

The Acton Free Press

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Business and Editorial Office

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Canada needs voodoo economics

Most of the Liberal cabinet is away these days on vacation and for the sake of our economy it can only be hoped Trudeau, MacEachen, Lalonde etc. are reflecting on their actions since last fall.

If we are lucky they'll turn their eyes south and borrow at least some of the highly successful ideas which have been implemented there by the young Reagan administration.

Events on the business and economic scene last week clearly demonstrated Canada and the United States are going in starkly different directions.

And it would appear Reagan's swing to the right is the correct direction to go in.

Inflation is soaring monthly. Interest rates are sky high. The dollar is plummeting. Unemployment is fairly constant. That's the Canadian story.

South of the border a year ago the Canadian story of today was also the American tale.

Now their inflation rate is steadily dropping. The value of their currency is growing increasingly stronger. Unemployment is dropping. The only similarity is sky high interest rates.

Inflation, unemployment and interest rates are symptoms of economic health.

The major difference between the Canadian and American stories is really a matter of climate. Business climate.

High interest rates south of the border are attracting investment.

In Canada high interest rates aren't attracting investment and aren't halting the slide of our dollar. Experts peg the flow of capital out of Canada at somewhere between \$6 and 10 billion in the last eight or nine months.

There are many reasons. A major one is the business climate created by our federal government. Since the national energy policy was brought down, Canada has developed the international image of interventionists. Business doesn't want to invest here in energy or other sectors because they don't know what Ottawa will do next.

The national energy policy is resulting in an outflow of capital in two ways. Firms are pulling out of Canada and were spending a bundle on take-overs, like PetroCan's purchase of Petro-Fina.

Liberals don't respect Parliament or citizens

Rarely has the Liberal government looked as cynical in its regard of the people and Parliament of this nation than last week.

While the actions of federal Transport Minister Jean-Luc Pepin affecting passenger rail service in this nation will have little impact on local residents it should still be of interest and concern here because of the manner in which he brought down his decision.

With Parliament adjourned for the summer (following the Liberal government's use of closure) and by way of an order in council (a simple directive from cabinet) Pepin has shut down a number of rail lines.

It wouldn't be farfetched to presume this decision was taken some time ago, but Pepin and his colleagues preferred not to drop this bomb while the House of Commons was in session, thereby avoiding the

chase of Petro-Fina.

Other factors creating an uncertain investment climate are the constitutional issue and bad feelings between Ottawa and the provinces, the squabbling between Alberta and Ottawa over energy pricing, the continued threat of Rene Levesque in Quebec and separatism, the seeming lack of economic direction from Ottawa, the federal deficit which while not ballooning at the same old rate isn't coming down, and our inflation rate (it isn't being helped by the devaluation of our dollar because import prices are pushed up more.) which is the only one which is accelerating in the Western world.

Most of these problems (constitution, energy pricing) have been lingering for many, many months now. Seems since before the Liberals were ousted briefly by the Conservatives, all since they were returned to power on the promise of cheap gas (which we don't have either).

There is a climate of business uncertainty in Canada and Ottawa doesn't seem to care. The Liberals also don't seem to care that only 18 per cent of Canadians have confidence in the way they are handling the economy.

Reagan's package of deep spending cuts, including the very painful cuts in social services spending; tax trims; high interest rates and a clear direction away from government intervention (or an attitude that less government is better government) has created an excellent climate.

Canada has severe economic problems. But they aren't unsolvable, as the Americans have proved in less than a year. Their economy has rebounded admirably. Inflation and unemployment are both down drastically.

Right now all we have is a monetary policy in this country (high interest rates). As Britain's Margaret Thatcher is discovering a fiscal policy is also needed for economic health.

Possibly we don't have to go as far to the right as the United States has gone and is going, but the internationally perceived left wing leanings of Ottawa must be reversed.

Reagan's policies are called voodoo economics.

Ottawa needs to start working a little black magic also.

howls of protest from opposition members and some media coverage.

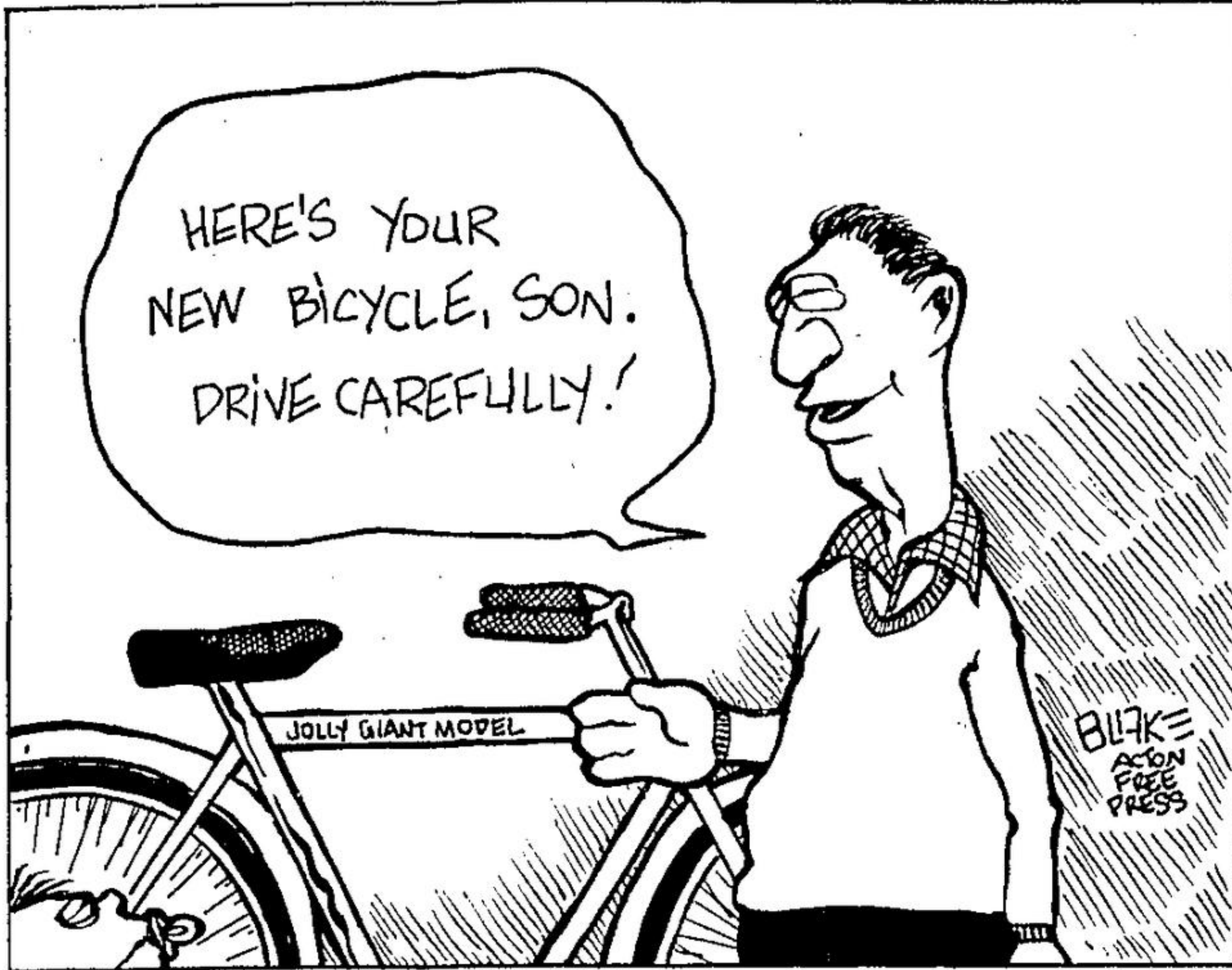
This again demonstrates the Trudeau government's now time honored trait of having no respect for Parliament and its role in government.

But Pepin has demonstrated that besides having no respect for Parliament, he and his colleagues have no respect for the Canadian public either.

Usually when rail service is modified there are public hearings before the Canadian Transport Commission. There were hearings when a CN commuter train which picked up Acton riders was closed down a few years ago.

But this time the cabinet has ordered the lines shut down and that's that. No public hearing.

And irate passenger train riders can't even mail letters to Trudeau, Pepin et al right now to protest the decision.



On the Leavell

With Helen

At least one British person preferred to spend the Royal Wedding week in quieter surroundings.

Melanie Hands, of Plymouth, Devon, England arrived in Canada last week to spend three weeks with her pen pal, Josee Charlebois, of Elmora Drive, Acton. The two have been writing to each other since 1972, and Josee visited Melanie for three weeks in 1976. Since then, Melanie has been saving her money to enjoy a reciprocal visit.

Monday, Melanie celebrated her 2nd birthday. Before she came to Canada, she became engaged to be married, but refused to cancel her trip before the wedding as it (the holiday) had been planned longer, according to Josee.

While in Canada, Melanie is enjoying tours of Ottawa, Quebec City, Montreal, Kingston, London, Stratford, Niagara Falls, Canada's Wonderland and the Acton area. They are staying with friends of Josee's in the various areas and in university dormitories.

Melanie leaves for home August 15, leaving Josee just three days to get ready to start work nursing in a Toronto hospital on August 18.

And speaking of visitors: Mr. and Mrs. Harold York and Mrs. Mary Brown of West Virginia visited with their cousin, Mrs. Mabel Woods of Main St. Acton last week.

And even though I spent last week sunning in the Muskokas, I spotted two Actonians on television while I was gone.

The first one was Miss Acton Fall Fair Lisa McGrath, who has a small part in a CHUM commercial. Lisa is on the bumper cars at an amusement park.

And former Free Press staffer Corrie Fisher was interviewed by a man on the street feature on Channel 13, Kitchener. The reporter was asking for feelings on the Royal Wedding, and lo and behold there was Corrie.

We also met people from Georgetown at the lodge we were staying at.

Workers erecting signs at the post office recently dug down and struck the foundation of the old Storey Glove factory.

Nice to see there's some work going on at the post office these days.

Ken and Terry Grubbe and son Kevin returned home Sunday after a two week vacation in Ken's hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. It was Ken's 20th annual high school reunion and he renewed many old acquaintances.

Dave and Heather Whiting and family recently got back from a camping vacation at McGregor Point on the Bruce Peninsula. The weather was nice and all had a good time.

The couple have worked hard for Acton, and have made a lot of friends in town. For a pair like this to leave our town is indeed a loss to all. We will miss them, but they promise to keep in touch.

Goodbye Flo and Louis, and good luck in all your future endeavors.

Sorry about that, Jeffrey Arney of Guelph.

Two weeks ago I wrote how Jeffrey won a Toronto Sun drawing contest, remember? Well, it seems I got things mixed up on a busy Tuesday afternoon. In one part of the item I called Jeffrey "Michael." Now the mistake was partly understandable as if mistakes ever are.

His aunt, Pat Nellis, who told me about the win, mentioned her son Michael. When I wrote the column, the item immediately preceding Jeffrey's was about Michael West. The mind can do deceiving things sometimes such as a switch.

Anyway Jeffrey, no matter how it happened, sorry about that.

MEANDERINGS

By Mable Barkman

Be Sting!

It was a hot day last week when I was bringing the clothes in off the line and I was in my bare feet. I didn't see the black hornet on my porch and I guess he resented my presence and stung me. I rushed to the kitchen, made a thick paste of meat tenderizer and water and started rubbing it into the sting. The pain went away in no time and I was very thankful. As far as I'm concerned it is the best remedy for bee stings I have ever tried. Even if you don't use it on meat, I think every household should have it in the medicine chest. It is made from the leaves of the papaya plant which grows in the south and the healing qualities of this plant are well known.

Joan Williamson, former secretary at Acton High School will be contributing to this column with her "Crafty Ideas".

Joan is not new to newspapers. She was a reporter/photographer for many years, starting her career in Galt with none other than Ken Thompson, of the Thomson Newspaper chain.

After a ten year stint with the high school, Joan decided to take it easy for a while. She spent most of July attending classes at Sheridan College learning how to make various crafts. She hopes to share many of her new found ideas with my readers.

Here's her first endeavor. Let me know if you like it.



CRAFTY IDEAS
by Joan Williamson
Need something to help you cool off in the hot muggy weather? It's just five months to Christmas - time to start planning ahead. Uncurl your fingers

Back issues

10 years ago

August 4, 1971

For the second straight season Acton's bustling lacrosse Rams are in the OLA Junior C finals. The locals eliminated Midland Hurons four straight games, finishing up the series by almost obliterating the visitors here Monday night in a 26-1 win. The Hurons, completely outclassed, were lucky to notch one goal in the night.

A minor was charged with drinking underage in town on the weekend and for the first time the age limit was 18 rather than 21. The person charged was 17 years of age.

Rockwood's long-awaited and much-discussed Ontario Municipal Board hearing over the controversial water and sewer project proposals has finally been set.

20 years ago

August 3, 1961

Asked by the Free Press this week what's delaying the new post office, MP Sandy Best explained purchase of the former Storey Glove property has not been completed. He thinks the sale should be through some time in August.

The girls serving customers at the popular Frostee Freeze stand are four attractive local girls, Pat Blundell, Wendy Bartram, Wilma Abram, and Julie Holmes. They work on two shifts.

Pat Clancy is representing the Acton New Party Club with 24 other delegates from Halton attending the New Party Founding Convention in Ottawa this week.

50 years ago

August 6, 1931

Service on the electric railway between Toronto and Guelph will be discontinued August 15, after operating for 15 years. The operation was found unprofitable. This railway developed and maintained a regular two-hour service between these cities and intermediate points. This was later curtailed to meet lower revenues. A fast freight service was well maintained but trucks have made the traffic less. Three or four residents of Acton will be thrown out of employment. Central Ontario Bus Lines gives the assurance that the company will arrange to meet the needs of travelling public. The closing of the radial line is a serious handicap to the people of Limehouse.

A panoramic photograph was taken of all 150 who attended the annual Storey family reunion.

An exceptionally large number of tourists were cared for this year by the service station at Crewson's Corners. The hum of the threshing machine is heard. Harvesting is nearly completed. Although there is a good crop, it doesn't represent a good value.

75 years ago

August 2, 1906

The decision at Monday night's council meeting to build the Main St. bridge at Brock St. 40 feet wide is surely a serious error. The traffic over that bridge does not warrant so expensive a structure.

The annual picnic of the Methodist Sunday School was held in Councillor Warren's grove Friday afternoon, beginning with a parade of scholars with the band from the church. Between 400 and 500 attended. A long list of games and sports took place in Mr. Joseph Lasby's meadow. There were baseball, football and lacrosse. Among the race winners were Nora Kenney, Roy Brown, Bertie Brown, Doris Masales, Gladstone Husband, Herbert Gamble, Leonard Atkinson, Arthur Kenney, Bert Cook, Victor Coleman, Wm. Near. At six o'clock tea was spread on the grassy knolls while the older scholars and visitors filled the tables over and over again. They all marched back to town with colors flying.

It is a long time since so many drunks were seen about town on the Sabbath as there were last week.

100 years ago

August 4, 1881

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Little was authorized to procure for the use of the school three new maps, of Asia, Europe and North America.

After a good deal of talking and waiting the station has been moved to Campbellville at last, to the satisfaction of those in the vicinity. The passenger train made quick time going from Campbellville to Milton on the morning of the 25th ult., having gone through in eight minutes, the distance being seven miles.

A bylaw to raise \$5,500 by loan, for the erecting of a town hall, was passed.

The employees of Canada Glove works have commenced to work overtime.

Lou Matthews practices daily on his bicycle. He'll be taking a trip to Toronto one of these days.

Mr. David McKeown was sunstruck on Tuesday. His recovery is doubtful.

A travelling fire enter struck Acton on Thursday and gave an exhibition of his fire-eating propensities at the corner of Mill and Main Sts. which amused the juveniles. The collection was insufficient to pay his hotel bill, or so he said.