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There's a lot of doom and gloom floating around in Canada these days. And not without reason. The Three Ugly Sisters: high interest rates, high unemployment, and steady inflation have produced a general alarm and despair that this country has not seen since the Thirties.

Farmers and small business, traditional borrowers from the banks, have their backs to the wall, and no hole to squeeze through.

Executives in the \$50,000 a year bracket, who have served their companies with servility for 10 or 15 years, are being turfed into the unemployment insurance line-ups.


I feel sorry for them. Gone are the dinner parties, the theatre parties, the perks such as trips abroad and signing the cheque for a three-martini luncheon, and the big steak barbecues for business reasons, and the golf and country club fees tax deductible.

It must be pretty dreadful to come home to your \$70,000 house, which has a \$30,000 mortgage at 21 per cent, with an unemployment insurance cheque in your pocket, and sit on the edge of the crumbling swimming pool with a bottle of cheap rye, trying to figure out why.

These are not evil people. Many of them have spent as much as \$300 a year to support a foster-child in Guatemala or someplace. They have kicked in \$500 to the church, bought a tag on every tag day, and fundraising event. They are more to be pitied than scorned.

Pity the poor banks

by **Bill Smiley**



They are suffering grievously. Deeply. After offering themselves (and every cent they could borrow) to win a nomination, then an election, they are destitute. Except for their salaries, around \$60,000, their indexed pensions, and their law practices to return to.

I know a politician right now who is laughing. He served several terms in the provincial legislature, a couple in the federal, sold a thriving business, and is sitting in Florida. He chuckles so much that his wife wants him to see a psychiatrist specialist in chuckles. She thinks it's like hiccoughs. He's chuckling because he gets two (indexed) pensions and the returns from his business.

Now, before my store of pity runs out, I want you to consider the Canadian banks. There is where my deepest sympathy lies. They are in Desperate Straits, which are just across the channel from Dire Straits.

After logging anywhere up to 50 per cent profit last year, they are whimpering with fear. Their shares have gone down. Their profits have gone down disastrously. Woe is the land! The Canadians being beaten by the Russians is a blow to our national pride. But the idea of our banks not making lots and lots of money will drive many of us to suicide, I have little doubt.

In fact, the banks are so wild to make money that they send out begging letters, imploring you to get yourself into debt with them.


A friend of mine recently opened a letter from one of our Canadian banks. It was addressed to her father, assuring him that the bank would be pleased to give him a loan. Her father had not only never borrowed a cent from a bank, but had been dead for 19 years. A bit macabre, right?

I'm sure the banks of Canada have some pretty smart guys working for them but the only people who seem to have any brains in Canadian banks are the girls—tellers and such, poorly paid, always pleasant, working for about half what a postal worker gets.

The managers have invariably been pawns who always have to call up the Queen in Montreal or Toronto or Vancouver to decide on anything important. Nice fellows, unless you wanted to borrow money without putting up your grandmother as security. And she had to have \$15,000 in Canada Savings Bonds.


To heck with the poor. Pity the poor banks. Right?

Halton Police announce



WAYNE JESSOP
Staff Sergeant Wayne Jessop promoted to the rank of Inspector. Inspector Jessop began his Police Career in 1972 with the Georgetown Police Force. Since January 1, 1974 Inspector Jessop has served in District No. 1 Youth Bureau and as Sergeant in charge of the Crime Prevention Bureau.

In December 1980 Inspector Jessop was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and performed in the capacity of a supervisor in the Uniform section in District No. 1. Inspector Jessop has now been assigned to Duty Inspector's Unit at Police Headquarters in Oakville.



JOHN BARRATT
Inspector John Barratt has been promoted to the rank of Staff Inspector. Staff Inspector Barratt began his police career in England and served for eight years with the Wolverhampton Constabulary. Staff Inspector Barratt has served two years with the Guelph City Police prior to joining the Georgetown Police Force in 1981.

Since January 1974 with the formation of the Halton Regional Police Force, Staff Inspector Barratt has served in various capacities and was promoted to Inspector in March 1980 at which time he became the Executive Officer to the Chief of Police. In June 1981 Staff Inspector Barratt became the District Commander of No. 3 District, Burlington and will continue in that capacity.

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