

## WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



### Just say "No" to the violence

Canadians like to think of themselves as being a law-abiding lot living in a society where justice prevails and where, in the end, the mounties always manage to get their man.

Internationally, we portray ourselves as peacekeepers and Canadian troops are in great demand around the globe to help keep the peace.

It's all very reassuring but nowadays, out there on the streets, things do seem to be changing. Crime statistics are up in general and violence is increasingly rearing its ugly head — we've got a problem. Even so, there's an unhealthy tendency, in some quarters, to shrug it all off by suggesting that somehow "c'est la vie."

It's good to see however, that not everyone is willing to accept the status quo. This is National Crime Prevention Week and the Halton Board of Education, in cooperation with the Halton Regional Police, are raising public awareness with their campaign to "Turn Off The Violence." Many significant community groups, including both Regional Council and the Crown Attorney's Office, have already given their moral support to this initiative but the real help must come from you and me — the public.

We are being asked, on Nov. 5 (that's tomorrow, folks), to get involved by turning off violent television programs, not listening to violent music, not going to violent movies, and by not renting violent videos. For just one day and night we are being asked to turn off violence in all its various and ugly forms and to substitute instead activities which have the power to enhance the quality of our lives. An alphabet of alternatives has been suggested for our consideration, starting with these ideas: Attend a meeting; Bicycle; Call a friend; Dance ...

Elsewhere in this edition you can find a list of tactics for helping people to resolve conflicts in non-violent ways. These are not new but in our violent world they are often forgotten. Your determined involvement will make a difference and together we can improve the quality of our lives. Let's give credit to the Halton Board of Ed. and the police for taking the lead with a great initiative.

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During the Second World War, a dogfight high above in the skies of England caught a group of primary schoolchildren by surprise. As they watched, an RAF spitfire hit a German fighter and the plane dove steeply into the ground and it was clear that the pilot must have died. The children were silent for one moment but then they began to cheer; all except one youngster who suddenly began to cry. When a teacher asked why, the little one replied: "Somebody's daddy was in that plane."

I think of that story every year at about this time but somehow, in light of the Turn Off The Violence campaign, it seems to be even more meaningful.

## Wit & Wisdom

And then there is the guy who always has to have the last word. Depending on situation and circumstance, that can be at least questionable; there are times when it might be better to say or do, — *nothing*.

Frank Taylor, an 86-year-old resident of Hollywood, was booked by the police on a charge of malicious mischief. He asked for his one free telephone call and was granted permission, whereupon he called the Los Angeles International Airport ... to make a bomb threat.

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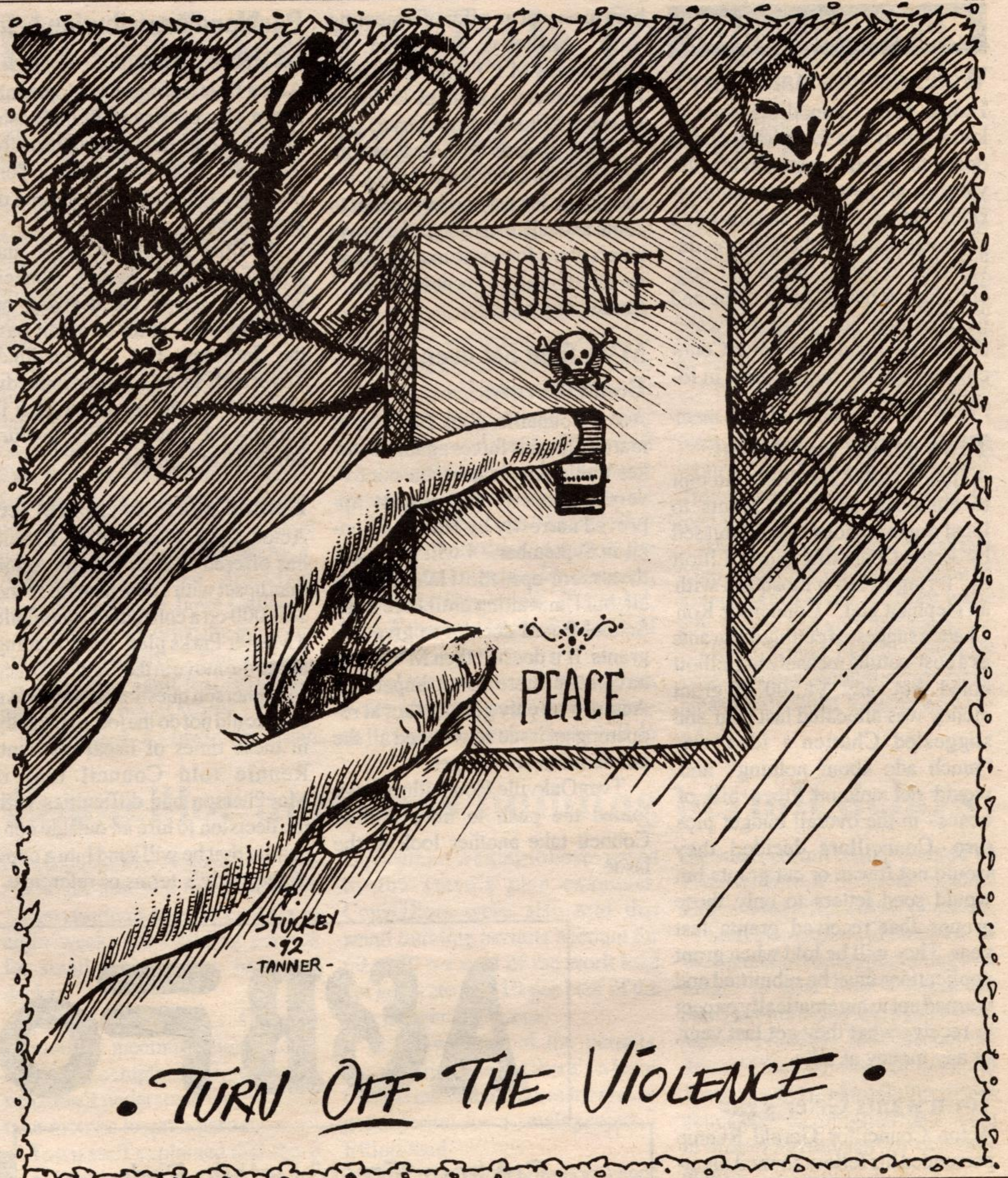
Two gangsters, James Gallo and Joey Conigliaro, set out to murder an accomplice they believed to be a stool pigeon. On Nov. 1, 1973, they jumped him in Brooklyn and took him for a ride. Gallo had a gun to his head from the right and Conigliaro had him covered from the left. The car swerved violently and ... the two gangsters shot each other.

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Charles, Prince of Wales, once served as a coast guard volunteer. "I found it extraordinarily exciting and rewarding," he said. "I remember praying for people to run onto the rocks."

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"Come, come!" said General John Sedgwick to some of his men who were dodging about under the enemy's fire. "Why, they couldn't hit an elephant at this dist..."



## LETTERS

### Way to go Acton!

To the Editor,

Once again Acton has come through; and we thank you!

In late September and October our shelves were bare and we had to purchase essential foods. After the article in your newspaper the response was excellent, our shelves were filled!

We want to thank the Acton Tanner, along with the Churches of Acton, Rockwood and Everton, and everyone in the community who donated.

*Our heartfelt thanks,  
Joan Waldie  
Acton Foodshare*

### Acton Seniors' Centre

To the Editor,

Please get your facts straight when commenting on events in Acton relating to the Seniors Centre. The article "Cruising toward Acton Senior's Centre" in the Oct.

28 edition of the Tanner will mislead many seniors of Acton.

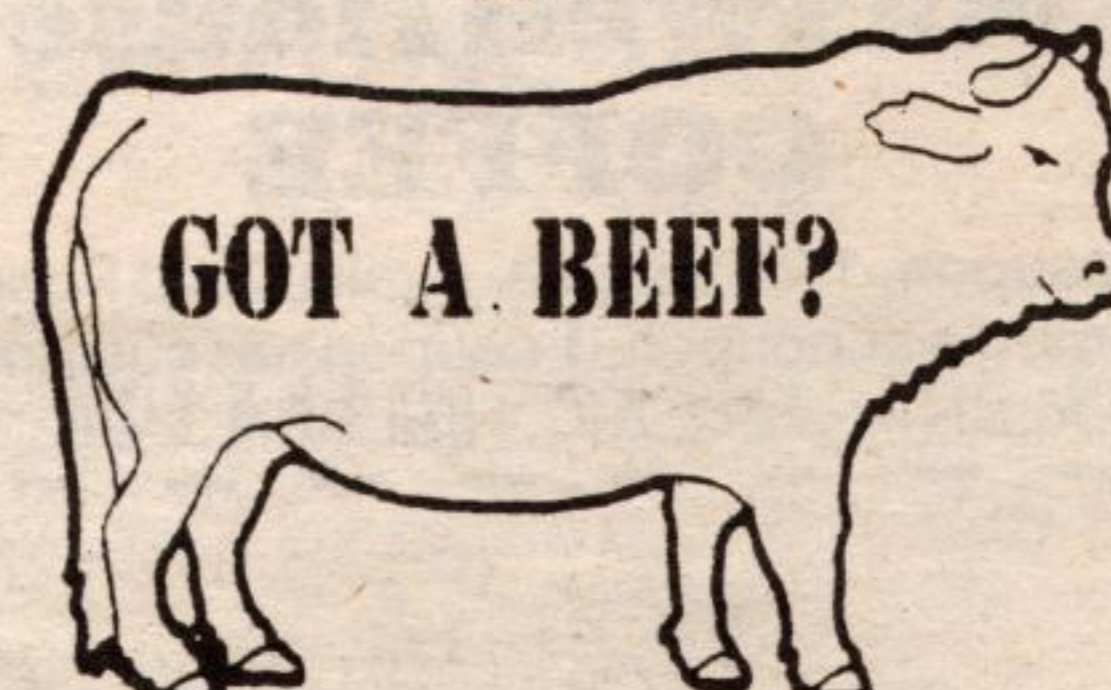
It is true that on Thursday, Nov. 5 the Senior Centre Committee will hold its first meeting in the old fire hall. However, this is a committee meeting only and not a general meeting for all the seniors of Acton. The fire hall will not be available as a Seniors Centre until sometime in 1993 after an architect has been hired, a design study approved by the Council for the Town of Halton Hills, and the work completed, including an elevator. For liability reasons, the Town authorized the committee only to meet upstairs in the fire hall for its once-a-month meetings. That's all.

The idea of an Acton Seniors Centre was born in the imagination of Eileen Eberts, now deceased. We carry on her dream. The people who have been working with me on this project for five years, done a magnificent job and are deserving of high praise. There will indeed be a Seniors Centre in Acton in good time but everything must be done in order.

*Gerald Rennie  
Chairman, Acton Seniors Centre  
Committee*

### Does Someone You Know Deserve A Pat On The Back?

Write a letter to the editor!



### How About A Slap On The Wrist?

Got it down and send it in ...

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