

## WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



### United we stand; divided we fall

One of the qualities which sets this town aside from many others has always been, to my way of thinking, a spirit of caring and a willingness to get the job done.

For example, recently when it became known that Foodshare needed support, people gave generously to that organization and my guess is that, when called on again they will respond. As well, Actonites made sure that the annual Terry Fox Run was a resounding success — \$25,000 raised. People care.

Accordingly, it is difficult to understand why none have come forward to run the United Way residential campaign in Acton.

I don't know who carries the can for putting the Acton residential canvass in jeopardy but I do know who will suffer — the many local residents who rely on United Way member agencies for help.

Acton's residential campaign should have started Monday but so far no one has agreed to take "ownership" of the campaign. The all-important job of a Acton residential chairperson remains vacant because the United Way board of directors can't enlist or entice anyone to take on the task. The situation begs some obvious questions. How did they get this far into this year's campaign without having that top job filled? Why hasn't a board member agreed to do it? How about a board co-chair team?

There are 23 member agencies who normally divvy up the projected \$200,000 campaign total and our own Acton Social Services and Information Centre is the second highest recipient of these United Way dollars. What will happen to their programs and clients if the campaign falls short? What about other local agencies?

The residential chairperson's job is a tough one. You have to marshal and organize volunteer canvassers who can convince cash-strapped Acton residents to dig deep into their pockets. You are aware that you are competing with other worthy causes like the Cancer Society and Heart and Stroke Foundation, who are also competing for donations in these tough times.

The Red Cross gets the lion's share of money raised through residential, industrial, commercial and commuter campaigns in Acton and Georgetown. As I understand things, the Acton Red Cross, which for years ran a highly successful residential campaign in town, was apparently dragged kicking and screaming into the United Way. The initial deal called for the Acton Red Cross to run the door-to-door in exchange for a substantial chunk of cash. Has the Red Cross been asked to step into the breach?

It seems a shame that a giving community like ours may not get the chance to help the United Way because this position can't be filled.

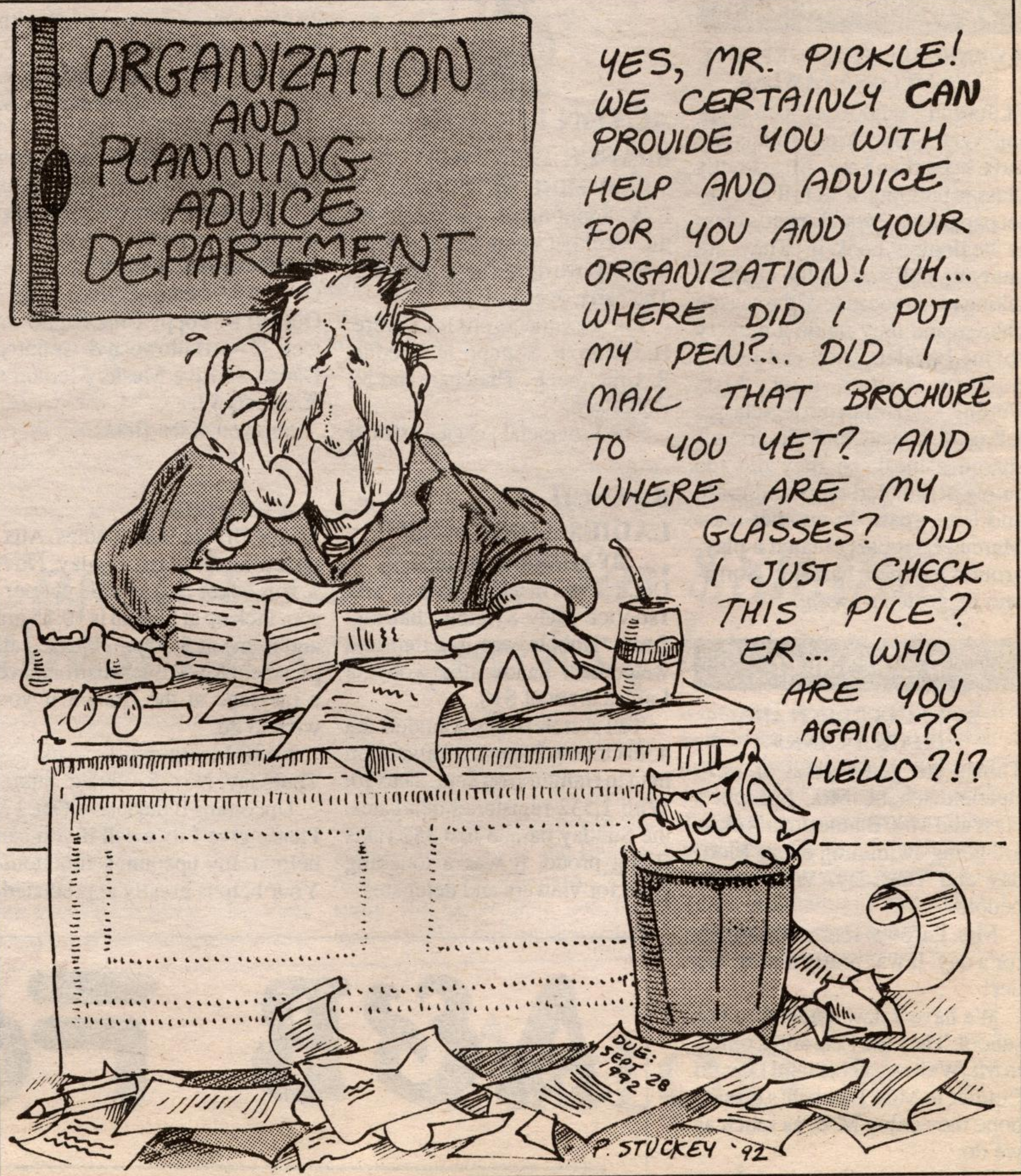
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You've likely noticed that, week by week, the editorial and Pauline Stuckey's great cartoons generally complement each other. Well, it just didn't work out that way last time round. The major portion of last week's editorial was to have been about the recent Terry Fox run — hence the cartoon. Unfortunately, the computer "hid" the article (well, I can't find it anywhere) and the item on the legal system was substituted. I think that they used to blame such foul-ups on the printer's devil — who else?

## Wit & Wisdom

Someone said, "the camera never lies." Well, we don't know about that, but I do know that, through the ages, the mirror has collected a fair bit of blame.

*Mirror, Mirror on the wall  
Oh, mirror, mirror, on the wall,  
I look at you and want to bawl.  
Where hair once showed a youthful bloom,  
A barren dome bespeaks my gloom.  
The eyes that gave each conquest birth  
Are caught in webs of crow's-foot girth.  
The nose, once firm and trim of line,  
Now perches there — a bulbous sign.  
The chin and cheeks, such noble parts,  
Are jellied rolls — no ends, no starts.  
The mouth that smiled through thick and thin —  
Alas, takes urging — just to grin.  
If you weren't such an honest bloke —  
I'd punch your face 'til it was broke.  
— R. Lewis*



## LETTERS

### Thanks!

To the Editor:

We would like to thank all the people who donated blood in Acton recently along with three other previous donors who were

helpful in our emergency situation. One does not realize how valuable donors are until a personal emergency effects you.

We are also thankful to all persons who used their spare time to take courses and exams to assist the ambulance service in Acton. Our first ride in an ambulance to Georgetown with two attendants was much appreciated.

*Nancy and Mike Albano,  
Longfield Road*

### Fire Prevention Week

To the Editor:

When smoke detector usage became widespread in North America in the 1970s, fire deaths began to decline. Fewer fire deaths in the last two years have given reason for cautious optimism and further encouragement. While fewer people are dying today as a result of this important technology, it is still not few enough. People continue to die in home fires at an intolerable rate.

This year "Fire Prevention Week" is October 4 to 10. We anticipate that this year's them

"Test Your Detector — It's Sound Advice" will help lower that rate. This message will remind members of our community how important it is to keep their smoke detectors working so they will be protected in the event of a fire. Many people still do not seem to realize that a smoke detector is not a magic wand. It must be fully functional to be effective. People still die in fires where smoke detectors are present but have inoperable batteries or none at all.

*John Martin  
Fire Prevention Inspector  
Halton Hills Fire Department*

### Women's Institute Meeting

To the Editor:

The first meeting of the fall season for the Bannockburn Womens' Institute was held at the home of Isabel McDonald. Our president Anne Hollis opened the meeting with a lovely poem. Roll Call "Describe a suitable gift for a shut-in" was answered by all. Linda Cairns gave the motto.

Our speaker for the evening was Glenda Benton. Glenda attended the Conference at Lakehead University in Thunder

Bay and gave us a very enthusiastic account of events that happened there. Ruth Linham thanked her, presenting her with a gift!

Plans were made for some of our ladies to attend the Area Convention at Rockwood on Oct. 15 and 16.

Lunch was served by Ina Peterson and Isabel with a social time following.

Next meeting will be at Young Mueller's place Oct. 13. See you then.

*Edith Medland,  
Acton*

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