

OPINION

A smoking gun

While we wholeheartedly support the Ontario Liberal government's plan to ban smoking in cars with children, we wonder how in the world it will be policed.

Is it realistic to expect law enforcement officers to be on the lookout for smokers with young passengers, or will fellow motorists be asked to be the eyes — and nose — of this new provincial law?

Will children exposed to second-hand smoke in the family car face the prospect of testifying against a parent in court?

There's no question, however, that the Province's decision to propose a new law in the spring legislative session is a no-brainer. Children who breathe second-hand smoke are more likely to suffer Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, asthma and car-

diac disease. All in all, second-hand smoke kills more than 300 Ontario residents every year.

With the present and future health of Ontario children at stake, we hope the punishment for breaking this law will be substantial.

The deterrent of a hefty fine and possible jail time for repeat offenders will be needed if it is to have any real impact.

There are some who believe government should not be in the business of legislating common sense. However, there are also times — remember seatbelts? — when the failure by some members of society to exercise common sense leaves our elected officials obliged to intervene in the interest of public health and safety.

This is one of those times.

Ontario will ban smoking in cars carrying children...



ReadersWrite

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

Complaining getting real old

DEAR EDITOR:

Maybe I only speak for myself, but all these letters to the editor complaining about the snowplows are getting really old.

Guess what — this is Canada and in the winter there's going to be snow. Some years there's not so much, but some years — like this one — there's going to be a ton, and we're all going to have to break our backs shoveling.

If you aren't prepared for this, perhaps you're living in the wrong place.

One letter asked that the streets be plowed more thoroughly, while another asked that side streets not be plowed at all if the plow isn't going to clear each individual driveway. How can the Town please both of these citizens?

I agree that it's less than ideal to have to shovel out your driveway and then slip and slide your way down your street.

However, Milton has seen an increase in traffic accidents on more major roads this year, so it's clear that the Town's resources are better spent trying to keep these roads safe.

If you take a look around town after a major snowfall, the major roads are in pretty good shape, and if that means that the first two minutes of my drive off my street are a little slippery, that's fine with me.

As for the snow at the end of the driveway, well, such is life. It's unfortunate that the plow can't time itself to come around before every single resident has shoveled, but it's also unrealistic to expect the bottom of every driveway to be cleared.

Pay a neighbourhood kid five bucks to do it for you if it's that much of a burden.

A. BARRETT
ELLIOT CRESCENT

Mayor helped make grand opening special

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of the young dancers, parents and teachers of the Finnegan School of Irish Dance, I would like to publicly thank Mayor Gord Krantz for attending, and cutting the ribbon at our official opening February 9.

Having lived in this beautiful town all of my life, it was nice to see Mayor Krantz keeping alive the spirit of "small town" Milton. He spent a long time at the opening ceremony talking with the children and parents.

He also helped those present understand the value of history of our town and how important it is for us to maintain the

"spirit of community," even in the midst of rapid growth.

After the students demonstrated their great dancing skills, Mayor Krantz took lessons from some of the younger ones and showed us some fancy Irish steps of his own.

We are grateful for the extraordinary time and effort he put into our opening and, more importantly, his obvious interest in supporting all small businesses in our great town.

PATRICIA FINNEGAN,
OWNER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
FINNEGAN SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

Snow service leaves a lot to be desired

DEAR EDITOR:

I have been a resident of Milton for more than 25 years.

Usually there have never been any problems during the winter clean-up. However, lately I have been noticing that the roads in Milton have been neglected.

I'm not sure if it's because Milton has expanded greatly and our services have not. How many snowplows were added to the fleet since the town has doubled in size? Yet how much time has been going into the Town Hall expansion, and why are they putting up street lights on roads that aren't even opened?

Recently the snow removal on Hayward Crescent has been neglected. After one snowfall there was no snowplow around for two days. I called the Town twice to explain the situation to them. I was told they were busy. Maybe the workers installing lights on unopened roads could do a little plowing.

The ice build-up on the streets is becoming like a skating rink, too dangerous to walk or drive on. The ice is accumulating into puddles and then freezing, causing even more dangerous driving and walking conditions.

Then for some strange reason at 3:45 a.m. on March 3 the Town sent a grater to Hayward to scrape the road. It shouldn't take too much to see the waste in that. It would be more beneficial if the plows plowed the snow, not scraped dry roads.

As citizens of Milton, we shouldn't have to call the Town to complain in order to get things done. Who called about putting up lights for roads not in use?

SCOTT WILSON
HAYWARD CRESCENT

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