



OPINION



Driven to distraction

It's a common occurrence witnessed nearly every day on our roadways.

A driver, eyes glancing down and then up, then down again obviously fiddling with a cellphone or some other type of electronic device, unaware or indifferent to others who are sharing the road.

They're called "distracted drivers".

'Road hazards' would also suit.

"You think about the distance you're traveling at a high speed in a car and you look down for one or two seconds to text a word and you're running into the back of another car or through a red light," said Halton Police Chief Stephen Tanner. "It's not only your own safety; it's the safety of everyone else that's on the streets or your friends, relatives or children who get killed by someone else."

Tanner and Halton Region Chair Gary Carr last week signed a symbolic pledge against distracted driving, which is part of the Region's and police service's Drive SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) program.

OPP have also launched a province-wide campaign this week against distracted drivers.

Numerous studies have shown drivers are more likely to be involved in an accident if using a hand-held device while driving while other studies have shown that a driver's reaction time is delayed significantly if, for example, texting while driving.

In 2012 Halton Police issued nearly 3,600 tickets for distracted driving, hence the push to help curb this epidemic.

Driving takes concentration and the motor vehicle operator's full attention. There are enough hazards on the road without you being another one.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

The Halton Poverty Roundtable is trying to raise public awareness of the issue of poverty.

Do you believe poverty is a problem here?

- Yes (65%)
- No (35%)

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Letters to the editor

Cancer survivors connect at meeting

Dear editor,

The annual Canadian Cancer Society kick-off event was held last week and we were pleased to welcome our speaker David Josephy, who is a cancer researcher at the University of Guelph.

He is also the President of Life Raft Group Canada, a not-for profit support group for people who have been affected by gastrointestinal stromal tumour or "GIST". GIST is a rare cancer affecting the digestive tract.

David had been invited to speak at our event by one of our cancer society volunteers who has had this type of cancer and is a member of the Life Raft group. David explained to us that GIST is now controlled by an oral medication that was developed following years of intense research. Following the presentation, David answered

questions from the audience, and another volunteer at the event said that she had also had this same rare type of cancer.

The fact that two people in the same room had this cancer and were able to talk to each other was very surprising, as our speaker said that because this cancer is so rare, most patients only ever connect with other patients over the Internet or at yearly conferences held by the Life Raft group.

Both women have survived, thanks to the efforts of ongoing research and the targeted chemotherapy drug that was produced to treat GIST. Research is a lengthy, tedious, and expensive journey, and we were so pleased to be able to witness two success stories right in our midst.

So when a canvasser calls at your door this month, please know that every donation makes a huge difference in the lives of many people.

Cathy Gerrow, Acton Branch,
 Canadian Cancer Society

Hydro says thanks

To our valued customers:

Last Friday's ice storm was one of the biggest weather events to hit our community in recent history. While some of our customers were barely impacted, unfortunately others experienced significant outages.

I want to thank all customers for their patience and understanding during difficult circumstances. Our priority was to return service as quickly as possible, while ensuring the safety of our crews.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our staff, who worked diligently throughout the storm and the weekend to return our customers to full service. We are all committed to our mission to provide Halton Hills with electricity distribution excellence in a safe and reliable manner. Thank you for your continued support.

Arthur Skidmore,
 President and CEO,
 Halton Hills Hydro