

OPINION

It's all up to you

It's hard for us to understand why some drivers and passengers still refuse to use their seatbelts — especially when it's so obvious they save lives.

But the statistics show there are some of us who just don't buckle up.

The annual provincial seatbelt campaign, operated by police services across Ontario from April 16 to 27, revealed both good news and bad news.

The OPP stopped more than 1.24 million vehicles during this spring's campaign and laid 10,753 charges against drivers, 4,481 charges against passengers and charged 274 drivers for not having a properly installed child restraint. Four people who weren't wearing their seatbelts were killed on roads

patrolled by the OPP during the campaign.

On the positive side, 92 per cent of Ontario drivers were found to have been using their seatbelts.

So far in 2008, 27 people who chose not to wear seatbelts died on OPP-patrolled roads — a 28.9 per cent decrease over the same time last year when 38 people were killed.

In Halton the good news is that 95 per cent of motorists were buckled up — slightly higher than the provincial average. A total of 23,900 vehicles were observed and 1,350 people were found not to have been using their seatbelts.

Seatbelts save lives. That is no longer open for debate. The sooner all drivers and passengers realize this, the better.



ReadersWrite

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

Group's behind-the-scenes work truly valuable to Halton agencies

DEAR EDITOR:

Recently it was reported that Community Development Halton would no longer be funded by the United Way of Oakville.

Our community depends on the activities of voluntary agencies — they contribute greatly to our quality of life and economic health — and this situation exemplifies the unstable funding realities that challenge the not-for-profit sector.

I had the privilege of sitting on the advisory committee of Community Development Halton's recent study, 'Pushing the Limits: Challenges of Halton's Non-Profit and Voluntary Sector Labour Force.' The study reveals social agencies are a dedicated, skilled and vital component of not only

our local communities, but also of our local economy. The sector contributes about \$240 million annually to Halton's economy.

Alarming, however, the study also shed light on a sector pushed to the limits and precariously balanced between sustainability and disaster. It identifies critical challenges facing the sector if it's to continue to provide those services that nurture people in our communities. The most important is stable and adequate funding.

Clearly, to sustain the non-profit social sector and to meet its critical challenges, we need Community Development Halton's research and development activities.

The research and information they're able to provide my

organization — the Centre for Skills Development and Training — has proven to be invaluable to the design and implementation of our employment and training programs. And their assistance with recruiting and training volunteers has been invaluable in helping us expand the capacity of our programs.

The work of Community Development Halton may be behind the scenes for many Halton residents, but I'm certain that any diminished capacity they may experience through funding cuts will undermine the capacity of our volunteer sector.

**KATHY MILLS, CAO
CENTRE FOR SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT
AND TRAINING**

Too many owners are not picking up after dogs

DEAR EDITOR:

There are so many dog walkers, which is great, but the problem is that some people are not picking up after their dog or dogs.

When I go out for a walk, bike ride or to take my dogs for a walk, I always seem to see dog poop around. It looks terrible, smells rotten and when you step in it, it's stomach-turning.

We have tried for years to fix this problem, but to no avail.

We need to start a lobby group. We can make

our community aware of the problem, get flyers out to the schools, offices and anywhere that can help and get the laws for this problem enforced.

I'm a concerned citizen, but I'm not a person who could start or lead this group.

If you or anyone you may know would be interested in starting this lobby group, this would be great. I would be more than happy to help on this topic.

**RICK RUSSELL
COMMERCIAL STREET**

Great support for coaching clinic

DEAR EDITOR:

On April 19 and 20, the Coaches Association of Ontario (CAO) and the Town of Milton teamed up to provide the National Coaching Certification Program Introduction to Competition Multi-Sport Part A at no cost to 12 young coaches and three not-so-young coaches in our community as part of Coaches Week 2008.

With more teenagers looking to coaching sports as a way of gaining their community service volunteer credit, this course provided the participants with some useful tools that they can use in their journey toward life-long participation in sports.

I would like to thank the following people who helped to make this event the success it was, including Jeremy Cross and Jenna Falls of the CAO, Jennifer Reynolds, Joy Anderson, Patrick D'Almada, Lisa Brown, Janis Young, Mike Bigelli and the wonderful staff at the Milton Leisure Centre, Milton Sports Centre and Milton Seniors' Activity Centre.

I'd also like to thank the *Champion* for helping to promote this event, John Challinor for the encouragement and direction he gave me in helping to get this project rolling and to Sally, Matt and Erin for their love and support.

**MIKE MILLER,
ONTARIO LEARNING
FACILITATOR**

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