

# The Independent & Free Press

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## Deadly roads

This has not been a good year to be either a motorist or pedestrian travelling on Ontario roadways. This past weekend, in fact, was one of the worst.

Friday, a freak patch of fog, along with aggressive driving, turned a stretch of Hwy. 401 into an inferno that killed seven people, injured 45 and left 82 vehicles damaged or destroyed.

Yet, two days later when the highway reopened, police reportedly stopped no fewer than five drivers whizzing past the crash site at more than 150 kilometres an hour.

Surely, Friday's tragedy should have been enough to send a message to those drivers to obey the speed limit.

The next day in Toronto, one person was killed and four injured when a stolen van, presumably being chased by police, went out of control and crashed into another vehicle sending that vehicle sliding into pedestrians.

This was only the latest in a series of recent crashes involving stolen vehicles and police.

In the case of the Windsor crash it appears common sense was lacking on the part of many drivers. If the conditions were suddenly so bad that drivers couldn't see the autos in front of them, why did they not pull off the road and wait for the fog to lift?

Yes, the provincial government has a responsibility to study why Highway 401 has become so dangerous and to find ways to make it safer but anyone who gets behind the wheel also has a responsibility to drive safely.

Having said that, one suggestion we particularly like is listing, as some U.S. states do, the actual dollar figures speeding fines would cost a driver. As well, we'd like to see speeders have to pay the fine on the spot—or have their vehicle impounded.

Nothing gets a person's attention like a hit to the wallet.

As for auto thieves who injure others while fleeing police, we agree with one MPP who suggests these felons should be treated like they are using a weapon and throw the book at them.

Serious time for a serious crime.



## Fair board thanked for fun-filled year

To the Acton Agricultural Society:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to the fair board. Without this wonderful, hard-working group of people I would never have been able to participate in such a fun-filled year as 1998-99's Miss Acton First Runner-Up.

Being blessed with two amazing companions, Tanya Tonkovich and Kelly Soutiere, could also have had something to do with it. Tanya, Kelly and I traveled to numerous functions in and out of the community which allowed us to meet new people, learn about agriculture and have our input on things that affect our community.

Being part of the Agricultural Society has been nothing but good times all year. I wouldn't trade anything for all the experience and knowledge I gained by being a part of this group.

The Miss Acton Pageant was an amazing experience for me. I encourage young ladies from our community to come join the pageant in September. Involvement in the pageant builds one's character and confidence immensely.

Hope to see you all at the fair in September.

Miss Acton  
First Runner-Up,  
Steph McKay

## Letter of the day

### Terry's dream lives on

Dear editor,

The 19th annual Terry Fox Run will take place in Acton and Georgetown on Sunday, September 19.

Pledge sheets are now available at numerous supportive retailers and banks around both towns. Everyone is invited out to walk, jog and skate to help continue Terry's dream. If you would just like to come out and make a donation, that would be great, too (Acton and Georgetown are just two of over 4,000 run sites in over 52 countries).

From a goal to raise one dollar for every Canadian, Terry's Marathon of Hope has raised, to date, more than \$225 million for cancer research.

Terry's fierce determination resulted in his running an average of 42 kilometres every day for 143 days. Just outside of Thunder Bay, Ontario on September 1, 1980 Terry was forced to end his marathon due to the spread of cancer to his lungs.

On September 2, Isadore Sharp, president of Four Seasons Hotels, telegraphed the Fox family with a commitment to organize a fund-raising run that would be held every year in Terry's name.

He wrote, "You started it. We will not rest until your dream to find a cure for cancer is realized."

Ten months later Terry died at the age of 22, on June 28, 1981.

Tom Wharton,  
Terry Fox Run Georgetown

## Our Readers Write

The Independent & Free Press welcomes letters to the editor from our readers. All letters must be signed and include an address and a daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for content or length and can be mailed, delivered to our office address at 211 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4X5, faxed to us at (905) 873-0398 or e-mailed to: independent.freepress@aztec-net.com