



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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To spray... or not to spray is question

We don't envy Dr. Bob Nosal's position. As medical officer of health for Halton, he often has tough calls to make.

And his opinion — which carries much weight — doesn't always sit well with residents. Just ask the business owners who are frustrated with the no-smoking bylaws in each municipality.

Now Dr. Nosal has another health issue on his hands. It's the West Nile Virus.

When you consider more than 75 residents a day are reporting dead birds to the health department, we know we have a serious problem.

Halton is currently considering a spraying program to exterminate mosquitoes and help prevent the virus from spreading to humans.

But there are, obviously, very real environmental concerns about the prospect of spraying mosquito sites.

However, we trust Dr. Nosal and his team will carefully weigh all options before making a decision.

And we trust, too, the health department will keep us informed every step of the way.

Harsh reality is, we don't live in crime-free zone

So Milton isn't the sheltered little town so many residents believe it to be.

Thanks in large part to a debit card scam that hit the town in April, Milton's crime rate soared 27 per cent this year. That really is quite a jump when you think about it, especially since that's being credited with pushing the region's crime rate up 4.9 per cent.

The Halton Regional Police Service Fraud Bureau is still searching for at least three suspects believed to be involved in the fraud, which took place at a local gas station. More than 300 people fell victim and the men made off with about \$500,000.

So many people believe Milton is isolated from crime just because it's a smaller populated area. True, the town's crime rate of serious offences, such as abductions, murders, rapes are next to nil, but we can't trick ourselves into believing we live

in a crime-free zone. Although serious crimes are down, auto thefts are up by 2.9 per cent, compared to last year at this time.

Car thefts and car break-ins have always been a problem facing this town. I can almost guarantee when I call for the police blotter each week there will be at least one incident involving a stolen car or car stereo. And more often than not, the doors were left unlocked, sometimes even with the keys in the ignition. I think that if you're that stupid to leave your car unsecured, you have no right to be upset when something bad happens.

Drinking and driving is still a problem, which really comes as no surprise. I don't think it matters how many drinking and driving commercials we see or how many people die from alcohol-related accidents, people will still climb behind the wheel intoxicated.

OUR READERS WRITE

Are Milton's new subdivisions included in maps for the town's emergency services,? asks reader

Dear Editor:

I'm concerned about how current and available our street maps are to our local emergency medical services unit. With many new streets added, how are we ensuring that our emergency medical service drivers have the most up-to-date maps?

On July 29, I heard an ambulance in my neighbourhood at about 10 p.m. When I looked out my window, I noticed the ambulance was

stopped in the middle of the road and the attendants were looking at a map. I sensed they didn't know where they were going and went over to the ambulance. The attendant saw me and asked if I knew where a street was. Once I told them, they stated they didn't have the street name on their map.

This subdivision has had street names for more than six months. I don't know how critical the situa-

tion was and I'm glad I helped. I can't help thinking that this could have been someone in my family that needed emergency assistance quickly.

I urge the new developers and all those involved with updating our town's maps with the new streets in Milton to please ensure emergency medical services has them first.

Nancy Surette
Milton

Accident victim thanks all those who offered assistance

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to thank all the wonderful people who assisted my attendants and I during my fall August 1 at Martin Street by the Mill Pond.

I'm slowly getting better and should be out and about soon.

Alan Jordon
Ontario Street



Random thoughts

with FANNIE SUNSHINE

So far this year, 21 impaired driving charges have been laid, which is identical to last year's numbers. Maybe this means the same idiots are getting caught. On a better note, break-ins have dropped 12.4 per cent since last year. Maybe this is because people living in the country are actually starting to lock their doors now. Sex assaults have dropped by 7.7 per cent. No murders have

been reported this year compared to one last year.

It's no secret that Milton is growing. It seems new housing is popping up left, right and centre. An increase in population will likely cause an increase in crime. That's not to say Milton is on the verge of becoming the next Toronto or Mississauga, but it's something to think about.

I myself am not a Miltonian. I make the commute everyday from my home in Toronto. I really do enjoy the eight hours a day I spend in town, mainly because it's a welcome change from crazy motorists, smog and, for the most part, rude people. I feel relatively safe walking on the paths by the Mill Pond or walking along various streets. I feel more apprehensive driving in certain areas of Toronto.

Halton Regional Police say they're concerned with any increase in crime, but at least they can thank the bank fraud scam for the rise.