

Cyclists have to follow the rules of the road too

From the desk of Inspector Tim Melanson

Caledon's picturesque landscape is a perfect environment for cycling.

As a result, many local residents and visitors to our area take advantage of the rolling hills of Caledon as a popular cycling location.

Many cyclists are well versed in their sport and know the rules of the road. This release will provide some of the rules and regulations under the Highway Traffic Act of Ontario.

Under Ontario's Highway Traffic Act (HTA), a bicycle is defined as a vehicle and cyclists are required to obey the rules of the road. HTA requires vehicles to turn out to the right to allow the vehicle to pass when being passed by vehicles travelling at a higher rate of speed. The Act further requires that slow-moving vehicles move to the right, but this is only when being passed. The move to the right is to facilitate the space to allow a faster vehicle to safely pass.

Caledon OPP recommends that cyclists ride as close as practicable to the right curb of the roadway, except when:

- ? travelling at the normal speed of traffic;
- ? avoiding hazardous conditions;
- ? the roadway is too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to travel safely side-by-side;
- ? riding alongside another cyclist in a manner that does not impede the normal movement of traffic; and
- ? preparing to make a left turn, passing another vehicle, or using a one-way street (in which case riding alongside the left curb is permitted).

Here is a cycling violations list of fines derived from HTA:

For a cyclist failing to signal, the fine is \$85, plus court costs and victim surcharge, bringing the total to \$110. A cyclist who fails to identify him or herself when stopped by an officer can look forward to a total fine of \$110. The set fine for careless driving is \$400, and it can be increased to at least \$490 with the court costs and victim surcharge. Cycling on a closed road, failure to stop at a stop sign, failure to yield to traffic that has the right of way; making unsafe turn movements or lane changes, riding the wrong way on a one-way road and failing to bear to the right for emergency vehicles carry total fines of \$110. The total fine for failing to stop for a red light is \$325.