

· EDITORIAL ·

No good reason to leave children, pets in hot vehicles

Every year there are numerous reminders not to leave young children and pets in cars in the hot summer weather, yet every summer you can count on children and pets being found alone inside cars in the scorching heat.

There's already been a fatality involving a child who had been left alone in a sweltering car this summer when a Montreal father left his toddler in a car all day after forgetting to drop the child off at a daycare centre last month.

And, in May, a three-year-old boy left unattended in a hot car in Burlington died after being exposed to high temperatures for a prolonged length of time. A Burlington man faces charges in connection with the incident.

Just last week, a woman in the northeastern Ontario town of Temiskaming Shores was charged after Ontario Provincial Police officers rescued a child locked in a hot car.

Although there are no similar statistics for Canada, so far in the U.S., 20 children have died as a consequence of being left in hot vehicles. The yearly average is 37 of these child fatalities in the U.S.

According to the Canadian Safety Council, extreme heat affects infants and small children more quickly and dramatically than adults because of their size. The core temperature of infants and small children can increase three to five times faster than that of an adult. Heatstroke, or hyperthermia, occurs when the body's core temperature reaches 40.5 C (105 F).

As for pets, SPCAs across Canada receive hundreds of reports of pets being left in cars every year, according to the No Hot Pets website (www.nohotpets.ca). The Ontario SPCA recently issued a reminder to pet owners about the dangers of leaving pets unattended in vehicles. Leaving pets at home where they are cool and safe is the best option during hot summer weather, the Ontario SPCA advises.

The Ontario SPCA is asking the public to share the dangers of leaving pets in vehicles using the hashtag #nohotpets on social media. On the No Hot Pets website, there is a pledge the public can take to never leave an animal in a vehicle and to report it if you see it happen.

There is really no good reason for leaving a child or pet in a hot vehicle. Can we state this any more clearly? Don't do it. It only takes a few minutes for a vehicle to heat up under summer weather conditions. And, a few minutes of high heat inside a vehicle can prove deadly to kids and pets alike.



· LETTERS & COMMENTARY ·

Electoral reform idea not practical says reader

Re: Electoral Reform- How on earth would finding "a way to vote for someone you like who is running but not necessarily that party" work in practice? You could get the person you like as premier, but with some other party having a majority in the legislature. Cabinet ministers appointed by the premier would be constantly undermined and overruled by the majority of MPPs.

The only plus to that would be that the politicians and premier would be so busy fighting each other, they wouldn't have time to be able to actually do anything to us! In my opinion, the closest we

could hope to get to a reasonable system would be one using proportional representation. As all three of our established parties are in lockstep regarding "multiculturalism", "diversity" and "inclusiveness," that would provide an opportunity for us dissenters to gain a voice in provincial affairs, at least.

Jeff Goodall

A nation is far more than a flag says reader

I have relatives and friends in the United States and have spent July 4 with them on occasions ... and am left with the impression they celebrate a fantasy. They have a nation ravaged by rac-

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ism, widespread poverty, political corruption and social injustice where black athletes kneel rather than stand for that hallowed flag.

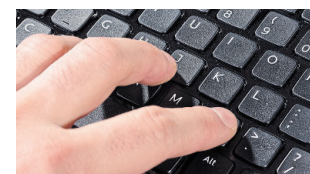
And yes, it would be nice to see more flags on Canada Day but while the States strives to portray itself as a melting pot where all are blended and equal, the fallacy leaves them honouring and celebrating a singular unity that has never existed there.

Canada is more like a stew with every ingredient maintaining a distinctive difference that is perpetuated as a component of an ongoing feast and Canadians are able to quietly celebrate a real future made safer, stronger

and more secure by its "powerfully diverse nature." We are quiet and polite, we try to help others and we have friends all over the world. The States has enemies all over the world and seems to make new ones every day. A little patriotism goes a long way and a nation is much more than a flag.

Cavan Gostlin

Letters



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