

OPINION

Be road sensible

Police officers know that dealing with dangerous people often comes with the job.

But recently, the good men and women who make up the Ontario Provincial Police force have become targets for a new wave of lawbreaker — the 8.5 million people who drive vehicles in this province.

During the last week, 11 OPP cruisers have been hit by passing motorists on provincial highways. Three officers have been hurt, including one who required hospital treatment for her injuries.

OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis is understandably bewildered and enraged and he's vowing that his officers will crack down on careless drivers who put the lives of others at risk.

"I want to make it very clear — severe weather and poor driving conditions are not the main cause in the overwhelming number of collisions we've seen these past several weeks," said Lewis. "It is the way people are driving in these conditions that jeopardizes the safety of the motoring public and our officers. This irresponsible driving behaviour must stop."

The OPP is urging motorists to slow down in treacherous conditions and to heed Ontario's "Move Over" law.

The provincial Highway Traffic Act requires motorists approaching a police cruiser that's stopped with its red lights flashing to slow down and move over into another lane, if it can be done safely.

Failure to do so can earn the driver a fine of \$400-\$2,000 plus three demerit points.

WEB POLL RESULTS

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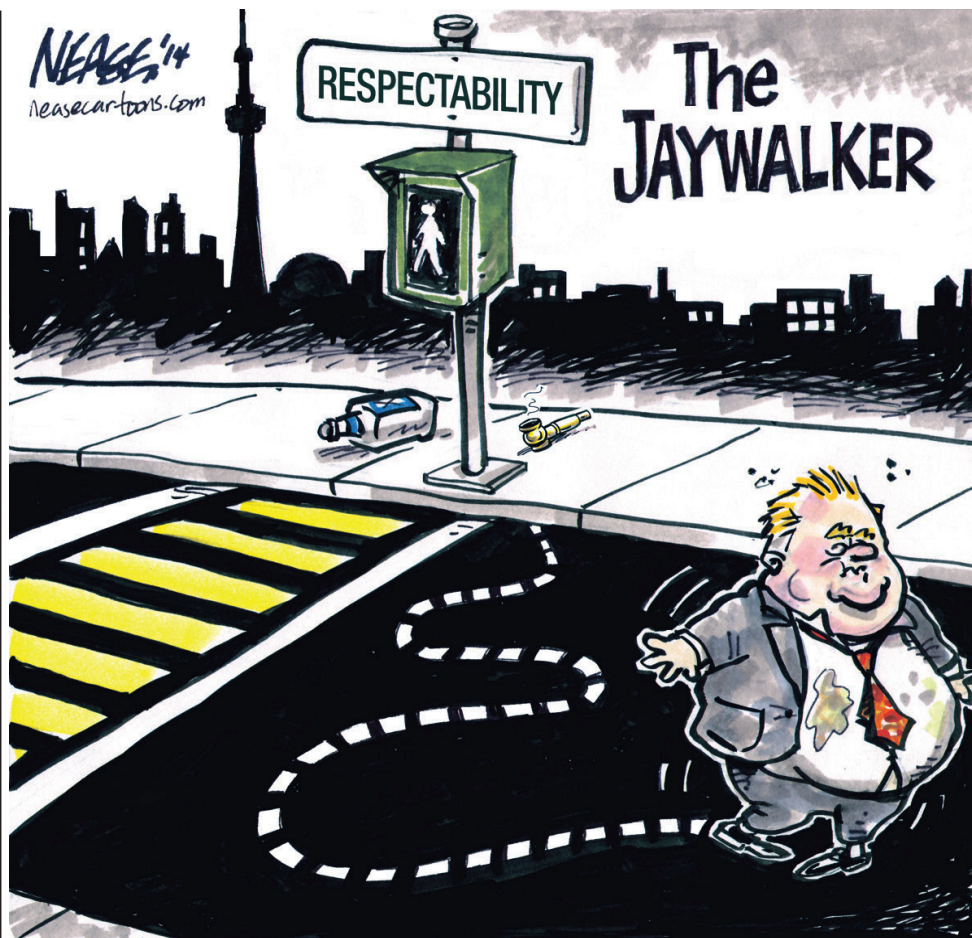
Feb 4 is the one year anniversary of the phasing out of the Canadian penny. Do you miss it?

No (80%)
Yes (20%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Please, pick up your dog's poop

Dear editor,

I have been frequently walking my three dogs in the Georgetown Fairgrounds and along the trails in behind.

May I say that I am absolutely appalled at the number of lazy people that do not pick up dog poop after their dogs. It's disgusting.

People that write to your newspaper complaining about this issue are so justified in doing so. I even offered a poop bag to a man walking a Labrador and he just ignored me, saying it will rot by spring.

No folks, dog poop does not rot.

Why should the town workers who flood the ice rink or cut down trees from the ice storm, or the small innocent children who cut through the fairgrounds on their way home from school, step in that smelly sticky stuff.

You lazy good-for-nothing morons know who you are. So either learn to poop-and-scoop or get rid of the dog.

You are giving us responsible dog

owners a bad reputation and ruin something positive for all.

Also maybe the town bylaw officer should worry less about what the breed is or hounding people for dogs being off-leash while playing fetch in a park, and concentrate on these other idiots for not pooping-and-scooping with a fine. It is also a bylaw.

G. Rumney
Georgetown

Residents deserve a branch break

Dear editor,

I must say that I am very disappointed with the new stand the Town of Halton Hills has taken to download on the citizens of this town — the task of picking up and disposing of trees and branches on private properties following the disastrous ice storm.

Being legally disabled, and my income being less than the minimum wage, there is no way I can hire someone to do that for me as they suggested. Besides, it's a little late as most people have already put their own branches on the city side of the road. Are they simply going to ignore them?

Then there are the people on Sargent Road that put their broken branches in the median centre which is city property.

How long will it take for the other people on that street to do the same? Then you have the people whose houses back onto the ravines. If the town doesn't pick up their branches, where do you think they will end up?

I would really like to see this issue discussed openly and televised in council. This would really help me in deciding who to vote for.

I would really like to know why Mayor Bonnette said this is not an emergency situation.

That's easy for him to say since he resides in Acton and they got their power back in one day.

Bob Desjardins
Georgetown

Letters policy

Letters must include the author's name, address and daytime phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 150 words and may be edited for content and/or length. Publication is not guaranteed.

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