

# EDITORIAL

with Frances Learment

## Get them off the road

Many of us nervously hang onto the steering wheel a little tighter when surrounded by fast moving trucks on the roads, but we might not get behind the wheel if we knew the condition of the vehicles we share the roads with.

A commercial vehicle - delivery trucks, gravel trucks - safety blitz in Norval on Tuesday found that eight of 12 trucks inspected - 80 per cent - failed. The safety failures included faulty brakes, steering, tires, and an unpermitted oversize load driven by a man who was found to possess five-grams of marijuana.

Halton police Traffic Service Sergeant Paul Davies were "not too surprised" by the dismal fail rate - it echoes numbers from past larger blitzes. Police have a two-person Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit (CVEU) that does daily safety inspections through the Region, but is spread "pretty thin" according to Davies. Police also get help from front line officers, and join with other jurisdictions and government agencies to stage inspections, like the annual one at Mohawk in Milton that usually has similar fail rates.

Imagine how much safer the roads would be if there were more inspections - the 80 per cent failure rate earlier this week shows that some "fly-by-night-type operations" will blithely run unsafe vehicles until they get caught and are forced to make repairs.

Along with more money for more frequent inspections, the onus should be on the commercial vehicle owner to pass regular safety inspections to stop the unsafe vehicles from ever hitting the road.

## PAST PAGES



### Ten Years Ago

- Bus loads of angry local residents headed to Queen's Park for a rally to protest the announced cost-cutting closure of the obstetrics and paediatrics units at George-town Hospital.

- Acton High School track and field star Kaitlyn Andrews captured Gold and Silver medals at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association championships.

### Five Years Ago

- The aged, inaccessible and overcrowded Acton library branch will be replaced with help for \$2.3-million in federal and provincial infrastructure stimulus funding.

- The Halton District School Board hired a planning consultant to determine how much of its land adjacent to McKenzie-Smith Bennett School surplus is and should be severed and sold.



**NASSAGAWEYA FEAST:** Once guests enjoyed the chicken, they lined up for dessert, served by volunteers George Myles and Caroline Patterson on Saturday at the Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church barbecue. - Ted Tyler photo

## Coupon Craze

Have you ever seen the show Extreme Couponing? It's an American TV show about people who shop essentially through coupons. They call it extreme because it is almost insane how some of these people live a life based on coupons.

In the USA, coupons seem to be more readily available and for many more products. As well, grocery stores have specific days where they will double or triple manufacturer's coupons. Some couponers have taken over their home's two car garage to store products they purchased through couponing.

When the couponers get to the check-out, they don't have one cart full, they have a parade of carts and it can take an hour or more just to check out with all the coupons. They root through garbage dumpsters to get more coupons than just what they get in the mail or in their newspaper. They scour the Internet and sometimes the entire family participates in the lifestyle.

I do applaud these people. It is unbelievable to see what they get for sometimes, literally pennies. However, when I watch, it was hard for me to focus on the savings or what little they spent.



By  
Angela Tyler

I would think how on Earth they could use all the groceries before their expiry dates because even bottles of water have expiry dates. Crazy, was the thought that persisted when I thought about the time and effort involved to fill their garages full. I just couldn't imagine living like that.

Then I had my own extreme shopping/couponing moment. The Dude likes a particular ice tea in a single serve can. It's hard to find as very few grocery stores sell them. Even harder is to find the smaller sized one. After a year of learning where to find them, I know which two usual stores carry them, but they only carry them when on promotion with their sales flyer and usually only May through August. Therefore, when I see them, I do stockpile.

This past week, while I was searching the online flyers as I do price match when I can, I found the ice tea in the smaller can by complete accident. It was the first time available this season and it was at a store not known to

have it. Even better, it was on sale for much less than what I would normally pay. I felt like I won the lottery and the day the sale started, I sent the Dude to one store and I proceeded to four others in the area.

I soon found out that I had a spend \$50 and got a \$10 off coupon for future purchases deal, and you could use the coupon immediately. I started off thinking I'd hopefully get a case or two. In the end, I got a few more. To be exact, between the two of us, we had 365 cans. Throughout the shopping I learned how to purchase to get the most coupons and to use them at the same time. In the end the cost per can went from .78 cents to .58 cents which is about an \$80 savings including tax. The best thing was I got two more \$5 off coupons to use this coming week. I finally understood all those insane people on that TV show. I was so damn proud of myself and I had this natural high going from my savings adventure. Is this my new lifestyle? I don't think so. By the time evening rolled around I was exhausted and decided that watching the show was enough, I didn't have to experience it first-hand anymore.



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