

Cheer up, you dour, gloomy Canucks!

Is your life a cultural wasteland? Do you do the same old things, talk to the same old people on the same old subjects all the time? Are you scared to take a risk, smile at someone you've never seen before, do something the neighbors will mutter about? Do you want a decent tombstone, not flashy, but dignified?

Of course you do. You're a good Canadian. You believe in personal decorum, censorship, the family as a unit, and capital punishment.

On the other hand, do you go for a swim at midnight, sing a song at dawn, smoke marijuana, drink fairly heavily, march in protest parades, live in sin, abhor censorship and capital punishment, and contrive to do something that will offend friends and neighbors?

Of course you do. You're a good Canadian. You believe in individual liberty, acid rain, dirty movies and sexual irresponsibility.

It doesn't matter which group you belong to, or whether you're somewhere in between, you all have much in common.

You despise the government, but won't elect an alternative, since you despise it

even more. You are caught by inflation and high interest rates, whether you are a 60-year-old farmer trying to keep the place going, or a 20-year-old punk trying to maintain his habit.

You are basically anti-American, though if you were asked why, you couldn't give an answer that was articulate.

You feel frustrated, in this land of wood and water, not to mention nuclear power, because, if you are getting on in years, you see everything eroding around you, and if you are short in years, you see nothing but a stone wall between you and your aspirations.

You wonder vaguely, if you're old enough, what became of the Canadian dream: "The twentieth century belongs to Canada." And if you read the papers and analyze the news, you realize that, while Canada still has a high standard of living, we are very low on the totem pole when it comes to production, strikes, economic stability, peace, happiness and goodwill toward men.

If you're very young, you don't give a diddle. There's lots to eat, warm clothes, and the old man will kick in a decent allowance so you can feed the video machines with their war games.

by Bill Smiley



But if you're a young adult, just about ready to launch into "real" life, you're so bewildered about unemployment, and escalating university fees, and the increasing shadow of the computer, and the wealth of choices of a future (all lacking in security) that you can become so depressed you drop out, or dive into a stream, and fight against the current.

This isn't a doom and gloom column. It's merely a look at our nation today. It is so rife with suspicion, fear of nothing much, anger over nothing much, that we are becoming paranoid.

From the Prime Minister, through the head of the Bank of Canada, right down to your local alderman, you have lost trust, and feel that the ship is heading for the reef with nobody at the helm.

This is nonsense, of course. Canada has been going through this miasma ever since 1867, and before. Maybe the guy at the helm is blindfolded, and maybe we have scraped a few rocks, but the ship's bottom is still sound, and we haven't hit the big reef yet. If we do, we can always scramble into the boats, and become the new Boat People of North America.

We've had the French-Canadian separatism thing with us for generations. John A. MacDonald almost put the country on the rocks, financially and politically, but he dared to take a chance, and had vision. We survived a terrible depression, and came out smelling of roses (and the stench of our dead young men), in two world wars.

Cheer up, you dour, gloomy Canucks. When you have to settle for one meal of ground wheat a day, and have to huddle around a charcoal brazier to keep warm, then you can whine, though few will listen, just as few of us listen to the people of the world who are doing just that, right now.

Forget about the Yanks. If you don't like their culture invading us, turn off your TV set and get our your Eskimo carvings. The Yanks won't invade us physically. Unless they have to, and there's not much we could do about that.

If you can't afford your mortgage increase, you were probably over-extended in the first place. Get rid of that monster, with its swimming pool and rec' room and pitch a tent. Preferably in the local cemetery, to suit your mood.

Pull in your belts. Dump that extra car, the boat and the cottage. If you look at it objectively, they're just a big pain in the arm anyway.

Walk to work. Take a bus to the city instead of your gas-gobler plus parking fees. Learn to do your own elementary plumbing and electric work at night school.

Ladies. Get the knitting needles out and make lots of shawls, sweaters, scarves and wool socks. You did it for the troops overseas. And godawful itchy and ill-fitting some of them were, but they kept us warm.

Stop spoiling your children with allowances. Let them earn their own money through odd jobs, or do without.

Let's stop grumbling, and get back to a spartan, rewarding life, where ideas are more important than physical comfort. After you, he said.

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Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, June 27, 1984

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The Georgetown Independent and the Acton Free Press cannot be responsible for the cost of more than one incorrect insertion.

Call: 877-5266 or 853-2219
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday

1 Births
WARFORD-Denny and Cathy (nee Thompson) are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, Amy Lynn, weighing 7 lbs. 8 1/2 oz. on June 18, 1984 at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital at 8:23 p.m.

3 Engagements
MR. and MRS. Charles Clifford of Harold Street, Georgetown, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Jill Elizabeth, to Mr. Bruce Ott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Ott of Whitby, Ontario.

6 Deaths
CRIPPS, Henry I. at Hamilton General Hospital on Friday, June 22, 1984. Henry I. Cripps of Acton, aged 70 years, husband of the late Hazel Tarzwell and dear father of Sandra (Mrs. John Blackmore) of Burnt River and Brenda (Mrs. Gary Ellis) of Rockwood.

7 Cards of Thanks
VELMA WEST would like to thank all those who came and/or contributed to make her Family and Friends Dinner and Social evening such a memorable occasion as well as a week long 70th birthday celebration.

11 Notices
THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NOTICE
The Region of Halton is working towards obtaining an increased supply of potable water for the residents of Halton Hills (Acton).

10 Coming Events
90th Birthday Tea for Mrs. May Cleave Saturday, June 30th, 1984 1:30-4:00 p.m.

RICHARDS AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS LTD. AUCTION SALE
of Antique & Modern Household Furnishings for the Estate of Janet Fulton McDougall 18 Chapel Street Georgetown
WEDNESDAY, JULY 4th at 4:30 p.m.

2 Engagements
WILSON-BROWN-Jim and Jean Brown of R.R. 5, Milton, are pleased to announce the engagement of their eldest daughter, Brenda Jean, to Douglas James Wilson, son of Ernest and Margaret Wilson of R.R. 3, Milton.

7 Cards of Thanks
THE family of the late Cecil Wilson wish to thank all of their many friends and relatives for flowers and donations to the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society.

20 Wanted
WANTED Scrap, Iron, Metal, Cars, Trucks or Old Machinery. Phone 853-2014

3 Engagements
MR. & MRS. Garry DeBrun of Acton, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Colleen to David, son of Mrs. John Tomlin of Don Mills, Ont. Marriage to take place Saturday, October 6, 1984 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, Acton, Ont.

20 Wanted
WANTED Furniture, old and new, glass, china, nostalgia, primitives miscellaneous, old postcards, crockery, clocks, guns, lamps. 877-2619.

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11 Notices
OPENINGS AVAILABLE at HILLSBURGH REST HOME
For Seniors
82 MAIN STREET - HILLSBURGH
(519) 856-4558

11 Notices
ACTORS FOR TV
TV Soundstage is now interviewing new people for Special TV Studio training to act in TV Series/TV Commercials/Movies. Part time. All ages. For your Studio call, dial 1-964-3393.

21 For Sale
FACTORY OUTLETS
Picnic Table plastic \$1. yd. Lawn Chair Fabric, \$1.97 yd. Vinyl Mill Ends, \$3.97 yd.
SWIMMING POOL SALE
Manufacturer is having an inventory clearance on all 1983 brand new above ground pools.

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21 For Sale
FACTORY OUTLET
Acton Precast Concrete Ltd.
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WHY PAY more for a long piece of wood when you only need a short, at a very cheap price. Dimensions available, widths 2-12 inches, lengths 24 inches up to 40. All kiln dried, first quality grade pine. Woodchip Manufacturing, 247 Armstrong Avenue, Unit 7, Georgetown.
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