

Opinion

It's simple: don't drink and drive

Don't drink and drive.

It's a simple message that just isn't getting across. This, according to statistics released by the Ontario Provincial Police and the Halton Regional Police Service following the completion of their respective holiday RIDE (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaigns.

Locally, more than 15,000 vehicles were checked at RIDE lanes across the region last month. Halton's finest made 31 impaired driving arrests and issued 46 three-day licence suspensions. The latter occurs when a driver blows a 'warn' on an alcohol screening device, which indicates that his or her blood alcohol content is between 0.05 and 0.08.

While the number of impaired driving arrests is down 45 per cent from the previous year, which saw 56 people arrested that month, the number of motorists driving dangerously close to the legal limit is on the rise.

The number of three-day suspensions issued last month has more than doubled compared to December 2014 statistics issued by Halton police.

Provincial stats

Provincially, the numbers aren't much better.

According to the OPP's 2015 Festive RIDE program results, 573 drivers were charged with impaired driving-related offences and more than 350 motorists received a roadside warning, which resulted in the temporary suspension of their driver's licence.

We know the festive season is a time for celebration. We know family and friends gather. And we know that many enjoy a drink or two, while others have too many.

Unfortunately, some show a complete disregard for the community's safety — and human life — by getting behind the wheel under the influence of drugs and alcohol. This despite the known dangers associated with such a perilous act.

It's inconceivable that motorists — young and old — continue to carry themselves in such a careless way. What's it going to take to get this important message across?



Around Town

Four generations of Kitchens pose in front of Martin Street Public School, where they were enrolled. They include Bruce and Norma, son Paul and his daughter Laurie and her son Hunter. Martin Street School is currently undergoing an expansion to better accommodate Milton students. *Supplied photo*

The Champion invites readers to share their Around Town photos. Send yours to editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com. Be sure to include a description of the photo, including the location where it was taken, and the name of the photographer.

My View

Learning the ABCs of mathematics

It's no secret that math is not my forte.

Ask anyone who has had the pleasure of joining me for dinner and they'll tell you just how horrible I am at calculating percentages. They'll also add that, when caught off guard, I am liable to say that two plus two equals five, despite knowing the answer. Yes, it is a sad state of affairs. My numeral incompetency is not something I'm proud of. But as the saying goes, the first step is admitting you have a problem. With no support group for the mathemat-



Catherine O'Hara
Acting Editor

ically challenged — or at least none that I know of — I've decided to take matters into my own hands.

Instead of establishing a new year's resolution centered on diet and exercise, I resolve to improve my numeracy skills. It's a failproof resolution; there's no way they can get worse, right?

They say practice makes perfect. So, by avoiding the use of the calculator app on my smartphone and giving the good old noddle a workout, I'm sure I will succeed. Or at least, that's my hope.

While a close friend has expressed confidence in my resolve to reach my goal, he also suggested I invest in a copy of the *Basic Math & Pre-Algebra for Dummies* workbook. And this week, I did just that. Let the learning begin!

Catherine O'Hara can be reached at editor@miltoncanadianchampion.com or on Twitter @Milton_Champion

the Canadian Champion

555 Industrial Drive, Milton, Ont. L9T 5E1

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V.P. — Group Publisher
Neil Oliver

Regional General Manager
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