

OPINION

Who has \$10,000?

It's a good program and it could save more than one young life. That's why we're hoping there's a business or charitable organization that can come up with the additional \$10,000 Halton Regional Police needs to run a SMARTRISK program.

Police want to demonstrate to 22,000 high school students in Burlington, Oakville and Milton the consequences of risky behaviour. The students are introduced to young people — all of whom convey strong messages about what happens when an individual fails to take precautions or use common sense.

"We're in the public safety business and we've been exposed to a program that we think has value," said Halton police Supt. Signy Pittman. "This program works through positive messaging."

However, SMARTRISK comes with a hefty price tag — \$55,000 to be exact.

Police know the program reaches its target audience. It was introduced last year to students living in the Halton Hills community. One guest speaker, Sean, showed his young audience what happened after he tried to hop over a slow moving train. He lost an arm and a leg.

Sean was chosen to speak to the students living in north Halton because there are more train tracks there than in most communities. For Milton, Oakville and Burlington, some of the presenters will focus on the consequences of impaired driving.

"That's not to suggest that we have a lot of youth who are driving while impaired," said Pittman. "Quite frankly, we are seeing a cross-section of our community demographic arrested for impaired driving. We're hopeful that SMARTRISK will be able to provide us with a life hero (presenter) who is a survivor of some tragedy related to drug or alcohol abuse."

A Rotary club, Hydro-One and Halton Regional Safety Council are among the supporters that have already chipped in for the program. If police raise the \$10,000, the plan is for SMARTRISK to host multiple presentations from April 27 to May 15.

We think \$10,000 is a very small price to pay if it saves one young life. We're confident there's someone out there willing to lend Halton police a hand in this worthwhile endeavour.



MAKING TRACKS: Miltonians (from left) Mike and Fran Frampton and Michele and Gord Dowell enjoy some golf in Phoenix, Arizona. Take your community newspaper on your next vacation and send your 'Champion Tracks' photos to editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Be sure to include destination information and everyone's names.

ReadersWrite

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

Please put traffic lights up now

DEAR EDITOR:

On March 6, my neighbours and I witnessed the aftermath of a terrible accident at Derry Road and Waldie Avenue.

Several of us have complained numerous times about the need for lights to be put in and the speed limit reduced, but still nothing has been done.

This is probably the fifth or sixth accident that has occurred around this

intersection. How many more accidents or fatalities have to occur until something is done?

Lights need to be put up now and a flashing yellow light put in before the bend in the road as you approach Waldie to indicate lights approaching.

My heart goes out to the woman and her son who were involved in this terrible accident.

**DONNA KNOWLES
WALDIE AVENUE**

Editor'sdesk

News comforting, but let's not get false sense of security

I felt a bit funny late last week about the *Weekend Champion's* front page story on news that Halton had been deemed the safest region in Canada.

The story seemed strange following the preceding Wednesday edition, which was filled with bad news, much of it related to crime.

While it's comforting to know that Halton is considered to be so safe, let's put it in perspective. If you've been the target of a crime lately, how safe do you feel?

The fact remains that almost no matter where we live, every day we're exposed to the people who would rather steal our things than earn them for themselves, damage our

property instead of find something constructive to do, and drink and drive instead of use an alternate form of transportation.

That's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the crimes committed on us by our fellow man on a daily basis.

My point? Let's be proud to live in such a safe community, but let's not put our guard down, especially in our growing town.

While Milton's massive expansion brings more good people to town, it also brings more not-so-good people. And bigger means Milton is an even

more tempting target for the bad guys. The best we can do is carry on using the best defensive strategies possible.

Protecting ourselves and our property includes ensuring we lock all of our doors — on our cars and our homes — at all times, being aware of our surroundings and keeping personal information safe.

We don't want to give the criminals an extra opportunity to victimize us law-abiding citizens, do we?



Karen Miceli

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The Canadian Champion

Milton's Community Newspaper Since 1860

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Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

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Editorial Fax: 905-878-4943

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

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