

OPINION

Charges prompt crucial message

Although impaired driving charges against a young Milton man in connection with a crash that tragically killed an Orangeville man are so far only charges — not convictions — it's never the wrong time to push for tougher drinking and driving laws.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada recently re-launched its public awareness campaign to bring the legal limits for drinking and driving to Canadians' attention. MADD Canada's 'Enough is Enough' campaign was created to educate and move the country's law makers to draft effective impaired driving laws with more appropriate

legal limits.

Central to the campaign is MADD Canada's support for the recently introduced Bill C-376, which calls for a new 0.05 per cent BAC Criminal Code offence for impaired driving.

MADD Canada reports that in practical terms, the current federal legal limit of 0.08 per cent BAC means a 200-pound man on an empty stomach can drink six-plus standard drinks in two hours and likely won't be charged with a Criminal Code offence for impaired driving.

Our lawmakers must seriously look at a new sanction like Bill C-376 because the status quo is unacceptable.



ReadersWrite

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

Police owed apology for hoax

DEAR EDITOR:

When I first read the recent article in The Champion that there was an abduction attempt of two little girls, it angered me to know that there is a sick person like that in my community.

I was very impressed with the details the girls gave the police, including the dent in the front fender of the car. Good eyes girls.

A few days later I began to read the newspaper and saw the headline 'Suspicious man story made up'. After I finished reading the article the first thing that went through my mind was the story 'The boy who cried wolf'.

I'm pretty sure everybody knows how the story goes, but if those two girls don't, they should ask their moms or dads to take them down to the pub-

lic library and read it. They might learn something from it. Don't worry, I won't spoil the ending.

Like Det. Sgt. Peter Hodgson said in the follow-up article, "There's obviously relief that there isn't a predator out there. That's our first response. And there's satisfaction (the case) was concluded before a lot of panic spread."

I'm not a parent myself, but I'm pretty sure there was a lot of concern out there — by the parents in the area of the 'abduction attempt', by the parents in the community and by many other adults who care what happens in their community.

I myself was brought up to admit to my mistakes and to apologize for my errors. Have those two girls made an apology to the Milton police depart-

ment for wasting their time on a hoax?

I think they're very lucky that there were no charges laid, because if it was an adult who wasted police time on a hoax, I'm sure there would be charges brought forth.

With that in mind, I don't think it would hurt those two girls to give up four hours of their time and help clean up the Mill Pond on a Saturday afternoon in the summer.

The Town wouldn't need to worry about supplying garbage bags or picking up the bags. I would supply the girls with bags and gloves and even pay for the deposit fee at the dump.

So what do you say, girls?

WALLY REDICKER
CAMPBELLVILLE

Turner's decision to join Liberals disgusting

DEAR EDITOR:

Like most voters, I vote for a party and its platform at election time.

I rarely care who the local MP or incumbent might be, just that they will follow the values, ethics and promises that the party as a whole intends to deliver.

Like many in Halton who voted for Garth Turner, I voted for the Conservatives, not for Turner. Should I have wanted the Liberals to win, I would have voted for Gary Carr.

My point is, few people vote for the person

— they vote for the party. This is why I'm disgusted in Turner's choice to join the Liberals, particularly after the many rants and tirades he exhibited about other politicians who have done the same thing.

Following Turner's own logic, if Halton is going red, the MP position belongs to Carr. There's no room in any party for Turner's ego, let alone his arrogant, self-serving and loud mouthed behaviour.

JONATHAN MITROVICH
FREEMAN TRAIL

Criticism not too surprising

DEAR EDITOR:

It's certainly no surprise to me that a number of people who wanted Stephen Harper to be prime minister are unhappy that I recently joined the federal Liberal caucus.

A year ago I hoped, as well, that Mr. Harper would be the leader we needed.

But having sat in his caucus, being prevented from openly representing the people of Halton, seeing the broken promise on income trusts, a needless debate on the rights of gay people and a year of total inaction on the environment have left me extremely disappointed.

After sitting as an independent MP for four months, and consulting with everyone I could think of, my conclusion was clear: I'd be more effective for voters by joining a team.

Stephane Dion welcomed me as a former Progressive Conservative, and a guy who puts voters first and party second.

I've been in politics long enough to know the difference between controversy and conviction. When I took this job, it was to be an MP who serves constituents rather than political masters, especially ones whose primary goal is seizing and keeping power. So it really doesn't matter how loudly some jilted voters squawk, I'll do what I think is right and live with the consequences.

GARTH TURNER
HALTON MP

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