

OPINION

Teen could really use your blood

Remember Deidre Scholtz?

Remember how the community rallied around the five-year-old to try to find a match for her life-saving bone marrow transplant?

Hundreds of people lined up for hours at Bishop Reding Secondary School to see if they could help. A match was found and Deidre is a healthy 18-year-old today.

Now a local teen really needs your help.

A blood drive has been organized in honour of Greg Occhiuzzi, 17, who has a rare form of leukemia and will undergo intense chemotherapy and a stem

cell transplant next month. While his younger brother, Jonathan, will donate the stem cells, Greg will also need lots of blood.

Tomorrow, Miltonians will have a chance to help Greg and others like him at the Milton Sports Centre, 605 Santa Maria Blvd., where the blood drive will be held from 1:30 to 8 p.m.

It's recommended people first book an appointment with Canadian Blood Services by calling 1-888-236-6283.

Greg's family hopes the drive will give a huge boost to the blood bank for the good of everyone.

We know Miltonians won't let them down.



ReadersWrite

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

Our youth shouldn't all be painted with same brush

DEAR EDITOR:

I felt compelled to respond to the recent letter by Ann Marie Kuarsingh entitled 'Some youngsters showing real lack of respect behind wheel nowadays.'

Being at the receiving end of an obscene gesture can be a very upsetting incident. However, when Kuarsingh asked the questions, "What's happening to the youth in Milton? Are we failing as parents to instill common decency and courtesy in our children and raising young adults we will be ashamed of?" she took this upsetting incident too far.

Painting all of one group with the same brush was a very shortsighted and intolerant attitude.

Last month, I too was driving and wanting to make a right turn onto Woodward Avenue from Ontario Street, northbound. There was a driver in front of me in the same lane who, having seen my right turn signal, decided to move into the other lane, allowing me to make my turn on the red light and

saving me time. This is a move I consider to be very courteous, and guess what, it was a youth — a young man. I waved my thanks and went on my way.

I see very few adults making such courteous moves while driving. I myself, a 47-year-old woman, have only begun to drive in such an extra courteous manner within the last two years or so. It takes a certain lack of selfishness, awareness and patience to drive in this manner.

Perhaps instead of denigrating all youth in Milton in this manner, Kuarsingh could have turned the situation around and realized that this was one person who still has some growing up to do. I know of many adults, long past their youth, who haven't grown up yet in many ways.

Yes, we need more patience, respect and courtesy from all drivers, but what we sorely need as well is more tolerance in this world.

ELLEN DE GUERRE
MILTON

Leash-free park a great asset

DEAR EDITOR:

I want to thank the volunteers of the Milton leash-free dog park located off of Fourth Line for a fantastic park facility.

I went there for the first time and was impressed with the size of the park and the double-door security. Since our dog doesn't like children, we loved that

the kids were well contained in a separate area and the park was all about the dogs.

I hope it stays open for many years to come as it would be a shame to lose such a valuable asset in our community.

GINETTE GIBSON
MILTON

Urban barking just as annoying

DEAR EDITOR:

I'm writing in response to last Wednesday's letter in regard to the constant barking that homeowners in rural Milton are facing.

Rest assured, I completely agree with you and want to make a point that the problem exists within urban Milton as well.

A dog's life shouldn't consist of being tied up for hours or even days at a time. These dogs are simply barking either out of distress or boredom, and it infuriates me to think the owners don't care or simply ignore their calls for help.

I live in urban Milton and many times I hear the same dog night after night barking constantly with no owner intervention to stop it. There have been times I look out the window and notice their outside light is off, yet the dog remains outside barking.

Have they ever stopped to consider the people around them? Have they ever stopped to wonder why the dog is barking? My guess is no, seeing as this problem happens every night.

The disregard these owners have for their fellow neighbours and their dog leaves me to believe that these kind of people shouldn't own dogs.

If I had to sum up this behaviour with respect to the owners, neglect and selfishness are two words that come to mind. Don't own a dog if you believe that tying them up and allowing them to bark constantly is a way of life. If you ask me, I consider it a form of animal abuse.

Owning two Alaskan malamutes myself, I felt teaching them at a young age not to bark was key. A happy dog means a happy master. A quiet and content dog, means a happy neighbourhood. It's a win-win for all.

SARAH BOWDEN
MILTON

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