



# COMMENT



## THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## Ignoring water ban can mean hefty fine

It's hard to sit back and watch the lawn turn from a lush forest green to a crunchy golden brown and the pansies wither under the blazing sun. But get used to it. It's July and we don't have an infinite supply of water.

With temperatures continuing to range from 25 to 30 degrees C and only modest rain in the forecast, Halton Region has instituted a ban on lawn watering.

It's a necessary precaution to take in order to ensure the Region's reservoirs have the ability to meet essential household needs and fire protection.

During the ban, residents may not water their lawns (unless it's new sod) or wash their vehicles regardless of whether the water comes from Lake Ontario or wells. This goes for businesses, too.

Flower and vegetable gardens may only be watered using a watering can or hose with a spray nozzle.

If you think nobody will see your sprinkler going full tilt in your backyard, think again. You never know who's watching.

The Region seriously frowns on those who fail to comply and doing so can mean a fine as high as \$2,000.

Water is a precious resource — use it wisely.

## Current animal cruelty law just not tough enough

Animal lovers across the country should be encouraged by the recent third reading of Bill C-15B, which if given final approval in September would mean significant changes to Canada's animal cruelty law.

If green-lighted by the House of Commons, penalties would include a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, an unlimited fine and a possible lifetime ban on animal ownership.

Just this past week we got an appalling reminder of why stiffer punishment is needed — as two young men were charged in connection with a seven-month-old pit bull being dragged behind a car for a kilometre in Vaughan.

Perpetrators of this type of violence should definitely face more severe penalties than those currently on the Criminal Code of Canada books. I only hope that these proposed changes are rubber-stamped by the time these two men go to

court September 24.

But what about everyday cases of animal neglect — which are far more common and, despite ongoing messages from animal rights groups, seem to almost pass as acceptable?

Just this past Sunday during a quick trip to Milton Mall, I noticed a rather sizeable pooch (I'm not sure what breed exactly) left in a pick-up truck. Upon my departure (at least 10 minutes later, and maybe even 15) the truck and dog were still there. Now granted the window was rolled down slightly, but given last weekend's temperatures I'm sure it was still quite stifling.

About two weeks before that while stopping by Canadian Tire, I came across a little poodle left in a car. While it was evening and certainly not humid, the little guy was left there at least 15 minutes (judging by my visit there) and obviously agitated by his confined quarters.



Up  
front

with STEVE LeBLANC

I would never put these two incidents on any kind of par with this week's dog-dragging in Vaughan, but they're nevertheless cases where an animal's best interests weren't taken into consideration.

And perhaps I'm partially guilty for not sticking around and voicing my outrage to these owners. How much good it would have done I'm not

sure, but then maybe it's that kind of apathy that allows this type of thing to continue.

All I can say is that I'd never do that to my little kitty Sasha (not that she'd ever let me live it down anyway) and I sure hope I don't run into any more cases like that this summer.

If you've got to pick up a few things at the mall before heading out to the cottage or wherever, please do so before packing up the dog — or better yet, leave one family member outside to walk your dog while you do the shopping.

Whether it's hot out or not, a cramped car is no place for an animal. After all, you don't take your dog or cat home and lock them in a closet all day. So please Milton, let's put a bit more thought into taking care of our furry friends. All that's needed is a little extra effort — and nobody said owning an animal was suppose to be easy anyway.



## OUR READERS WRITE

### Bell Street resident asks Milton not to smash bottles in parks after dog slices up his paw

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter to appeal to those people who're responsible for the broken glass bottles that litter our parks and school grounds. Believe me, there's a lot.

The other day my puppy and I went for a walk through the forest near my home — a forest we're grateful to have.

My puppy bounced through the forest, happy to be free of his small back yard. All of a sudden there was a yelp and a cry.

I raced over to where he was and discovered he had sliced his paw

deep, right across his pad. He had run into a large pile of smashed glass right beside a garbage can. He lay down, knowing he couldn't make the journey home.

We managed to get him home, but now he has to stay off his feet for two weeks. This isn't an easy task for a young puppy. We had to carry him outside to use the wash-room — again, not easy when he's a 50-pound puppy.

I have to hold his leg now when he drinks water or eats because he can't stand any pressure on his paw.

So please, please, please spread

the word. Stop smashing bottles in local parks. Put them in the garbage cans. There are lots around.

Or take them home and collect the money.

Stop smashing them for the sake of Rufus, my puppy, and all the other dogs that play there, and for all the children that play there as well.

Let's preserve these small pieces of wilderness we have. Be thankful it's not a high rise with a paved parking lot.

K. Tobin  
Bell Street

Have your say on a local issue. E-mail letters to [miltoned@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltoned@haltonsearch.com).