

## Senseless loss

Canadian Champion Editorial

Published on Jun 26, 2007

No one should ever have to endure the senseless loss faced by the loved ones of Innisfil's David Virgoe.

By all accounts the 48-year-old, truck-driving father of three and grandfather of five sacrificed himself in order to save others travelling along Hwy. 400 near Bradford last week.

The OPP have credited the trucker's evasive manoeuvres for having minimized the highway carnage the day he encountered three road racers on the highway's northbound lanes.

Virgoe's death is a stark reminder that the rules governing our streets and highways aren't enough of a deterrent to those who engage in reckless driving.

Motorists who speed for the thrill of it must be made to understand that public roadways aren't their race tracks or venues for demonstrations of bravado. Last week's tragedy indicates that street and highway racers aren't getting that message.

Anyone who believes Virgoe's death was an isolated incident, should consider statistics from York Regional Police's recent crackdown on street racers. With the help of a helicopter to spot dangerous drivers from above, police officers charged more than 550 drivers with street racing offences over a six-week period. Can you say epidemic?

We agree with the sentiments of OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino, who worries that without harsher sentences handed out by our courts, more tragedies are inevitable.