

# OPINION

## Get on board with rail safety

As children, we're bombarded with messages intended to help keep us safe.

Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Don't talk to strangers. Look both ways before crossing the street. Never give out personal information over the Internet to someone you don't know.

As adults, we sometimes need to be reminded of dangers that exist if we're not careful.

One of those reminders involves staying clear of railway tracks and demonstrating common sense when approaching a railway crossing.

While it may seem a no-brainer that bringing a freight train together with a pedestrian, cyclist or motorist is a recipe for tragedy, statistics suggest many Canadians aren't heeding the warning.

According to Transport Canada, there were 209 railway crossing collisions in 2007, with 27 fatalities and 21 serious injuries. There were another 100 incidents involving trespassers on railway property, resulting in 57 deaths and 25 serious injuries.

"When you take into account the many near collisions that take place each year at crossings or on rail tracks, as well, we clearly must remain focused on building public awareness," said Canadian Pacific police Const. Ron Morrison.

This week (April 28-May 4) is Railway Safety Week in Canada — a time to remind everyone of the serious risks that exist by crossing the paths of trains.

In addition to the risk of death or serious injury, people who trespass on railway property or fail to yield the right-of-way to an approaching train at a crossing are subject to being charged federally under the Railway Safety Act.

While railway officials conducted safety blitzes at some Halton railway crossings this week, they continue to appeal to the public to keep a watch out for anyone who may be putting their lives — and others — at risk.

Anyone witnessing trespassers on railway property or motorists who ignore warning signals at crossings is asked to report them immediately to local police or by calling 1-800-716-9132.



## Readers Write

E-mail your letters to [miltomed@haltonsearch.com](mailto:miltomed@haltonsearch.com).

### It's a matter of financial viability

**DEAR EDITOR:**

This letter is in response to the April 22 letter from K. Christie.

All Milton pet owners would love to know they have access to a 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic in Milton. Unfortunately, no veterinarian has opened such a clinic yet.

And it's only veterinarians who are allowed to open and have the controlling interest in veterinary clinics. This is not an issue for the Town or Region.

Contacting the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association or even local veterinarians is probably your best way to start the ball rolling.

However, in this entrepreneurial economy, and if it was viable to have opened one, as they have in Burlington and Mississauga, there would already be one in Milton.

**MARK WALLIS  
MOORELANDS CRESCENT**

## The view from here

### Not quite everyone's using their GreenCart — so why not?

Are you using your GreenCart?

While the Region reports that participation rates in its new GreenCart program — which started about one month ago — are quite high, I've noticed some homes on my travels through the region that don't have a GreenCart at the curb on collection day.

So to those households, I have one thing to ask — why not?

I know some people are concerned about the odours that may come from the GreenCart. And yes, I can tell you from using my own that GreenCarts do have a smell — they smell like the food waste that you've always thrown in your garbage can.

So now, instead of that smell coming from the garbage can, it's coming from your GreenCart. You're going to have the same smells either way, but if you put the food scraps in the GreenCart you're saving valu-

able space in the landfill and helping the environment.

My husband and I also discovered, somewhat by accident, a good way to minimize odours: lemon slices. We just happened to be composting some chunks of lemon and realized it made our Kitchen Catcher smell nice and fresh.

For those who are worried that the GreenCart will be messy to use, I suggest investing in the compostable bags that fit into the Kitchen Catcher or the GreenCart.

Personally, I like the small bags that fit into the Kitchen Catcher as you can tie them closed and put them in the GreenCart every couple of days. This also helps keep down any odours.

And then there are the people who don't

want to use the GreenCart because they already compost on their own properties. I commend these people for taking the initiative before the GreenCart existed.

But, I also want to point out there are things that can go in the GreenCart that can't be put in a home composter, such as meat and bones. Even if you're just putting out a small amount of waste in the GreenCart every week, it will add up and ultimately help the environment.

So I urge those who have yet to use their GreenCart to give it a try. You'll be amazed at the reduction in waste you put in the garbage can, plus you'll feel good knowing you're doing something 'green' for future generations.



Melanie Hennessey

The Canadian Champion  
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555 Industrial Dr.,  
Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

905-878-2341

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