

OPINION

Street racing's toll

The federal government has introduced legislation that would impose mandatory driving bans and, in some cases, life in prison sentences for those convicted of street racing.

And we couldn't agree more with the logic behind the law.

In the GTA alone, since 1999, 34 people have been killed in crashes as a result of street racing. It's a deadly game of Russian roulette that puts others, including innocents, at risk.

Under the proposed legislation, street racers who kill will face a maximum penalty of life in prison — up from the present maximum of 14 years — and street racers repeating the offence could face a lifetime driving ban.

Critics argue things like street racing are already cov-

ered under the Criminal Code of Canada by provisions dealing with dangerous driving and criminal negligence, and that Justice Minister Vic Toews could have simply fine-tuned existing laws to increase penalties.

However, creating a new law should show people how serious he is about cracking down on this dangerous practice.

With Hollywood glorifying street racing with films like the recently released 'The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift', street racing is a problem that won't be eliminated overnight.

However, the proposed legislation might just get the message through to a few people that street racing is a highway to hell.



ReadersWrite

Send your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com or drop them off at 875 Main St. E.

Milton needs a pesticides bylaw

DEAR EDITOR:

In light of the motion passed at the June 26 town council meeting with regard to pesticide use in Milton, I believe we must continue to educate ourselves on this important health and safety issue.

That way, when public meetings begin in January, we're better informed.

This letter is also in response to an article published in the June 9 Champion entitled 'Awards presented for conservation initiatives'.

Congratulations to the Town of Oakville for their recognition of the importance of environmental issues. Oakville Mayor Ann Mulvale, in accepting an award for the Town of Oakville's Environmental Strategic Plan, said "encouragement and education have been better tools to get residents on board than more legislation to bang people over the head."

I agree that public education has an important role to play in protecting the environment in which we all live.

However, recent studies show that public education can't be the only method to bring about change.

When it comes to pesticide use for cosmetic lawn care, we need a big reduction of our exposure to these chemicals in order to protect public health.

In 2004, the Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention and Cullbridge Marketing and Communications found that, "Only those communities that passed a bylaw and supported it with education or made a community agreement were successful in reducing the use of pesticides by a high degree (51 to 90 per cent). Education and outreach programs alone, while more popular than bylaws, are less effective. We could find none that have achieved more

than a low reduction (10 to 24 per cent) in pesticide use to date."

Although our present council in Milton isn't prepared to draft a bylaw for public input at this time, I hope that when a bylaw to reduce pesticides is addressed in Milton in 2007, if the provincial or federal government hasn't enacted a restriction by then, our new council and mayor will. That way, at least our residents will have a significantly reduced exposure to pesticides.

I encourage readers to become informed, read labels and think twice about the products they're using around and in their homes. An information Web site, with lots of resources for pesticide-free alternatives to lawn and garden care, can be found at www.pesticidefree.ca.

TAMARA BRADY
MILTON

Strawberry Fair a big success

DEAR EDITOR:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make our 26th annual Milton Strawberry Fair, held at the fairgrounds June 24, such a tremendous success.

We couldn't have achieved such a success were it not for the helping hands of the many service clubs, hospital auxiliary members, foundation staff and friends.

We are tremendously grateful for the support and donations from the many businesses in and around Milton. It's because of their donations that we are able to put on this event.

Thanks to all the people who came out to enjoy the day. It was especially wonderful and gratifying to see so many young families enjoying the special entertainment we arranged for children.

Thanks also to The Champion, which provided great coverage leading up to the event and continued to support us on this, our largest fundraiser of the year.

All monies raised at this event went toward our goal of raising \$500,000 for the CT Scanner campaign.

JEAN KADO, PRESIDENT
MILTON DISTRICT HOSPITAL
AUXILIARY

Bowling alley would be great for our community

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm Ben Dumencu, a grade 6 student at Sam Sherratt School in Milton.

I live in the small town of Moffat, just north of Campbellville. There's really nothing to do here, and that's my reason for writing. I would like a bowling alley in Milton. A state-of-the-art one would be nice. If we had a bowling alley, we could have leagues and play against each other.

It would give me and my friends something to

do on a Friday night or Saturday. Since I live in the country, it would give me a chance to meet new people and make new friends.

I'm going to phone the mayor and ask him for an appointment to see if he can find the money to help my dream come true.

I'm hoping that the mayor has money and ideas as to how we can make this happen.

BEN DUMENCU
MILTON

The Canadian Champion
Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

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Classified: 905-875-3300
Circulation: 905-878-5947

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The Canadian Champion, published every Tuesday and Friday at 875 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., L9T 3Z3, is one of the Metroland Printing, Publishing & Distributing Ltd. community newspapers.

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