



COMMENT

A simple distraction can become deadly

If you're among those who don't always devote 100 per cent of their focus to driving, you may soon be in for a \$325 wake-up call.

This week, the OPP launched Operation Distraction — a crackdown on those who try to perform too many additional tasks while behind the wheel of their cars. Officers are specifically targeting motorists who cause accidents or near misses along Hwy. 401 and other highways.

The timing is good considering it's also Road Safety Week.

According to the Canada Safety Council, 85 per cent of all collisions are caused by driver error, including motorists who are distracted by a second activity they're performing while behind the wheel.

Unfortunately, some drivers don't believe eating, reading the morning paper, touching up their make-up or chatting on their cell phones while driving makes them any less competent as motorists. But anyone caught will get a careless driving charge, a \$325 fine and six demerit points.

For those motorists who insist on having that first cup of coffee, reading about the hockey or basketball playoffs or answering their cell phones, for everyone's sake pull off the road and park somewhere until you're done. You're fellow motorists and wallet will thank you.



OUR READERS WRITE

Mill Pond lacks informative signage

Dear Editor:

Another history lesson lost...

While I do agree that the new Mill Pond gazebo shouldn't be called the Mill Pond Millennium Gazebo, I believe that the larger issue is the lack of informative signage.

As a local history advocate, I think this would be the ideal location to include some historical panels explaining the significance of the Mill Pond and its rela-

tionship to the Martin family.

It would be nice to see why the pond was created and how it was used over the years.

What a better place to find this information than at the pond itself.

It's unfortunate that this type of signage has been missing for years. Let's not let this opportunity slip by.

Diane Robnik
George Street

Do you have something to say on a local issue? Write a letter to the editor. E-mail to miltone@haltontsearch.com.

Thieves destroyed students' dreams: teacher

Dear Editor:

This letter is addressed to the thieves who stole a vegetable garden frame from the lawn at Martin Street School Wednesday, May 2.

I wish you had been in my classroom today when I had to explain to two classes of grade 1 and 2 students why the project we had planned and dreamed about since last fall couldn't go ahead. Disappointment and sadness were on every face.

The children never even got to dig in the bed because you stole it between five p.m. when it was filled with soil and 7:30 this morn-

ing. I couldn't answer their questions about why you took it. Can you?

We had dreamed of having a vegetable garden to learn about how plants grow and mature. We'd talked about sharing the produce with the food bank. We had a parent donate heritage seeds for us to grow. We'd already started our bean seeds in the classroom, ready for transplanting. It's ironic, but the money we used to pay for the wooden frame was to be the next phase.

We have decided not to replace the bed. The children were afraid

you would return and destroy the plans or the new box.

Recently, our school has been vandalized on two occasions. It was bad when you stole or broke our stove and windows, and ruined our rugs.

But today, you did a much worse thing. You stole the hopes and dreams of seven-year-olds.

I hope that when you're caught, for this crime, or another, that the judge makes you come to my class to explain to the children why you did what you did.

Carole Hyde
Teacher, Martin Street School

Ontario policing should be protected the same

Dear Editor:

(The following letter was addressed to Anne McLellan, minister of justice and attorney general of Canada and a copy was filed with *The Champion*.)

Since the Special Investigation Unit, proclaimed in force August 8,

1990, in Ontario, doesn't cover federal police officers (RCMP, Native officers and special constables), it's my concern that all policing in Ontario isn't under the same legal protection.

I therefore request that the federal minister and the provincial min-

ister, together, use their good offices to establish an investigations unit which assures that the same investigative process and protection of law covers all police forces operating in Ontario.

Archibald Brown
Milton



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by Steve Nease