

Back-To-School Safety Tips

By Chris Urquhart

If your child walks to school or to the bus stop plan a walking route. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards. Parents should walk the route with the child beforehand.

Remind them to walk facing traffic if no sidewalks exist, to cross the streets at corners using traffic signals and crosswalks, stop at the curb before crossing the street and look left, right and left again before crossing. Make sure drivers see you before crossing in front, walk (don't run) across the street and cross at least 10 giant steps in front of a school bus. Also, it is best to walk to and from school with a sibling, friend or neighbour.

If your child is old enough to ride a bike to school, or even a scooter, make sure they each wear a bike helmet that fits properly. Bike helmets that are too small no longer offer the protection needed, so a new helmet might be a good addition to your back-to-school shopping list. If children ride scooters, make sure they wear sturdy shoes, a helmet, kneepads and elbow pads.

For those children who ride the school bus, and this is most of our children here in Masstown, remember that bus safety begins long before you board the bus. Riders should arrive at the bus stop early, stay out of the street, line up facing the bus and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before boarding. If a child's bus has seat belts, the child should use them.

Students need to stay seated and keep heads and arms inside the bus while riding. When exiting the bus, passengers should

wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and then exit from the front using the handrail. Once out, students should move immediately onto the sidewalk and out of traffic. They should wait for a signal from the bus driver before crossing the street and walk at least 10 giant steps away from the front of the bus so the driver can see them.

No one should bend down in front of the bus to tie shoes or pick-up objects - the driver may not see them before starting to move. If for some reason you are driving your child to school remember that they must wear their seat belt and use an age and size appropriate car safety seat or booster set, if needed. Children less than 13 years old should ride in the rear seat.

Drop children as close to school as possible. If someone other than a parent is picking a child up from school, pick a password the child can remember to ensure it is a safe adult. Because of the higher accident rate among teen drivers, parents should require seat belt use, limit the number of passengers and forbid eating, drinking, cell phone use or texting.

It's also a good idea to limit teenagers' nighttime and inclement weather driving. Unfortunately not everyone out there is a nice person who can be trusted. Children should be taught never to talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers.

Parents should also be aware of putting their child's name on anything that is vis-



ible like lunch bags, clothing or backpacks. Provide emergency contact phone numbers for your child. Many families today have multiple phone numbers.

Finally, if children are alone after school emphasize the importance of keeping doors locked, post a list of emergency numbers, have children call a parent when they get home, set up rules on snacks they can fix, set up guidelines on who they can have over (if anyone) and make sure they never tell anyone they are home alone. Practice safety, keep your children safe!

MacCaull Villa Notes

By Hazel Hill.

Stella Power attended the July 3rd 80th birthday party for her brother in Clayton Park. Several from here enjoyed the salmon and strawberry shortcake supper at St James United church on July 14.

We extend our sympathy to the families of the late Jack Peppard and Cecil MacKenzie. Lydia Fisher is visiting her brother and family in Port Elgin, NB.

Celebrating a birthday in July was Kevin Fields. On August 9th, I celebrated a birthday. My daughter cut the cake and served everyone. I received many cards, phone calls and well wishes. I want to thank everyone, who helped me enjoy the day.

MacCaull Villa now has an elevator. On Thursday, August 12th, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held which included Harold Murray cutting the ribbon. (See photo elsewhere in this issue). Following the ribbon cutting Harold, staff from Cobequid Housing we up on the elevator for the first ride. On their trip back down they went to the lounge to join everyone for a piece of cake.

The elevator will be appreciated by those on the upper level, who have to carry in groceries or take their wash to the laundry room. We are getting other improvements, as well, including a new roof, new doors, carpets and painting. Our building is up-to-date thanks to Cobequid Housing.

Vernon and Carrie McCully celebrated their 50th anniversary on August 28th. We wish to congratulate them and wish them much happiness. Visitors with me were Joan and Sid Mitchell, Dartmouth; Ellen Layton, Trueman and Vivian Layton, Halifax; Hazel and son, Micheal McCormack, Upper Sackville; Ann Baxter, Centreville, Martha Hill, Winnipeg; Marilyn & Curtis Adams, Newfoundland; Brian and Elaine Hill, Halifax and Pearl Hill, Truro.

Bernice Kaulback's daughter, Valerie, husband, Robin and two daughters visited Bernice on August 21st, took her out to dinner and a nice drive. Bud and Linda Morrison have been spending their vacation travelling around the province in their new travel trailer.

By Linda Harrington

Great Village: The residents of MacCaull Villa are pleased to have plenty of ups and downs lately, thanks to their newly installed elevator.

The 20 unit subsidized senior housing complex was built back in 1976 and residents have always had to use stairs between the two floors.

"There is a long waiting list for elevators," says Brenda Richard, Property Manager of Cobequid Housing. "Elevators are very expensive and MacCaull Villa was fortunate enough to be selected this year for installation."

Ms. Richard says the government put out a tender for the installation of an elevator and Tate Construction, of Antigonish, was awarded the job at a cost of \$319,000.

Lloyd Tate, of Tate

Construction, says his company has done three or four other similar installations and they have learned tricks to improve the process. "There is nothing easy about cutting a building in half," he says, "But after doing a few similar installations in two story buildings, and having a great staff, the right foreman and good sub tradesmen, the job does become easier."

Tate Construction has been in business since 1971 and they specialize in small to medium commercial construction jobs. Lloyd Tate says the key to these elevator installations is making sure the needs of the tenants are met.

"We keep in mind that even though we have a job to do, this is the tenant's personal home. They suffer a lot for the 3 or 4 months, and they

are going to be inconvenienced somewhat. While we are working it is our goal to treat them with respect, communicate openly and keep the inconveniences to a minimum," says Mr. Tate. "The tenants are top notch and very cooperative."

The elevator supplier was Thyssen Krupp, a national company, based out of Halifax.

Lloyd Tate says he handed over the keys to the new elevator at MacCaull Villa on August 12th. Harold Murray, a resident of MacCaull Villa, cut the ribbon during the grand opening and tenants were invited back to the lounge for some cake.

Joanne Fletcher says future upgrades for the Villa would involve a new roof and eaves trough.

THANK-YOU

We are pleased
to have been chosen to install a new
ThyssenKrupp Elevator
at McCaull Villa, Great Village.



On August 12th. Harold Murray, a resident of MacCaull Villa, cut the ribbon during the Grand Opening.



ThyssenKrupp Elevator

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