

## Put safety first

Ontarians have endured a nasty winter and not-so-nice spring to date.

With a nice weekend forecast in the offing and a long Victoria Day weekend looming, it's likely the province's roadways and waterways will be jammed with people looking to celebrate the unofficial start of summer.

However, this coming weekend has, in the past, often proved to be one of the deadliest.

That's why the OPP reminds residents this week also marks Canada Road Safety Week (May 13-20).

Throughout the campaign, police services across the country come together to ramp up enforcement and raise awareness surrounding the "Big Four" major causes of death and injuries on roadways: impaired driving, aggressive driving, distracted driving and failure to wear or improper use of seat belts.

Quick facts:

- Impaired driving remains the number one criminal cause of death in Canada.
- Motorists are 23 times more likely to become involved in a collision while texting.
- Aggressive driving behaviour is present in 27 per cent of fatal collisions in Canada.
- Proper seatbelt usage is the most significant factor in preventing injuries and deaths in a collision.

However, along with roadway users, boaters and those who use off-road vehicles should remember to think safety first when getting out and enjoying themselves.

It takes very little effort to ensure that this weekend is not one to remember for all the wrong reasons.

### WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca))

Should the NDP support the Liberals' recent 2013 budget and thus avoid causing a provincial election?

- No (60%)
- Yes (40%)

### The Independent & Free Press

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### Letters policy

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## Letters to the editor

### Blame lies with us for loss of heritage

Dear editor,

As a proud Canadian and a citizen of Georgetown, I am concerned that our complacency and expectation that politicians know best, often lead to events taking place that we do not like. Politicians are human and therefore can and do make mistakes.

If we are missing the old cinema and complain how our youth have to be driven to other towns for entertainment, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

If we know that Memorial Arena is not just a place where we skated, our children played hockey, etc. and is a historic building that could be put to other uses (such as a community hall, a mini St. Lawrence market, winter market) but is going to be demolished in order that condos, apartments and townhouses can be built, why are we complaining? If we know that the Exchange Hotel is directly related to

the advent of railway travel and therefore the development of what is today Georgetown, and is another piece of our history that stands a good chance of being obliterated, why are we complaining? If we do not care for our history, our roots, our heritage, the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors and would rather live like nomads, why are we complaining?

Politicians are not to blame. They react to our wants and needs and do their level best to provide...so why are we complaining?

*Roscoe Petkovic, Georgetown*

### Beavers a problem

Dear editor,

Beavers are cute and cuddly, but when it's our scarce taxpayer money going down the drain...

While jogging recently on the Hungry Hollow trail, I came across an extensive area of tree damage caused by beavers. Many of these trees were planted by volunteers over the years. These will be costly and take several years to recover the newly-barren area again.

I noticed well over 30 trees/saplings have been cut by beavers. The cuts are very fresh. A couple trees were not yet completely cut through.

I notified the Town Parks and Recreation Department.

*Rob Traill, Georgetown*

### Health Fair a hit

Dear editor,

As the hosts of the Acton Spring Health Fair 2013, we would like to thank everyone who came out on Sunday, April 7.

Special thanks to all of the vendors, friends and family who supported us.

The admission to the fair was either a \$5 donation to the Links2-care or a non-perishable food item for Acton FoodShare food bank. With the generous support of the community we raised \$300 for the Links2Care and 50 lbs. of food.

A good time was had by all. Thanks again.

*Holly Allen and Debbie Pereira, Acton*