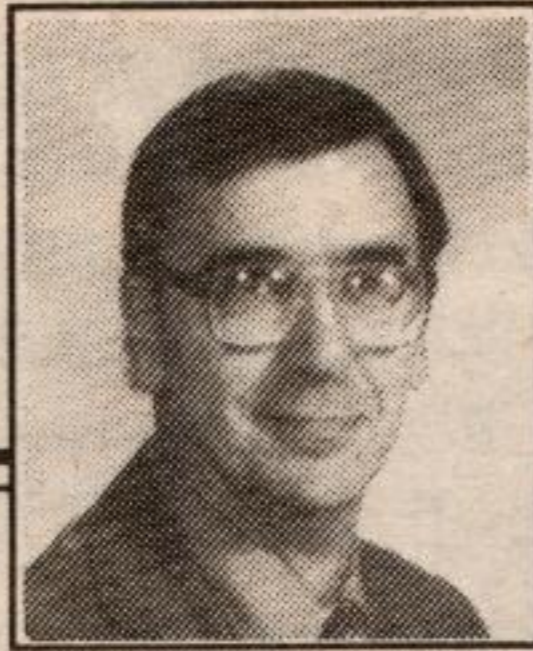


## WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



# Summertime, so let's make the living easier

Our current school year, with kids off for two months each summer, doesn't make much sense from either a teacher's or a parent's viewpoint. The big break is an agricultural relic from the days when 80 per cent of the population lived on farms and young folk played an essential role in bringing the crops in safely. In fact, many a strapping teen never saw the inside of the schoolroom until mid-September, when harvesting was through. Today, the situation is reversed and the 80 per cent live in town; the end result is a challenge for both kids and parents — What to do during the dog days of summer?

Let's remember that a little commonsense and some long range planning will take us a long way. Each family must first consider its own unique circumstances: both parents working, single parent homes, shift work and/or other awkward living conditions, etc. Where there are difficulties it often becomes a matter of "Where there's a will there's a way." Here are some ideas which may help (recognize that it isn't necessary to plan something for every day but it is a good idea to do some planning):

1. Take a look at the calendar for July and August and note when other adult family members will be available. When you can't count on relatives look for other families who are facing the same predicament as you and — share! This is one time when there's surely strength in numbers.
  2. Check your local paper (that's us, Folks) for community events, things to do and places to go.
  3. Check the weather forecasts; remember that nothing can put a damper on things faster than inclement weather. On the other hand, a visit to a conservation area on a sweltering hot day beats hanging around home.
  4. Decide if you need any special clothing or equipment.
  5. Call the local library, the conservation authority or museum to check on daily programs; they'll be delighted to hear from you.
  6. Look for summer camps with activities which your youngster(s) would enjoy. Sports, computers, art — you'll be surprised to find how much is going on.
- Sometimes we forget that there are tried and true "kid-pleasers" around which cost very little but pay off big. Try:
- Reading out loud to your kids; librarians and teachers will often recommend suitable books. Be aware of the tremendous power for good which results from reading with your youngsters but also be aware that you don't have to be a great reader yourself. Just do your best.
- Playing card games using the regular 52 card deck: Fish, Cribbage

## Wit & Wisdom

In 1854, the "Great White Chief" in Washington made an offer for a large area of Indian land and promised a "reservation" for the Indian people. Chief Seattle's reply has been described as the most beautiful and profound statement on the environment ever made. Here is a short quote:

"Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of Earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. Even the white man, whose God walks and talks with him as friend to friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers after all. We shall see.

"One thing we know, which the

white man may one day discover — our God is the same God. You may think now that you own Him as you wish to own our land; but you cannot. He is the God of man, and his compassion is equal for the red man and the white. This Earth is precious to Him, and to harm the Earth is to heap contempt on its Creator. The whites too shall pass; perhaps sooner than all the other tribes. Contaminate your bed, and you will one night suffocate in your own waste."

Note: If official delegates at the recent international conference on the environment (held in Rio) had considered even these few words perhaps they would have insisted on stronger action on behalf of Planet Earth. Come to think about it at a local level, where do you stand on the RSI dump proposal? A full copy of the Seattle address may be obtained by dropping in to our office at 7 Mill St. E., Acton (right above Flight Line). ☐



and any of the 50 varieties of Patience are popular with the small fry. Check in at the library when you think it's time to learn some new games.

Home-style art using just a few crayons, pencils or paints; work on whatever materials you have at your finger tips — that's what many of the truly great painters actually did. Use newspapers, cardboard boxes and old wallpaper scraps — your imagination is the only limit. Do a couple of sessions a week and put the results up on the fridge or in a bedroom; you can always find a spot for a masterpiece.

Keeping TV for the days when you're fresh out of ideas and, when you do use it, set reasonable limits as to time and suitable programs.

Finally, remember that the difference between a decent summer and another two months of disaster may be just a little planning coupled with your determination and goodwill. Go ahead: treat yourself and your kids — you deserve it. ☐

## LETTERS

### Call for citizen action

The preliminary hearing regarding the Acton Quarry garbage proposal has concluded and the Board has adjourned to consider the motions delivered and determine if or how to proceed.

It is F.O.A.D.'s opinion that more than enough evidence has been submitted to the Board for a determination that no hearing may be held. If this is the conclusion of

### Cango for Matthew

Thank you Acton Area! I'm Impressed!

Bonus Bucks for Matthew Fleet are over \$350 to date and climbing towards \$400 although the staff, Friends of Matthew and regular customers have been contributing for only 2-½ months. This amount

the Board, we will have successfully terminated an extremely costly and totally unnecessary hearing. (Remember that Cabinet recently approved an amendment to the Niagara Escarpment Act prohibiting landfilling.)

Let the Chairman of the Board know how you feel. Write to:

Ms. M. Munro, Executive Vice Chair, Environmental Assessment Board, 2300 Yonge Street, Suite 1201, Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E4.

Let's put the last nail in RSI's coffin!

Sincerely,  
Diane van de Valk  
F.O.A.D. (Furiously  
Opposed to Acton Dumping)

is gratifying; I hope you all feel as good about it as I do.

Special thanks to Ted Tyler for approximately \$75 worth. The fund will continue until the end of August (and longer if the contributors insist).

Happy motoring, Matthew!  
Pat Lane,  
Acton Pioneer-Cango

## THE ACTON Tanner

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