

OPINION

Will SAVIS' work ever be done?

Last week residents from across Halton gathered in Oakville to 'Take Back the Night.'

Thursday was the 18th international event designed to spread the message that women and children have the right to live without violence.

The march, organized by Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS), is just for children and women — providing them with the freedom to walk safely at night without having to ask along a male family member or friend.

It's hard to imagine that after all this time we still need to plan for such

events. But when you consider that 51 per cent of Canadian women will experience at least one incident of sexual or physical violence in their lifetime then you can understand why SAVIS knows its work is never done.

In fact, Halton police recently released its mid-year statistical report on crime and sexual assault has increased while other violent crime is decreasing.

According to Halton police, there were 50 sex assaults in 2007 compared to 59 during the same time frame this year.

Sadly, Take Back the Night is needed more than ever.



ReadersWrite

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

Increase in litter and vandalism in community is very disturbing

DEAR EDITOR:

In 1983 we moved to Milton and have lived on the same street ever since.

Over these past 25 years, we have noticed a lot of changes within the community — some good and some not so pleasant.

During these years, we have walked our dogs throughout the local neighbourhoods and have never had any problems. Lately, however, we've seen a noticeable increase in litter and in stupid acts of vandalism.

You can't walk through the local park on a weekend morning now without having to dodge broken beer bottles and garbage strewn about.

This was elevated to a new level this past weekend. We first noticed a number of smashed solar lights on

Cedarbrae Avenue. We counted at least 12 on our walk.

There were broken branches off trees, while the pylons identifying raised man-hole covers and holes from road construction on Maple Avenue had been moved and placed on or behind cars in driveways.

And there were plenty of smashed bottles in Melanie Park. It looked like someone had tried to up-end the garbage can but couldn't because it was chained in place. There were more smashed lights and broken garden ornaments and planters on Applewood Crescent, and a chair was stacked on someone's vehicle.

When we arrived home, we checked our own solar lights and found that three coloured glass globes had been stolen

from our backyard. We found them smashed on Steeles Avenue. These culprits had to jump over our fence in order to traipse through the garden and steal these lights.

Were these isolated incidents? We hope so, but when does this become a property liability issue if someone is injured in our yard? Is it worth reporting to the police? We don't know. However, we do feel it's necessary to notify the community at large.

It may seem petty of us to comment on some smashed lights, but anyone who has had their child's bicycle stolen from their yard or their shed or had their garage broken into will understand how we feel.

**RANDY AND BARB ROSS
CEDARBRAE AVENUE**

MP's flyer blatant waste of taxpayers' money

DEAR EDITOR:

Last week I received a flyer from some MP from Calgary.

No not the head MP, Stephen Harper — another MP. He used taxpayer funds to pay for this partisan mailing to me in Halton.

As far as I can tell the Conservatives have spent more money on polling and advertising than any previous government. They claim the budget is tapped out, with no more money available for health care or to provide Ontario with its

equal share of the equalization funding or even to fix the Employment Insurance (EI) imbalance.

No, they only have money for this partisan electioneering.

Well I say bring on the election so we can show Harper and his friends first hand how the EI system really works in this country.

**FRED PRITCHARD
MOFFAT**

Too many bad drivers out there

DEAR EDITOR:

I was sitting in my truck in North Battleford, Saskatchewan recently listening to a talk show discuss the issue of road rage.

Specifically, the show talked about an accident resulting from a motorist driving his Pontiac dangerously in front of a GMC Yukon, causing it to swerve, crash and roll — killing the driver.

I found this interesting because I live just five minutes from James Snow Parkway, and having driven buses since 1973 I've seen countless driving actions that — in my opinion — should have met with charges of dangerous or careless driving.

In believe that in the case of most accidents, one of these charges should be laid, and with it an immediate driver's licence suspension should be applied. This would slowly eliminate the bad, careless and dangerous drivers from our roadways from anywhere from a week to life.

For example, a sideswipe on a highway could result in a charge of undue care and a one-month suspension of one's licence, which would only be reinstated after the person took a driver training course from a reputable school.

There are far too many cars on the road, and this would help solve the problem.

**ROSS HINGSTON
TRAFALGAR ROAD**

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

905-878-2341

Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943
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