



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

Speeding on Cabot Trail and other Milton streets is serious, ongoing problem: reader

Dear Editor:

I received an e-mail from a friend August 31, telling me about her 19-year-old son who had recently been hit by a car while walking along a road in Brampton.

I didn't get any details of the accident — right now isn't really a good time to ask the boy's mom what happened.

The motor vehicle driver problem on Cabot Trail also exists on Laurier Avenue and many other streets in Milton, not to mention streets in many other municipalities.

Stop signs have become starting gates where the scream machines (motorcycles) pop wheelies and speed through street curves.

Cars use stop signs as an opportunity to stomp on accelerators, spin their tires and try to 'max the speed' as if they're in a quarter mile race.

Stop signs are also considered finish lines for all vehicles, but no one seems to know what stop means. And corners, even blind corners, are solely meant to test the lean of a bike or the stability of a car.

Unfortunately, among the good drivers is an abundance of irresponsible young drivers backed by irresponsible parents, whose own irresponsible driving habits are being emulated and surpassed by their offspring. Challenging them brings up the lawsuit subject.

You have to wait until you're a victim, in a hospital or funeral parlor with one of your loved ones, in

order to legally have the upper hand — then only to find out our legal system is designed to protect perpetrators and victimize victims.

You have to realize that statistically, we're considered disposable in the overall scheme of things, so as to control expenses and keep taxes down.

If enough disposables are destroyed in a short period of time, then something might be done to pacify the survivors.

Appealing to our part-time municipal councillors will only generate political statements that have no substance and will not accomplish anything other than shut the complainers up.

Ron Furik, whose ward includes Cabot Trail, admits that he knows speeding is a problem, a common one at that.

Previous complaints were shrugged off by a Town report, which recommended against the installation of a stop sign. I'd love to see that report.

But if the residents are concerned, Councillor Furik says he prepared to investigate it again — and Town staff will issue another report.

Det. Sgt. Jackie Gordon says she was unaware of the concerns, but that all speeding complaints are taken seriously. She says Halton Regional Police run speeding projects in all areas where they receive complaints and they're monitored for a period of time and if there are speeders, tickets are issued.

Apparently there have been 14

occasions on Cabot Trail this year for a variety of incidents, including traffic enforcement and no speeding-related charges have been laid.

Does this mean the residents of Cabot Trail are liars, or is it just too difficult to write tickets with all that doughnut goo on their fingers?

The problem goes beyond speeding on city streets. Our system has evolved into a beehive of gross incompetence. We have allowed a politically-correct attitude to become the cornerstone of our social structure.

Now more concerned with who is right than what is right, we have lost all sense of the truth. Nothing will be done as nothing can be done to sustain any corrective action on Cabot Trail or any other street.

You see, the people who run our country focus on who is right. Those charged with enforcing what is right have their hands tied tightly by the who-is-right influence, and the doughnut goo helps them maintain their sanity.

This is a serious problem right now, and it can only get worse with the population increase and an influx of transients resulting from the jail expansion.

Probably sooner rather than later someone in this town will be in a hospital or funeral home as a result of some idiot behind the wheel who thinks they have the right to jeopardize lives by racing on residential roads.

Ken Cyr
Milton

NDP doesn't support huge pay hike, says Hampton

Dear Editor:

Your September 7 cartoon "Political Common Ground" shows Ontario's three political party leaders gloating over the 25 per cent pay raise for MPPs.

The fact is the NDP is opposed to the increase. I have already said I won't accept it. So much for "common ground."

New Democrats unanimously voted against the MPP salary review by the province's integrity commissioner. We'll be campaigning against the 25 per cent pay raise in the next election.

MPPs should live under the same salary realities as average working people, whose wages have been held to two, one, even zero per cent, not to mention the minimum wage workers, who haven't seen their rock bottom pay raised for almost seven years.

Your cartoonist deservedly lampoons the Conservatives and Liberals for lusting after this money grab, but then misleads your readers by portraying the NDP as a party to this. We're not.

Howard Hampton, leader
Ontario New Democratic Party

Barn contracts hit a new high as farmers take advantage of sleighing in drawing stone and other material used for building

'Time Capsules are gems of information extracted from past issues of The Champion and other publications to provide a window into Milton's past. Explanatory comment is sometimes provided to place the situation in context.

January 1892

W. Peacock, the enterprising barn builder, informs us that he has a larger number of contracts for new barns next season than for years. He says that farmers are taking advantage of the sleighing in drawing stone and other material necessary for the new buildings.

...

The first annual banquet of Camp Campbell, No. 29, Sons of Scotland was held at the Commercial Hotel and was attended by between 75 and 100 members of the camp and invited guests. There was no haggis nor Scotch whiskey or any other kind of liquor, nor was there anything particularly Scotch about the bill of fare, but the Scotchman that would have turned up his nose at the spread would have been hard to please indeed. There was an abundance of flesh, fowl and various delicacies all served up in a style that was most creditable to the hotel. There was a very tasteful menu card on which was also printed the programme of toasts.

February 1892

At the Teachers' Convention Mr. Bengough of Toronto used a Remington typewriter to illustrate the use of this machine in teaching English in schools. Mr. Bengough argued that as spelling is simply a matter of form, the correct arrangement of the letters would be shown to pupils in connection with type, not script. In the introduction of typewriters there was equivalent, educationally, to a whole year's drilling by old methods.

...

Mr. C. J. Lewis's fine new brick building in Campbellville is nearing completion and is a credit to the village. (The building remains at the south east of the main corner.)

...

The Masonic Ball at the town hall arranged by St. Clair Lodge was more largely attended than any other ever given in Milton and the greatest success on record here.

Milton Time Capsules



The hall was beautifully decorated, the supper provided by Messrs. P. M. McKay's Sons was excellent, the tables nicely and tastefully set, the music supplied by the Marciano orchestra was the best that could be got from Toronto. There were good dancers and beautifully dressed ladies. The brethren of St. Clair Lodge and a number of visiting brethren marched into the ball room about 9.30 p.m. Dancing was kept up until 4 a.m.

...

C.E. White will sell by auction on Saturday evening a number of paintings and drawings by Miss Lizzie Bastedo, pupil of Mr. Forster, the well-known Toronto artist.

As the merits of Miss Bastedo's work are so well known here, it's unnecessary to enlarge on them, but the pictures will be on exhibition at Mr. White's store all next week. It's not often that Miltonians have an opportunity like the coming one to buy first class pictures.

...

Mr. Winn, the Hamilton shoe manufacturer, whom some of our citizens have been trying to induce to move to Milton, was here on Friday, inspected several buildings considered suitable for his business and met a number of Miltonians at the town hall in the evening.

He said that he was well pleased with the appearance of the town, satisfied with its fire protection, waterworks and other advantages and that he would come here if he got a bonus of \$8,000. He agreed to put his terms in writing and when they were received they will be considered at a meeting of the town council.

Mr. Winn said he would guarantee to constantly employ 50 hands, which would mean the addition of about 150 to our population and it is to be hoped that he can be induced to come here.

This material is assembled on behalf of the Milton Historical Society by Jim Dills, chair of research, who can be reached by e-mail at jdills@idirect.com.

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