

# Seat belts not for everyone

To the Editor of The Herald: With the enforcement of our most recent regulation under the Highway Traffic Act (section 62, sub-section 3) pertaining to the wearing of complete seatbelt assembly, has come many hisses and boos of protest. Let me make it perfectly clear that I personally support the enforcement one hundred percent, and it has been a long-time practice with our family to wear the seatbelts despite the fact that it has only recently become an actual requirement.

It has, however, been my speculation that the law itself is pregnant with potential problems. This is only one story of many that deals with one of these problems. It is indeed a very specific problem that deals not with the majority, but with those select group of individuals who are known to our categorized society as "The Obese", of which I happen to be a member.

Now to be a member of this corpulent club I have had to be jovial, smiling, pleasant and extremely good natured in

order to conform with the prototype, as well as endure the humiliations inflicted upon the emotions of the plethoric people. Up until recently I have accepted the degradation characteristic to obesity quite mildly, but on this matter I must speak out... STOP...

It has been my misfortune to have received a ticket, requiring payment of \$23 to the court for committing the offence of failing to wear the complete seat belt assembly. It is not, however, a failure on my part to comply with the regulation, but to put it more

perspectively, the inability to fasten the said safety device around the capacity of the person.

It was my gross mistake not to protest or seek compassion from the imposing officer at the time of receiving the ticket.

This was due mainly to the embarrassment of trying to tell him that I could not in fact secure my seatbelt. Aftersall, how does one go about proving such a point without some rather close observation on the part of the officer? I was, to say the least, too flustered at the

moment to ask him to slide in on the passenger's side to make this observation. At the time the passenger's seat was already occupied by a member of our family (the family dog) who was also not wearing a seatbelt. I was not about to draw further attention to this fact as I feared picking up the tab for him as well. Can you visualize the situation?

After collecting my frayed nerves I drove home and placed a call to the Ontario Provincial Police in Milton and inquired as to what measures I might take to remedy the situation. With a few muffled snickers they kindly advised me to seek counsel with my family doctor in hopes of securing a statement to the effect that I could not physically comply with the regulation for specific health reasons.

I thanked them for their advice and immediately telephoned my doctor's office to tell the nurse what I would require from the doctor. I explained to her that I felt I did not need an appointment (taking up precious office time) for this matter. I had been to see him only a few weeks previous to this episode and was involved under his guidance in an extensive dieting program, on which I was having a great deal of success. All that I asked for was a letter from him explaining the current state of my health and provision possibly for a temporary exemption from the rule until such time as I was physically able to fulfil my obligation to the law and myself.

Four days later I received a call from his nurse advising me that he would not issue the

statement, his reason being that he felt everyone should wear the seatbelts. Bravo doctor! So do I. Unfortunately having this conviction does not somehow magically stretch the limits of those safety belts to cover the situation (so to speak).

Now I ask you... Just how much humiliation and frustration can one jolly person take?

Seriously, I am not seeking sympathy or any "Recommendation For Mercy" but rather only a little consideration for the vexations of the voluminous people. Surely all those people who sat back and designed these extraordinary safety developments were not all Rachael Welches and Robert Redfords... somewhere there had to be the odd Tody Fields and former Jackie Gleasons who were a part of the organization.

Where were they when the regulatory measurements were being decided upon?

O.K. let me put it this way... There are a certain number of measures that I could take in order to comply with the regulation.

First of all I could move my seat back about a foot thus giving me a few extra inches of actual belt length. This however would place me at arm's length from the steering wheel as well as placing my foot about eight inches away from both the gas pedal and the brakes. Now this of course would remedy the threat of obtaining any further tickets for the offence as I would not be able to leave my driveway.

On the other hand I could

rush out a purchase a roll of lawn chair webbing and attach it to the length of the belt. Again, does this comply with the regulation?

Of course, I could always assume the state of being pregnant whenever I may be imposed upon by an officer, but again I should probably be required to produce a statement from the doctor as to my condition, and no doubt

he would cop out on me again. Of course, there is also the risk that I may be picked up by the same officer eleven months later, and after all how long can a woman be feasibly overdue?

This brings me back to the current state of my affairs. With my court case quickly approaching on the 19 of February the only hope I can cling to is that I will get a fat judge.

I place my plea before you, the public, on behalf of myself and the many others like me in hopes that someone out there can offer me some technical advice and (pardon the expression) have enough guts to stand up and help us with this very real problem which weighs heavily on we the minority...the obese.

Mrs. Betty Stokes  
RR3 Georgetown



IN HONOR OF LEN COXE. The Halton Hills Library Board, commemorating the late councillor and friend of the library, Len Coxe, contributed a 13-volume set of Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedias to the library at a presentation made last Friday afternoon at the Georgetown Branch of the Halton Hills Library. From left to right stand; Councillor Pat McKenzie, Joan Lister, chairman of the library board, Mrs. Janice Johnston, daughter of the late councillor, Mrs. Ruth Coxe, Ruth Wilson and Betsy Cornwell.

## A big, bright, beautiful . . . encyclopedia?

by Betsy Cornwell  
Chief Librarian

Writing a review of an encyclopedia seems a rather presumptuous undertaking. Besides, they are such dull, if necessary additions to a library's collection.

Well, this is a review of an encyclopedia, one that is not at all dull and that simply invites the reviewer to be presumptuous.

Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia (pronounce it Chimek) is 13 fat and gorgeous volumes. No uniformly dreary covers; each volume features a striking color photograph of the type of animal life appearing in that volume. Inside, liberally sprinkled through the pages are further examples of animal photography and painting. Individual photographs, group portraits, habitat illustrations, "cut-away" drawings illustrating anatomy...all are present. Each volume has its own index, list of supplementary readings, multilingual dictionary of animal names and index by animal classification.

The list of contributors reads like a roster from the United Nations and the Editor in Chief's identification actually reads: Dr. h.c. Bernhard Grzimek, Professor, Justus Liebig University of Gießen, Germany; Director, Frankfurt Zoological Garden, Germany; Trustee, Tanzania and Uganda National Parks, East Africa. And thereby hangs a tale....

The Frankfurt Zoological Garden was already world famous before Dr. Grzimek became its director but under his directorship it became preeminent in the attempts to breed wild animals in captivity and thus help stave off extinction for endangered species. Over the years he has participated in fascinating experiments attempting to repopulate wild areas with animals bred in captivity. He has evolved incredible techniques for studying animals in their natural habitat and by example and encouragement contributed greatly to the inspiration of such notables as Jane Van-Lawick Goodall and other, engaged in the new science of ethology.

Among all his other heavy burdens he undertook, at the invitation of the Tanzanian government, a monumental survey of East African wildlife and as a result was instrumental in persuading Tanzania and Uganda to cooperate in setting up parks and refuges transcending national borders to help preserve the natural free ranging habits of Africa's endangered animals. Truly a man of more than ordinary persuasive powers.

Few people can have been better qualified to have put together this enormous undertaking. Or, to have persuaded the publishers to risk the capital to finance it. However, the risk was vindicated. The first edition, published in Germany, was sold out before it even went to press and subsequently printed editions and translations have justified Dr. Grzimek's faith.

His inspiration for this work, derived from the great encyclopedic works of a century ago, Brehms Tierleben and the Royal Natural History. No truly comprehensive work had been published since then and naturally our knowledge of animal life has increased enormously in 100 years.

What makes this encyclopedia so valuable is not that it has any startling or revolutionary knowledge to impart. In some cases what appears in it has been common knowledge to impart. In some cases what appears in it has been common knowledge in the scientific community for many years. However, this knowledge has not been easily accessible to the layman and that was the good Doctor's intention.

In this foreword to the Encyclopedia he says, "This work is based on the classification of animals into naturally related groups. We

hope that it will disseminate knowledge of the animals and love for them and that it will help to preserve room for the animals on this planet now so overpopulated by man."

There is another, and local reason this Encyclopedia is so important. The library board has dedicated it to the memory of Len Coxe, councillor and friend of libraries.

### Tough to sell insurance in town

Georgetown is proving to be the hardest challenge for two representatives attempting to sell life insurance plans to all chambers of commerce in the Halton, Peel and Wentworth areas.

Peter Dolg and Annora

McClelland, representing Great-West Life, have been visiting all businesses in Georgetown who are members of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce this past week.

During a brief visit to the

Herald Mrs. McClelland noted that their reception in Georgetown thus far has been less enthusiastic than they've received anywhere else in Halton but they're encouraged enough to continue attempting to set up the plan.

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This tax savings opportunity is called a Canada Trust Home Ownership Savings Plan and the money you deposit in this Plan is tax free if you eventually use it to buy a home or home furnishings (a cottage may also qualify). An individual making around \$10,000 could realize yearly tax savings of \$300. As well, the money deposited to the Plan earns good interest.

You can find out about the Canada Trust Home Ownership Savings Plan through a handy booklet available at our branches. But hurry you'll have to act now to save on '75 income tax.

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Even if you're already in a pension plan at work, it makes sense to take advantage of this tax saving since a company pension may not be enough to guarantee you a comfortable retirement on its own.

With a Canada Trust Retirement Savings Plan there's no sales commission to pay and your money isn't locked in forever. In fact, should you decide to forget the whole thing, you can get your money out. (But if you do, you'll have to pay the appropriate income tax.)

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