

# OPINION

## Worst nightmare

It's every parent's worst nightmare.

As an eight-year-old child strolls along the sidewalk on the way home from school, an unfamiliar automobile approaches from behind.

As the vehicle pulls alongside the youngster, its driver's side window rolls down and a stranger with a big smile peers out and greets the child.

The stranger reports having lost a puppy in the area and is asking for the child's assistance to search the neighbourhood by car. It should only take a few minutes and the stranger promises to drive the child right home after the dog is found.

What would your child do? Would he politely refuse the offer and continue walking on his way? Would he say no and run away from

the stranger's vehicle? Or would he trust the man with the friendly face, feel sorry for him and proceed to get into the car?

If instead the stranger approached and simply ordered your child into the vehicle, would their response be any different?

A recent string of incidents involved schoolchildren being approached by strangers and asked to get in vehicles. While most of the cases involved men, one report in Burlington had a woman asking a 10-year-old boy who didn't know her to get into a van.

While police haven't officially offered any theories about any connection between the incidents, they recommend parents review their children's streetproofing skills.



## ReadersWrite

Send us your letters to [miltone@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltone@haltonsearch.com) or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

### Letter on fluoridating water was considerably confusing

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm writing to respond to Joe Henry's letter which, in my opinion, created considerable confusion over fluoridation and chlorination in Milton.

Miltonians voted in the 1970s to reject fluoridation and continue to reject fluoridation because it's a high-cost method of delivering a product that's readily available in a multiplicity of inexpensive forms, including bottled fluoridated water. Town council debated the issue as recently as December 2002, and rejected a motion to endorse fluoridation.

Milton does have fluoridated water in the new subdivisions that's supplied by the Oakville water station. The benefits and risks of fluoride have been the subject of debate for decades. A report released on March 22 by the National Academy of Sciences recommended that fluoride levels in drinking water be lowered, since higher levels can create health risks including weakening bones and severe dental fluorosis.

Canadian society has changed considerably since the 1960s when fluoridation was popular in communities across North America. The idea of forced medication is now considered to be a violation of basic human rights. The citizens of the town of Milton in Washington State challenged fluoridation on these grounds and forced Town officials to abandon fluoridation.

Henry's letter seemed to suggest that our community also has an issue with chlorination, raising the specter of

Walkerton. He went so far as to state that "the status quo isn't an option," thereby implying that our water isn't well managed.

Many readers will be relieved to know that as a result of the deaths in Walkerton and an extensive public inquiry, the government of Ontario introduced several significant new statutes intended to protect drinking water. The new laws include the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Sustainable Water and Sewage Systems Act and the Nutrient Management Act.

My subdivision has a community well, which required extensive upgrades to comply with the new regulations, including the addition of chlorination equipment in addition to the existing ultra-violet irradiation system. Several times a week I observe employees from the Region of Halton visiting the testing station and monitoring the water. The Region of Halton also has water quality reports on its Web site.

Contrary to Henry's assertions, the "status quo" in the form of the Region of Halton follows stringent guidelines established by the Ministry of the Environment to ensure all consumers receive safe drinking water. Since the standards for water purification are set at the provincial level and administered by the Region of Halton, it would be a complete waste of time for Milton council to debate a subject that isn't under its jurisdiction.

**SOPHIE CHENEY  
CAMPBELLVILLE**

### Recycling pick-up should indeed be done weekly

DEAR EDITOR:

I fully agree with Catherine McKinnon, who recently expressed her concern over recycling pick-up in Milton.

When I moved to this wonderful town over two years ago, I too was surprised to learn recycling was only picked up every second week. I was even more surprised that each household is allowed to put out six bags of garbage every week.

Why bother with overflowing recycling boxes when you can relieve your home of refuse that much faster just by putting it all in the garbage? Where is the incentive for people to reduce, reuse and recycle?

Our grey box gets so heavy with papers, it's very difficult to carry out to the curb. How do seniors manage it? And windy days are a nightmare, since everyone's boxes are overflowing. Our streets and lawns quickly become strewn with unintentional but unsightly litter.

I often read how Halton is so progressive with waste management, but this seems so contradictory. A truly progressive system would help citizens make the effort to save our environment by limiting household garbage to perhaps three bags a week, and adding more recycling pick up services. Personally, I look forward to the green box system, should it ever become mainstream in Milton.

We make a great effort to reduce our garbage in our home. We're switching to cloth diapers for our baby and we make sure all packaging materials — cans, bottles and other items — get crushed so that we can fit more into our recycling boxes. And by eliminating food scraps from our garbage bags, we usually put out only one bag of garbage a week.

The effort is worth it. I'm positive my child will thank me as she grows up in a world with fresh air, green spaces and minimal waste.

**KARINA SINCLAIR  
MILL STREET**

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