



## Railway Safety Week

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Please accept the nomination of our All Aboard for Safety program for the CCMTA-Police Partnership Award.

This program was coordinated by the CN Police detachment in Toronto. The officers driving the program are:

Constable Cynthia Stotz in Toronto  
Constable Robert Greer in Edmonton  
Constable Michael Melanson in Montreal  
Constable Norman Witzell in Vancouver

These officers are assigned to the Community Service Program within CN Police, which is managed by Inspector Frank Morgan.

Inspector Frank Morgan submits the nomination.

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This nomination is supported and endorsed by CN Police Chief Serge Meloche.

Respectfully yours,

Frank Morgan  
Inspector, CN Police  
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CN Police is committed to improve the overall road safety by engaging its officers in prevention and enforcement initiatives at our railway crossings.

Under our "All Aboard for Safety" program, last year was especially successful with the officers' involvement in two distinct initiatives: Safe Crossing Week and Rail Safety Week.

## 1. Safe Crossing Week

Since the *Safe Crossing Program* was launched in 2005, **270,000 elementary school children** have participated to learn about safety at railway crossings. In 2008, CN and Safe Kids Canada collaborated together for the third annual *Safe Crossing Week* and encouraged elementary schools in 50 key CN locations across Canada to come on board to teach students how to cross railway tracks safely. The key message to educators and parents was: Education plays a key role in preventing injuries. The work we do now with young children will have a positive impact on their behaviours when they grow older and commence driving.

### - **Enthusiastic. Motivated. Passionate**

These words describe the CN Police officers who have taken part in the *Safe Crossing Week* since its inception in 2005. Even more, these words describe the commitment CN Police have taken to produce *Safe Crossing Week* to help teach young children in Canada about safety at grade crossings.

Blending the creative and promotional talent of Gail Dever in CN Public Affairs with the logistical skills of the CN Police in Canada and the expertise of Safe Kids Canada, collectively we created a program that will help change the behaviour of young people around railroad tracks, level crossings and property.

Work first began in early 2005 when CN approached Safe Kids Canada about creating a program that would encourage elementary school teachers to incorporate rail safety lessons into their everyday curriculum. The program turned into a one-day event at the end of October 2005, called *Safe Crossing Day*. CN Police incorporated this initiative and placed it under one umbrella and branded it *All Aboard for Safety*.

This was a unique partnership with a national organization known for its expertise in promoting safety to kids within the school system.

In 2006, CN Police expanded the program into *Safe Crossing Week*, involving hundreds of elementary schools across Canada and reaching millions of people through the media. Almost 50,000 students learned about rail safety from their teachers in classrooms and from CN Police officers at trackside (level crossing) classrooms.

- **Safe Crossing Week Team turns up to the heat in**

In 2007, CN Police took *Safe Crossing Week* to the next level. *Safe Crossing Week* was extended into the United States and the team created an employee volunteer program to give all 23,000 employees the opportunity to participate. Lessons plans, incorporating rail safety into language, math, social sciences and physical education classes, were developed for elementary school teachers in both countries. The team also added many new features to Obie's website for kids ([www.cn.ca/obie](http://www.cn.ca/obie)), including the *Safe Crossing* story and new games and activities to deliver even more safety messages.

- **Safe Crossing Week – Canada**

In 2008, Safe Crossing was held in Canada during the week of October 20–24<sup>th</sup>. During that week, 106,112 students in approximately 600 schools learned about rail safety, including the 15,000 who were taught by CN Police officers in assemblies and trackside visitations. CN Police managed the logistical challenges of coordinating officer's schedules with the often-elusive school schedules.

- **Employee volunteer program**

In 2007, CN Police expanded Safe Crossing Week by seeking employees within CN's 23,000 people workforce to become directly involved by visiting their child's class to talk about crossing safety. Because of the 20 CN employees who volunteered their time and expertise, a remarkable 2,342 young children in schools throughout Canada learned about rail crossing safety.

As a result of this initial response, employees who want to help promote the Safe Crossing Program in their community can now do so all year long.

Last year, more than 1,000 people were killed and nearly 1,600 seriously injured in grade crossing incidents or while trespassing on railway property in Canada and the United States. Those injured or killed could have been prevented, if not all of these incidents. Education is one of the keys to changing people's behaviour and reducing the number of these incidents.

The program is in its early stages and will grow in years to come. If CN Police can change the behaviour of our youth by education there is no doubt it will have a positive impact when these persons enter into adulthood and begin driving.

## **2. Rail Safety Week**

Operation Lifesaver and its partners raise public awareness of the potential dangers at highway/railway crossings created Rail Safety Week in 2003.

In 2008 CN Police officers were out in full force during the week of April conducting their annual safety blitz operations at highway/railway crossings. CN Police attended approximately 100 locations across Canada. Motorists were alerted to the importance of safety at crossings and the dire consequences of disobeying CN Level crossing signal mechanisms. Failing to stop at railway crossings is like playing Russian roulette. If you don't make it safely across the consequences can and will be devastating.

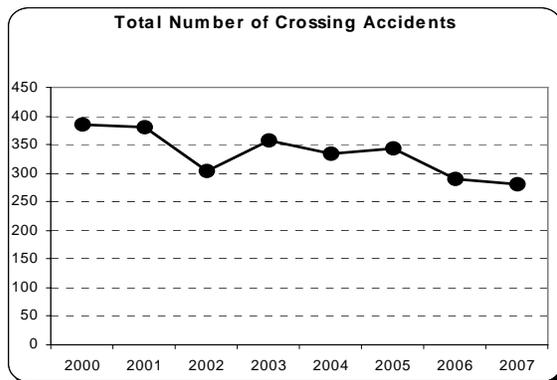
Focusing its efforts on promoting safety is not new for CN. Every year, CN Police officers make hundreds of *All Aboard for Safety* presentations and talk to more than a quarter of a million children and adults at schools and community events about the importance of safety and the dangers of walking and playing on or near railway tracks. They also conduct dramatic, high-impact simulations of train-vehicle collisions to demonstrate the potentially dire consequences of being careless and/or drinking and driving, especially at crossings.

In 2008, during the safety blitz operations, CN Police officers conducted an information campaign with motorists, cautioning them against the infractions associated with railway crossing mechanisms. All motorist stopped were provided a flyer informing them of the dangers associated with this illegal activity.

### 3. Statistics

The 2007/2008 figures are a good indication that CN Police is making a positive impact on reducing vehicle/train collisions at railway level crossings.

CN Police have for many years participated in educating the public with the dangers associated with railway equipment, railway level crossings and trespassing. We are proud to be part of the policing community that promotes safety to the communities we serve.



We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to review our submission.

Respectfully,

Frank Morgan  
Inspector

Att: Employee PowerPoint presentation  
Meet the Grade quiz  
Safe Crossing Week flyer