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Home » EDITORIAL » Drive safe, Oshawa

Drive safe, Oshawa

Posted on April 15, 2020 by oshawaexpress in EDITORIAL

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(Cartoon by George Longley)

With the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping across the world, many roads in Ontario are seeing less and less traffic, and Oshawa is no exception.

With less traffic on Oshawa's roads and highways, it may be tempting to put a little more pressure on the gas pedal, change lanes without signalling, or turn without signalling.

However, what should remain clear to residents is the rules of the road are still in place – Durham Regional police are still patrolling the streets of Oshawa and are still enforcing these rules.

The rules of the road are in place for a reason, and that's to keep roads safe for not only drivers, but pedestrians as well.

Drivers should also be aware many construction projects, such as the widening of certain parts of Harmony Road in Oshawa, will still be taking place.

In these situations, drivers should remember to slow down and give workers as much room as they need. Construction sites, while carefully planned out, can be fairly unpredictable, and accidents do happen.

Also, with the practice of social distancing and self-isolation currently in place, many residents will be going for walks to get out of the house and burn off some energy. Drivers should remain vigilant of pedestrians, and should note even though they are seeing fewer cars on the roads, people will still be outside and crossing the roads.

In some neighbourhoods, children will often be outside playing with their families. It is especially important to keep an eye out for them, as children can be incredibly unpredictable, and if a ball or another toy ends up on the road, they may go after it.

In the end, stay safe out there, and remember, the rules of the road are there to keep drivers, pedestrians, and everyone else safe.

Drive safe, Oshawa.

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Home » EDITORIAL » Delayed OHL season for the best

Delayed OHL season for the best

Posted on August 11, 2020 by oshawaexpress in EDITORIAL

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(Cartoon by George Longley)

The Ontario Hockey League (OHL) has announced its regular season won't begin until December.

This decision wasn't made lightly, as the league's 2019-20 season was forced to end early due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning the league missed out on playoffs and the Memorial Cup.

The upcoming season will consist of 64 games ending in April 2021. Thus far, Oshawa Generals General Manager Roger Hunt isn't sure if fans will be in the stands.

However, in the end Hunt reinforces that safety is more important than anything, and making sure the players, fans, and staff are safe is priority number one for the league.

Ultimately, the decision to delay the season is a good idea, especially as Ontario, for the most part, is still in Stage 3 of COVID-19 recovery, and will be for a while.

This means the beginning of the season, which is normally in late September, would likely have fallen under the current stage of recovery.

Currently, indoor gatherings are limited to 50 people in Ontario, and outdoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 100.

There are still social distancing guidelines in place of six feet, or two metres, separation.

In Oshawa, the Tribute Communities Centre can hold up to approximately 5,500 people, and the stands, like many arenas, are not well suited for social distancing.

So, instead of finding a way to fit as many people in as the stadium can hold while following provincial guidelines, delaying the season will hopefully allow for some restrictions to be eased, and fans will be able to sit and watch their favourite local hockey teams hit the ice once again.

The upcoming season of OHL hockey and how the league handles the current pandemic will be pivotal for the league.

The decision to delay, while a bitter pill to swallow for some, is for the best.

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Home » EDITORIAL » Time for Canadians to come together

Time for Canadians to come together

Posted on March 19, 2020 by oshawaexpress in EDITORIAL

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(Cartoon by George Longley)

When municipalities in Durham began shutting down community centres and recreation programs, Oshawa was the last to do so.

However, with community centres and recreation programs being shut down, as well as a number of events being cancelled due to COVID-19, it begs the question: what can kids do over March Break, and the next three weeks off of school?

When city council chose to close down community centres, a number of popular sites closed their doors, including: Delpark Homes Centre, Donevan Recreation Complex, the Arts Resource Centre and many others.

With the closure of the Delpark Homes Centre, a library, a pool, ice rinks, fitness centre, a senior centre and much more closed with it.

So once again, with all of these facilities closed for the time being, what can kids do while staying safe at home?

A simple answer is playing video games, which these days means they can still interact with their friends through online play.

However, for activities in the home, board games are an option, movie night with the family, taco Tuesdays, and more. For those with small children, a game of hide-and-seek can take up a number of hours.

But, with kids home, many families are stuck trying to find new ways to take care of them, especially those with younger children.

The fact of the matter is, while it would have been irresponsible of the government to not minimize possibilities to spread COVID-19, many families will now be struggling to find ways to take care of their children over the next three weeks.

While many have neighbours, family or friends who can help out, there are those who don't.

It's time for Canadians to come together and help each other out.

If you know your neighbour is struggling to find a place for their children, lend them a hand. If you're retired, and you know your children are having a difficult time finding a place to send their children, and if you are physically able, lend them a hand.

No matter your political affiliation, the COVID-19 pandemic is a time for Canadians to come together, and give each other a hand – or an elbow if that's what you prefer.