

## Town asks for public input

A management plan for the Hungry Hollow Ravine, a town-owned treed area through the centre of Georgetown, is being prepared to determine how to protect and enhance its natural features, determine priorities for restoration and accommodate appropriate use by the public.

A public meeting is being held on Thursday, September 26, at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Civic Centre. A brief presentation will be followed by an informal open house where the public may review information and provide comments.

For more information contact Warren Harris, Manager of Parks and Cemeteries at 905-873-2601 extension 2274 or warrenh@town.halton-hills.on.ca

## Motorcycle safety tips for both riders and car drivers

This article is aimed at two groups of people: People who ride motorcycles, and people who share the road with motorcycles. Motorcycling is a very enjoyable pastime. There is a sense of freedom that just isn't there in a car. There is also an element of danger. You know that if you fall off the bike, it probably is going to hurt more than if you run your car into something.

It is important to minimize the risk by wearing protective clothing.

The choices are abundant. There is leather (always attractive!) and also a range of manmade fabrics. Sturdy boots and gloves are a wise choice. The helmet is the most important protective item. (You've heard me go on about helmets in the past.) They can be full-face, or open face. Personally, I think the more protection the better. Besides, a full-face helmet keeps the bugs out your teeth!

Many community colleges offer courses that teach you motorcycle

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Laurel Barnett

skills, whether you are a beginner or have some experience. I took one of the courses, and it was excellent. When you write the test to get your M1 licence, no actual riding experience is required before you get on that bike that you have just purchased. There is no experienced driver next to you to give advice. The course will give you the advice that you need in advance.

I have one important piece of advice to give motorcycle riders. You are not invincible! If you cut in and out of traffic, ride up the shoulder or the centre lane, speed, or do any of those other things that irritate other drivers, eventually you will hurt yourself. Your actions will also reflect on all riders. Remember, there are two types of people who ride motorcycles: Those who have fallen off, and those who are going to fall off. (I belong to the first group!) Even out your odds and ride sensibly. Perform shoulder checks, and make sure to signal.

Here is the part for car drivers. Motorcycles are motor vehicles too. They are entitled to their own lane space, so when you see a motorcycle taking up a portion of the lane, you cannot squeeze in next to them, or pass them in the unused portion of their lane. If you see a motorcycle give it some extra space.

Const. Laurel Barnett is Community Support Officer for 1 Division

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