

OPINION

Be in the clear

Don't slip up when it comes to shovelling your sidewalk

Imagine an elderly woman slipping on your sidewalk left covered in snow or ice, and breaking her hip.

Imagine anyone being hurt — a disabled person, a parent pushing a stroller, or a young *Champion* carrier — because you shirked your responsibility.

Ensuring your sidewalk is promptly cleared of snow and ice is not only the right thing to do, it's the law.

Did you know, with accumulation of 5 cm or more of snow, the Town of Milton will plow designated sidewalks and pathways associated with schools, transit routes and major pedestrian travel?

But the rest is up to residents and businesses to look after.

For the Town to do it all would just be too costly.

According to a Town bylaw, the property owner or occupant must remove snow and ice from their sidewalk within 24 hours of any fall of snow, rain or hail.

It's also up to the owner or occupant to salt or sand their sidewalk if it should become slippery at any time, and for any reason, in order to make it safe for pedestrians.

The only exception to the bylaw is for a physically-handicapped person.

So what if you're able-bodied and fail to clear your sidewalk within 24 hours after a storm? Responding to a complaint, a Town staff member will pay you a visit and ask you to do it.

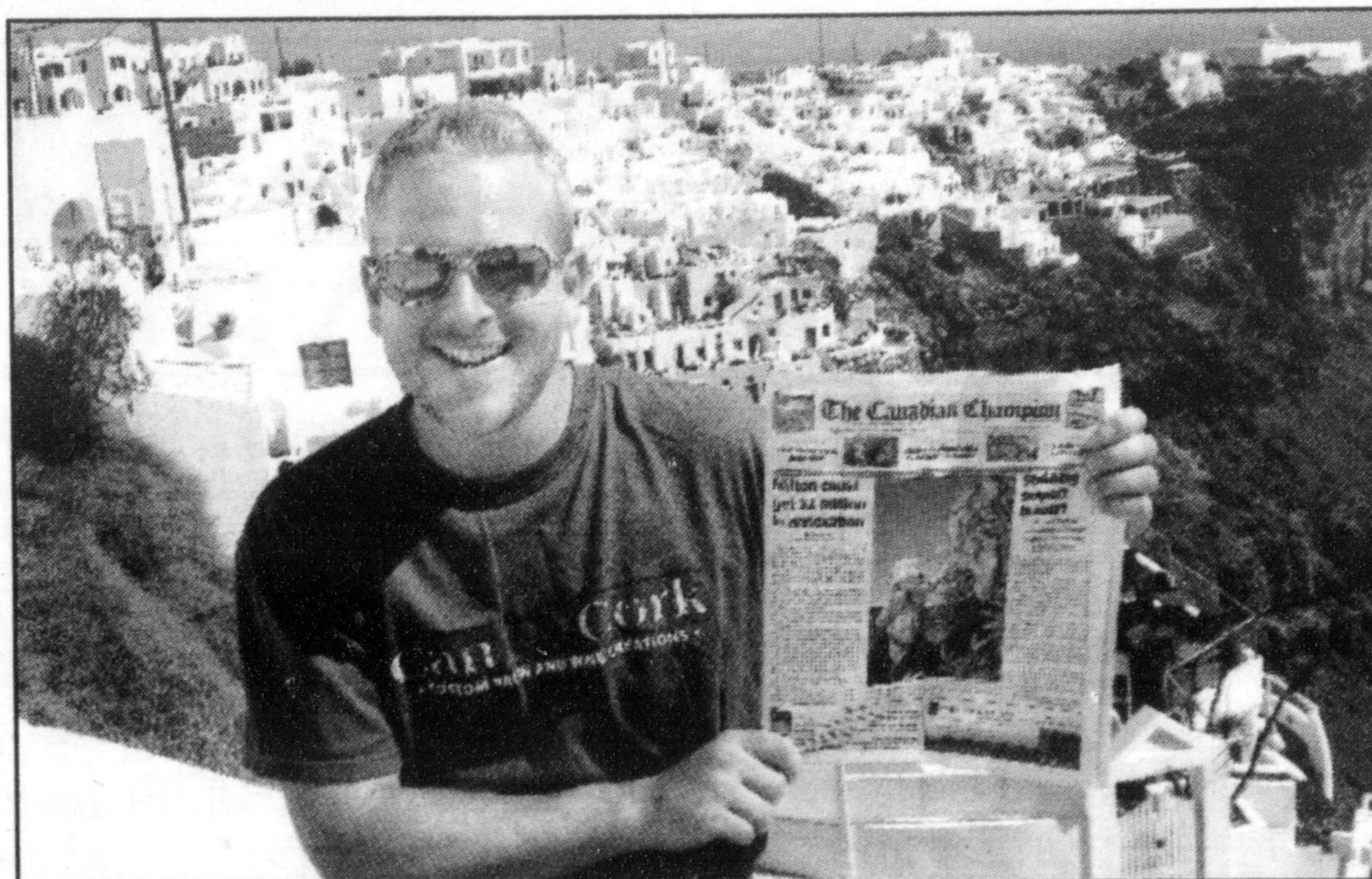
And don't think none of your neighbours will tell on you.

The Town of Milton apparently receives numerous complaints about impassable sidewalks.

Now, if you're a re-offender, the Town will clear the snow itself and bill you.

Finally, the Town could take habitual offenders to court.

For more information on sidewalk snow clearing or to complain about sidewalks that haven't been cleared, call the Town's clerk's department at (905) 878-7252.



MAKING TRACKS: Paddy Finnegan looks out on a picturesque view of the Greek island of Santorini on his honeymoon with wife Kim Finnegan (taking photo). 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.

Readers Write

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

Acts senseless and disappointing

DEAR EDITOR:

I have to ask, what was it to you?

You broke my car window, and for what? Some pocket change and kids toys? That's all you found. What was that to us? A month of groceries.

What was it to you to destroy some candy cane decorations on our front lawn? What was it to us? The disappointment of our eight and five-year-olds, who'd taken the time and effort to put them up.

What was it to you? You smashed

the ornaments on our lawn. What was it to us? The final straw — the realization that you think so little about the feelings of a family at Christmas, or at any other time of year.

Our two children are now cynical and wondering what the point is if it's just going to be taken away.

How incredibly sad that there are people in our town that care so little for their neighbours.

**LAELAR GUNDLACK
MILTON**

Aroundtown

A crystal clear view of how drinking and driving don't mix

My legs were shaking as I took a few clumsy steps. My balance was off and the ground seemed like it was curving. For a moment I thought I was going down.

Nope, I hadn't imbibed in too much pre-Christmas eggnog.

I was at a recent RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) 101 program at Bishop Reding Secondary School and was trying — not very well, evidently — to walk in a straight line wearing goggles that simulate the effects of being impaired.

The funny thing is, those goggles mimicked what it was like being just under — that's right, under — the legal driving limit, the equivalent of about two beers, an officer told me.

I'd hate to see what little co-ordination I'd have over the legal limit. And yet people drive in that condition far too often.

Many of the students trying the goggles were likewise surprised by how they could feel so impaired while under the legal limit (that is, under the legal limit for a 'G' licence; students with a G1 or G2 must have a zero blood alcohol level).

And many were unaware that even though they couldn't be charged with 'over 80' driving in that condition (with a G licence), they could be charged with impaired driving.

One 14-year-old boy who tried the goggles commented, "If it's like that, there's no chance I'll ever drink and drive. Walking's hard, driving would be impossible."

We can only hope that resolve remains a few years down the road when he's leaving a party with friends.

These students, many of them in Grade 9 and looking forward to getting their licence in a couple of years, learned that any amount of alcohol, when mixed with a vehicle, can be disastrous.

With New Year's Eve approaching, I can only hope adults in town are equally aware.



Stephanie Hounsell

The Canadian Champion

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