

Opinion

Summer safety

Fire outdoors can be dangerous.

Barbecuing, camping, and boating trigger thoughts of recreational fun that good weather and leisure time bring. But any one of these good times can become a fiery catastrophe.

Take outdoor cooking. Flammable liquids should not be used to light charcoal or wood fires. Flammable liquids, even charcoal lighter fluid, can cause explosions, serious burns and even death when improperly used near heat or flame. Boy Scouts don't use flammable liquids to start camp fires. Be a good Scout, don't use flammable liquids.

For outdoor safety, flammable liquids rank well behind other charcoal starters. Safest of all is charcoal lighter in cake form and labelled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada.

Using gasoline to start a fire is asking for explosive trouble. Trying to get more pep into a charcoal fire by dumping any flammable liquid onto hot coals is asking the fire to reach right out and burn you. If a slow fire needs help, tuck dry kindling underneath it.

Camping in the backyard has always been great fun for youngsters. Make sure the tent is flame-retardant. Parafin-coated tents are great for keeping rain out - but they can burn up in minutes with a child trapped inside.

Under no circumstances should any flame be used inside a tent. Flashlights are the answer. Supervision of backyard camping is a must for parents. Too many children have been seriously burned experimenting with campfires, candles and flammable liquids.

Boating demands fire safe activities too, and they are simple. When refueling, don't smoke or have any ignition source near the area. Leave a touch of room in the tank for fuel expansion and wipe up all fuel spills.

The same goes for refueling power mowers and saws. After you refuel, move the mower or saw away from the refueling spot before you start the motor.

Halton Hydrant says: "You will enjoy good boating, camping, cooking and living in the outdoors if you just 'Learn Not To Burn'."

Statfacts

A 1989 Statistics Canada survey on illegal drug use showed that 6.5 per cent of the population aged 15 and up admitted using cannabis (marijuana, hashish, hashish oil) in the previous year. While trend data on illegal drugs is sparse, the indication was that cannabis use had declined. A 1980 survey found about 12 per cent of persons aged 18 and over had used the substance. Following are some other facts from the 1989 survey, conducted for Health and Welfare Canada.

British Columbians had the highest use of cannabis among all provinces, at 9.6 per cent of the population aged 15 and over, according to a 1989 Statistics Canada survey. Nova Scotia was in second place at 7.4 per cent. The lowest provincial rate of cannabis use was 4.5 per cent in Newfoundland. Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan were next lowest at 4.7 per cent each and Manitoba was at 4.8 per cent. New Brunswick stood at 5.7 per cent, Ontario at 5.9 per cent and both Quebec and Alberta at 6.5 per cent.

Many users of illicit drugs eventually discontinue such use, a Statistics Canada survey indicated. Almost a quarter (23.2 per cent) of all persons aged 15 and over reported in 1989 that they had used cannabis at one time but just 6.5 per cent said they were still users. Similarly, while 3.5 per cent of all persons said they had taken cocaine, only 1.4 per cent were current users. And although 4.1 per cent said they had used LSD, speed or heroin at some time, only 0.4 per cent were current users.

Men proved more likely than women to be cannabis users, according to a 1989 Statistics Canada survey. Among all persons aged 15 and over, a total of 8.9 per cent of men reported using cannabis in the survey year compared to 4.1 per cent of women.

CANADA DAY

JULY 1



Our Readers Write

Wrong to reduce our military

Dear editor:

It seems painfully ironic that in the shadow of the Oka Crisis and the Gulf war, Mulroney and his hatchet men are destroying our military. How ignorant we are in Canada when we fail to see that we do in fact need an army, navy and airforce. The past incidents would seem to emphasize and reinforce this belief. The reduction in staff, the cancellation of replacement weapon purchases and base closures, only point out that the politicians have not learned from history. The NDP, academics and even Marcelle Masse say the Cold War is over. Does this end all of the threats in the world?

In 1938, Neville Chamberlain thought the world was safe from war, when he signed an agreement with Hitler. The result was that within one year millions were to die because of this naivety and corresponding unreadiness. The same type of neo-Chamberlain attitude is in the minds of whimpy politicians like Mulroney and Masse.

In Canada we do not have any excess resources to substantiate budget cuts. Our navy is a fine example. Our men and women are top notch, but

their equipment limits what they are able to do. The men and women of our military risk their lives for us while the protesters often snub their efforts. It is obvious betrayal that their livelihoods be snuffed out due to budget cuts. My family and other families fought and have served for this country, because we believe in Canada and value what we have.

Ottawa is ripping out the heart and soul of our military, believing that it is no longer cost effective. I say they are wrong! They are ignorant just as Chamberlain was over 50 years ago. Do we need another catastrophe in the world before people (i.e. Mulroney and Masse) learn the lessons of the past.

William Somerset Maugham once wrote: "If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom, and the irony of it is that if it is comfort that it values more, it will lose that too." Need I say more?

Yours truly,
Chris McHale,
Georgetown

Game is for the kids

Dear editor:

As a parent I am deeply upset with the officials of Glen Minor Ball. On June 19 the Atom boys from Limehouse were totally dominating the ball game due to the boys' experience. As the game was out of reach the plate umpire decided it was game over. Strikes were called on 7-8 year olds at eye level, leaving young boys totally frustrated.

Officials that behave in this manner only add fuel to fire the confused youth in our society.

Respect for all officials went out the window for the 10 boys from Limehouse. If the plate umpire has better things to do with his time then he should pursue them, instead of making a sham of officiating.

A total injustice was done to the good umpire crews who are dedicated to the game. Shame on you Glen Williams Minor Ball officials, get in the game. The game is for the kids.

Concerned Parent

Halton Hills

WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

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211 ARMSTRONG AVE., L7G 4X5
GEORGETOWN, ONT. (416) 873-0301

The Halton Hills Weekend, published every Saturday at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing group of suburban newspapers which includes: The Acton Free Press, Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, The Aurora Banner, Barrie Banner Advance, The Brampton Guardian, The Burlington Post, The Erin-Hillsburgh Echo, The Etobicoke Advertiser/Guardian, The Georgetown Independent, Markham Economist & Sun, The Milton Champion, The Mississauga News, The Newmarket Era, The Oakville Beaver, Oshawa/Whitby This Week, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, The Echo-Review, The Scarborough Mirror, The Stouffville Tribune, The Willowdale Mirror. Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing is a division of Harlequin Enterprises Ltd.

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Price: Store copies 50¢ each; subscription \$19 per year by carrier; \$52 per year by mail in Canada; \$75 per year in all other countries. Plus G.S.T.

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