

Play it safe

As we sit on the verge of the first long weekend of the year the anticipation for many is palpable.

The cottage, the beach, or just grilling in the backyard most of us can't wait.

However, sadly the Victoria Day weekend can be one of the most tragic times of year for carnage and death on our highways and lakes.

Police will be targeting high risk driving behaviours during Canada Road Safety Week that kicked off May 17.

The national campaign, which runs through Monday (May 23) is aimed at making Canada's roads the safest in the world.

It is a collaborative effort by Canadian police services to remind people that an essential part of the enforcement job is to save lives and reduce injuries on our roadways.

The focus of the campaign will be on behaviours that put drivers, passengers and other road users most at risk such as the Big 4 Killers impaired driving (by alcohol or drug), failure or improper use of seat belt, distracted driving and aggressive driving.

So far in 2016, eight motorists or passengers have died on Halton roadways with seven other people sustaining life-altering injuries.

The road worthiness of passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles will also be a focus of the campaign.

The annual blitzes have become a local tradition and emphasize both enforcement and education, according to police.

The OPP will also be patrolling the 400 series of highways.

Safety, however, starts with each and every one of us.

We encourage you to act responsibly on the highways and waterways.

If you drink, don't operate a vehicle or a boat. Use a designated driver or stay over at a friend's house if you've had a bit too much to drink.

Also, stay sober whether you're boating or swimming. Whatever you do, please don't become another statistic.

The last thing we want to be doing on Tuesday is writing up stories about residents being injured or killed.

The Independent & Free Press

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THE INDEPENDENT & FREE PRESS

905-873-0301

Publisher: Neil Oliver

General manager: Steve Foreman (sforeman@theifp.ca, 905-234-1011)

Retail advertising manager: Cindi Campbell (ccampbell@theifp.ca, 905-234-1012)

Managing editor: Chris Vernon (cvernon@metroland.com, 905-234-1020)

Distribution manager: Nancy Geissler (ngeissler@theifp.ca, 905-234-1019)

Classifieds/Real Estate

Kristie Pells (realestate@theifp.ca, 905-234-1016)

Advertising Sales

Jenny Hawkins (jhawkins@theifp.ca, 905-234-1014)

Jennifer Spencer (jspencer@theifp.ca, 905-234-1013)

Rachael Scutt (rscutt@theifp.ca, 905-234-1015)

Kelli Kosonic (kkosonic@theifp.ca, 905-234-1018)

Classified Call Centre

1-800-263-6480, Fax 1-866-299-1999

classifieds@metroland.com

Accounting 1-866-773-6575

Editorial

Eamonn Maher: Staff writer/photographer (emaher@theifp.ca, 905-234-1023)

Kathryn Boyle: Staff writer/photographer (kboyle@theifp.ca, 905-234-1022)

Production

Shelli Harrison (sharrison@theifp.ca, 905-234-1017)

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Letters to the editor

We need more details on trains

I recently read in the *Independent and Free Press* that four CN trains are to chug through town daily.

I have great concern about this initiative by CN. Like many residents, I live very close to the line that would support the newly constructed hub in Milton.

In my opinion there are already too many trains moving along that line, but I also understand and respect that the tracks were here before we were.

That being said, I was impressed that Councillor Dave Kentner challenged CN about possible noise abatement along the line through Georgetown.

I feel that CN's response by Paul Deegan did not address the issue. Simply stating that where there are specific concerns we encourage you to bring it to our attention.

My concern is are we satisfied with that response from Mr Deegan? Was that the end of discussion? Did our councillors ask what time of the day these new trains would be moving through our community?

These are important questions as I feel the trains are too loud (especially at night).

I know that other methods of transport (i.e. air traffic and truck transportation) are required to follow strict noise abatement procedures such as engine power settings at certain altitudes, no turns below set altitudes, and set arrival and departure cutoff times.

Also, truck transports require similar time sensitive procedures when moving through town.

I feel that CN should also adhere to similar standards, especially since trains are far louder than trucks and aircraft.

Let's not let CN set these standards without knowing all of the facts.

Mike Kase

Don't drain your pool anywhere

Now that spring has sprung, many in Town are opening their pools.

This usually includes pumping off the rain water and melted snow that's accumulated over the winter.

For those backing onto trails and ravines, please be mindful of where you discharge that water.

Not only is flooding our trails and green spaces discourteous to those who wish to use them, it's also bad for the environment, causing soil erosion and potential slope failure.

And I hardly need mention the bylaw violation (the fine is hefty).

So, please be considerate, enjoy the summer, and remember this, too, when it comes time to close the pool.

Bjorn Brown

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Email: cvernon@metroland.com
Mail or drop off: Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 77, Georgetown, ON., L7G 4B1.