

## BWG's Walk 'n Wheel Wednesday

BWG - May 2016 saw the first official, town-sanctioned Walk 'n Wheel Wednesday at elementary schools in Bradford West Gwillimbury. The active transportation and recreation committee encouraged schools, parents and students to get active and walk, cycle, skateboard or scooter to class, instead of being driven.

The first Walk 'n Wheel Wednesday involved only two schools; that fall, four schools participated. This spring, interest has soared - with nine out of 11 elementary schools signing up.

Sir William Osler Public School in Bond Head organ-

ized a Walk 'n Wheel activity as part of its Mental Health Awareness Week event on May 3. The other schools - Fred C. Cook, Fieldcrest, Hon. Earl Rowe and Chris Hadfield Public School in the Simcoe County District School Board, and St. Angela Merici, St. Jean de Brebeuf, St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Marie of the Incarnation Schools in the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board - will be participating on May 10.

Councillor Gary Baynes, chair of the active transportation committee, noted, "The original two-fold objectives have not changed at all.

We want to encourage children of all ages to be active, and walking to school is a great starting point that we hope becomes a regular activity, not just something done on a special event day. "And the second objective happens automatically: there is way less traffic congestion near and right at the schools." The result? "Promoting active living while at the same time increasing safety near schools - a double win for sure," Baynes said.

Motorists are reminded to watch for school children walking - especially on Walk 'n Wheel Wednesday.