

Opinion

Share the road

As everyone heads outdoors more in the good weather, we can expect to see more cyclists and pedestrians on our roads.

And we should expect everyone to do their part to share our roads.

Whether at the wheel of a working transport vehicle, an SUV, economy runabout or something in between, on our trusted two-wheel bicycle or on foot, we should make every journey armed with the knowledge we'll all return safely if we share our roads.

Sure, some of the roads could have fewer potholes or bumps, but we are very fortunate, despite ongoing rush hour gridlock, to have an extensive road system that is policed, in good condition and well regulated with signs and traffic lights.

While many areas of the globe feature road systems that are a free-for-all and others clogged like nothing you've seen before, we are lucky to have what we have and we should share it properly to safeguard human lives.

Last summer an Oakville man died while out cycling on Lakeshore Road near Third Line. The year before, another Oakville man died while cycling on Tremaine Road in Milton. Yet another cyclist was seriously injured last year in a local drive-thru.

This tragic loss of life and life-altering injuries that need not have occurred sparked concern among many in our town.

The federal government initiated a national task force to look at the issue of cycling safety. And area politicians applauded the initiative.

They are familiar with the concerns and are pleased to see local issues of concern take the spotlight at the federal level.

The Trudeau government's Minister of Transportation, Marc Garneau, announced he would work with the provinces and territories to create the task force, which would focus on increased safety measures for cyclists and pedestrians on the nation's busy roads. The minister said the task force would consider everything from cameras to side guards on large trucks, and dedicated bike lanes to electronic measures, to prevent collisions and reduce injuries and deaths.

It was set up in late September 2016.

We echo the calls for improved cycling safety.

We also recognize the basis to improving safety is everyone — governments (municipal, provincial and federal), cyclists and drivers — working together.

On every journey, no matter the means of transport, we must all know, respect and follow the rules of the road.

When we don't, someone is bound to get hurt.

SNAPSHOT



EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: *Champion* reader Mary-Ellen Leeder snapped a photo of a flock of robins resting in a tree a few months ago with the tree's branches and camera's focus giving this picture a dizzying effect. Do you have a unique, interesting, fun or cute photo taken in Milton that you would like to submit to be considered for Snapshot? Send submissions (minimum 600 KB resolution) to editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com or use the hashtag #MiltonChampion on Instagram. Please include the name of the photographer (for publication) and a description of the photo including the location where it was taken.



MILTON TIME CAPSULES

First World War veteran receives watch

Time Capsules are gems of information extracted from past issues of the Champion and other publications in order to provide a window into Milton's past.

April 1922

Town Council met on Tuesday evening. Pte. Ernie Stewart was presented with a gold watch. He enlisted in Milton in the first contingent under the late Captain A.C. Bastedo and served in the Great War in the "Fighting Fourth" Battalion.

He went through it all. He was not here when other soldiers got their watches, but the council stood by its pledge.

...

His Excellency, Lord Byng, this afternoon unveiled the handsome bronze war memorial in Burlington in honor of the men of Burlington and Nelson township who yielded up their lives in the great war.

The memorial, which consists of the bronze figure of an infantryman, mounted on a rugged granite base is inscribed as follows: "To teach that he who saves himself is lost, To bear in silence, through our hearts may

bleed, To spend ourselves, and never count the cost, For others' greater need."

...

Telephone communication with Toronto and Hamilton was cut off only a few days after the late ice storm, but the rural Halton lines are still out of order.

...

The rainfall of last Monday and Tuesday was the heaviest in the recollection of old residents.

Sixteen Mile Creek had never been so high after rain. In the East Ward it overflowed its banks and the flood extended to the Foster Street hill. This had never happened except when caused by an ice jam.

East of the town, every water course and ditch on level land overflowed, in some cases covering the roads with water. There was a washout near F.C. Willmott's.

The storm did a great deal of good to crops and grass is growing fast.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, who can be reached through the society at (905) 875-4156.

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