



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

What about rights of non-handicapped?

Dear Editor:

Cliff Bignell keeps fighting for disabled and we condone his efforts, but Mr. Bignell has tunnel vision as most crusaders do. Crusaders should first advise or educate their followers on the proper guidelines to receive consideration.

Observe and you may note handicapped parking spaces empty while they park all over the place in non-handicapped spaces, thus denying non-handicapped persons a parking space.

This is especially prevalent in small parking locations like banks etc., but also in malls at busy times, and not only in Milton. Should we designate non-handicapped parking only for general parking areas? Handicapped persons deserve consideration but not the right to override the rights of others.

People are sometimes put out at theatres when they wait 20 to 40 minutes standing up, and, just as the show goes in, along comes two or three handicapped persons in wheelchairs and their family entourage to immediately be first into the theatre. Would it not be fair if they sat in line like all others and be offered first admission, instead of arriving at showtime as obviously planned.

It should also be explained to some handicapped persons that "handicapped access" or "handicapped washroom" does not mean only handicapped persons may use that facility. It means the washroom is

equipped to allow and built to allow easy access without problems for handicapped persons. When the washroom is full, it is still a public facility.

I have witnessed a wheelchair person berating a person for using "their facility," which is wrong.

We do not need photos of non-handicapped violations of spaces. Call the police.

We need photos of handicapped-designated autos used by non-handicapped or non-handicapped relatives violating these handicapped spaces.

Walter J Trafford
Hornby

New laws will save injuries and lives

Dear Editor:

I wanted to take this opportunity to respond to your editorial in last week's paper so that I can educate the public about MADD Canada's stand on lowering the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) for an impaired driver from the legal limit of over 80 milligrams to that of 50 milligrams.

As stated in your article "...already police officers use their discretion, often not laying charges until someone hits at least 100 milligrams." The judicial system still takes into consideration the 20 milligram margin that was used with the calibrated breath testing system. Hence, the reason for impaired driving charges being laid at 100 milligrams. With the digital readout from the intoxillizer -- currently

used -- there is no longer the need for the 20 milligram margin.

This fall, the House of Commons Justice Committee will review the sections of the Federal Criminal Code as it relates to impaired driving, which has not been reviewed in more than 10 years.

One of the amendments that MADD Canada will be recommending is that the courts recognize new technologies in general -- evidentiary breath testing at the scene with an approved screening device that uses digital display. If this revision is accepted and enforced, then charges can be held with an accurate reading of a BAC of over 80 milligrams (even though research tells us that a person is impaired at 30 milligrams).

On the other hand, if the Justice Committee does not recognize the new technologies then yes, MADD Canada is asking for the BAC to be lowered from the current legal limit of over 80 milligrams to that of 50. This way, at 50 mgs, when a person is administered the breath test -- and taking into consideration the 20 mg margin -- then the individual is actually being charged with a BAC of 70 mgs.

Hopefully, with this new knowledge, you now understand what MADD Canada's position is on a BAC of 80 versus 50 mgs.

Either way, MADD Canada believes that by changing the laws lives will be saved and serious injuries reduced.

Paula-Marie Fraser
National Chapter Services
Coordinator, MADD Canada

Letters welcomed

The Canadian Champion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit, revise, and reject letters. Letters must be signed and the address and the telephone number of the writer included. Mail letters to: The Canadian Champion Box 248, Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 or leave them at our office, 191 Main St.

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