

Comment

Every breath you take

'Sometimes, all I need is the air that I breathe.' — The Hollies.

While the soft rock band The Hollies weren't talking literally about the air when they penned their hit song in 1974, their words could very well have reflected the opinion of many Ontarians as of late.

With recent temperatures hitting the 30 C mark and humidex factors flirting with the 40 C mark, many residents were left breathless — literally.

'Smog days' have become commonplace in the GTA during the warmer months and the Ontario Medical Association is saying air pollution is both killing us and costing the health care system an estimated \$1 billion a year.

Ted Boadway, executive director of health policy for the OMA said about 10 people a day, year-round, are dying with smog being a significant contributing factor in their deaths.

Smog is largely the result of the Gulf of Mexico air flow, which determines much of our weather, sweeping up the eastern United States to Ontario.

Along the way, harmful particles, discharged from hundreds of coal-fired busi-

nesses and millions of automobiles, are collected and wind up in Ontario, along with our own home-grown pollution. The result is a deadly toxic soup hovering above us.

Plans to reduce smog, which has been a factor in Ontario for approximately 40 years, aren't simple. Neither businesses nor governments on either side of the border have been eager to take drastic measures to reduce air pollution.

Yes, there have been steps taken in recent years with toughening of environmental standards and restraints on how much businesses can pollute the air, but these have been Band-aids on a wound that requires major surgical repair.

Wednesday's announcement that the Liberal government will have to delay closing Canada's largest air polluter — the Nanticoke generating station — was hardly surprising, considering the government's record on keeping promises and the fact it was unrealistic to think 30 per cent of Ontario's electricity supply could be replaced within four years.

While warm weather may be in the forecast, improved air sadly is not.



Our Readers Write

Closing Fourth Line a good move for safety

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to the letters I've been reading on a weekly basis in The Champion about the closure of Fourth Line.

Most of the letters seem to be from people who don't actually live on Fourth Line and are bothered by the inconvenience of the road closure.

I live on Fourth Line and the closure barriers are located outside my door. I'm personally pleased to see that the road was closed. Now I don't have to pull my children off our lawn when playing to avoid cars exceeding the speed limit or trailers pulling large loads down a resi-

dential street.

And let's not forget the young adults out there who used to use this street as a race track.

I use Trudeau Drive and Derry Road for my commute at 7:30 a.m. each day and I've never waited more than 12 minutes to get through this area.

In my opinion, most of the people writing these complaint letters are either those who used to speed down Fourth Line or are the ones causing delays due to their driving abilities — or lack of same.

Joanne Rowe
Fourth Line

Letter writer's criticism completely unfounded

Dear Editor:

I'd like to respond to the letter to the editor in the June 10 Champion about the red wagon that flew off the back of the pick-up truck.

The writer wondered "what disgusting individual would do such a thing," referring to the person who picked up the wagon from the middle of the street.

I was in one of the vans slightly behind the truck that lost the wagon. It was very upsetting to see a wagon come flying off the back of a truck, especially when you're following behind the truck.

It's very fortunate that no accident occurred as a result of this, and it's a little surprising that a driver who recklessly endangers the lives of others by not properly securing their vehicle has time to criticize someone who kindly removed a dangerous obstacle from the road.

I think the driver who lost the wagon should be thankful that none of the people in cars following the truck were hurt or killed.

In my opinion, sentiment over the lost wagon has no place in this story.

The person in question should be

grateful it was only a wagon they lost.

They should count their blessings that they weren't arrested for reckless endangerment or unsafe driving.

And that person who removed the wagon from the road should be thanked, not criticized.

There are lessons to be learned about this incident, and the person who lost the wagon should revisit what they are.

Eileen McAuliffe
Milton

Recent MCRC fun fair was thoroughly enjoyable

Dear Editor:

On June 4 my family and I attended a fun fair put on by Milton Community Resource Centre and the Ontario Early Years Centre.

We were overwhelmed by the terrific organization, enthusiasm and fun that we had. The nicest part was that everything was reasonably priced, so that the little ones could enjoy all the activities.

I know personally how hard it is to put one of these

events together, and the team of volunteers who were there that day were incredible. It's a tough job and they were always smiling and helping the little ones.

A special thanks goes out to Kate Williamson and her organizational skills in pulling off the best fun fair yet. Congratulations to all for putting the fun back in family outings.

Lori Chapman
Milton

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