

# EDITORIAL

with Traci Gardner

## Use your right to vote

As we as voters go to the polls on October 27 to elect mayors, councillors and school trustees in Ontario's municipal elections, unfortunately, many of our young voters between the ages of 18-25 will not be following our lead. They represent the largest group of non-voters in a society that is increasingly failing to show up on polling day.

Studies show that many youth don't vote and they choose to remain uninvolved in the political system, and continue to not vote as they get older. As the election draws near, I encourage the youth in our community to take advantage of their right to vote.

### Why should you vote in a municipal election?

Your vote in the municipal election strongly impacts the quality of life for everyone in the community. Regional and Town councils make decisions about things that are elements of local daily life, including, sports and recreation, cultural and library services, police and fire services, water and sewer services, snow and garbage removal, roads and bridge maintenance, and decides how your property tax dollars are spent. Your vote does make a difference.

Voting for your school board trustee is also important. Trustees decide how best to meet the needs of students by administering the building and maintenance of schools, hiring the teachers and staff needed to run them, and authorizing spending on educational programs and initiatives.

Your vote will impact the current and future sustainability of your community, and is your opportunity to send a message on how you want your community governed. The more votes cast, the more powerful the message.

Your vote is your voice, speak up.



**POKER RUN DONATION:** The Gully Motorcycle Unit, part of the 1st Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Club, along with help from Acton residents and businesses were proud to present The Tony Stacy Centre, a long term care facility for veterans, a donation of \$4000, which was raised during their first annual Poker Run held on June 21. In photo are (l to r) Pookie Partridge, Tony Stacy Centre representative Diana LeBlanc, John Armstrong, Lynn Pelow, Bill Asslin, Gary Armstrong, and Norm Martineau. - Submitted photo

## Distracted drivers - pay attention

Ontario driving regulations mandate that drivers must obey traffic signs and signals. Failure to do so could, if convicted, result in an infraction with the driver possibly receiving demerit points on their driver abstract, a monetary penalty and quite possibly affect the driver's insurance premiums.

There has been a lot of media attention at distracted driving lately. Being caught talking and/or texting and driving, or as enforcement refers to it as distracted driving, without the use of a hands-free device is a very large no-no that has a penalty that starts at \$280 (including court and victim fees) and if you contest the charge and choose to go to court it could go as high as \$500. Beyond this charge officers could increase the charge to include careless driving which is six demerit points, \$2000 fine and possible jail time.

However, what we are continually reminded of is the extreme dangers of distracted driving which, although has a large fine, has zero demerit points assigned to the charge/conviction. Why when such a practice by so many drivers still today, if so dangerous, is there no demerit points assigned to the charge/conviction? Since



By **Angela Tyler**

September I've noticed another traffic offence which, in my opinion, should carry a highway traffic charge, yet I can't see where it is.

The highway traffic act has a sign which is four or five sided and yellow in colour. It has a black shadow shape of a girl and a boy carrying a school book while appearing to be walking. This sign indicates to traffic that there is a school zone approaching and drivers are to slow down, drive with caution and to watch for children.

In September, our little guy has been going to nursery school. Three times a week we park across the street from his nursery school, proceed to the crosswalk which is clearly marked with this four or five-sided yellow sign in an extremely open section of roadway. There is visibility for hundreds of feet in either direction.

Each day, we approach the crosswalk with him holding my hand, wearing his back-pack proudly. We stop; look both ways and point forward to indicate to drivers that

we want to cross in the clearly marked cross walk on the road. There aren't any overhead lights as intersection crosswalks usually have, however, all the other crosswalk markings are there.

Every single day, I squeeze his hand tightly as we stand there, looking at cars and trucks and buses drive very rapidly through the crosswalk. One day I counted seven cars that did not stop in either direction. In the afternoon we are fortunate to have a lovely crossing guard to assist us. She stands at the edge, with her hand held crossing-guard stop sign and yellow traffic vest on her, waiting and waiting as the cars do to her exactly what they did to us earlier in the day. One day I asked her if she knew what the maximum number of cars that drove through without stopping at one time. She said she's had so many every day that she stopped counting. Perhaps some of those drivers that go through the crosswalk are being distracted by not using hand-held devices? Just a reminder, we all get distracted even without a cell phone, however, we still need to keep an eye open for pedestrians crossing and especially pedestrian school children of all ages.

## PAST PAGES



### 10 Years ago

• After spending tens of thousands of dollars a year repairing damage caused by vandals, the Town instils a new zero tolerance policy on violence and vandalism.

• Creative Memorials of Milton won the bid to Supply and install a columbarium niche in Acton's Fairview Cemetery, providing another option to a full burial or cremation plot.

### 5 Years ago

• The official ground breaking ceremonies were held at the site for the new Acton Urgent Care Clinic located at Mill St. and Eastern Avenue.

• Halton Hills Council endorsed a Regional proposal to ban smoking within nine metres, or 30 feet from any entrance or exits of buildings owned or leased by the region.



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