

# Opinion

## Give the gift of life

We know you are generous with your time, money and resources. You volunteer with non-profit organization, lend a hand at events around town and donate funds and gifts in kind to deserving charities.

Your contributions don't go unnoticed.

Simply flip through the pages of this newspaper and you'll find proof of your good work or that of your neighbour. Your involvement also goes a long way in helping the organizations that support those in need in our community.

While we commend you for your kindness, generosity and selflessness, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to give more of yourself in 2016. The need for blood and blood products is never ending. Yet, finding new blood donors can prove challenging for the non-profit organization tasked with managing the nation's supply of blood, blood products and stem cells.

According to Canadian Blood Services, roughly 100,000 new donors are needed every year to meet the demand for blood and blood products. Finding new O-negative donors is of highest importance because it is the only type compatible with all other blood types.

Because of this compatibility factor, O-negative blood is used by hospitals during some of the most critical situations, such as motor vehicle collisions.

When seconds count, emergency health-care professionals turn to its supply of O-negative blood to help patients whose lives are on the line.

Approximately 12 per cent of all blood units sent to hospitals are of the O-negative variety. Yet, only 7 per cent of the Canadian population has O-negative blood. According to Canadian Blood Services, only 41,000 of the organization's 410,000 active donors are O-negative. A little help from you could boost that number to 50,000, effectively increasing the O-negative blood supply pool.

Although Canadian Blood Services is focused on increasing its number of O-negative donors, it is accepting donations from all blood types because the need for blood is that great.

Right now, somewhere in Canada, someone needs a blood transfusion to survive. If that person was involved in a car crash, up to 50 units of blood may be required to save their life. If they are battling leukemia, they might require eight units of blood per week. That someone could be you.

Blood, as the slogan goes, is in you to give. So, why not roll up your sleeve and give the gift of life.

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The next donation clinic in Milton is slated for next Thursday (February 18). The clinic has a 96-unit target. It runs from 2 until 7 p.m. at New Life Church, 824 Thompson Rd. South.

For more information on blood donation and eligibility criteria, visit [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca).

### SNAPSHOT



**WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY:** *Champion* reader Elizabeth Norrington snapped this creative photo, featuring the reflection of the Glen Eden ski hill in the window of the Alexander Log Cabin. Do you have an interesting, fun or cute photo taken in Milton that you would like to submit to be considered for Snapshot? Send submissions (minimum 600 KB resolution) to [editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com](mailto:editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com). Please include the name of the photographer, a description of the photo, including where it was taken.

## Up Front

### Visibility vital out there, folks

Laziness is something we all embrace at one point or another, yours truly included.

But that should never apply to our safety — and that of others.

Sadly, that's often the case at this time of year. On my brief five-minute commute in to work Tuesday morning, I spotted three motorists who'd cleared the bare minimum of snow from their vehicles, just enough to see straight ahead.

Such a narrow scope of visibility is especially dangerous when — as I was — driving down a twisting stretch of road like the northern part of Bronte Street.

Headlights had also not been scraped, leaving a diminished chance of me and others to see these cars at the still fairly

dark hour of 7-ish.

Then there was also a cyclist who, like so many I've seen at the pre-dawn or post-dusk hour, besides a slightly illuminated orange hat was dressed in complete black or dark brown — leaving him rather difficult to spot until you're practically on his tail.

For the sake of a few extra minutes of scraping or simple change of clothes, these people put themselves and others in harm's way.

That's especially puzzling with regard to the former, since Tuesday's snowfall was not expected. Getting up a few minutes early for a proper car clearing could have been easily planned.

A safe commute means being able to see clearly, and being seen yourself.

We've all got to embrace those realities before heading out on our roadways.

Let's be safe out there, folks.

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Advertising Fax: 905-876-2364

Classified: 905-875-3300

Circulation: 905-878-5947

[www.miltoncanadianchampion.com](http://www.miltoncanadianchampion.com)

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