

Comment

Unacceptable risk

How many people will be seriously injured or killed before our legislators finally make the connection between cell-phone use and preventable traffic accidents?

Anyone who regularly travels our roadways has witnessed this disturbing trend. A car up ahead is driving noticeably under the posted speed limit, periodically 'wandering' outside its allotted lane. The initial reaction is that the driver may have been drinking or is perhaps having a medical emergency.

After spotting a pocket-sized phone being held up to the driver's ear the problem becomes clear. This motorist is impaired — by a phone call which, apparently, is too important to be ignored.

Cellphone ownership has reached epidemic proportions in this country and it's time we considered banning their use by anyone operating a motor vehicle.

Last weekend a 20-year-old Waterdown man was charged by Halton Regional Police with careless driving after allegedly causing a traffic accident while talking to someone on his cell.

An elderly passenger in another vehicle had to be rushed to hospital where she was listed in serious condition in the intensive care unit.

Across our nation this scenario is being played out again and again and yet no one seems to be ready to take a stand against these easily-preventable accidents waiting to happen.

When a motorist's cellphone rings, he and she has two choices; pull over to the shoulder of the road to take the call, or ignore it and let the provider's answering service do its job.

No phone call is worth someone's life. By impairing a motorist's ability to devote 100 per cent of his or she attention to driving responsibly, cellphones create an unacceptable risk to hundreds of innocent lives that will cross one inattentive driver's path.

It's not enough to punish cellphone-using motorists after an accident has happened. We should be doing everything in our power — including a total ban on cellphone use while driving — to prevent the next tragedy.



Our Readers Write

Thanks to all who supported Golfing 4 Cancer

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Golfing 4 Cancer Committee, I'd like to thank the Milton community for helping to make the 12th annual Golfing 4 Cancer at Hornby Glen Golf Course July 11 such a success.

Our sponsors, gift donors, participants and volunteers came through once again.

This year we were able to raise \$53,207, and over the past 12 years we've collected a grand total of \$487,893.30.

The money we raise goes toward the transportation costs of area cancer patients in order to help them receive their chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Last year alone there were 4,369 trips made by 50 drivers in the area.

The Golfing 4 Cancer Committee looks forward to seeing all of our regular participants at next year's event, which is scheduled for July 10.

**Peter Stemann, chairman
Golfing 4 Cancer Committee**

Stronach made right move joining Liberals

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to Elizabeth Harrison's recent letter of criticism regarding Belinda Stronach crossing the floor to join the Liberals.

In my opinion, Ms Stronach feels like I do that the federal Conservative party is nothing more than the old Reform Party. The Conservatives have changed their name four times now to, I believe, try and hide who they are.

First they were the Reform Party, then the Conservative Reform Alliance, then the Alliance and now the Conservatives. They've changed their name more times than someone in a witness protection program.

And in my opinion, they dropped

the progressive part from their name because they're no longer progressive.

Their leader, Stephen Harper, was president of the National Citizens Coalition, which is one of the most right wing groups in Canada.

And in fact Mr. Harper changed political parties as well. He was a member of the old PCs, but quit to help Preston Manning form the Reform Party.

Ms Stronach and the vast majority of Canadians, I believe, feel that the Conservatives are too right wing and that Mr. Harper is not up to the job of being prime minister. Even his own party seems to be questioning his leadership.

Remember, this is the same party that threw out Mr. Manning and

Stockwell Day, so they've certainly had problems with leadership.

Paul Martin's record on the economy has been excellent. We have the fastest growth in jobs in all of the G-8 countries and are the only nation among them with a balanced budget.

Ms Stronach, like most Canadians, believes we need a government that's fiscally responsible, but also progressive on social issues. We don't need a right wing Reform Party in Canada.

As far as I'm concerned, Ms Stronach made the right decision to join the Liberals.

**Gary Carr
Halton MP**

The Canadian Champion

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