

Comment

The Canadian Champion

Box 248, 875 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 3Z3

(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*

Wendy McNab *Advertising Director*

Karen Smith *Managing Editor*

Tim Coles *Production Manager*

Charlene Hall *Circulation Manager*

Teri Casas *Office Manager*

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Canada could be next

It would be naive and, quite frankly, dangerous for Canadians to delude themselves that what happened two weeks ago in London could never happen in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver.

If anything, the London attack illustrates that almost four years after 9/11, world-class city centres are still vulnerable to acts of terror.

Statements like those made recently by TTC Chair Howard Moscoe demonstrate exactly the kind of bravado and ignorance that may land Canada on the short list for a similar attack. "We don't have any troops to pull out of Iraq and I wonder if the terrorists first would have to find where Toronto is before they attacked it," he said during a press conference the day after terrorists bombed London's rail system, killing 55 and wounding hundreds.

We're not sure exactly what point the Toronto councillor was trying to make with his words, but to suggest a world-class city like Toronto isn't easily located by extremist groups is, well, regrettable.

However, Moscoe didn't stop there. "If the people of Toronto are wondering if we're prepared to cope, we are as prepared

as any transit system in the world," he crowed hours after the U.K. suicide attacks.

Being as prepared as London was on July 7 doesn't exactly instill confidence in the safety of our system. Toronto's transit system came under fire last week for not having a modern enough surveillance system to help identify perpetrators of crime. The TTC apparently lacks the same network of cameras that have helped identify the four suicide bombers in London.

Perhaps Moscoe's message was that Canada hasn't been a willing participant in the U.S.-led military mission in Iraq and therefore would be far less likely to be targeted by extremists. We can only hope he's right about that. We suspect officials in New York and Washington, D.C. went to bed on September 10, 2001 feeling they were under no immediate threat.

Canada's proximity to and relationship with the U.S. could provide all the motive terrorists need to turn their attention our way one day. While Moscoe may have simply been attempting to allay public fears, we respectfully submit that those who plot suicide bombings are quite capable of asking for directions.

Our Readers Write

Milton on its way to becoming choked in own traffic, just like city of Brampton

Dear Editor:

Where does Halton get off putting in traffic stand poles at Lower Base Line and Regional Road 25 and not at Derry Road and Fifth Line? Where is the logic in that?

In my opinion, we're soon going to have to rename Derry Road Death Road, with all the carnage that's going to happen — and has already started to.

A recent head-on collision resulting in a fatality at Derry Road and

Fifth Line could be just the beginning of accidents caused because of the poor planning in this area.

And that's not all.

Milton's carriage-sized roads are trying to support city traffic, with the absence of left turn lanes or advance green arrows at most major intersections, not to mention a lack of right turn lanes into the new subdivisions.

I'm not adverse to prosperity and growth, so long as it's tempered

with common sense and good planning.

However, in my opinion Milton is on its way to becoming choked in its own traffic, much like Brampton.

If not, it may be your car and injured family the police wave me past on Derry Road next week.

Can we not learn from other communities' mistakes?

Tim Szumlanski
Edwards Avenue

Do you have an opinion on a local issue? Have your say with a letter to the editor. E-mail it to miltomed@haltonsearch.com.

Press a few buttons and you could help save a life

Normally at the height of each summer, I write a column imploring residents not to drink and drive.

As a reporter, I'm asked to write way too many stories about senseless deaths occurring because someone thought he or she was just fine and probably too embarrassed to admit driving shouldn't be an option.

But this year, as I was revving up for the plea, I noticed something as I looked over recent months' police blotters.

I'm talking to the wrong people.

Oh sure, there are always a couple of locals who decide to drink and drive.

But it seems most of the people charged each week are people either visiting friends or family here in town, or just passing through — they're from Brampton, Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington, you name it.

And they're endangering our residents.

So this time I'm addressing the responsible motorists like you and me — and the vast majority of Miltonians, I'm sure — who wouldn't dream of getting behind the wheel impaired.

I'm asking that the next time you're out at night driving home from a friendly get-together, you keep your eyes open for erratic or dangerous drivers you think might have had one too many.

Many of the people arrested and charged with drinking and driving each month are first spotted by average people like you and me who decide to call the police.

When someone cuts you off or swerves drastically and you suspect he's had too much to drink, do you mutter a few words and keep driving, or do you take a moment to stop, pull over and report the driver to police?

After all, a narrow miss with you could be a



with STEPHANIE THIESSEN

Around town

deadly accident with another driver or pedestrian down the road.

If you call and you're wrong, the driver isn't drunk, nothing's been lost. If you don't call and your suspicions are right, a whole lot could be lost.

It makes me angry to think people from elsewhere are bringing their stupidity here. It also

makes me angry that it seems the majority of those charged with drinking and driving-related offences are middle aged.

It's not the high school crowd — it's the people who should be modeling responsibility for their children and youth in the community. It seems the people who 'should know better' don't, and the young drivers often targeted unfairly might be getting it.

Good for them.

Now, to a different group of people. If you're hosting a barbecue or get-together where alcohol is served — or brought — it's up to you, legally and morally, to make sure nobody gets behind the wheel who shouldn't.

It might not be the fun thing to do, but does that really matter in light of the bigger picture?

Let's all do our part to send the message that drinking and driving isn't acceptable in Milton.