

# OPINION

## For kids' sake, please drive safe

*Motorists being urged to be extra cautious while driving in school zones*

It's hard to imagine that the summer is over for Halton students and parents. While it may not officially end until September 22, once the kids head back to school the care-free days of summer are just a sweet memory.

This time of year can be particularly scary for motorists and students alike. Our congested roadways don't make it easy for bus drivers to collect their charges — especially if they're being tailed by an impatient motorist late for work.

All one has to do is look at the main arterial roads to see what commuters are up against as they try to get to work on time. Drivers are already forced to concentrate on long lines of traffic, speeding and aggressive motorists and those individuals who refuse to slow down for a yellow light.

As well, drivers often deal with youngsters and teens who pay little to no attention to the rules of the road.

Little ones who dart across the street and teens who think they can saunter into oncoming traffic are every driver's worst nightmare. But it's up to you, the motorist, to do everything possible to ensure our students arrive at school safe and sound.

These are some of the reasons Halton Regional Police officers step up traffic enforcement in an effort to remind drivers to be extra cautious now that classes have resumed.

Project Safe Start is already underway here with an emphasis on five 'S's — speeding, seatbelts, stop signs, school zones and school buses.

Basically, it means motorists had better be paying attention to what's going on around them, and that means hanging up the cell phone and to stop fiddling with the stereo.

The police are also asking drivers to be courteous to each other and the children. So think twice before sending a rude gesture and laying on the horn if you feel slighted.

Safe Start continues until next Friday (September 15), but you can bet traffic cops will keep a careful watch on drivers as they make their way around town long after this particular program wraps up.



## ReadersWrite

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

### Hard-working Regional Chair Savoline will really be missed

**DEAR EDITOR:**

As the summer comes to an end, we're faced with a municipal election just over the horizon.

One difference is that Regional Chair Joyce Savoline won't be seeking re-election. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her contributions to Halton. She'll be missed.

I wish to congratulate Savoline on

some of her recent work, such as the support for the energy-from-waste (EFW) and super-centre campus proposals.

She continues to work hard for our region right to the end. EFW will be a legacy that she has left us, and what a way to go out in style.

**ERIK KOWAL  
HORNBY**

## Theviewfromhere

### Volunteer tutoring rewarding for both student and teacher

For most parents, September is a time when they ship their kids back to school.

But for some adults, it can be when they actually return to a learning environment themselves.

Maybe they didn't finish high school and now want to get their diploma, or maybe they just want to learn to read a bedtime story to their children.

Enter Literacy North Halton (LNH), a local organization that offers literacy upgrading for adults.

And while LNH is busy helping those students, it's also turning to the community for assistance right now with an appeal for more volunteer tutors.

Consider this: almost one in five Halton residents aged 16 to 69 have difficulty with basic everyday reading and writing tasks, according to LNH's Web site.

Although some may think they're too busy to volunteer, LNH's tutors actually only meet with their students once a week for three hours.

As someone who has been working as a volunteer tutor for about one year now, I can personally attest to the fact that any time spent with a student is well worth it.

There's a certain satisfaction when you know you've helped someone grasp something they didn't understand before.

It also makes me happy to think that now they can use those skills throughout life to achieve their goals.

While tutoring someone may sound like a bit of a daunting task at first, I can assure anyone who's thinking of doing it that LNH

is there to support its tutors every step along the way.

Its staff provides training sessions on how to effectively tutor, offers resources to teach with and is always willing to answer any questions.

The organization asks that potential tutors are — among other things — caring, non-judgmental and patient people who have good reading, writing and verbal communication skills.

With today being International Literacy Day, I can't think of a better time for local residents to get involved with LNH and volunteer to tutor.

The group can be reached at (905) 873-2200 or on-line at [www.literacylnh.org](http://www.literacylnh.org).



Melanie Hennessey

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