



COMMENT

Call to end violence isn't getting through

The message clearly isn't getting through.

Police have been preaching the anti-violence message for a long time. Rallies have been held opposing violence and countless articles have been written about violence in our society.

So one would think that when it comes to violent behaviour, the numbers would be down. Wrong.

Recent statistics released by Halton Regional Police show that in the first six months of the year, violent crime increased an astounding 16.5 per cent over the same period a year ago.

And the news doesn't get any better with Friday's discovery of a body behind the Milton Curling Club.

Just as the reasons for increasingly violent behaviour are hard to track, so too are the solutions.

Certainly education plays a major role and that anti-violence message needs to be taught and reinforced throughout the school years.

But it goes to a more basic problem in society — a lack of respect for one another. When that issue can be dealt with successfully, the violent behaviour numbers will decline.

BERNARD LANDRY TRAINS FOR THE 2005 SOVEREIGNTY REFERENDUM STEEPLECHASE..



OUR READERS WRITE

Photos advocate unsafe activity: reader

Dear Editor:

For the fourth time in less than a year, you have run photos that cause me great concern.

This time, it was on page 4 and showed two youngsters performing tricks on BMX bicycles. Neither was wearing any protective gear and you mention that they're riding in a public facility meant for this activity.

Do you really think that as a community newspaper run by presumably mature adults, you're doing anybody a favour by advocating kids showing off while they risk their personal safety?

My nephew, who is somewhat younger than these boys, is an outstanding biker and skateboarder but has the common sense to wear his gear and in fact I've heard him remind his friends to wear their helmets before they ride their bikes.

I guess maturity can come in pretty small packages.

I will also forward a copy of this letter to the public works department and the mayor questioning their wisdom at letting kids use this facility without proper protection.

Dennis Simo
Milton

Development letter was dismaying: reader

Dear Editor:

The letter to the editor from the Milton resident who was dismayed about the type of developments in our town is a little dismaying itself.

The writer visited a nearby city to discover it was attempting to push all garages into rear lanes. This attempt to create instant nostalgia was only one of many throughout the GTA over the past six to eight years — all in the name of community building.

The reality is far from the theme that's portrayed. In old Scarborough, the lane has just turned into another road, so that now you have a house framed by roads. In Markham, the much-touted Cornell project that was formed on the same principle to which the writer referred is a failure.

Everyone parks on the street because the driveways aren't convenient. Traffic can't get by as a result, snow ploughing is frustrated, rear lanes are compromised by people washing cars and women don't

feel comfortable walking out to the garage in the dark especially in the dead of winter or amidst a thunderstorm.

The theory may be good, but the reality is far from practical.

Gone are the days when the milkman, breadman and Eaton's man delivered goods to the door.

The car is a reality, and convenience is a must. The rear lane isn't an old idea for cars, but rather a solution from a long time ago for the horse and buggy.

Throughout areas of Canada (like Granville St. in Vancouver) where lanes existed from origin and major renovations occur, they do so by providing a garage at the front or side of the house. That is what people prefer, and the communities not only exist but thrive as well.

Do the new neighbourhoods in Milton exude great rushes of togetherness and concern? Probably not right now, but give them some time.

I see sidewalks for walking, and

parks for visiting. I see some schools being built, and plans for shopping.

The people come first and then the community evolves. Any person who believes that architecture and government edicts create communities has not seen some of the great disasters in urban development.

The notion that a government will pass a law about where people will park on their own land, is just another example of where government has forgotten that they exist because of people and certainly not the other way around. The rear lane subdivision idea has been with us for a long time. The market reacts to it just as it does with cars, phones, clothes and movies.

If you wish to experience the in-roads made by this nostalgic foray purchase the Saturday edition of the Toronto Star and read the New Homes section.

D. Marchiori
Milton



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by Steve Nease

