones.
2	Everything is close and centralized in Wawa. There's no reason to not slow down.
3	This is needed, and should have been done long ago. Better yet, do not have municipality dump trucks and snow blowers in area during school times.
4	Major change needed: speed reduction on the top of 3rd Ave at Queen's Park.
5	Speed limits should be reduced to 40 in these areas
6	Also, I wish to comment on the fact that crosswalks are no longer painted on the roads. The crossing from Mission Rd. To Hwy 101 is especially dangerous . It is Pedestrian Beware at this corner. Cars do not yield to pedestrians!!
7	Also what are the bike lanes for. parking boats and trailers I guess enforcement is needed
8	It's hard to please everyone but I am not satisfied with the safe zone proposals in this survey.
9	Why is parking currently allowed in the bicycle lanes on Magpie Rd? This is dangerous for children.
10	In addition, I think there should be a designated crossing section on Broadway Avenue by the Post Office as there is no longer a crossing guard for that area. Broadway is a busy street and many children walk to attend Sir James Dunn and participate in the Public Library after school programs.
11	I would also like to see the sidewalks being used and traffic safety being a priority instruction. ie: left hand side of the road where there are no sidewalks!
12	Ganley street needs to be included as well lots kids walk in that direction.
13	We have been pleading for these for years including bike lanes and sidewalk maintenance. Past councils especially under Ron Rody have refused to even maintain or plow sidewalks around the french schools or enforce no parking on the street bylaws forcing kids to walk in the middle of the roads to get to school. I'm very happy to see current council addressing this!



Community Safety Zone Respondent Comments

Open House Feedback	
1	Crossing guard at post office – why removed? Needed for SJD students
2	Speed spy requested on Churchill and Mackey for speeding concerns – can be shared between the three new community safety zones
3	Crosswalk requested uptown on Broadway Avenue for SJD students – only school without one; students have to walk to Magpie crosswalk to cross Broadway/Mission.
4	Public wants these new zones enforced by police, not just signs posted
5	Increased fines are good, but only if police are out catching speeders
6	Why won't the speed limits be reduced in community safety zones? Please consider 40km/hr speed limits around local schools.
7	Some believe they “know for a fact” drivers are speeding on Churchill Ave. (despite explaining to them our past focused patrol results show the majority of people are not speeding).
8	Can people park vehicles in bike lanes? Issues on Magpie and Churchill of vehicles parked in newly added bicycle lanes.