



COMMENT



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Let's make the long weekend a safe one

With the last holiday weekend of the summer now here, we'd like to offer one final plea to area motorists to stay safe and act responsibly during their upcoming travels.

Okay, many of you are wondering just when you'll stop being burdened by anti-drinking and driving messages. It's simple — as soon as drinking and driving ceases to be a problem.

Unfortunately, that's not quite the case yet. During August's Civic Holiday Weekend, Ontario police forces charged many a driver with being under the influence of alcohol.

With so many alternatives to drinking and driving — taking a cab, staying over at a friend's house or having a designated driver — it's flabbergasting how some people still choose the option that puts them and others in harm's way.

And let's try to keep our tempers in check this weekend as well.

Many of us will likely run into traffic tie-ups over the next two or three days and while this can be frustrating, giving in to road rage doesn't make things any better.

In fact, angry drivers have become almost as dangerous on Ontario highways as intoxicated ones.

So when traveling this weekend, let's remember that every motorist or passenger is somebody's loved one — including you.

Wouldn't it make more sense to build BMX park?

The Town has missed the mark in their plans for a new skate park.

Originally, the skate park — which carries a \$300,000 price tag — was to be designed to service skateboarders, in-line skaters and BMXers. Now, the Town says that's not possible and the BMXers have to find somewhere else because the uses aren't compatible.

According to the Town, there are two reasons bikes are being removed from the park. Its skate park consultant said so and its insurance company said so.

In order to properly maneuver a bike, the ramps have to be significantly steeper than those used by skateboarders and in-line skaters. And considering that, the insurance company believes it would be dangerous to mix uses. I don't challenge this thinking.

On the surface, eliminating the bikes doesn't

seem overly misguided. It even borders on considerate in terms of pleasing skateboarders. I don't doubt that having a bike land on someone would hurt.

But when you look at the people who use the existing skate park, the majority of them are BMXers. All you have to do to see that is stand by the park for a little while.

BMXers outnumbered other users when the Town hosted a public meeting to seek design input last month.

Since this is the case, wouldn't it make more sense to build a BMX park?

Instead, the Town is moving forward with the skate park — for which construction is slated for this fall — and have told the BMXers that if demand is significant enough and money can be found at a later date, maybe they'll get a park, too.



OUR READERS WRITE

Reader asks cyclists to give some warning when approaching walkers on Milton paths

Dear Editor:

My husband and I walk each day with our dog along the path adjacent to Derry Road from Ontario Street to Thompson Road.

We walk side by side and keep the dog on our right on the grass. When we see someone approaching, walking or on bikes, we walk behind each other, to give the person or persons more room. Unfortunately, we don't have eyes in the back of our heads, so we're at a disadvantage when someone comes up behind us.

If it's people walking they say excuse me, but with bikes there's no warning and we've been run down quite often. Do they not make bells for bikes anymore?

Wouldn't it be nice if the bikers would let us know they're coming through? I'm hearing impaired, so it's even worse when I venture out alone.

Sunday night I was walking the dog by myself on Laurier Avenue near A&P on the sidewalk.

A father was riding his bike with his young daughter's arms around

his neck, her body, hanging down his back.

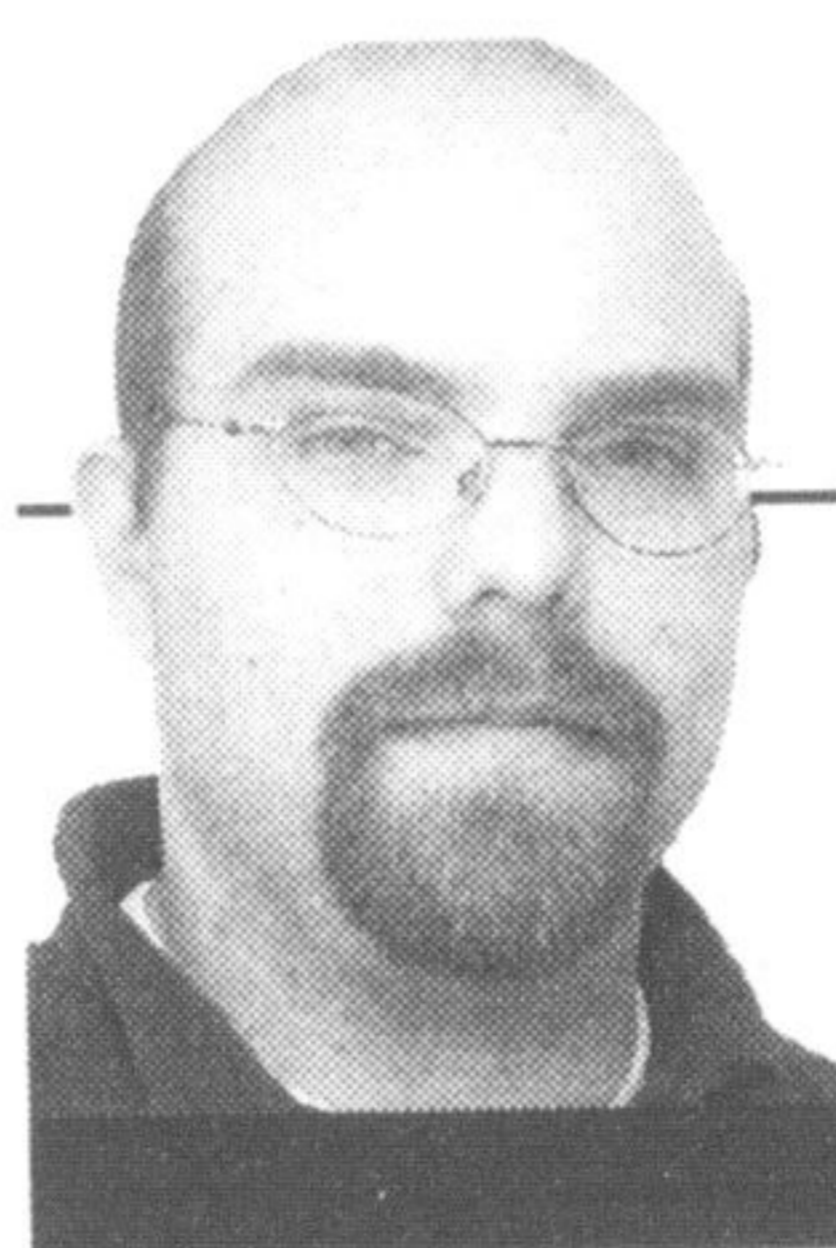
A young lad followed close behind and both were travelling like they were in the Indy 500. The mother came after and she saw a couple walking toward her, so she took the road.

Since I couldn't see nor hear them coming, I was quite upset when they whizzed by me. Please let the walkers know you are coming.

We don't mind if you yell at us.

Barbara Aikenhead
Ontario Street

E-mail your letters to the editor to miltomed@haltonsearch.com.



From my perspective

with RICHARD VIVIAN

And for now, the bikes can be shipped down to Drumquin Park and used at the BMX Track 2000 facility.

However, the track caters to racing bikes only and not the free-style riders that need a park of their own.

So when the temporary skate park — which has housed all three uses in relative peace — is

torn down, BMXers will be forced to leave town to find enjoyment. Either that, or use other structures around town for tricks.

It's often said the youth of Milton don't have much to keep them occupied. I wonder what impact kicking the majority of users out of the skate park will have on that.

And by saying this, I'm not labeling BMXers as delinquents. I'm merely pointed out that entertainment options for youth are shrinking, not growing.

This seems like reverse progress to me.

What's your opinion? We at The Champion would love to see your opinion in a letter to the editor.

And it never hurts to give your local councillor or mayor a call either. They're the ones who will decide the final design.