

## WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



# I love a parade

If I had even a dollar for every parade I've seen, I'd have a good few bucks in the bank by now. My love affair with 'em began when I was a very small boy. I was in the Boys Brigade and I joined the band; I still remember wearing the colourful regalia and playing (or rather beating) on the big bass drum. I think that I ended up with the job partly because I was tall but mainly because I didn't have the musical wherewithal to master the more complicated instruments. Any feelings of inferiority I may have had were certainly dispelled when I realized that the rest of the "musicians" had to pay attention to me at both the beginning and the end of each and every march. What a sense of power I had in those days. I was in control and life was bliss!

From those heady days onward, I have rarely missed the opportunity to take in a good parade or, just as exciting in my eyes, a military tattoo. Some of the good folk around Limehouse may have wondered, way back in '67, what it was that possessed a certain madcap principal and his staff to take 142 kids up to see the Canadian Centennial Tattoo in Kitchener. Well — now they know; I just hope they don't think that I/we were trying to brainwash their kids.

Which brings me to our own Acton Christmas Parade, 1992 edition. First off, let's give credit to everyone who took part for staging another first class show — lots of colour, lots of variety and plenty of action; aided and abetted by some remarkably mild weather (even the rain went away for the duration of the parade) all contributed to a fine local spectacle. It takes a lot of time and effort to plan and organize such an event, and Chairman Bill Spielvogel and the Acton Firefighters' Association deserve credit for what was obviously a barrelful of work. They did a great job pulling together bands, floats, riders and clowns and the 101 other necessary details. Well done!

The other major ingredient in any parade is the audience (that's you, folks) and you were certainly out there in large numbers cheering us all on. Riding down the street, there was that easy camaraderie which is a part of living in a small community; people know people and the jokes and the repartee flew back and forth. No one and nothing seemed to be sacred but no one was taking anyone else too seriously. You knew who was who and you both appreciated and enjoyed them for what they were doing.

When you put the show and the audience together, you begin to sense the fun and something of the underlying values which characterise life in our community. It seems that in their own way everyone participates and the give and take and the easy familiarity of the day make for a sense of well-being and belonging that are worth a million bucks.

No wonder, when it's all finally over, that people find their ways home thinking to themselves — hey, I'm glad I was there and I'm glad that I'm here.

## Wit & Wisdom

Just thought you might enjoy a selection of thoughts from a chap who has made a career and a reputation out of turning straightforward, everyday sayings upside down. His name, I kid you not, is Ashley Brilliant and perhaps you will agree that — yes, he is.

"There will be a slight delay while I try to remember why I was born."

"It's only because I want everything I do to be perfect that I never actually do anything."

"I always win and you always lose — what could be fairer than that?"

"My mind contains many good ideas but — it's not always easy to squeeze one out."

"As long as you have your feet on the ground your head is perfectly safe in the clouds."

"My life so far has been a long series of things I wasn't ready for."

(Give us a call at the Tanner (and ask for Eric) if you'd like to know some of Ashley's titles.)



## LETTERS

### Once again, Thanks!

To the Editor,

Yet again we have been overwhelmed with Acton's generosity! In the recent Guide/Scout Food Bank Drive over 12,000 lbs. of food was collected in Acton, Rockwood, Eden Mills and Everton. Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one who so generously gave.

A project such as this takes months of planning and dedication, it needs support from the communities, then organization and effort by many on the big day.

We appreciate the boys and girls (Rangers, Guides, Pathfinders, Brownies and Sparks-Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Venturers and Calvinist Cadets) who went door to door, the

people who helped at the Scout Hall, the people who drove for them, and Goy Transport for the use of their scales, and the volunteers at the Food Share who worked so hard sorting the food. The local newspapers, The Tanner, the Free Press and This Week, for their coverage, and IGA for the bags.

Our shelves are filled, even to overflowing, which means we can meet the needs of the many unemployed and struggling families and singles coming to us for help. We pray the help will be a temporary need, but if the need does continue we can rest assured, from past experience, that Acton will come through when asked to.

Finally we would like to recognize the efforts of Ron and Irene Birrell, for without them all this would not be possible.

A sincere thank you to all on behalf of the directors and volunteers of Acton Food Share.

Sincerely,  
Joan Waldie

### Women's Institute meeting

To the Editor,

The November meeting of the Bannockburn Women's Institute was held at the home of Reina Morrison with 10 members and three guests attending.

Roll Call "What do you do to relax" was answered by all the ladies. Each lady has her own special way to relax. The business part of the program was taken care of and plans were made for our Christmas meeting to be held at Linda Cairns's.

The motto was read by Ada

Sinclair — a comical reading entitled "The World According to Stoodints."

For our program Edie Medland introduced Sisko Kocks, who gave us a good talk about the relaxing exercises of "Yoga". Later she skillfully demonstrated some of the exercises. We thanked Sisko and presented her with a small gift.

Lunch (a delicious birthday cake for one of the ladies) was served by Isabel McDonald and Reina and a social time followed. Courtesies were given to Reina by Linda. See you in December.

Sincerely,  
Edith Medland

SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

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