

The Oakville Beaver

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Keep your cool

You could fry an egg. Try not to though as that would only put more heat into the equation.

That weather equation states Oakville residents are facing near drought conditions in July with barely a half dozen millimetres of rain having fallen where at least 70 or more usually does.

As temperatures soar into the category of official heatwave, after what has felt like a heatwave for a couple of weeks, there's no real end in sight. According to weather forecasts, it looks like it's going to be dry, sunny and hot at least until the Civic holiday weekend.

You've probably heard it all before, but it can bear repeating as the heat becomes unbearable. Stay cool. It's not just about being comfortable, but about being healthy and safe.

Environment Canada kicked off this week by issuing a Humidex Advisory due to the combination of high heat, high humidity (greater than 40 degrees Celsius) and/or other weather conditions that can be hazardous to your health.

This means even short periods of high temperatures can cause serious health problems.

When a Humidex Advisory has been issued by Environment Canada, the Health Department issues a Heat Alert — and it did. The Town of Oakville has also issued a heat alert offering cooling stations and good advice.

Those at risk during heat and smog-related weather conditions include older adults (over 65 years), infants and young children, and those with chronic heart or lung disease, including asthma. Parents, coaches and others supervising children should be aware of the health risks during a heat alert.

If anyone experiences symptoms of heat-induced illness — rapid breathing, weakness or fainting, headache, or confusion — seek medical attention right away.

Stay out of the hot sun or heat and go to air-conditioned places like malls, community centres and libraries. Avoid strenuous outdoor activity and, if possible, reschedule sports practices and jogging times.

Drink lots of water and juice (avoid alcohol, coffee, cola). Parents should freeze the drinks of children going to day camps. Check in on friends and neighbours who may also be at risk — and make sure you have sunscreen on.

Tim Hortons has a free swim program that will run at various pools throughout the summer and the Town of Oakville operates numerous indoor pools as well as outdoor pools — Bronte, Brookdale Falgarwood, Lions and Wedgewood — as well as splash pads.

Don't leave pets out in the heat, especially tied up or otherwise confined and make sure they have lots of clean water. Never ever, leave anyone, human or animal, in a car.

Use common sense, stay cool and enjoy as what many await all year long unfolds in the weeks to come — the dog days of summer.



Letters to the editor

The *Oakville Beaver* welcomes letters from its readers. Letters will be edited for clarity, length, legal considerations and grammar. In order to be published all letters must contain the name, address and phone number of the author. Letters should be addressed to **The Editor, Oakville Beaver, 467 Speers Rd., Oakville, ON, L6K 3S4**, or via e-mail to **editor@oakvillebeaver.com**. The *Beaver* reserves the right to refuse to publish a letter.

Bridge project is taking too long

Re: What's taking bridge so long?, Oakville Beaver, Wednesday, July 13, 2011

I wholeheartedly agree with Steve Longchamps' letter re the Dundas/Sixteen-Mile Creek bridge.

I will use another San Francisco example — after its most recent serious earthquake, the Army Corp of Engineers rebuilt their elevated highways and bridges in just three months.

What we have in Oakville is a blatant and pathetic waste of taxpayers money and a matter that no one in office at any level seems to give a second thought or a care about.

It's a folly in the literal sense — jobs for the boys and please take your time as there's no accountability, it seems.

**Alan Ellis,
Oakville**

Thanks for the help with lost wallet

Losing a wallet is a stressful experience, but thanks to the staff of Hopedale Mall, including Mich who turned in the wallet, Arthur, who escorted me to the

security office, and the beautiful Noran, Lottery Booth, who offered support and comfort, it ended happily.

Marguerite McDowell, Oakville

Letter to the editor Bridge project is almost done

I am replying to the July 13, 2011 letter from Mr. Steve Longchamps regarding the construction of the Dundas Street (Regional Road 5) bridges over Sixteen Mile Creek.

The project began in June 2007 and involves a number of complex elements, including the demolition of the old bridge structure, construction of two new three-lane concrete bridges, sanitary sewers, watermains and the widening of Dundas to six lanes from east of Neyagawa Boulevard to Proudfoot Trail.

It is a major element in our plan to build a better Halton.

Dundas Street is one of the most important roads in Halton, carrying in excess of 35,000 vehicles per day.

For this reason the contractor has been largely restricted from shutting down active lanes or working during rush hours.

This has slowed the rate of construction, but has ensured that traffic flow is maintained.

The closure of Lions Valley Park was necessary to ensure public safety during construction, although the pedestrian trail system across the valley has remained open south of the bridge.

Improvements to the access road, parking facilities and walkways serving the park are also part of the project.

When the project is completed in the spring of 2012, the bridges will provide a total of six lanes with pedestrian and cycling facilities on the north and south sides of the road.

We greatly appreciate the patience and cooperation the community has shown, and we are working to complete the project as quickly as possible.

**Tim Dennis,
Director, Transportation Services,
Halton Region**