

The Township road network in Rockwood includes both a Provincial Highway (Alma Street and Main Street South) and a Wellington County Road (Main Street North). These upper tier roads are an integral part of the Provincial and County road networks and, therefore, have significantly higher traffic volumes than other roads in Rockwood. The Township of Guelph/Eramosa continues to pursue safe crossings for pedestrians in Rockwood.

School Crossings

A **school crossing** is any pedestrian crossing where a school crossing guard is present and displaying a school crossing stop sign.



Image Credit: Ministry of Transportation

As of January 1, 2016, drivers - including cyclists - must stop and yield the whole roadway at school crossings where there is a crossing guard present. Drivers and cyclists must wait until children, school crossing guards and all pedestrians have completely crossed the road.

Pedestrian Crossover

A **pedestrian crossover** is a place designated for pedestrians to cross a road. Crossovers are designed to keep pedestrians together where they can be seen by motorists, and where they can cross most safely across the flow of vehicular traffic.



Image Credit: Ministry of Transportation

Section 140 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act states that:

When a pedestrian is crossing on the roadway within a pedestrian crossover, the driver of a vehicle approaching the crossover,

- shall stop before entering the crossover;
- shall not overtake another vehicle already stopped at the crossover; and
- shall not proceed into the crossover until the pedestrian is no longer on the roadway.

Drivers and cyclists must wait until all pedestrians have completely crossed the road.

Safety Tips for Drivers

Pay special attention to pedestrians as you drive. Here are some tips to follow:

- Always look for pedestrians, especially when turning.
- Watch for children. Drive slowly and cautiously through school zones, residential areas, or any other areas where children could be walking or playing.
- Watch out for Community Safety Zone signs that indicate areas where public safety is a special concern, including the possibility of encountering pedestrians.
- Be patient, especially with seniors or pedestrians with disabilities who need more time to cross the road.
- Always stop for pedestrians at pedestrian crossovers and school crossings, even when a crossing guard is not present.
- At a traffic light:
 - ⇒ Always come to a complete stop at a red light, even when turning right.
 - ⇒ Always look for pedestrians before proceeding through an intersection or when making a turn.

Safety tips for Pedestrians

Pay special attention to drivers as you walk. Here are some tips to follow:

- Cross only at marked crosswalks or traffic lights. Don't cross in the middle of the block or between parked cars.
- Make sure drivers see you before you cross. If the driver is stopped, make eye contact before you step into the road.
- Wear bright or light-coloured clothing or reflective strips, especially at dusk or when it's dark.
- At a traffic light:
 - ⇒ Cross when traffic has come to a complete stop.
 - ⇒ Begin to cross at the start of the green light or "Walk" signal, where provided.
 - ⇒ Do not start to cross if you see a flashing "Do Not Walk" symbol or the light turns yellow. If you already started to cross, complete your crossing safely.
 - ⇒ Never cross on a red light.
 - ⇒ Watch for traffic turning at intersections or turning into and leaving driveways.

Fines

Drivers may be fined **\$150 to \$500 and 3 demerit points** for offences at pedestrian crossings, school crossings and at crosswalks where there are traffic signals. The maximum fine for running a red light - a practice that puts pedestrians at risk - is **\$200 to \$1000**.

Fines are **doubled in Community Safety Zones**, near schools and public areas. These areas are clearly marked with signs.

Resources

For more information regarding the Ontario Regulations governing Pedestrian Crossovers and School Crossings, please review sections 140 and 176 of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act, which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90h08#BK227>

For questions regarding our local school crossings or pedestrian crossovers, please contact the Township of Guelph/Eramosa Public Works Department by email at lvince@get.on.ca or by phone at 519-856-9596 x. 120.

Source – Ministry of Transportation

- <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/pedestrian-safety.shtml>