

OPINION

Time to put eyes back on the road

We've all seen the driver, chatting on a cellphone while the stoplight changes to green, blissfully 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 and three Canadian provinces (Quebec, 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 Ontario Transportation Minister Jim Bradley comes up with this fall when he attempts to get drivers' eyes back on the road where they belong.



ReadersWrite

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 *Champion* letter entitled '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 windfall. 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.)

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 vehicles.

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**

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 point.

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

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**

The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

555 Industrial Dr.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

905-878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

V.P. — Group Publisher

Neil Oliver

General Manager

David Harvey

Editor in Chief

Jill Davis

Managing Editor

Karen Miceli

Advertising Director

Debbi Koppejan

Production Manager

Tim Coles

Circulation Manager

Charlene Hall

Office Manager

Sandy Pare

The Canadian Champion, published every

Wednesday and Friday, is a division

of Metroland Media Group Ltd. —

President Ian Oliver

Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of a typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with a reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for, but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. The publisher reserves the right to categorize advertisements or decline.

CCAB Audited

Recognized for excellence by

Ontario Community Newspapers Association

Canadian Community Newspapers Association

Suburban Newspapers of America

The Canadian Champion is a proud media sponsor for:

Halton Healthcare Child Find ONTARIO

WELCOME WAGON LTD. Jingle Bell Fund MILTON CANADA DAY

UNITED WAY OF MILTON TV AUCTION MILTON SANTA CLAUS PARADE

ATHENA Awards MCR YMCA OF ONTARIO

The Oakville, Milton ATHENA Awards

Showcase Milton GALA Awards FAO

MILTON GALA Awards FAO

The Milton Canadian Champion is a Recyclable Product