

Comment

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*

Wendy McNab *Advertising Director*

Tim Coles *Production Manager*

Charlene Hall *Distribution Manager*

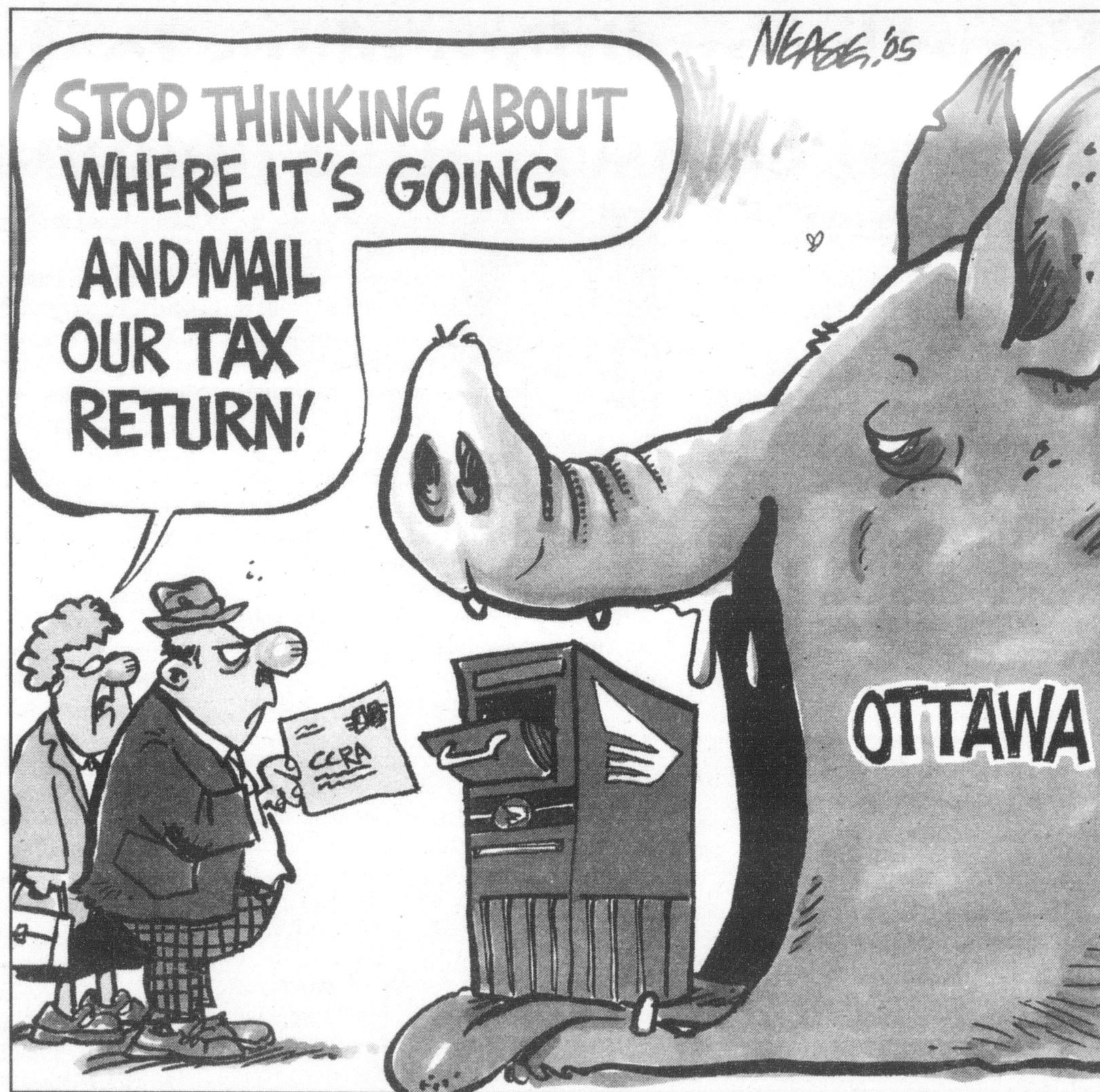
Teri Casas *Office Manager*

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/Penitang-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, Orangeville Banner, 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.

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

Editorial and advertising content of The Canadian Champion is protected by copyright. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product



Not getting message

Contrary to what some motorists might believe, our town streets and highways don't exist to entertain those drivers who possess a heavy right foot and very little common sense.

Within a five-day span this month two (presumably licensed) Halton drivers were caught allegedly racing their respective vehicles at more than 100 km/h over the posted speed limit, in one case clocking in at nearly 200 km/h.

Fortunately, in both cases, no one was hurt — this time.

Most disturbing about one of the incidents was that the 18-year-old Burlington driver held the lives of three passengers literally in his hands as he allegedly sped 199 km/h along the Lincoln Alexander Parkway in Hamilton.

In the other case a 20-year-old man from Bethany, Ont., was nabbed allegedly driving three times the posted 50-km/h limit along busy Burlington streets. We know it could (and does) happen in Milton.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, driver error is the leading factor linked to motor vehicle fatalities. Speeding, following too closely, failing to

yield and driver inattention are the main types of driver errors that lead to serious but preventable accidents.

At extremely high speeds, a driver has less time to react, needs far more space to bring his or her vehicle to a safe stop and has far less room for error.

Society can't afford to be tolerant of speeders' disregard for public safety.

While our traffic laws should ensure speeding motorists are punished financially for their careless behaviour, we believe heavy fines, possible suspension of driving privileges and increased insurance rates isn't providing enough of a deterrent.

Unfortunately, our young people are taught early on that it's cool to drive fast. Some automobile advertisements, television programs and the motion picture industry glorify driving at extreme speeds, but rarely illustrate the aftermath when motorists lose control while speeding.

While graduated licensing was supposed to improve the quality of drivers our system produces, these two recent examples would indicate that some young drivers simply aren't getting the message.

Our Readers Write

Help shown for hurt woman offered prime example of community's ongoing kindness

Dear Editor:

Last Friday afternoon while driving around the corner of Ontario and Pine streets, I noticed an elderly lady suddenly fall to the ground and strike her head.

By the time I got around the next corner and manage to stop my car, a group of about eight people were there with her. One lady used her cell phone to call 911, while another woman held the woman — Mary being her name.

A young man even removed his

shirt to use as a compress on Mary's face to help stop the bleeding, and another man went to the hospital with Mary so that she wouldn't be alone.

This outpouring of kindness was great to see in a town growing as fast as Milton is. It's clear that we're still hanging onto our small-town values, and people are still concerned for one another.

Nobody walked past Mary and ignored her. Many people stopped to see if they could help, and all

were concerned for her welfare.

To Mary, I wish you a speedy recovery. And to those who stopped and helped in one form or another let me say thank you for reminding me that Milton is a great town to live in.

And let me say thanks on behalf of Mary, who I know was extremely grateful for all the kindness she was shown. You could see it in her face and in her smile.

**Joice Schofield
Campbellville**

Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number when submitting a letter to the editor for publication.

Second it takes to buckle up could save your life

If there was something you could do to save your life that would take about, oh, a second, would you do it? Of course you would. Who wouldn't, right?

How about your children. If there was something you could do that would take about three seconds for each child, would you say that was too much time out of your day? Certainly not.

And yet, chances are at least a few of you readers aren't putting those potentially life-saving seconds to good use. Because there are at least a couple of you out there who aren't buckling yourselves or your children in when you go for a drive.

Seat belts. Police have been warning us for years of the dangers of not wearing them. And for the most part, it seems we get it. But there are still some people choosing to take chances. What part of 'Seatbelts save lives' don't they get?

The Halton Regional Police Service has just released the results of its spring seatbelt campaign, which ran from April 16 to Sunday. In Milton, 1,963 vehicles were checked and 34 were charged with a seat belt infraction. That means just under two per cent of cars pulled over were charged.

That may not sound like much, but using that figure and given this paper's circulation — and assuming two people in each house read the paper — I'm now speaking to just under 700 of you Miltonians who don't wear your seatbelts. Seems like a lot now, doesn't it? How many of you 700 adults are transporting children who also are without a seatbelt?

Earlier this month, an Oakville man was charged with not properly buckling in a three-year-old and a five-year-old, presumably his children.



Around town

with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

An officer saw one of the kids standing in the back seat of the car holding onto the head rests of the front seats. The second child was lying on the back seat, also not buckled in.

In the car was a car seat that wasn't being used. The man didn't have any valid reason as to why the kids weren't strapped in, police said.

Then there was the case a couple of months ago

in Milton when a three-year-old girl was thrown from a car through the rear window when a pickup truck running a red light smashed into the car she was in.

The child had been sitting, unbuckled, with her grandmother in the back seat of the car.

There's a real life example to show that saying "It's only a short distance, I'll drive extra careful" doesn't make sense, since you can't control the actions of other drivers.

Another thing — young drivers transporting friends would do well to remember the driver is responsible to ensure all passengers under the age of 16 are properly restrained. While it might not be "cool" to remind them to strap themselves in, it's the law.

If you value human life — if not yours, then those of your loved ones — buckle up. That's all there is to say.