



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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This anthrax scare has us in catch-22

It's a catch-22.

On one hand we don't want to overreact, but on the other hand we're better safe than sorry.

Milton's anthrax scare at the mall Tuesday at first seemed to be a little silly.

But when you think about it, after what happened on September 11, isn't anything really possible? And with that in mind, why take a chance?

Even here at our office, our receptionist is opening mail with surgical gloves as ordered by head office, at least for now.

There's no need to panic, but it's reasonable for all of us to be extra cautious in opening unknown mail or reporting findings of powder in unexpected places.

The police and fire department must take reports seriously, and treat them like actual threats, otherwise the consequences could be disastrous.

And the authorities' response to reports — like the investigation at the mall — may seem like a bit much, but, once again, with all the nuts out there, we really are better safe than sorry.

OUR READERS WRITE

Local commuter expresses frustration over news that serious traffic increases coming

Dear Editor:

When I read the headline in Tuesday's Champion, 'Derry Road to need extensive upgrades as traffic increases' I didn't know whether I should laugh or cry.

Commuting to Mississauga every day isn't a pleasant experience.

When it rains, it's even worse. This morning, because we were moving at such great speeds, I decided I would time a portion of my drive.

From just before Winston Churchill Boulevard to just past Mavis Road is about 10 km — and

this morning it took 45 minutes.

The sad thing is that this is normal.

And sadder still is the fact that it's only going to get worse. As Milton adds thousands of new residents, the commute will continue to deteriorate.

So, your front page story, to me, is tragically funny. Halton and Milton bureaucrats are suddenly realizing that our roads are "capacity deficient."

What a surprise. I guess because they all work in town, they never noticed until now. Well good for

them.

It sure would have been nice, though, if someone had the brainstorm before people started moving in that we needed an investment in infrastructure.

The growth of our town is probably a net positive, but traffic east will be a nightmare for years to come.

All these new people, most of whom will probably work in Mississauga and Toronto, just won't fit on our crowded highways.

Edward Brooks
Hayward Crescent

I could barely move in that Smurfette costume

When I was younger, I couldn't wait for Halloween to roll around.

The thought of dressing up, putting on make-up and eating pounds of candy excited me.

It was a time for my friends and I to act silly, stay out late and munch on junk food. What could be better?

Thinking back, I wish I had been a little more on the creative side when it came to dressing up. Looking like Madonna for six years in a row got a little old.

I remember gazing enviously at the costumes my friends would make themselves, like a fairy princess or a bunny with homemade ears, whiskers and tail.

And sifting through the junk food at the end of the night on the kitchen table was the best. The little candy bars, gum and caramel squares were always my favourite treats.

As I grew older and trick-or-treating was past my time (although I did trick-or-treat two years

ago at the age of 20, complete with pumpkin costume), I would go to friends' homes and hand out candy to the scary creatures who came to the door.

I think I got more fun out of that than ringing the bell myself.

Since October 31 is just around the corner, I thought I'd share some trick-or-treating tips with those of us who still venture into the night.

1. Try to avoid masks and tight plastic costumes if possible. The Smurfette costume I used to own looked cute, but I could barely move and after awhile the mask became really hot and hard to breathe under.

2. Spend time creating a one-of-a-kind costume. We've all seen witches, ghosts and baby costumes. The more original the idea is, the more compliments you'll receive.

3. If you're going trick-or-treating in a group, why not go as a theme? Like the characters from The Wizard of Oz or The Seven Dwarfs and



Random thoughts

with FANNIE SUNSHINE

Snow White. The more time you spend on your costume, the more you'll get into the spirit of Halloween.

4. When your trick-or-treating bag starts to become heavy, call it a night. Remember, you have to be the one to lug it around, make sure you can carry it.

5. Be grateful for any treat you get. I know how difficult it can be to look excited over a can of pop, peanuts or raisins but please try your best.

6. If you come across a home that's giving away amazing candy either by product or bulk, let your fellow trick-or-treaters you pass on the street know. After all, would you want to be the one missing out?

7. Since it will be chilly when the sun sets, try to dress-up in a warm costume. You don't want a winter jacket to take away from your great outfit.

8. Don't bother ringing the door bell if the house has its lights off. Chances are the people aren't home or they don't want to be bothered by ghosts and goblins.

9. If you're carrying a UNICEF box, hang it around your neck instead of holding it. You'll want to have one hand free, since your trick-or-treating bag will be in the other.

10. Finally, don't eat anything that's not wrapped. You don't know where it's been or how many people have touched it.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!