

Share the road

Cycling season is here and with it comes the need for cyclists and drivers to respect the rules of the road — and each other.

Too often motorists and cyclists cross paths with serious, sometimes fatal, consequences. We all know that when motorists and cyclists collide, it's the cyclist who pays the physical price. The driver could face legal consequences.

Although motorists often find the slower moving cyclist frustrating and distracting, the reality is that bicycles are vehicles under the Highway Traffic Act and, therefore, have the same privileges of using the road.

They are subject to the same traffic laws that govern cars, trucks and motorcycles.

In addition to the action on the road, there are other safety issues to consider.

Drivers or passengers opening their car doors in the path of cyclists, for instance, contributes to one of the most frequent car-bike collisions, often resulting in serious injury to cyclists.

As well, who can forget the dramatic and well-publicized confrontation between Toronto bicycle courier Darcy Sheppard and former Ontario attorney general Michael Bryant that cost Sheppard his life and Bryant a career and a marriage?

Share the Road became the rallying cry of recently-elected Burlington MPP Eleanor McMahon after her off-duty OPP officer husband Greg Stobbart was killed in 2006 by a truck that was attempting to pass on a narrow section of road.

- Following the law — it's the safest way to ride. Cyclists have the same rights and duties as other drivers and need to follow the same traffic laws

- Be predictable — ride in a straight line, signal turns and check behind you before turning or changing lanes

- Ride with caution around parked cars and position yourself in the field of vision of a motorist pulling out of a parking space.

WEB POLL RESULTS

(Go to www.theifp.ca)

The Maple Leafs are the only NHL team on Forbes' list of the most valuable sports franchises. Do you think the Leafs are worth their value?

- No (87%)
- Yes (13%)

The Independent & Free Press

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Letters to the editor

Cycling benefits the community

As a resident of Georgetown South I would like to commend Jane Fogal, the Town's chair of the Trails and Cycling Advisory Committee (www.haltonhills.ca/committees/trails.php), for continuing to improve and encourage cycling and adding bike lanes to Miller Drive.

Mr. White, in his June 26 letter, suggested that the money spent on bike lanes go to our hospital and that cyclists were safe enough mixing with traffic.

That may be so with the experienced cyclist but that isn't the case with many of the young families in the South.

By making our community safer for cyclists of all ages, we are encouraging one of the most inexpensive and environmentally friendly modes of transportation possible while encouraging people of all ages to be more physically active and healthy.

Some of you may not be aware

of the Halton Hills Community Cycling Challenge.

Just by logging in your cycling kilometres, you are helping to raise money for the hospital.

Already 600 people have signed up at www.bikechallenge.ca and hopefully many more will do the same. It is free, fun for the whole family and will raise \$66,000 for our hospital. Now that is a win-win!

Betty D'Oliveira,
Georgetown

Too much rock

Re: Rock The Hills

Although it is great to have this event to showcase local talent, Saturday was a terrible day for all the residents living in the area around the fairgrounds.

This is not the right venue for such a noisy happening.

Bass notes reverberated through the walls, we were trapped in our houses. Concerts like this should be held in one of the several arenas in Halton.

Let us hope this never happens again.

Dee Cope,
Georgetown

Thanks for the honesty

In the first week of July I had a senior's moment (twice).

First time was at Canadian Tire on Guelph Street and the second time at the Real Canadian Superstore, also on Guelph Street, where I had left my wallet in the buggy, and both times my wallet was turned in.

I would like to thank the individuals that took the time to turn it in (all intact).

It is so nice to live in Halton Hills where honest people live.

Dianne Tiverson,
Halton Hills

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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