

EDITORIAL

with Traci Gardner

Our roads do not seem safe

What is with drivers these days? It seems to be getting more and more dangerous out there. On this writer's two minute commute home from the office on Tuesday evening, there was a full size pick-up truck make a left turn when the light turned green without yielding right of way to straight through traffic (me), and a woman who refused to yield right of way at a four-way stop, and in her hurry to get where she was going, neglected to notice that the other traffic was waiting for a family with a baby in a stroller to cross the crosswalk, therefore drove right on through the crosswalk.. Are people really in that much of a hurry that no-one else on the road matters? If a two minute commute can become that dangerous, we feel for those who drive into the city daily.

This is concerning now that the summer months are here and the school kids will be out and about trying to cross the streets and get from place to place. Now is the time that people need to slow down, and pay attention to their surroundings.

Expand your field of vision when approaching crosswalks and intersections. Double check for pedestrians before turning through intersections. It's good to always assume a stopped car is waiting on pedestrians, do not pass them.

Adults, remember that you set the example for the children that may be watching you. Model responsible behaviour. Are you crossing at the crosswalk? Are you looking out for pedestrians and cyclists while driving? Are you free of dangerous distractions such as cell phones while driving? Are you wearing your seatbelt and obeying the speed limit? Remember, safety begins with you, and our future drivers are learning from you.

And for those kids and pedestrians, use sidewalks. If there is no sidewalk, walk as close as possible to the side of the road and face traffic. Make sure you can be seen. Wear bright colors or better yet, clothing with reflective markers, especially when it's dark out. Be predictable. When crossing a street, use a marked crosswalk whenever possible. If there is no marked crosswalk nearby, cross the street at an intersection (which is considered an "unmarked" crosswalk).

Everyone has a role to play to ensure that our streets and highways remain safe. Police are doing their part this summer with an ongoing program of enforcement and education and urge that all road users make safety their top priority. We, as drivers, really, really need to do our part, and slow down, stop using cell phones, avoid being late and rushed, be courteous – not aggressive, and please, pay attention to your surroundings.



OFFICIALLY OPEN: Rockwood's new eatery Chompin' At The Bit celebrated their official Grand Opening on Saturday, June 18. Mayor Chris White and Councillor Mark Bouwmiester were on hand for the Ribbon Cutting. – Les Schmidt photo

It's not over yet

On Friday, June 17 at 3 p.m., the long awaited verdict in the Tim Bosma murder trial was ready to be brought forward by the jury. It was a lengthy trial with over 100 witnesses called and streams of evidence for them to process. There was a full two-day charge by the Judge found the jury sequestered and five days of deliberations. It was intense for everyone either in the courthouse, media or following along, let alone the then accused.

Throughout the day last week I would sneak onto Twitter to see if there was anything brewing in the verdict area. Then, while driving I heard on 680 news the jury was prepared to read their verdict at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Oddly my mind raced back to over 20 years ago... "if the glove doesn't fit you must acquit"... that was the most famous line from the OJ Simpson trial in 1995 where his lawyer Johnny Cochrane told the jury that the black glove used as evidence to try to prove OJ killed his wife and her friend didn't fit and therefore they must not be able to convict him of the crimes. On



By
Angela Tyler

the day his verdict was about to be read, I vividly remember driving up Main Street in Acton and racing to my house to see them read the verdict on television. It was one of those you'll always remember moments.

The judge's charge in the Tim Bosma trial was incredibly detailed. Before it began I wondered if Dellen Millard's now convicted accomplice would be acquitted. Mark Smich's lawyer made me wonder if he was just a puppet or part of the orchestration of the murder. Yet the closing of the charge by Justice Andrew Goodman "Keep an open mind, but not an empty head," made me feel hopeful. After following the trial and the intense amount of evidence in the Crown's well laid out case there was no doubt in my mind that they both participated in the killing and incineration of Tim Bosma.

On Friday afternoon the verdict of guilty of first degree

murder for both Dellen Millard and Mark Smich found people stating that it allowed Tim's wife Sharlene, their daughter and families to finally heal and move forward with closure. It won't though.

Sharlene now has another trial to get through, that of Christina Nougda who is charged as an accessory after the fact in the first degree murder of Tim Bosma. The trial begins this November. She has to live her husband's murder again during this trial.

Sharlene said she is trying to get back to being a mom to their daughter and yes, perhaps try to live somewhat of a "normal" life. However, will she ever "heal" as people want to proclaim? Part of her will never heal. Sharlene and her daughter have to live with Tim's murder everyday of their life. And in a bittersweet way, the media although tried not to glorify Dellen Millard by putting the focus as being the "Tim Bosma murder or trial" instead of the Dellen Millard trial, in doing this it also never allows his family to forget him or to have closure.



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PUBLISHER/EDITOR
Ted Tyler

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Traci Gardner

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTORS
Dawn Brown, Harry Rudolf, Jane Dougan, Vivien Fleisher,
Linda Hillman, Les Schmidt, Angela Tyler

ADVERTISING AND CIRCULATION: Marie Shadbolt

PRODUCTION: Iain Brennan

TYPESETTING: Jessica Wilson

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373 Queen Street East, Unit 1
Acton, Ontario L7J 2N2
519-853-0051 Fax: 519-853-0052

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email: thenewtanner@on.aibn.com

deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.

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email: tannereditor@bellnet.ca

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