

WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



Time to help wave "the Tanner"

Well, we've been visiting your home for some five months now and it's been a right pleasureable experience. Hope you've enjoyed us as much as we've enjoyed you.

We've received a lot of compliments and, of course, a few criticisms, but in general we think we've managed to provide you with a genuine Acton and community newspaper. But now we need your help. Won't you join us by becoming a charter subscriber to our doughty little venture? We'd love to keep on coming into your home but, newspapers are costly to produce these days and shortly, we will be delivering only to subscribers.

On page 4 you'll find your subscription form. Please fill it out and bring it to our office downtown above Flightline Leather or mail it to us at 7 Mill Street East, Acton L7J 1G8.

Some of you are aware that we've been conducting a telephone campaign and, to be honest, we've received a great response to date but it's a slow process. You can speed things up and ensure that your delivery of The Tanner is uninterrupted simply by taking the few minutes necessary to complete the form and returning it directly to us.

We hope you need us as much as we need you. Together, we're a grrreat partnership. Please — do it now and we'll serve you forever — or as close to that particular perfection as we can come.

Watching the controversy raging between the Toronto police and the government should cause us, once again, to reflect on the folly of playing political games instead of searching for truth. Fact is, that the police surely must be subject to civilian control; they are, after all, there to protect and they cannot be a law unto themselves. I also support the new legislation compelling the writing of a report whenever an officer's gun is drawn. Officers in Halton, by the way, have been doing this for some time.

At the same time, it's no bed of roses out there and the police officer's job is a tough one. Part of police frustration is the result of one-sided political expediency — criticise the cops but don't look at the rest of the scene. Our political masters, both federal and provincial, ought to be acting on several fronts — and fast. Two action steps are indicated.

First, the penalties for violent crimes must be made much stiffer and perhaps even painful. Those who hurt others should learn firsthand what it's like to be hurt. Even my limited research suggests that, in jurisdictions where there is swift, painful retribution there are few recidivists.

As well, like them or not we ought to collect crime statistics and whatever other information we can and use that data to help us get to the bottom of our problems. I am willing to wager, right here and now, that until we find the political will to face facts instead of playing with philosophical fantasies things will not get any better out there on the streets. Any takers?

Wit & Wisdom

Lawyers and judges sometimes like to talk about the majesty of the law. That is all well and good but there are many other points of view to be considered ...

The law locks up both man and woman
Who steals the goose from off the common,
But lets the greater felon loose
Who steals the common from the goose.

— Anon

To some lawyers, all facts are created equal.

— Felix Frankfurter

Law is nothing unless close behind it stands a warm, living public opinion.

— Wendell Phillips

Law... begins when someone takes to doing something someone else does not like.

— Karl Llewellyn

A man may as well open an oyster without a knife, as a lawyer's mouth without a fee.

— Barten Holyday



LETTERS

\$80,000 Consultant?

To the Editor:

Am I confused or did I not read in the Acton Tanner of Oct. 7, that Halton Hills is planning on spending \$80,000 of tax payers' money on a consultant to tell our parks and recreation department what future goals they should set. This information will be compiled by asking council, citizens, recreation user groups, etc., for their input.

My question to the town council is: What are we paying Tom Sheppard and his staff to do? Are

they not trained to ask the correct groups the correct questions?

It seems that in these times of needed fiscal restraint and impending property tax increases, that this money could be better spent.

If the Recreation and Parks Department need direction on future development, I am sure there are enough levels of government that can give you all the info you need regarding growth, urban sprawl, needed housing and other pertinent knowledge into the next century, to ascertain what recreational and cultural facilities we will need to accommodate this growth.

Perhaps you should re-think this decision and put more responsibility into the hands of our rec and parks department rather than creating another layer of expense.

B. MacPherson, Acton

Goal surpassed in Acton

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Red Cross, I would like to pass on a sincere "Thank You" to the many donors who attended our recent clinic. We had our second best turnout yet. One hundred and fifty-one units of blood was collected. Our clinic goal was to obtain 130 units. We surpassed that goal by 16 per cent. Blood supplies had fallen seriously short and the clinic was helpful in meeting the need.

Some special "Thank You's" are in order. Canadian Tire graciously sponsored the clinic. PREview Video supplied the free video coupons for donors and the Acton Legion once again provided the excellent location for the clinic. The Legion Ladies kept the coffee, tea and cookies coming.

Our donors ranged in age from 17 to 71. We had a number of first-time donors and a number of stu-

dents from Acton High School. Thank you. Of special mention are George Hargrave, who made his 102nd donation, Gladys Melen, who made her 72nd donation and Charles Auger who made his 67th donation.

If you missed our clinic, please consider yourself invited to our next one on Dec. 17.

Sandra L. Moon
Acton Red Cross Committee

Great job!

To the Editor:

We want to thank the Acton Fall Fair committee for the wonderful Education Day prepared by them for the school children of Acton on Friday, Sept. 18. There were many interesting and informative exhibits for the children to explore and enjoy. Our appreciation for a job well done!

Staff of St. Joseph's School,
Mill Street West

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