

the HERALD

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Happy Birthday 'our' Canada

To borrow from W.C. Fields, rumors of Canada's demise as a nation were slightly exaggerated.

As celebrations in Glen Williams and the rest of Canada last Monday can attest, the nation reached its 124th birthday with all the pomp and pageantry due such an occasion.

Actually, rumors of Canada's demise began to circulate in the spring of 1990 with the collapse of the Meech Lake Accord negotiations. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney "rolled the dice", came up with snake-eyes and promptly predicted the death knell of the nation would soon be sounded.

Predictably, the ringing of the mourning bells occurred only between Mr. Mulroney's ears and in fact, in the past year - or since the failed Meech Lake talks - Canada has undergone a rebirth with the ordinary citizen performing midwife duties.

Politicians, not the Canadian people, have caused our constitutional crisis with their pompous and arrogant belief that a nation can be created by decree.

A country or a state can be created by decree; but a nation evolves because its citizens join forces and work towards a common goal - the good of the nation as a whole.

Politicians, on the other hand, appear to be navel-gazers interested solely in the perpetuation of their particular party and its respective political philosophy.

In the past year, the cork has been unceremoniously yanked out of the navel by Canadians who are fed-up with near-sighted politicians and their myopic view of Canada.

Politicians are now being held accountable for their actions - or inactions - and new life has been breathed into the body politic of Canada.

This is as it should be.

Canadians are taking a more active interest in how their country is being governed and it is this rejuvenated Canadianism - taking hold country-wide - rather than any political machinations, that give hope for the future of Canada as a nation rather than a jigsaw puzzle of economic or cultural regional strongholds.

Happy birthday Canada.

We'll see you at next year's party, and the one after that, and the one after that.

After all, who can throw parties better than ordinary Canadians?

Hatchet-men destroying Canadian military

Dear Mr. Editor:

It seems painfully ironic that in the shadow of the Oka Crisis and the Gulf War, Mulroney and his hatchet men are destroying our military. How ignorant we are in Canada when we fail to see that we do in fact need an army, navy and airforce. The past incidents would seem to emphasize and reinforce this belief. The reduction in staff, the cancellation of replacement weapon purchases and base closures, only point out that the politicians have not learned from history. The NDP, academics and even Marcelle Masse say the Cold War is over. Does this end all of the threats in the world?

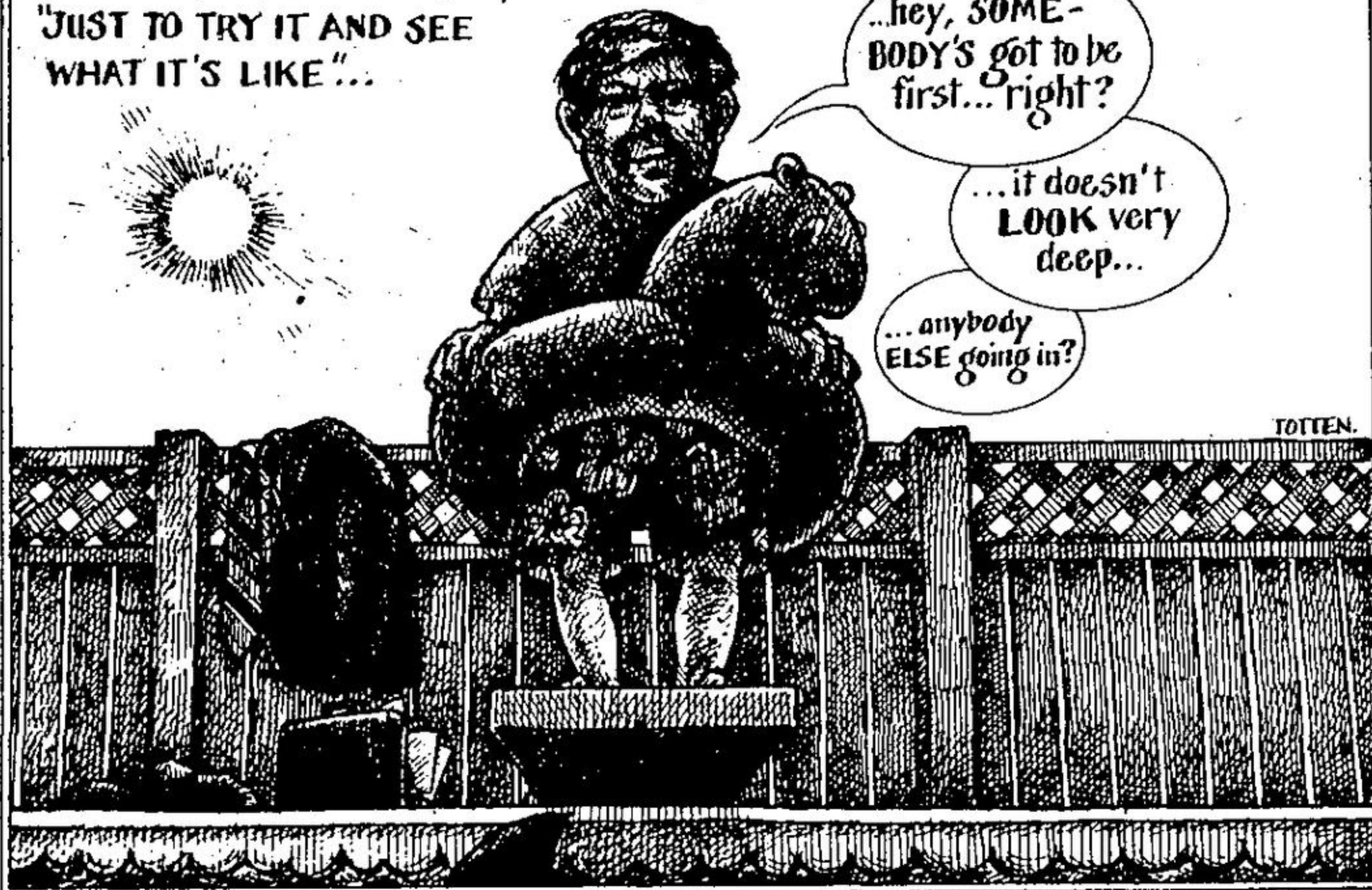
In 1938, Neville Chamberlain thought the world was safe from war, when he signed an agreement with Hitler. The result was that within one year, millions were to die because of the neivly and corresponding unreadiness. The same type of neo-Chamberlain attitude is in the minds of whimpy politicians like Mulroney and Masse. In Canada we do not have any excess resources to substantiate budget

cuts. Our navy is a fine example. Our men and women are top notch, but their equipment limits what they are able to do. The men and women of our military risk their lives for us while the protesters often snub their efforts. It is obvious betrayal that their livelihoods be snuffed out due to budget cuts. My family and other families fought and have served for this country, because we believe in Canada and value what we have.

Ottawa is ripping out the heart and soul of our military, believing that it is no longer cost effective. I say they are wrong! They are ignorant just as Chamberlain was over fifty years ago. Do we need another catastrophe in the world before people (ie: Mulroney and Masse), learn the lessons of the past. William Somerset Maughn once wrote: "If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom, and the irony of it is that if it is comfort that it values more, it will lose that too. Need I say more?"

Yours truly,
Chris McHale,
Georgetown.

BRAVELY, ARTHUR TREBBNE JUMPS IN, "JUST TO TRY IT AND SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE..."



People's Forum

Young people make the grade

To the Editor:

I had to take the time to write you this note in the hopes it will brighten a few people or parents day as it did myself and my husband.

Very recently my husband and I had the pleasure of entertaining or should I say pleasure of being entertained by a group of 40 to 50 graduating Grade 8 students.

We opened our home to them and they in turn opened our hearts.

The end of school party was scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. and run until midnight.

By noon the day of the party a few of our sons friends arrived and immediately started preparations. It was an outdoor BBQ, so they rearranged furniture, picked up lawn chairs etc. that had to be recruited, made ice cubes, just generally took over.

My husband's and my workload was minimal. So much for our lazy young teens. At about 4:30 the boys, as I watched, filled about 100 water balloons and stashed them, ready for an attack on the female species, at the party. The guests started arriving about 7:30 p.m. and I'd like to thank the kids and parents who helped to keep the pop companies and farmers in business by donating the munchies that keep our young people going.

As the guests arrived each and every one of them greeted my husband and I, we were not the enemy or aliens; we were the parents of one of their friends and were treated accordingly. The balloon fight started about 8:30 p.m. and they had a ball.

My husband and I had a ball watching them. If you can picture this I literally had these young teens begging me for more balloons. You know fist clenched stamping feet, "Please, please, please" like a toddler in a candy store. They were hilarious and they were having fun.

The music I suppose was too loud (by our standards) but the laughter, squeals and camaraderie was wonderful. By the time the evening was over there was about 6 inches of water left in the hot tub, there was more grass inside the house than outside and my clothes dryer was working on

overload.

But there wasn't any damage, no excessive mess, nothing that was different from a "responsible" adult party.

It's funny, about a week ago these same kids donned semi-formal attire, attended graduation and listened to speeches about their future, responsibilities and expectations and they received it well, and behaved and carried themselves like the young adults they are, as the parents looked on with pride and reflected on the years gone by and when these young people were "just kids."

But this evening of the party these young adults shed their formalities and became "just kids"

Umpire strikes out

Dear Editor

As a parent, I am deeply upset with the officials of Glen Williams Minor Ball. On June 19th the Atom boys from Limehouse were totally dominating the ball game, due to the experience of the boys. As the game was out of reach the plate umpire decided it was game over.

Strikes were called on 7 and 8 year olds at the level, leaving young boys totally frustrated.

Officials that behave in this

again and it was great. They do know how to laugh, they do know how to have fun, and they do know respect.

The next morning about six boys were here to help clean up. They returned lawn furniture, cleaned up remnants of balloons, etc., and even offered to use that noisy machine that picks up gross stuff from floors and carpets.

To the young adults that were here, thank you. We had a good time. To the parents, in a time where society is running away with us, be proud. "They are worth it."

Congratulations graduates and all the best starting your high school years.

The Golden's, Georgetown.

manner only fuel the fire for the confused youth of this country. Respect for all officials went totally out the window for the ten boys on this team. If the plate umpire has better things to do with his time then he should persevere them, instead of making life miserable for ballplayers and his fellow officials.

Shame on you Glen Williams Minor Ball officials, get on the game.

The game is for the kids.
Concerned Parent,
Glen Williams.

A 'classic' thank you

To the Editor:

We wish to thank everyone involved with the "Classics Against Cancer Auto Show" which was held on Father's Day at Cedarvale Park and to those who helped with the Bill Smith Golf Tournament on June 24th.

Both events were great successes and we appreciate the support of the people and local businesses who attended and/or

sponsored these events.

Once again, special thanks are extended to our local papers, the Herald and the Independent, who gave us excellent coverage on both events and have been very much supportive of all our endeavours to date. Your help is very much appreciated.

Marlene Kelman,
Communications Chairperson
Halton Hills (Georgetown) Unit,
Canadian Cancer Society.

Write us a letter!

The Herald wants to hear from you. If you have an opinion you want to express or a comment to make, send us a letter or drop by the office. Our address is 45 Guelph Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 3Z6.

All letters must be signed. Please include your address and telephone number for verification.

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