

Time to put eyes back on the road

We've all seen the driver, chatting on a cellphone while the stoplight changes blissfully green, unaware of other motorists behind him/her.

Or how about the driver who crosses over the centre line while trying to retrieve that all-important Blackberry message?

While inattentive drivers are unlikely to go the way of the dinosaur, the Ontario government is proposing new legislation this fall — the so-called "distracted driver legislation" — that could range from an outright ban on the use of electronics while driving to measures that would toughen Ontario's existing laws.

More than 50 countries already ban cellphone use in vehicles to some degree Canadian three (Quebec, provinces Newfoundland and Nova Scotia) ban phone use with fines ranging from \$115 to \$400.

Certainly there will be civil libertarians who will crow about an infringement on rights and others who will say the law is virtually unenforceable, but we're eager to see what Transportation Ontario Bradley Minister Jim comes up with this fall when he attempts to get drivers' eyes back on the road where they belong.



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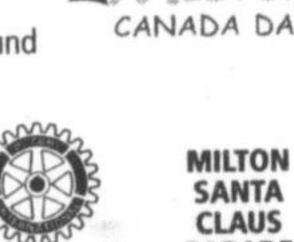
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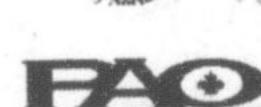














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E-mail your letters to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

Hospital's parking fees too high

DEAR EDITOR:

I agree with Mike Labencki's comments in his July 11 entitled letter Champion 'Hospital parking should be free.'

He's not the only one who's upset about this.

We all knew when Mike Harris pushed us under the Halton Healthcare Services umbrella that the initial \$4 parking fee that came into effect was just the beginning. It's since gone up to \$7.

Other hospitals have free parking close by on streets and at shopping centres. Milton doesn't have that option, as there are a lot of 'no parking' signs near the hospital. Our only option is to pay.

When the gate went up, the

'no parking' signs came out like mushrooms.

Many people - like the single mother with a low income or the elderly person on a fixed income — can't afford to pay for hospital parking. Many patients require family members to assist them, which can require many visits per day. The fees are too costly.

If the hospitals keep taking, people won't be as generous with donations.

All hospitals need money that's understandable. However, there are other forms of revenue like donations, fundraising and government assistance. To charge for parking is, in my opinion, unjust.

If a business or shopping centre charged for parking, no

one would go there. If any church did this, the building would be empty and people would pray at home.

We in Milton are very fortunate to receive millions from the Mohawk Slots every year. Many sports organizations enjoy financial support of this winfall. Do you not believe that the hospital is just as important as these organizations — if not more so?

My gut feeling is that people will be glad to donate if the board lifts the gate.

> W. TIELEMANS MILTON

(Editor's note: Milton District Hospital offers a monthly parking pass for caregivers for \$30.)

Repeated theft of sons' bikes very upsetting

DEAR EDITOR:

I have never felt the need before now to write a letter to the editor.

I have three sons, age 15, 11 and eight. If one of them ever came home with something that didn't belong to them, they were told to return it right away, and at times I have gone with them and made them apologize to the person they took it from.

Needless to say it never happened more than a couple of times due to the embarrassment involved.

I can't for the life of me figure out how my children have had go missing eight bikes - including one on Christmas Eve — a scooter and just

recently a skateboard.

They weren't worth a lot of money - except the board, which my son spent all his birthday money on — but that hardly seems to be the

I'm wondering why parents aren't questioning their kids about where these things are coming

If they're ditching them before they get home, why take it in the first place?

I have a teenage son and he wouldn't think about taking something that didn't belong to him, especially a little kid's bike.

MARY ANN WRIGHT **COMMERCIAL STREET**

More parking indeed needed at Bronte park

DEAR EDITOR:

I find it quite strange that at Bronte Meadows Park, parking is only available for up to 25 vehi-

And there's no parking allowed in the area of the park on Laurier Avenue.

One would think that with three soccer pitches, a baseball diamond and a children's playground, there would be more parking.

It must really be difficult on a hot summer's night for parents and grandparents to lug lawn chairs and cooler bags along with small children up two blocks from John Tonelli Sports Centre to the park.

A solution could be to have the 'No Parking' signs changed to 'Parking 5 to 9 p.m. Only.'

Or how about increasing the size of the existing parking lot to accommodate the extra space needed?

I'm sure the Town of Milton could find the time and some funding to resolve this pressing matter.

LOUIS DURANTE MILTON