

Speed demons

Ontario's new street racing law has been in effect for barely a month and already there are indications there may be a problem with the initial legislation.

The problem? It may not be tough enough.

That's the view held by Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) commissioner Julian Fantino who this week admitted he wishes the new law was more punitive to those drivers with lead feet.

In just over one month more than 1,000—1,060 to be exact—drivers have been caught driving more than 50 kilometres an hour over the posted limit.

Drivers nabbed exceeding that threshold face stiff penalties which include a minimum \$2,000 fine and a week-long licence suspension. Police also seize the driver's vehicle.

Since the law took effect Sept. 30, police have caught an average of 38 drivers a day. Fantino says he now regrets that the threshold for speeding wasn't set at 30 km-h and admits he is surprised that the number of charges laid hasn't dropped as the public becomes more aware of the new law.

We share Fantino's surprise.

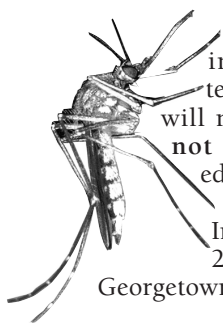
What possible reason can a driver have for doing 150 km-h on the Queen Elizabeth Way or Hwy. 401? While the posted speed on most major highways is 100 km-h, the majority of drivers on those roads exceed that limit by 10-20 km-h. Is that not fast enough?

Motorists who drive at speeds 50 km-h over the posted limit are simply playing a game of Russian roulette with their lives. Unfortunately, by doing so, they involve other innocent drivers and passengers in their deadly contest.

While it may be too early to revisit and alter this new law, we encourage the Ontario Provincial Police to allocate more officers to patrolling the highways in an effort to get even more speed demons off our roads. Perhaps by charging more drivers, our lawmakers will be forced to rethink this legislation to punish speeders more harshly.

Something bugging you?

Send us a letter!



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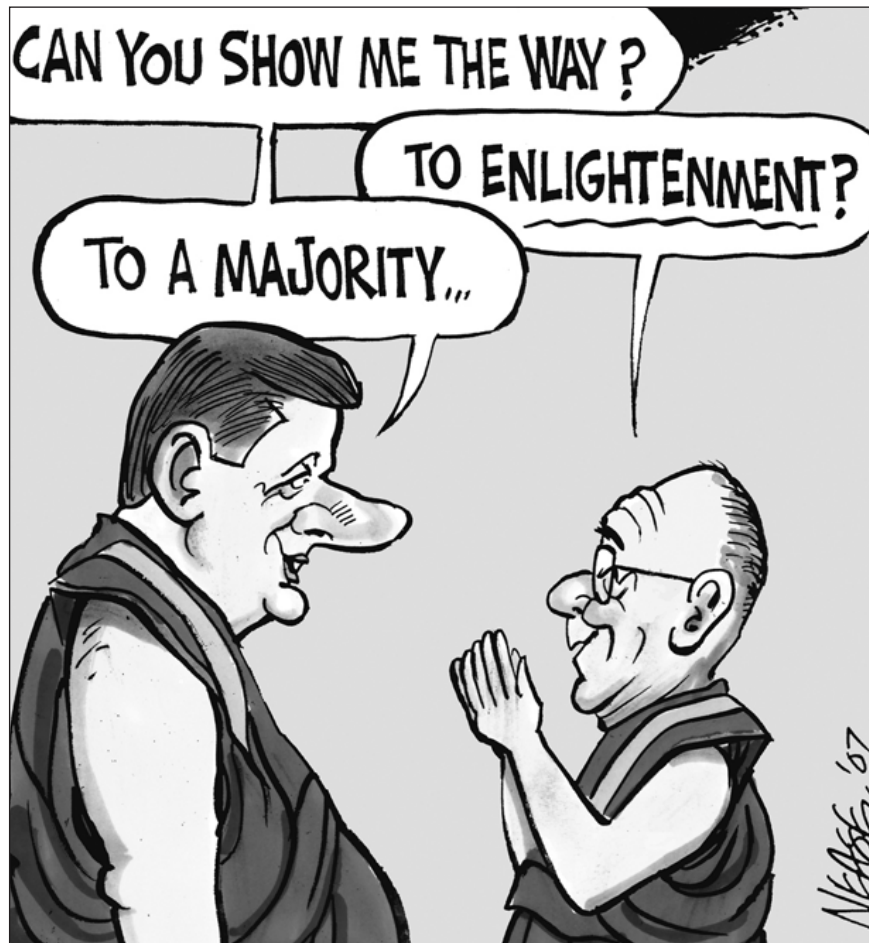
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Steve Nease



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Big Pipe will destroy town's future

Dear editor,

Your article in the Sept. 19 edition entitled "Growth: 'Town is in the spotlight'", finally highlights an undercurrent of focus on the future of greed and expediency.

In the process, if it ever succeeded, it would further destroy the basic elements of the economy that, up until now, has kept Ontario as a leader in Canada. Urban sprawl is convenient, money-making for some and is presented as progress. Nothing could be further from the truth. We already know many of the debilitating effects of the kind of growth we have supported until now have resulted in:

1. The disappearance of irreplaceable agricultural land, remembering

that only 6 per cent of all Canada is tillable.

2. The gradual turning of Lake Ontario into a sewer that ultimately empties into the oceans which supply us with seafood.

3. Increasing dependency on automobiles which can inevitably result in the destruction of communities.

4. The contamination of rivers by sewage plants which has been going on for decades but increases with each new house that is built with sewage connections. How many incidents of sewage plant bypass have there been in Halton Hills in 2007? I could go on.

I would like to point out that planners and developers have ample opportunity to go to other parts of the world

and see how things are done in a more rational manner where neither land nor water is wasted, where homes are built with maximum energy efficiency, where conservation and alternative technologies have already proven themselves, where there are no prohibitions on clotheslines, where it is perfectly acceptable to use the land around your house for growing vegetables, rather than having bylaw insistence on monoculture, grass and where pupils can walk to school.

The Big Pipe notion is not new—it was tossed around as far back as 30 years ago. The notion of wise water utilization is new. It is time that citizens told our Big Pipe planners to smarten up. Doing it their way will put money in the pockets of some and destroy the future for our grandchildren.

Julian Reed, Norval

Reader defends letter and its message

Dear editor,

Although I agree with the Marsellas' opinion (Oct. 31 letter) that this newspaper should not print intolerant letters, my letter (Sept. 28 re: Pride flag) was anything but.

I am surprised at how casually Lyne and Richard Marsella will accuse me of being intolerant and promoting prejudice in my children.

I am not homophobic. I believe that every Canadian adult is lucky to have personal choice over their sexuality, and to be supported in it by our government. I do not believe, however, that a flag is required at Town hall to support sexuality—yours, mine, anyone's.

My letter had no covert message—the message was to stand united as Canadians, as Georgetown residents, and work together as such to keep our town as great a community as I have enjoyed for the past 31 years.

As for my children, I think it best to let them believe, at the tender age of eight, that making love is for making babies—the rest will come later.

Please, Mr. and Mrs Marsella, refrain from using my name in your rants, you neither know nor understand me. Thank you.

Anne-Marie Ezeard,
Georgetown

Cats welcome anytime

Dear editor,

I, too, would like to respond to the recent letter re: roaming cats.

My husband and I do not own a cat but we enjoy our garden and, as a result, welcome visits from the neighbouring cats, namely SkimbleShanks, Arthur and Dylan, who provide us with some respite from marauding squirrels and chipmunks.

The birds also don't seem to be bothered as they have their own domain in the feeder and birdbath.

M. Bryant, Georgetown