

OPINION

Better to arrive late than never

As you drive along our town roads and highways this week, please remember no matter how much you may not want to go back to school or work, you wouldn't want to not make it back alive.

With vacations over and the kids back at school, Halton Regional Police and the OPP are cautioning motorists to take it easy, drive carefully and stay safe.

Extremely high volumes of traffic are expected this week as people return from their holidays and head back to school.

Additional police officers will be out and focusing on aggressive and impaired driving, and seat belt infractions.

Traffic snarls are expected to be in full throttle, bright and early today for

the start of yet another school year. Motorists should think of themselves or their loved ones when they decide to speed or drive aggressively.

Outspoken OPP Highway Safety Division Sgt. Cam Woolley said it hasn't been a good summer for the OPP — they've seen 300 die on provincial highways.

Woolley predicts chaos in Milton this week thanks to back-to-school traffic combined with population growth. He calls it "a shock of traffic" that no one ever expects.

That sets off a dangerous cycle of aggressive driving that not only slows down drivers, but can lead to tragic consequences.

Drive safe. It's better to arrive late than not at all.



ReadersWrite

E-mail your letters to miltone@haltonsearch.com.

GreenCart is indeed a real solution to waste problem

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to last Tuesday's letter by Gord Bates entitled 'Real solutions needed for managing Halton's waste.'

The implementation of the GreenCart program in Halton and its local municipalities is great news for the region and for the life of our landfill. This program will increase the rate of waste diversion to our goal of 60 per cent and extend the life of Halton's landfill site to approximately 2031.

We have made a large investment in our landfill over the years, and it is important that we extend the life of it to maximize its use and potential, while not burdening Halton residents with the cost of an Energy-From-Waste facility at a time when it is not needed. Regional council has decided to look at this option in another five years.

In Mr. Bates' letter, he states that the GreenCart did not have an overall acceptance by a large percentage of the populous. It is important that he is aware that Halton staff conducted extensive public consultation regarding the GreenCart program in April, including four public information centres (PIC), an independent telephone survey as well as direct feedback from our residents who completed a survey on our website.

All three forms of consultation revealed positive support for the

GreenCart program.

The telephone survey indicated that 86 per cent of all residents in Halton support a region-wide GreenCart program, while only eight per cent opposed it.

Seventy-five per cent of rural hamlet residents and 88 per cent of rural residents surveyed supported a region-wide GreenCart program.

Of the 390 residents who completed the survey on our website — www.halton.ca — 91 per cent support the expansion of the GreenCart program and 93 per cent of the PIC attendees supported it.

At a meeting on May 30, regional council, by a vote of 17-4, approved the implementation of a region-wide GreenCart program with weekly pick-up.

During the election campaign, I indicated that I supported the GreenCart program and said I would work toward implementing it region-wide, and I have done this.

The GreenCart has proven to be an excellent tool in waste diversion throughout other regions in the GTA, and I believe it will prove to be the same in Halton.

GARY CARR,
HALTON REGIONAL CHAIR

Made-in-China tag soils 'green' initiative

(The following letter was addressed to Loblaw's customer services department, and a copy was filed with the Champion.)

DEAR LOBLAWS:

I recently received on my doorstep a free 'green bag' from Loblaw Superstore with all the promotional literature regarding how environmentally-friendly it is to use these bags instead of the more traditional plastic bags.

As I live near Milton — where the new superstore opened last week, which will not even offer plastic bags at the checkout — I was happy to receive this present and I am already 'signed up' to the idea.

But oh dear, you have made such a big mistake in this promotion.

On the back of the label it states 'Canada's Greenest Shopping Bag.' The blurb goes on to point out all the advantages of the green bag — using less virgin polyester; using up to 85 per cent of recycled plastic, which would otherwise end up in a land-fill site; being able to recycle this bag at the end of its useful life, etc., etc.

And then there are three words that negate the whole issue — 'Product of China'. So how many carbon credits are we 'saving,' having this bag made on the other side of the world and shipped back to us? Are you using Canadian recycled plastic, and if so is it first being shipped over to China?

Come on, if you really want to portray your company as being environmentally-sound, then for goodness sake at least make sure your environmental products are actually made in this country.

LIZ LAMBRICK
CAMPBELLVILLE

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