

Editorial

Be a donor

No doubt most of us have heard the Canadian Blood Services refrain, "It's in you to give." While we may listen to those words, too few of us respond. In fact, we should all be embarrassed.

Canadians may be quick to donate to charity, organize a fund-raising event or help some other worthwhile cause, but we are pretty darn slow in rolling up our collective sleeves to donate blood.

According to a new Ipsos-Rend survey, 52 per cent of Canadians say they or a family member have needed blood or blood products for surgery or for medical treatment. However, and this is the embarrassing part, less than four per cent of the eligible population donated blood last year.

The survey, conducted on behalf of Canadian Blood Services, found that 75 per cent of Canadians have either personally needed or know of a family member, friend or neighbour who has required blood or blood products.

"On average, every minute of every day a blood product is needed by someone in Canada," said Judy Compton, Regional Director, Canadian Blood Services, Southern Ontario. "A cancer patient in Halifax who needs platelets, a burn victim in Toronto requiring plasma, a bone marrow recipient in the Prairies or a patient undergoing a hip replacement surgery in Vancouver needing red blood cells, are all linked by the universal cause of blood donation."

Yet, even though we are all aware of the importance of donating blood, we obviously don't do it enough.

We are not sure what more Canadian Blood Services can do to get people to give. It's not like we don't understand the need or wonder how our donation will be used. It is such an integral part of our existence. But we seem to go about our day-to-day activities without giving much thought to patients in desperate need of blood. We need to change our way of thinking. We need to be proactive and build that solid donor base that Canadian Blood Services needs to meet the ever-present demand.

If you would like to improve the donor statistics, call 1-888-2 DONATE (1-888-236-6283) and make an appointment.

Remember, donors are the lifeblood of this organization.



Letters to the editor...

Cyclists shown no respect from drivers

Dear editor,

I would like to respond to the Letter to the editor from Terri

Oliver that appeared in the September 7 paper.

I totally agree with Terry regarding vehicles sharing the road with cyclists— more specifically the "lack of" sharing.

Cycling on the road seems to have become a very dangerous activity. A few weeks ago, in Acton, a cyclist was knocked off his bike by a truck. The driver did not stop and left the cyclist dazed on the ground.

Luckily, he only had a few road scrapes and rashes, and was off again riding home to Mississauga.

Cyclists have had loud horns honk right beside them, things thrown out of car windows, arms and shoulders hit by rearview mirrors, large trucks pulling back in when they have not yet cleared the cyclist, the list goes on.

Before you try and plow us off

the roads, think about what would happen if you hit us. It would kind of ruin your day, wouldn't it. But hey, at least you taught us cyclists a lesson.

Look around at so many adults and children overweight and out of shape, watching too much TV, driving to the corner store, pollution from exhausts, traffic, etc. and next time you narrowly pass, yell and scream at, or throw something at a cyclist...go fill up your gas tank now. I bet you'll start riding your bike.

Keep training for those triathlons and riding your bike Sydney, and don't let a probably out-of-shape obnoxious lady in a yellow corvette get in your way.

You go girl!

L. Emmerson, Acton

Writer urged to keep opinions to himself

Dear editor,

I was unbelieving when I read what a recent reader (Mike Katarincic) wrote when he felt the need to make his misinformed views made public (Reader vents about recent letters to the editor, Aug. 31).

This letter was regarding the cat that was killed and witnessed by a little child. I am a close neighbour of this family and for Mr. Katarincic's information, we live on a rural road just outside of town, where there is little speed limit monitoring even though it is a posted 50-km.

Everyone's cats are free to roam and unlike those who live in town, we have no sidewalks or pretty little play parks for our children to play in. When we go for a walk, it is along the side of the road and across our neighbor's lawns.

Next time you wish to throw stones at someone, gather your facts or keep your uncaring opinion to yourself. If one of your cats got out and ran on the road and was hit, how would you feel?

T. Lediard, Georgetown

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.

Mail or drop off

Independent & Free Press, 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont., L7G 4B1

Fax

905-873-0398

E-mail

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Editorial e-mail addresses

John McGhie

jmcghie@independentfreepress.com

Cynthia Gamble

cgamble@independentfreepress.com

Lisa Tallyn

ltallyn@independentfreepress.com

Herb Garbutt

hgarbutt@independentfreepress.com

Ted Brown

tbrown@independentfreepress.com

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Address: 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ont. L7G 4B1 (Georgetown Market Place) Telephone: 905-873-0301 Fax: 905-873-0398 E-mail: production@independentfreepress.com Web site: www.independentfreepress.com

Ken Nugent, Publisher

Steve Foreman, Advertising Director John McGhie, Managing Editor Carol Young, Business Manager Nancy Geissler, Circulation Manager

News Editor: Cynthia Gamble Staff Writers: Lisa Tallyn, Herb Garbutt Photography: Ted Brown Retail Advertising Manager: Cindi Campbell Advertising Sales: Jennifer Spencer, Adam Spinney, Aaron Chiasson, Brendan Louth, Andrew Cabral Real Estate: Sue Spizziri Classifieds: Mary Watson, Kristie Pells Accounting: Pat Kentner, Rose Marie Gauthier Production: Mary Lou Foreman, Kevin Powell, Shelli Harrison, Dolores Black, Debbie MacDougall

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