

# Editorial Easy rider

The question is really quite simple: Should a person who rides a bicycle as part of his work day be allowed to claim mileage expenses, the same as a person who drives a car?

Town council—with the exception of Ward 3's Mike Davis—believes the answer is no, and moved to close a loophole in the town's personnel policy manual at Tuesday's meeting. The wording in the manual now reads "motorized" vehicle.

Davis, who in his first term as a councillor, has frequently differed from his colleagues on a number of matters and made headlines for some outrageous comments, managed to exploit this "loophole", much to the consternation of fellow councillors.

In 2004 Davis claimed more than \$1,500 in "other" expenses (80 per cent of which is made up of mileage, parking and 407 ETR fees)—the highest amount of any councillor. He admits he had "mixed up" records of both bicycle and auto use.

Clearly his colleagues saw his billing for bicycle wear and tear as unacceptable; he countered he was being environmentally responsible and shouldn't be treated differently for being so.

Frankly we believe Davis was stretching the spirit of the policy in this matter, knew he was making waves and enjoyed getting under the skin of his co-horts.

That said, he wasn't going outside the existing guidelines as they were set out.

Now that the loophole has been plugged, we'd like to see council spend time on matters of greater import and stop wasting time and taxpayers' money.



## Letters to the editor....

### Garbage collection borders on the ridiculous

Dear editor,

Garbage pickup in downtown Georgetown is at best sub-par, bordering on ridiculous.

#### Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must 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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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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The mess left by these garbage people is unbelievable and I speak from experience.

In days gone by, when garbage was not tendered out but instead run by the Town, I was a garbage man, along with a great crew of men, who lived in, and were proud of, their town and jobs.

I have complained to the Region of Halton quite a few times with some temporary satisfaction, but any improvement is short-lived. I've always left my name when complaining and quite frankly, I'm tired of thinking my complaints mean nothing.

When garbage is tendered out, does the contract read all the garbage or just the stuff easy to pick up? I'm not talking of a few scraps of paper that may blow away in the wind but piles just left behind because it would mean bending over to pick up and leave the area clean.

I have enclosed one picture showing the total disregard and



lack of pride anyone should have doing a job worth doing well. I have more and will submit the to the mayor and councillors so that they can use them during any other contract negotiations with garbage removal companies in the future.

Thank you for listening,

Dan Engleby,  
Manager of Main  
Video and Variety  
Georgetown

### Volunteer registry needed

Dear editor,

There is a chronic need in Halton (Acton community) for suitable transportation for our aging and disabled population for visits to health clinics, medical centres, etc.

For those of us whose families live miles away to get affordable transportation to out-of-town, time-related medical appointments, there is the risk of anxiety attacks. The winter brings added challenges.

As a longtime resident of Acton, I can attest to having enjoyed the benefits of a caring community and neighbours. However, I can only burden them so much.

What I would dearly love to see is a resource registry assembled to best utilize the services of volunteers who generously donate their time to assist seniors and disabled persons. Such a registry can be kept at our local Halton Hills Community Service and Information office for general access. I have been made aware by two organizations that they regularly experience a chronic shortage of drivers in this regard. They have often been unable to fill or attend to time-related appointments out of town.

Is there a way we can create a registry to pool all the resources of all the generous volunteers and service clubs in Acton to be accessible with one phone call or from one location to relieve this most urgent need for many?

Arline Coultrup, Acton

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