

# Opinion

## Let's just chill out — winter won't be here much longer

We're three-plus months into a harsh Canadian winter. The unrelenting cold continues. Snow, ice, freezing rain and other forms of gelid precipitation keep falling.

Snowbanks — while not quite so towering as a few weeks ago — are still obstructing our vision and walking the sidewalks has become a balancing act thanks to the buildup of slush that melts, then refreezes.

Frankly, we're exhausted.

And when we're exhausted, we get cranky. No, it's not right that the guy on the corner won't make a better effort to clear the walk in front of his house.

Yes, the oncoming driver should have yielded to your car in the snowbank-narrowed street.

And that person who insists on blowing the snow from their drive onto the street? Unforgivable.

But let's look at it from the other side.

Many neighbours and strangers have risen to the occasion this winter, whether it be through a grand display of goodwill or just a small — but much appreciated — act of kindness.

So here's a thanks to those who have gone the extra mile in this sometimes excruciating weather to ensure those around them are a bit safer, and a bit more comfortable.

First, everybody's favourite: the snowblower owner who takes his machine just a few houses further along the sidewalk so the end of the driveways are cleared of the heavy dreck left behind by the plow.

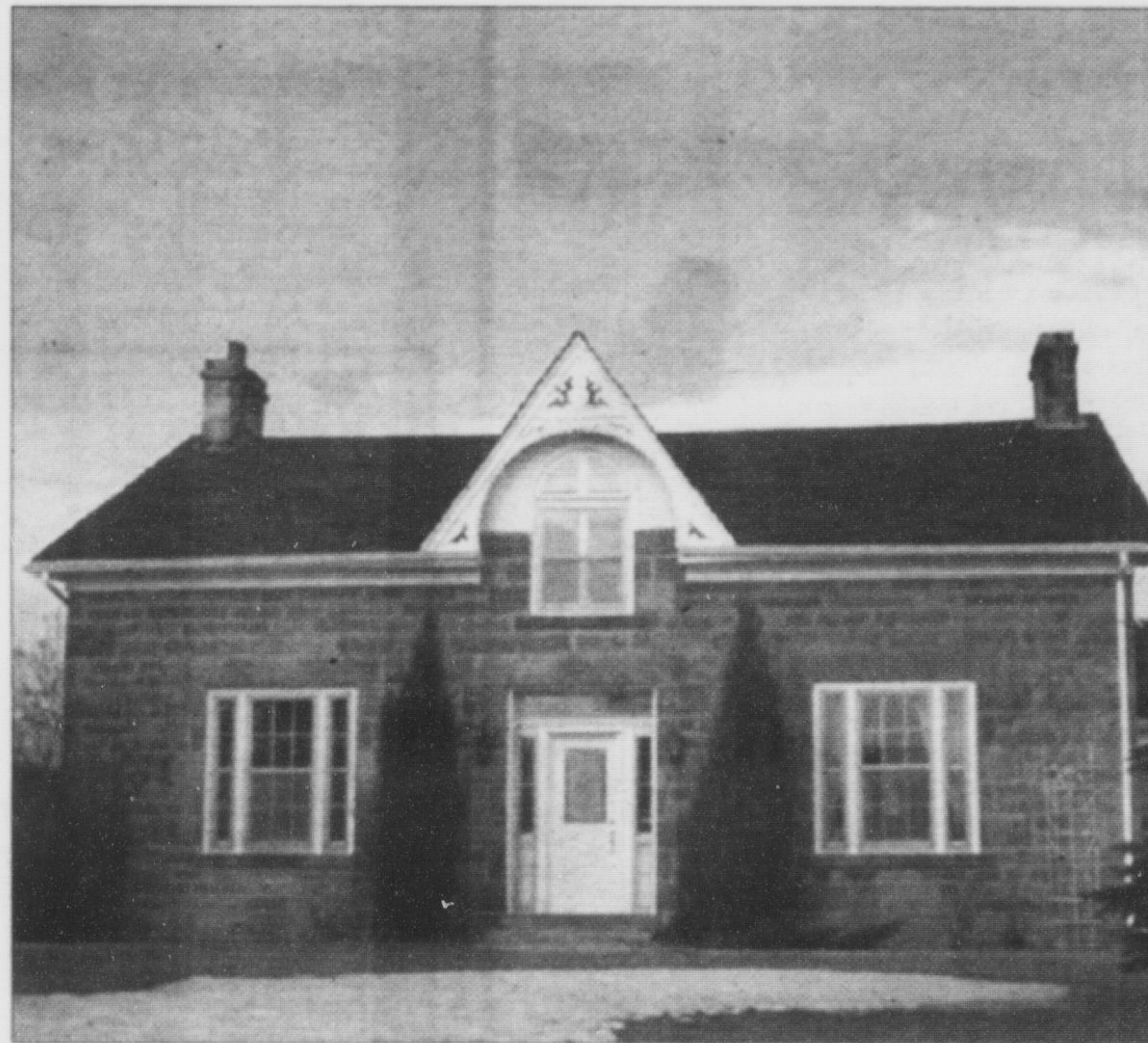
There's the considerate driver who stops to see if they can help dislodge a fellow motorist who has slid off to the side of the road.

And what about the person who clears a path around the fire hydrant or removes the buildup of slush and snow from the storm drain at the side of the street?

Then of course there were stories of people opening up their homes to others during the ice storm power outages — a generous act indeed.

Believe it or not, spring truly is just around the corner. We will make it.

We just have to hang in there a little bit longer — and be a little bit patient, with Mother Nature and each other.



### Heritage Matters

This 1850 Georgian-style stone house, originally located at 7129 Tremaine Rd., was built for the Coates family who emigrated from England in 1816. In 1888, the property was sold to the Cartwright family who lived there until 1955. The structure was demolished in 2008, however a replica heritage home has been constructed and is now one of 10 grand prizes in the 2014 Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Home Lottery.

— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society

## Editor's Desk

### What's it going to take to stop the madness on our roads?

What's going on out there on our roads?

It seems every time I turn around there's another traffic fatality — or a very close call — being reported somewhere in southern Ontario. It seems like when we drive on our highways nowadays we're increasingly putting our lives in jeopardy.

And we can't blame it all on the poor driving conditions we have experienced more often than usual this winter. There are numerous factors that can play a role in accidents that kill. Among them are aggressive driving — especially speeding



**Karen Miceli**  
Managing Editor

— as well as failing to wear a seatbelt, distracted or inattentive driving, mechanical failure and driving while impaired by alcohol, drugs or sleep deprivation.

Knowing that most traffic deaths could be prevented, I wonder how we can make each and every motorist understand that unsafe driving can end their life or that of someone else suddenly, in an instant.

We can't be in such a hurry or become so complacent that we violate safe driving practices by travelling at excessive speed and following too closely — which lessens the time we have to react to situations — and making unsafe lane changes. And we can't drive while talking on our cell phones or texting, which has become a huge problem.

There's simply too much at risk. Karen Miceli can be reached at [kmiceli@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:kmiceli@miltoncanadianchampion.com) or on Twitter @ChampionEditor.

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