

# Comment

## Ban owners, not dogs

We'll say up front that we're not fans of pitbulls. These dogs, over the years, have been bred to be aggressive, have 10 times the strength of most other dogs and will fight to the death.

Even in the case of the most recent pitbull attack in Toronto in which a man was mauled by two pitbulls he was walking for their owner, it took 16 bullets from police officers' guns to stop the beasts.

These dogs have the potential to be killing machines.

That said, Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant is wrong to be considering a province-wide ban on the breed.

For starters, pitbulls aren't a breed, but a collection of breeds. Should a ban then cover mutts? Bull terriers? Cross-breeds?

A recent federal study on dog bites indicated that the four breeds most likely to bite are German shepherds, cocker spaniels, rottweilers and golden retrievers. Should we ban these breeds?

The problem with pitbulls lies not with the dogs, but with the owners who have these dogs solely because of their aggressive nature. There are many good owners of pitbulls and it would be wrong to penalize them because of the stupidity and irresponsibility of bad owners.

Rather than making political hay with a cry to ban the pitbulls, politicians like Bryant and Toronto Mayor David Miller should push for laws that, pardon the pun, have some bite.

Irresponsible dog owners and breeders should be charged criminally — jail time, if warranted — for attacks by their dogs. Municipal politicians, if they truly believe there's a problem with dog attacks, should consider bylaws that require dogs of certain sizes and/or breeds, be muzzled and leashed when outside. Owners not complying should face significant fines.

Punishing bad owners, not their dogs, makes sense to us.



## Our Readers Write

### Photo radar should be brought back

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the August 31 letter to the editor entitled 'Photo radar fundamentally flawed ...'

I've been a volunteer driver in north Halton for about 15 years, driving to hospitals and medical appointments on Hwy. 401 and the QEW to places like Hamilton, Mississauga and Oakville.

During the short time that photo radar was operating, these roads — in my opinion — were definitely safer, with less speeding and less aggravation.

I fail to understand how some people consider photo radar a cash grab. Hey, don't do the crime and you won't need to

pay the fine.

Regarding the idea that only the rich will be able to afford to speed, how do you think they got rich in the first place and manage to stay rich? It's by sensibly hanging on to as much of their money as they can and not frittering it away on speeding tickets.

Also, I expect the rich are as law-abiding as the rest of us.

And if photo radar would slow down only the less wealthy among us, that could possibly apply to 90 per cent of all drivers.

Archie Brown  
Third Line

### Kudos to Gary Carr for opposing CN's proposed intermodal terminal in Milton

Dear Editor:

It goes without saying that many Miltonians are glad to have read that Halton MP Gary Carr is now spearheading a petition against the potential for an intermodal terminal to be established in south rural Milton.

It now bears asking why our MPP, town councillors and mayor

didn't take on and champion such an important action.

Also, why didn't our regional politicians act on this important issue either?

I'm sure they'll all be lining up now to jump on the opposition bandwagon orchestrated by Mr. Carr, but many of us will remember who actually led the charge at the

next election.

Gold-star accolades to Mr. Carr and the Residents Affected by Intermodal Lines (RAIL) for standing tall and speaking up for the majority of Miltonians.

You're making a difference. Thank you.

Bob Beyette  
Campbellville

### Coverage of Humane Society was a great help

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Oakville and District Humane Society Board of Directors, I'd like to thank The Champion for its recent coverage of our facility.

We've received many positive responses to the story that ran about the overcrowding challenges we've faced this summer.

The Champion has helped Milton residents better understand the work we do here at the shelter, and the results have been remarkable.

Thanks to the support from community newspapers like The Champion — and to Milton residents who continue to give generously to our charity — many animals have found new homes, while others remain well cared for in our shelter.

We appreciate the important role that the newspaper has played in helping us through this difficult time. Thanks again for the support.

Diana Aikin, president, Board of Directors  
Oakville and District Humane Society

E-mail all your letters to the editor to [miltoned@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltoned@haltonsearch.com).

## The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9

(905) 878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

**Ian Oliver** Publisher  
**Neil Oliver** Associate Publisher  
**Jill Davis** Editor-in-Chief  
**Karen Smith** Managing Editor  
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### Pud

by Steve Nease

