

Comment

Time to toughen up

We applaud Transportation Minister Harinder Takhar's push to toughen Ontario's penalties for motorists who carry children in their cars without adequate safety restraints.

Last Tuesday Takhar announced plans to apply demerit points to drivers caught misusing or not using infant/toddler car seats and booster seats for older children too small to be adequately protected by just a seatbelt.

The proposed legislation also recommends Ontario follow revised federal car seat standards and extend the mandatory use of forward-facing car seats to anyone — grandparents and babysitters included — transporting a child weighing between 9 and 18 kilograms.

Currently in Ontario, only parents of a child travelling in their family-owned vehicle are required to provide approved safety seats.

With today's hurried lifestyle, too often our children are being transported around in cars, vans and SUVs by parents, relatives, family friends and caregivers. Regardless of the distance and speed travelled during these journeys our children are

at risk of personal injury — or worse — if not properly secured inside the vehicle in which they're riding.

Even short trips in residential neighbourhoods pose significant risk to unrestrained children.

In proposing amendments to existing traffic laws, Takhar presented a compelling argument including the comparison of the impact of an unrestrained child in a 50 km/h crash to a fall from a third-storey window.

The transportation minister is also proposing that children too big for their car seats but too small for seatbelts be required to be placed in a booster car seat.

The Canada Safety Council estimates that properly installed (and used) car seats and booster seats may reduce the risk of death or serious injury from an accident by as much as 75 per cent.

Still, some people aren't getting the message. Just last fall, during an OPP traffic safety blitz one car stopped was found to have a child being held on the lap of an adult. Meanwhile, the front passenger seat of the car was occupied by a brand new approved infant seat — still in its box.



Our Readers Write

Milton still a friendly place, says reader

Dear Editor:

There have been several letters in the paper recently regarding the growth of Milton and about what our future holds.

Many people who've lived here for a long time are growing more concerned that this town is in danger of becoming like a big city. Yet in my opinion, while our town changes, the people who've given Milton its core fibre haven't.

An associate of mine recently made the comment that gestures of simple good manners are becoming rare.

However, an incident that happened to me the other day reaffirmed my belief in Miltonians.

I was waiting in line to use a bank machine while a man ahead of me was doing some transactions.

He asked if I was only making a withdrawal. When I said yes, he offered to let me do it first because he had several items to transact. He was under no obligation to do so. He did it because to him it was the neighbourly thing to do.

I was very impressed by this and told him so. To the gentleman who made this gesture, I say thanks again.

As far as I'm concerned, Milton is still in very good hands.

Greg Nelson
Milton

Tree planting once again a major success, thanks to generous support: co-ordinator

Dear Editor:

On May 1, Greater Halton Area Scouting had 163 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Leaders, parents and siblings out planting 3,500 trees for the environment at Dufferin Aggregates quarry.

The Greater Halton Area is now made up of all the small and large communities of Acton, Campbellville, Georgetown, Glen Williams, Hornby, Limehouse and

Milton.

Through the generosity of these communities, our organization was able to raise significant funds toward our activities with our 33rd annual planting.

On behalf of all of our members, I'd like to offer a big Scouting thank-you to the staff and management at Dufferin Aggregates for again providing us with a planting site, the trees and of course the

kids' favourite part — a super lunch after planting was done.

The weather was cool and wet that day, which is the best type of weather for young trees to be transplanted.

We look forward to our 34th Scoutree project next year.

Again, thanks to all who helped.
George Henderson,
Scoutree co-ordinator
Greater Halton Area Scouting

Thanks for being neighbourly, says grateful woman

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regards to the recent Milton Good Neighbours Community Day.

I really don't know what to say for the help. I had four wonderful people arrive at my front door that Saturday morning and before I knew it my windows

were all cleaned — inside and out.

I haven't been able to do them for the last year-and-a-half. I'm eternally grateful to these people.

My thanks go out to Milton's good neighbours.

Kay Bratty
Milton

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Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

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Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

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The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 191 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 4N9 (Box 248), is one of The Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. group of suburban companies which includes: Ajax/Pickering News Advertiser, Alliston Herald/Courier, Barrie Advance, Bolton Enterprise, Brampton Guardian, Burlington Post, Burlington Shopping News, City Parent, City of York Guardian, Collingwood/Wasaga Connection, East York Mirror, Erin Advocate/Country Routes, Etobicoke Guardian, Flamborough Review, Forever Young, Georgetown Independent/Acton Free Press, Halton Business Times, Huronia Business Times, Lindsay This Week, Markham Economist & Sun, Midland/Penetang-uishene Mirror, Milton Shopping News, Mississauga Business Times, Mississauga News, Napanee Guide, Nassagaweya News, Newmarket/Aurora Era-Banner, Northumberland News, North York Mirror, Oakville Beaver, Oakville Shopping News, Oldtimers Hockey News, Orillia Today, Oshawa/Whitby/Clarington/Port Perry This Week, Peterborough This Week, Picton County Guide, Richmond Hill/Thornhill/Vaughan Liberal, Scarborough Mirror, Stouffville/Uxbridge Tribune.

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Pud

by Steve Nease

