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Ideas and Actions for a Walk Friendly Canada

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It looks like Spring is finally here - so to celebrate we're sending out a short Walkolution News with some spring-inspired updates.



WALK Friendly Ontario Spring Intake - Apply Now!

The spring intake of applications to the WALK Friendly Ontario (WFO) designation is now **open until May 30**.

WALK Friendly Ontario is a recognition program that encourages municipalities to create and improve spaces and places to walk by awarding Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum designations. Using our comprehensive framework of indicators for walkability, municipalities can benchmark their current status and measure progress over time. The program gives walking a prominent profile in community planning and design, and encourages municipal governments to set targets for ongoing improvements. As communities strive to achieve higher awards, the built environment is transformed to support safe, sustainable and independent mobility.

Download the

[Application Guide](#) to prepare your community's submission.



Bike Friendly Community Awards Announced

On April 14 at the Ontario Bike Summit held in Toronto, the Share the Road Cycling Coalition (SRCC) announced the recipients of four 2014 Bicycle Friendly Community awards. The recipient communities, all previously recognized at lower award levels, are:

- Guelph and Kitchener awarded Silver, advancing up the rankings from Bronze awards that had been given out in 2012 and 2013, respectively;
- Halton Hills and St. Catharine's awarded Bronze level - both of these communities had previously been given



honourable mentions, and used the feedback provided by Share the Road to advance their cycling programs to the point where they were ready to be recognized with an award.

The next application intake is now open until **July 11, 2014**.

For more information, visit www.sharetheroad.ca/bfc or email Justin Jones, Bicycle Friendly Communities Manager at justin@sharetheroad

Schools! Now that Spring is finally here, plan a *Spring into Spring* challenge to encourage your students to walk/bike to school more often. Print-ready posters and resources are available [here](#).



Walk (jog, skip, or bike) to school as often as possible between Earth Day (April 21-25) and Clean Air Day (June 4).

Students who participate in Spring into Spring benefit from:

- daily physical activity;
- a healthier environment;
- safer streets;
- making friends and having fun!

Active School Travel Social Media Campaign - Focus on Bike to School in May

Now eight months into the active school travel social media campaign (September 2013 - June 2014), the focus of the May campaign is on supporting children and youth to bike to school safely and enjoyably! Content will feature safe helmet-fitting resources, planning safer cycling routes to school, and stories from students on their #biketoschool experiences. The overall campaign - hosted on www.metrolinx.com/schooltravel - shares colourful 'infographics' once a month and weekly tips and tools using common hashtags #walktoschool and #biketoschool over Twitter (twitter.com/SmartCommute) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/SmartCommuter). Please help spread the word by sharing with your networks!

Ideas for action – help your child bike to school!



Did you know there are many ways you can help make cycling to school safer and easier?

Cycling is a healthy, low-impact exercise that's fun too - but kids need the skills, equipment, and supports to bike safely and enjoyably. As part of your school travel action plan, work with community partners to:

- Create safer bike routes to school and train students on cycling safely
- Provide bicycles, helmets, locks and bells to students in need
- Put enough bike racks in good locations (e.g. near school entrance/office)
- Promote and celebrate cycling...have fun!

More at metrolinx.com/schooltravel

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Join the social media campaign for active school travel!

- Re-Tweet: <https://twitter.com/SmartCommute/status/431079852217606145>
- Re-Post, Share the info from www.facebook.com/SmartCommuter
- Re-Tweet other weekly school travel tweets from twitter.com/SmartCommute and twitter.com/SmartCommuteFR
- Share your own wintery school travel experiences using hashtags [#walktoschool](https://twitter.com/hashtag/walktoschool) and/or [#biketoschool](https://twitter.com/hashtag/biketoschool)
- Embed the infographic on your webpage or blog using code provided in the pop-up
- Share the attached PDF in electronic or print with parents and schools
- Encourage parents and kids you know to use the iSchoolTravel calculator to log their trip and track their impact: bit.ly/istravcalc

Have you signed the Charter?

We encourage schools, students, parents, and practitioners to 'sign' the [Active Travel Charter for Canadian Children and Youth](#). If your community has created your own active school travel charter please send information to us so we can recognize your work here.

Out and about

Canada Walks is presenting at the following conferences - visit their websites for registration and program details:

Collaborative Partnerships Making Healthy Change Happen - Grey Bruce Healthy Communities 2014 Conference
May 14-15, Owen Sound, Ontario
www.healthycommunitiesconference.com

The Power to Move Kids - 2014 Global Summit on the Physical Activity of Children
May 19-22, Toronto
www.activehealthykids.ca/summit

Eastern Ontario Active Transportation Summit
May 29-30, Almonte, Ontario
http://www.healthyllg.org/active_transportation_summit.html

Talking Walking Interview

Check out the latest [Talking Walking](#) interview with Professor **Jody Rosenblatt Naderi**, Chair of the Landscape Architecture Department, at Ball State University, in Indiana in the USA. Part of Jody's interview provides details on how trees positively impact parental perceptions about walking to school.

Walk21 Sydney 2014: Full details of the key themes and complimentary themes are available on the [website](#).



Proposed Changes to Highway Traffic Act Support Pedestrian Safety

In March 2014, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation passed [Bill 173](#), proposed legislative and supporting regulatory amendments to the Highway Traffic Act (HTA). Canada Walks welcomes this news as some of the proposed changes will improve pedestrian safety and access.

Bill 173 to amend the HTA seeks to expand the definition of a pedestrian crossover. If passed, the Bill will give the Minister the power to allow municipalities to install new pedestrian crossing devices on low-speed and low-volume roads, which means the possibility of signed-only mid-block crossings with pedestrian right-of-way and no need for signals or stop signs.

The [Pedestrian Death Review](#) issued by the Office of the Chief Coroner for Ontario in 2010, found mid-block crossings to be a causal factor in 31% of pedestrian deaths.

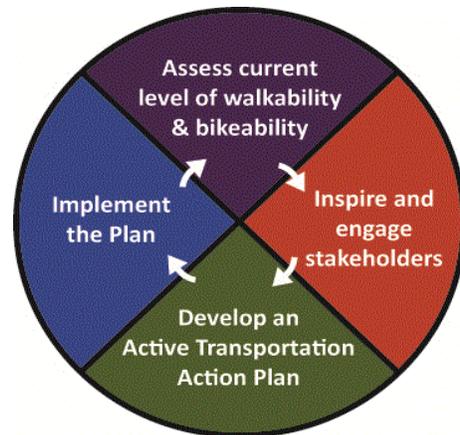
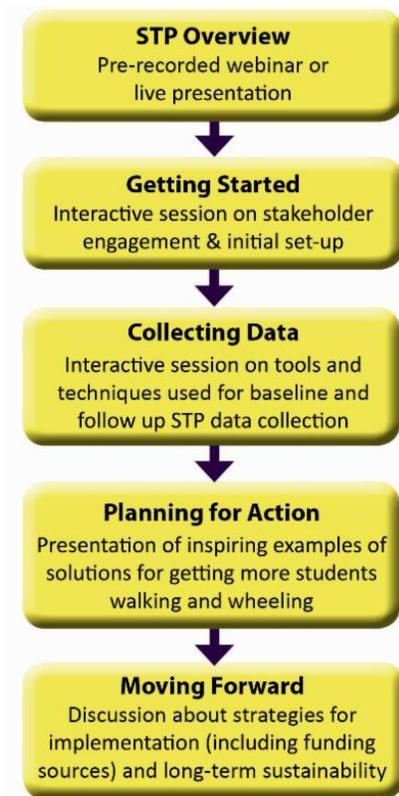
The Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15 - Pedestrian Crossing Facilities is currently being updated to include additional, and less expensive ground mounted treatments, which include the courtesy crossing. These new crossing treatments and the right-of-way of pedestrians using them will provide people with safer and more convenient crossing options.

It's Your Move Videos

If you live in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area then you should check out [these videos](#) created by the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation in partnership with Metrolinx. Four videos have been created so far: Metrolinx President and CEO Bruce McCuaig; Peel Region's Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Mowat; Susan Eng, Director of Advocacy at CARP (Canadian Association of Retired Persons); and Dr. Scott Wooder, President of the Ontario Medical Association and resident of the City of Hamilton. The videos are part of a project to promote the importance of dedicated funding for walking and cycling.

Canada Walks can help you meet your walkability goals!

We offer a full range of workshops and consulting services to help you:



School Travel planning is now available - [contact us](#) to learn more.

The training is offered in a modular format so that each community can learn about topics that are relevant to their current level of experience with active school travel. Content is customized for each community.

If you have story ideas or walking news you'd like to share please send to us at asrts@sympatico.ca. Be sure to include your contact details.

Donate Now

Canada Walks Walkolution News profiles actions across Canada undertaken by Green Communities Canada and our many local partners to help create communities where walking is safe, easy, enjoyable, and inviting. By making a donation to the Green Communities Foundation you can provide vital support for this work. Just click on the Donate Now button and indicate in the comments section that you'd like your gift to go to the work of Canada Walks.

Our Partners



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