

Opinion

Put waste in its place

Lazy people. Slobs.

Those are the only words we can come up with to describe those who think it's okay to dump garbage in the ditches along our rural roads.

When the snow receded recently it revealed disgusting piles of trash— from black garbage bags to old furniture and drywall— festooned along our sideroads.

Google illegal dumping and you quickly see this is a problem from coast to coast.

Over the course of the last several weeks, many Milton residents have contributed letters to the editor on the topic. Some expressed outrage with people's apparent disregard for the environment, while others offered their time to help cleanup other people's messes.

Illegal dumping is not a victimless crime. It costs taxpayers a pretty penny to remove drywall, shingles and old couches.

However, even more important than money is the affront this act symbolizes for our natural environment and residents.

Illegal dumping can result in a fine of up to \$5,000. However, the authorities need evidence.

If you spot someone illegally dumping, make sure to record the date and time of the incident, a description of the person or persons responsible, the vehicle type, colour and licence plate, and what types of items are being discarded.

Better yet, take a picture.

In OPP patrolled areas, police are reminding residents to contact the OPP communications centre immediately at 1-888-310-1122 to report illegal dumping. The Town of Milton advises residents to call 911 if they encounter illegal dumping.

If you can afford a new sofa, it is reasonable to assume that you can afford to take the old one to the waste facility. And if that's not an option for you, then check your waste collection calendar for the next bulk waste pick-up date, which should coincide with your garbage day. Misplaced your calendar? No worries. The Region of Halton hosts a nifty waste collection calendar on its website, where you'll also find information about curbside collection of garbage, recycling, yard waste and metal and appliances. There's also information about safely disposing of electronics, tires and household hazardous waste.

With so many options available to help keep the Region clean, there's absolutely no excuse for illegal dumping.

Let's all do our part to put waste in its place.



Around town

It looks a little out of place now, but this home built in 1849 is being moved to the front of a new development by Branthaven Homes. It's located at the corner of Britannia Road and Regional Road 25. It was the Andrew Suitor house and is being preserved by the builder, who is working closely with the Town's heritage planner and the members of Heritage Milton advisory committee. Councillor Colin Best, and former chair of the then-LACAC (prior name of Heritage Milton) said he applauds Branthaven Homes for their work in maintaining the house as part of their new neighbourhood. *Julie Slack / Canadian Champion*

My View

Marking Earth Week

To mark Earth Week (April 18022), the provincial government issued a release about its ongoing efforts to fight climate change. Ontario, according to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, is taking strong action on this front by "ending dirty coal, setting aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets, establishing a cap-and-trade system and building transit."

While the Province does its part to ensure our planet's long-term health, it encourages residents to do theirs. With little effort, we can easily reduce our



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impact on the environment. We can do so by leaving our vehicles in the driveway and walking or cycling to a nearby store. This, according to the Province, will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Buying and eating fresh, local produce, as well as making use of reusable water bottles to keep plastic out of landfills are also good habits to adopt. And let's not forget about the three Rs — reduce, reuse and recycle. The latter appears to be a popular practice among Miltonians, who, historically, have come out in large numbers to participate in community cleanups and contribute to local electronic waste and scrap metal drives. If you're keen on celebrating Earth Week, you can do so this weekend at the Milton Habitat for Humanity ReStore location, where you can drop off any scrap metal or clunky old electronics. Milton Mall will also be accepting unwanted electronics for recycling purposes Saturday.

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