

Editorial

Seat-belt roulette

An old safety issue has reared its ugly head again with the release of spring police seat-belt safety blitz statistics. The news isn't good.

Ignoring studies that prove seat-belts save lives, and the law, some motorists still refuse to buckle up.

Despite checking 1,500 fewer vehicles for proper seat-belt use this spring, Halton police laid 88 per cent more charges and issued close to double the number of seat-belt-related warnings this year over last.

These latest figures have Halton police Chief Ean Algar justifiably concerned about the need to continue educating people about the life or death gamble they wage when choosing not to buckle up—not to mention the \$110 fine if caught.

During the Ontario Provincial Police's seat-belt blitz, a single officer from the Toronto detachment issued more than 500 seat-belt-related charges.

"We see vehicles with no intrusive damage but the occupants are seriously injured or even killed because they simply were not wearing a seat-belt," observed one senior OPP officer.

More disturbing still are the parents who willfully place their children at risk of serious injury or death by placing them in improperly-installed child car seats or regular lap/shoulder belts designed for bigger passengers.

In an extreme case, one Toronto motorist was recently found to have a female passenger seated in the back with a two-year-old child sitting on her lap. The front passenger seat was also occupied—by a new child car seat, still in its original box.

As adults we have the freedom to make decisions for ourselves—right or wrong. However, poor judgment is no excuse for putting other's lives at risk—especially those of children who place complete faith in their parents' ability to protect them from harm.



WHERE'S SADDAM?

Letters to the editor....

Sheila Copps is not leadership material

Dear editor,

Re: Sheila Copps cries, 'Old boys club!'

This is the familiar cry of some-

one who is unwilling, or unable, to admit the possibility they may deserve criticism. A very similar cry is sometimes heard from minorities, 'It can't be my fault, so it must be some type of stereotypical discrimination'.

This same technique is used by sports psychologists with their professional athlete clients. They promote the practice of the athlete blaming some outside force for their failures. If they blame themselves for little fail-

ures, they will tend to lose confidence. And low confidence can breed failure in a finely-tuned athlete.

Sheila's defensive reply has clearly proven that the comment was warranted. She does not merit serious consideration as leader. She has risen as far as she has because of reverse discrimination. The last thing this country needs is a leader with an inferiority complex.

Elwin King, Georgetown

Thanks, Fraser Direct

Dear editor,

I would like to thank Lois Fraser at Fraser Direct for her generous offer to help subsidize books going to Newfoundland.

I collected books from friends and neighbours and sent them to the Cornerbrook Library—about 40 cartons (800 pounds) of children's and adult fiction/non-fiction materials which I will be distributing to small communities which have little or no access to libraries.

Susan Fry, Glen Williams

Lifesavers thanked

Dear editor,

A personal note to all the 911 staff who worked so hard to save my life April 8. Perhaps far beyond what this soul deserved.

From what I have been told by my friends and neighbours, they refused to give up and that is why I can thank them now (perhaps something we all must do before they are called upon again for ourselves or a loved one). God bless them and guard them always.

Allan Moore, Acton

Literacy volunteers praised

Dear editor,

April 27-May 3 is Volunteer Week.

I have been a Georgetown resident for a number of years and recently it was my good fortune to become an employee of Literacy North Halton which currently resides at 72 Mill St. in Georgetown

Working for a volunteer-based non-profit organization was a new experience for me and I am writing to express my personal thanks to them for giving me such an amazing opportunity, amazing because until now, I had no appreciation of how giving this community truly is.

Thank you to our 'champions of literacy'—Fendley Florists, Roos Travel and Georgetown Market Place—that willingly gave their roadside signs to us when we were desperate to recruit volunteer tutors.

Because of their generosity and the great response from the community, we now have a large number of excellent volunteer tutors who will provide the patience and understanding required for adult students to upgrade their literacy skills through our Read*Write*Spell program operating in the Georgetown, Acton and Milton communities.

Thank you again to volunteers. Literacy North Halton could not exist without you.

Sharon Foster, Marketing co-ordinator
Literacy North Halton

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be signed and include an address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be edited.

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