

Opinion

Celebrate safely, Milton

The first long-weekend of the spring/summer is upon us, time to kick back and relax.

It's also time for another reminder about the dangers inherent of drinking and driving.

Yes many of you are no doubt sick of reading these type of editorials — but no more so than we are of writing them.

And indications are that this message — sadly enough — is still very much needed.

Already this year the *Champion's* police blotter has reported 13 motorists being charged with impaired driving, while another was allegedly under the influence of drugs while operating his vehicle.

And that's just the cases that we've reported. Who knows how many went undiscovered.

In other words, during the course of any given week in Milton there's bound to be at least one person — more like a few, or even several — who puts our lives in jeopardy.

And contrary to what some may still believe, drinking and driving is consciously placing others in harm's way. There's no getting around that fact.

Excuses like 'I didn't know how drunk I was' or 'I just live a few blocks from here' just don't cut it when you consider the potential tragedy attached to this type of behaviour.

At the risk of stating the obvious — and so very often mentioned — there are a number of alternatives to driving impaired.

- Take a taxi to the bar/party
- Choose a designated driver
- Pick a bar/restaurant close to home and walk there
- Invite a friend/friends to do your drinking at home
- Stay at a hotel

If you're not willing to do one of the above, then simply don't go out and drink. The risk is just too great. Have a happy and safe holiday weekend, Milton.



SNAPSHOT



Physicians recognized

Milton Mayor Gord Krantz (centre) dropped by Milton District Hospital recently to celebrate the 10th annual Halton Physician Appreciation Week with local doctors at an appreciation breakfast. The week recognizes physicians for their significant contribution to the health and well-being of the Halton community.

Letters

Mutual respect among motorists and cyclists needed

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in response to Const. Laurel Barnett's column in the *Champion* April 4 entitled 'All cyclists must obey rules of the road'.

I fully understand her frustration with this situation. I myself, an avid cyclist, have been stuck behind slow-moving cyclists on the roads, as well as slow-moving farm equipment. I have also probably gotten more than a bit agitated with both of these situations.

I agree 100 per cent that cyclists do need to obey the laws of the road and should be rightfully reprimanded if proven to be in breach of the law.

However, as an avid law-abiding cyclist who rides in a group I only wish we had the same forum as Const. Barnett to highlight our personal interactions with motorists who have cut us off, thrown things at us and yelled obscenities at us as we ride on the roads surrounding Milton. Perhaps I could entitle my piece, 'All motorists need to obey the rules of the road' or is that not assumed when one completes their driver's certification and is given a driver's license?

As I'm sure she's aware there have been a number of high profile accidents and fatalities in both Halton and the GTA involving cyclists.

In many of these cases it has been proven to be the fault of the motorist.

Perhaps Const. Barnett should visit www.sharetheroad.ca. I have no affiliation with this program and have never participated, but its beginnings are built from a tragic accident that occurred right here in Milton.

Perhaps an article highlighting both the rights of motorists and cyclists and promoting a mutual respect would have proven more effective in building a community of co-existence between both groups.

Stewart Mackie
Milton

The Canadian
CHAMPION

555 Industrial Drive, Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1
905-878-2341

Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

www.miltoncanadianchampion.com

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