

# OPINION

## Safety no stunt

Contrary to what some young people may think, there's nothing "sweet," "rad," "dank" or "sick" about dying or being critically injured.

The recent tragedy involving a 16-year-old Burlington student has cast a cloud over what should have been a joyous time in the life of a young man — the end of final exams and the start of a summer full of promise and potential.

While many Halton teens will now be starting summer jobs, making plans for trips to cottage country or simply kicking back and relaxing with family and friends, time stands still for this victim and all those closest to him

— all because of an ill-conceived car-boarding stunt gone terribly wrong.

The hugely popular website YouTube continues to create a worldwide stage for thrill-seekers to post their latest exploits in high-risk behaviour.

But what's ominously absent from YouTube is the growing number of teen fatalities and life-altering injuries associated with such foolhardy acts.

We sincerely hope that the tragedy will provide a sobering wake-up call to other young thrill-seekers who remain under the mistaken impression they're invincible. As we said at the start, there's nothing cool about critical injuries or losing your life.

The Winters are freezing,  
But Summers are fun,  
Happy Birthday to Canada,  
142 years young!



## ReadersWrite

E-mail letters to [editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:editorial@miltoncanadianchampion.com). Letters, which may be edited, must include the writer's name, address and phone number.

### CEO's salary indeed ridiculous

DEAR EDITOR:

I read with interest the letter from David Phillips in regards to the salary of John Oliver, chief executive officer of Halton Healthcare Services (HHS).

Phillips noted Oliver earned substantially more than four top-ranking executives in the town of Milton. In actuality, Oliver's salary is a little bit (notice I said little bit) less than the combined salaries of the prime minister of Canada and the president of the United States of America. And yes, I said combined.

His salary increased 21 per cent last year, which in spite

of explanations such as 27 pay periods versus 26 pay periods, is substantial. In fact, some people may even say that's obscene.

I also have a query as to the definition of 'taxable benefits.' Oliver received \$86,961.33 of these benefits in 2008.

It would be interesting to know the average merit increase awarded to nursing staff, mid-level management and front-line workers at HHS. Did these people, even receive cost of living increases?

In all fairness to Oliver and the other stars shining ever so brightly, among the chaos of

HHS's inadequate facilities, his salary is approved by a volunteer board of director and isn't out of line with other health-care stars.

I just wonder when the salary difference between the prime minister and a hospital CEO became so wide. I encourage the readers of this newspaper to apply to join the HHS's board of directors and question the wages of the upper echelon.

All public sector salaries are available to be viewed at [www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/publications/salarydisclosure/2009](http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/english/publications/salarydisclosure/2009).

**DONNA MCLAUGHLIN**  
MILTON

### Another overwhelming turnout for Relay for Life

DEAR EDITOR:

Another successful Relay for Life has come and gone.

What a fantastic turnout of survivors. We totaled 100 this year.

On behalf of each and every one of them I would like to offer a huge thank you to all the businesses and organizations that helped or donated something for our gift bags. Your gen-

erosity and support was greatly appreciated.

I would be very remiss if I didn't also thank the other event committee members. Without your hours of dedication, we wouldn't have had a relay.

Thanks again.

**SHEILA RASBERRY,**  
SURVIVOR'S CHAIR  
RELAY FOR LIFE

### Club renovation costs outrageous

DEAR EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the recent *Champion* article entitled 'Town of Milton applies for recreation stimulus funding.'

The article mentioned the Nassagaweya Tennis Club, which is a private club that the Town subsidizes by paying 50 per cent of the court re-surfacing costs, 100 per cent of the exterior and structural clubhouse upgrades and 100 per cent of the cost of security and damages. This is in addition to the fact that the club only pays the Town \$100 a year in rent.

All this may actually make sense, but I couldn't help but be appalled to read that town council directed staff to submit an application for a \$2.9 million redevelopment of the club that only has 191 members. That translates to more than \$15,000 for each member.

Am I the only one who's shocked at this waste of public money? Is this really the right time for this? Wouldn't this money be better spent on some of the urgently-needed infrastructure improvement projects that far more residents could benefit from?

**ZEESHAN HAMID**  
MILTON

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