

Comment

Home invasion too close for comfort

Last Tuesday's early-morning home invasion in north Oakville is a chilling reminder that our wonderful region can't escape big city crime.

We can't even begin to imagine the sheer terror this family of four experienced as the masked intruders entered their home at 3:30 a.m., robbing them of their belongings and, perhaps more crucial, their sense of security.

For more than 90 minutes, a man, his wife and their two teens were corralled in a bedroom where banking information was obtained from them.

Keep in mind the thugs were armed with a shotgun, baseball bat and golf club. While the police report no one was injured, we know the family must have been traumatized.

The perpetrators gained entry to the home via an unlocked sliding glass door.

Halton Regional Police are warning residents to be extra careful when locking up for the night. We may want to think twice about leaving windows open to enjoy that summer breeze.

What a shame that it has come to this.



Our Readers Write

Speeding has become big problem in Milton

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to Edward Brook's letter about local traffic congestion, which appeared in the August 24 Champion.

I'd like to contradict Mr. Brook's comment that Milton drivers have nowhere to speed in town.

I see that he lives on a quiet street where speeding would be difficult at the best of times. I, however, live in a house that fronts onto Main Street. When we bought this house, Main Street was a quiet two-lane road, but has since become a four-lane raceway.

On the odd occasion that the police set

up at Bishop Reding Secondary School, speeding is significantly reduced, but as soon as the police cars go away it's back to the normal 80 to 90 km/h.

Even at the best of times the average speed is 60 km/h, even though the posted speed limit is 50 km/h.

I'm sure that photo radar would go a long way toward maintaining the speed limit.

Photo radar works well in other countries. Let's get serious about this matter and make our roads safer for everyone.

**Chris Shellard
Davis Lane**

Photo radar fundamentally flawed system that won't fix problem of dangerous driving

Dear Editor:

I'm writing to comment on the front page article about photo radar that appeared in the August 17 Champion.

Many believe photo radar is just a tax grab. While I share this view, I believe photo radar is flawed for two other reasons.

First, it doesn't target the driver, only the vehicle owner. And second, I feel it's a method of law enforcement that discriminates against the poor.

Consider an extreme example. In the world of photo radar, Microsoft's Bill Gates could move to Halton and drive at 200 km/h all day.

During his day of reckless driving, he might accumulate \$5,000 in photo radar fines. But what does he care? He probably makes \$50,000 per day. In other words, drivers who can afford to speed can do so indefinitely.

My point is that photo radar is flawed in concept simply because it doesn't apply to the entire population equally.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but didn't highway car accidents actually go up during the photo radar days in Ontario?

I have a tough time accepting that with photo radar rich people can speed. Everyone should drive at a safe speed, not just those who can't

afford to pay the fine.

We have to get unsafe drivers off the road, and in my opinion taking pictures of cars and sending the owner a fine isn't going to do it.

On the bright side, it might be fun guessing someone's annual income based on their driving habits. Next time I'm in the car with my kids I can say, "Look at how slow that person is driving. They must be really poor," or "Wow, that guy must be really rich. Did you see how fast he was driving?"

Again, let's get unsafe drivers off the road, not just slow down the less wealthy ones.

**Brian Macdonnell
Campbellville**

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by Steve Nease

