

Westville Police Service

"Committed to building a safe, healthy, friendly, and engaged community through a high level of policing"

Westville Police Service members responded to 128 calls for service in the month of July 2021. Of the calls for the month, 46 criminal investigations, 19 other provincial statutes, 8 municipal by-law enforcements, 12 are motor vehicles related and 42 are other calls to service.

Westville Police Service and the Westville Public Works Department had been very busy with implementing the new crosswalks within the Town of Westville. Some crosswalks have been moved and a new design painted to make them more visible to motorists. The Town of Westville is now in compliance under Transportation Nova Scotia and the Railway Safety Act and the For more information pertaining to crosswalk safety, you can go to the provincial website at <https://novascotia.ca/tran>.

Crosswalk Safety Campaign Q&A

How much did you spend on this campaign?

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal and Halifax Regional Municipality have funded the campaign: \$36,000 and \$20,000 respectively for a total of \$56,000. This includes design, photography, talent, production cost, media buy, etc.

What else is the province doing to make crosswalks safer?

The crosswalk safety campaign is part of the province's legislative enforcement and awareness initiatives to improve crosswalk safety. Initiatives include amendments to the motor vehicle act clarifying the responsibilities of pedestrians and drivers, a ban on hand-held cell phones, legislation to combat street racing and an initial investment of \$300,000 over three years to begin implementing recommendations from the report of the Joint Crosswalk Safety Task Force.

Are you targeting pedestrians or drivers?

The purpose of the campaign is to remind drivers and pedestrians that crosswalk safety is a shared responsibility. Both drivers and pedestrians have to pay attention around crosswalks and intersections.

What is the difference between a marked and unmarked crosswalk?

Crosswalks exist at every intersection. Marked crosswalks have painted white lines and unmarked crosswalks do not. Vehicles must yield to pedestrians in both marked and unmarked crosswalks and pedestrians should use marked crosswalks when available.

Do pedestrian always have the right of way?

Both drivers and pedestrians are responsible for crosswalk safety. Pedestrians do have the right of way in crosswalks, but they also have the responsibility to cross safely. Pedestrians should never assume drivers will see them and stop.

What can I do to minimize distractions while driving?

There are several things you can do to avoid distractions while driving including;

- Pull over if you need to make a phone call or text.
- Adjust the temperature, radio or CD player before you start driving.
- Take a rest stop to eat or drink.
- Finish grooming before you leave home. Do not attempt to brush your hair or apply make-up while driving.
- Be prepared for poor driving conditions or unsafe actions by other motorists.

What can I do to minimize distractions as a pedestrian?

- Always pay attention. Remove headphones and put away cell phones and other electronic devices when crossing the street.

What do pedestrians need to know about crossing safely?

- Look all ways
- Always use crosswalks and pedestrian-activated signals when they are available and cross only at intersections if they are not.
- Make eye contact with drivers before stepping out on to the street.
- Walk on the sidewalk. If there are no sidewalks, walk off the road, facing traffic.
- Watch for vehicles backing up in driveways or parking lots.

What are penalties for those who fail to abide by the Motor Vehicle Act?

Motorists and pedestrians who fail to abide by the Motor Vehicle Act are subject to penalties such as demerit points, licence suspensions and fines ranging from \$500 for a first offence to \$2,000 for a third offence.