

OPINION

A political carrot

Okay, hands up everyone who wouldn't like a holiday in February.

Fine, that's settled. Most of us want a holiday in the middle of the winter. Now maybe if every Ontarian complained loud and long enough for an end to major snowstorms, Dalton McGuinty and his Liberal pals could make that happen — if, of course, they're re-elected.

While Progressive Conservative leader John Tory called Finance Minister Greg Sorbara's Labour Day announcement of a February holiday "cynical," we think he was being too kind.

On the eve of a provincial election, the Liberals said, if re-elected, they would create a new statutory holiday and call it Family Day. This was nothing more than blatant pandering for votes.

Sorbara acknowledged the idea of a February holiday has been kicked around for years at Queen's Park and that "it's probably something that should have been done some time ago."

If so, why wasn't it? Why was this announcement made just days before an election campaign began? Why if this was such a pressing matter, didn't the Liberals push for the holiday during their four years running the province?

There may definitely be merit in having a February holiday (hopefully something dubbed better than Family Day), but the impact such a decision would have on the business community and others should be well-researched and thought out — not tossed out casually in a shameless vote-buying bid.



ReadersWrite

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

Lack of help for those in car crash hard to believe

DEAR EDITOR:

On August 30 I was on my way to a volunteer meeting around 7 p.m.

I was travelling down Thompson Road toward Main Street and arrived behind a line of slow-moving vehicles, so I could not see what the hold up was.

When I got close enough I could see a major accident had just happened. Two cars had collided, with serious damage to both. I looked around and could not believe that no one had stopped to help.

I immediately pulled over in front of the one vehicle, put my flashers on and got out to see if everyone was okay. There was a small child in the van in his grandmother's arms crying and with her looking like she had banged her head while trying to make sense of it all. The daughter, who was driving,

was also emotionally upset, but was physically fine, as were the occupants of the other vehicle in the accident.

I called 911 and the police were dispatched. Thankfully no one was seriously injured, but both vehicles were definitely damaged to the point that one of them may have been a write off.

Are people really that ignorant to simply keep driving by without offering any sort of assistance? Are they that busy that they have no time to help others? What if it was one of your loved ones — would you not expect people to stop and help?

What burns me the most is the fact that those who first witnessed the accident just kept on driving by.

What a sad world we live in when people stop caring.

CHRIS SCHIRM
MILTON

Theft of son's bike just shameful

DEAR EDITOR:

I am writing to thank the people who broke into our garage and stole my son's dirt bike.

It has reminded me not to trust anyone, and that disgusts me.

This Honda crf100 was a Christmas and birthday gift for my son last year. He also had to work hard to earn this special gift, doing extra chores and grass cutting, since it was a much larger than normal gift.

It was used very carefully and gently,

so needless to say the thieves got a near new bike.

My son is heartbroken over this. We hope it turns up, but I suppose reality is that it won't. We are not rich people and won't be able to replace it. If anyone knows about this, please give the bike back with no questions asked.

I would like to still have hope that there is some good in the people of Milton and Campbellville.

CLAIRE LEWIS
CAMPBELLVILLE

Wireless phone industry is committed to safety

DEAR EDITOR:

This is in response to the August 31 letter entitled 'Story about Turner meeting was misleading.'

The wireless industry in Canada, as well as around the world, is 100 per cent committed to a completely open process in the study of health and safety issues related to wireless technologies. All research is made public and fully open to scientific and public scrutiny.

The overwhelming evidence in the scientific community as determined and published in numerous studies worldwide supports the conclusion that there are no demonstrated adverse health effects associated with wireless phone usage.

Government agencies responsible for establishing safe limits for signal levels of radio devices also support that wireless telephones and antennas are not a health risk. The signal levels from all wireless devices are well below the safety limits established by Health Canada and other international governmental departments.

Health Canada's Safety Code 6 sets the limits for safe exposure to radio-frequency (RF) fields at home or at work. The code also outlines safety requirements for the installation and operation of devices that emit radio-frequency fields, such as mobile phones and base station antennas. This code is based on current, accepted scientific data and is among the most stringent in the world.

The health and safety of our customers and the public in general is, and always has been, of utmost concern to the Canadian wireless telecommunications industry.

Not only do we supply Canadians with world class communication service, we ourselves are major users of wireless phones. Wireless companies in Canada and the manufacturers of wireless phones and network infrastructure ensure our products are safe for everyone.

PETER BARNES, PRESIDENT AND CEO
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