

Spring is here, and motorcycle riders are feeling the call of the open road.

I'm looking forward to my first ride, although it seems like that might be some time away as I look at the snow outside.

When you drive a car you're surrounded by metal, which will offer some protection. But when you ride on two wheels there's nothing to protect you but your clothing.

I often see motorcyclists riding with shorts, t-shirts and even flip-flops. If you have ever fallen off a bicycle, you will know that it hurts, so you will also know that the faster you go, the more damage will be inflicted on your body. It makes sense to wear a helmet while riding a motorcycle; it's also a law in Ontario. While it's not a law to wear other protective clothing it's still best practice.

Summer rides can get pretty hot, but there are jackets and pants that offer spine, shoulder, elbow, hip and knee protection and still allow the air to flow through. Gloves are also important.

Riding a motorcycle requires road sense. You must constantly be vigilant and try to antici-



911/ 411 CONST. LAUREL BARNETT

pate what other drivers will do, for your own survival.

I have heard people say that there are two kinds of riders — those who have fallen off, and those who are going to fall off. If that's true, it makes sense to do what you can to minimize the damage. Ride defensively, and wear the gear.

Have a great riding season, and keep the rubber side down.

If you have any concerns, send an email to laurel.barnett@haltonpolice.ca or call (905) 878-5511, ext. 2438.

Const. Laurel Barnett is Milton's community support officer.



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