

Editorial

Drive safely

Motorists in Ontario are being urged to drive safely this weekend for two reasons: (1) It's the last holiday weekend of the summer and (2) school begins next week for most Ontario students.

"It's crucial that motorists follow the rules of the road and use common courtesy when travelling the province's roadways," said Transportation Minister David Turnbull.

Motorists are reminded to follow some simple safety tips when travelling this weekend:

- Make sure everyone in the vehicle is buckled up
- Obey speed limits
- Refrain from drinking and driving
- Drive courteously, not aggressively and share the road
- Watch out for the "other guy"
- Pay attention to driving conditions and be extra careful around construction zones

And, as children return to classes next week, motorists are reminded to stop when school buses are loading and unloading passengers and to be aware of children near roadways.

"This is an excellent time for parents to review road safety rules with their children," said Turnbull.

Have a safe weekend.



Letters to the editor....

Cancer workers were there when they were needed

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the threat of our local Cancer Society office closing in Georgetown. When I think about it, my stomach begins to churn and I get a lump in my throat.

Six years ago I lost my three-year-old daughter Madeline to a horrific form of cancer known as Rhabdomyosarcoma. Her prognosis

was grim from the outset. However, she endured treatment for 18 months before losing her battle with the disease.

This was a devastating time for our family. However, the Georgetown Cancer Society office was a godsend! I was so grateful to have the support of Sheila and all of the wonderful volunteers. They provided transportation for Madeline and I countless times to Sick Children's Hospital and Sunnybrook Medical Centre for treatment.

They were my lifelines to home when we were in Toronto and waiting for hours for a dose of chemotherapy or radiation to be completed. They played Madeline's favorite music and told us funny stories about their own families to take our minds off the terrible nausea and vomiting Madeline would experience on the way home in the car. The volunteers who worked tirelessly to arrange rides around chaotic and inflexible treatment schedules could always be depended on at the last minute.

Often Madeline and I would stop into the office to visit with Sheila. After coping with the stress of dealing with medical facilities in the city, it was so comforting to come home to Georgetown and be supported by people we knew at the office.

Several of the volunteer drivers came to Madeline's funeral and we received cards and condolences from many other volunteers. The office continued to follow up with us almost a year after Madeline's death. I can't believe the same personal services can be provided from a larger office that is not located in Georgetown.

Six years later, I meet some of the drivers around town. It is like meeting old friends. The Georgetown office was there when we needed them most. Their support, understanding, caring and familiarity with our family was a tremendous support to us in our darkest hour. They excel at providing personalized support to all of us when we are the most vulnerable.

Jan Crowe-McManus and family, Georgetown

'Negative' editorial panned

Dear editor,

This newspaper is indeed a source of enlightenment and inspiration.

Your editorial, Another bad example (Aug. 23), was anything but. It is an excellent example of negative journalism, gross generalization and name calling.

Michelle Doell's comments (in the What You Said feature) were educational. It is with great enthusiasm that I look forward to working so few hours each day, as well as to having weekends and legislated holidays free. My family is ecstatic.

When one considers these hours, no wonder Michelle would consider me greedy in asking for a modest increase even after eight years of frozen salary as well as three years of "Rae Days". Michelle's sense of charity is inspirational.

Indeed, Michelle's present and future employers should be quite delighted that she will not require any salary increments after long years of dedicated work.

Each week I eagerly anticipate receiving my local paper because there is always something to be learned from reading it.

Diane Masters, Georgetown

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