

EDITORIAL

with Traci Gardner

Know when to stop

There are some things in this world that really set my hair on fire. Watching people blow by a stopped school bus is most definitely one of them.

Too many times to count, I have witnessed drivers who just don't seem to understand the laws regarding stopping for school buses. They seem to forget or don't realize that it's not just the traffic behind the bus that has to stop, but also, the traffic approaching the bus. And regardless of the number of lanes the highway has, all traffic must stop.

In elementary school, as children we learn that a red octagonal sign means "STOP". But, it seems by the time we become adults and get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle, they apparently forget that seriously important lesson. When a school bus is stopped to pick up or drop off students, a rather large stop sign pops out of the side of the bus, usually with bonus flashing red lights just to remind busy drivers that they must, you guessed it, STOP.

While travelling through Georgetown recently, in a section of highway that was four lanes, I approached a bus in the on-coming lane that had turned on their red flashing lights, and extended the stop arm, so, I stopped, and shook my head at the three cars in front of me who did not. Then cringed as I heard the screeching tires behind me, and the persistent honking of a horn, while looking in the rear view I couldn't help but notice that universal hand gesture the driver was flailing out the window, and his persistent yelling at me for having stopped traffic. He seemed to think that because we were traveling the opposite direction of the bus, that we did not need to stop. What? Why is this still not sinking in?

According to the Highways Traffic Act the law is as follows:

Ontario's School Bus Stopping Law

Whether on a highway, city street, or county road, and regardless of the posted speed limit and the number of lanes, motorists traveling in both directions must stop when approaching a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing. The only exception to this is on highways separated by a median where traffic coming from the opposite direction is not required to stop.

Once stopped for a school bus, drivers must remain stopped until the lights have stopped flashing or the bus begins to move.

Penalties

First Offence: \$400 to \$2,000 fine and six demerit points on conviction. Subsequent Offences: \$1,000 to \$4,000 fine, six demerit points, and possible jail time of up to six months on conviction.

Don't think for a second that just because no one stopped you, you "got away with it" many buses have cameras, which is enough for a conviction, and witnesses may fill out forms that must be investigated and charges can be laid.

Most importantly, at least take the time to consider the consequence well beyond fines, or demerit points, the cargo these buses are carrying is priceless. Think of the devastation that you can be responsible for in that split second decision you make that your time is too valuable to stop. Think of that child that could be crossing the road right in front of you as you blow passed that bus, oblivious of the laws. What if it's someone else who, like you makes that same choice to not stop, and it is your child who is exiting that bus.



BIRTHDAY BASH: Tuesday saw the members of the Hillsview Active Living Centre who have birthdays in June or July, gather with their guests for cake. - Submitted photo

A flash back – developing over time

The other day I was cleaning out my desk drawer at home and found a digital camera that was 5 megapixels. I knew it needed repair. It was a gift about 10 years ago for Christmas and I think that is why I was keeping it. However, reality sunk in and the thought of a 5 megapixel camera is pretty much a joke now so I ended up getting rid of it.

I have a couple cameras that are better. They aren't top of the line yet they are better than my old 5mp. When I think about it, I rarely have my cameras with me anymore. Like most, I have a camera on my cell-phone where I can take pictures or videos and edit them right there. Sometimes I wonder how we survived without cameras on our phones.

This week, there was another camera reality realization. Black's (Photography) decided that it would join the ranks of Target and many other retailers this year and close its doors in August. It's funny how even now when I hear of Black's, I can recall their jingle..."Black's



By **Angela Tyler**

is Photography...prints in minutes..." It was a revolutionary idea back in the early 80's. Who could have ever imagined prints in minutes?

When I was very young the only place to get prints, and not in minutes, was to drive along Highway 7, past the farmers fields and horses to the west side of Brampton. There were hardly any traffic lights and there were no housing developments. The first sight you would see going into Brampton was the Kodak plant. It was huge. It was there we would take our film from our camera's to be developed. My parents and grandparents would choose to have slides or prints. Usually for vacation memories they would choose slides. Our photographic orders would be ready usually within two weeks and that is why Blacks seemed revolutionary.

I remember my first camera was a Kodak instamatic with a built in flash. A few years later I would work an entire summer to save up for my first 'real' camera in which I could change lens. It was a huge purchase and it was a huge, heavy camera which I not too long ago sold at a garage sale for a fraction of what I paid.

While I was cleaning out my desk that night, not only did I find one but two digital cameras, I also found a roll of film that has pictures on it. I've had the roll for a while. I'm not sure which camera it is from, nor do I know how long I've had it so I'm sure whatever is on it will be interesting if nothing else.

I thought to myself then I need to go to the mall and take it into Blacks because they must still develop film. I guess if I'm ever going to find out what's on that roll I better be doing it soon or whatever is on that roll is going to be lost in the history books, like Blacks and Target and Eatons and Kmart and Zellers and Radio Shack and far too many more.



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