

WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



Checking back, looking FORWARD

It's interesting to look back over earlier editions to see how the Tanner has developed and how far we have come to this point during 1992 — our first year of operation. First and foremost, we have done, and continue to do, our best to keep you informed and updated on local news and events of interest. Reviewing back copies draws attention to news items which have appeared frequently; some of which are still staring us all right in the face and literally demanding involvement.

Coverage of the RSI proposal for a landfill site in the Acton quarry and of the significant official and public opposition to that possibility is probably a key example of the essential role of this newspaper in the community; the information-gathering and decision-making process which will eventually lead to the final choice of site for the new Acton arena is another. Since publication began just 33 weeks ago, we have reported on developments with respect to the RSI proposal *nine times* while to date, the arena deliberations have made it into our pages *10 times*; both issues will continue to receive our close attention until they are satisfactorily resolved.

The majority of news items are, of course, generally more immediate and short-term in nature but they are nevertheless important because they keep you "in the know." As well, the development of a number of local information columns including the often priceless observations and wit of the writers themselves has proven to be a real plus; each has an individual and unique style which add to both interest and value.

Some 60 odd letter-writers (and I don't mean that literally, folks) have also taken the time to submit their observations and comments; we thank them one and all. The number of such written responses is usually considered an indication of the public's positive interest in a publication and, if this is so, then we appear to be on the right track.

Sports is always big news in a community and we have received great cooperation from coaches, league and competition organizers and parents in order to keep up with the action; as the result, you certainly know who's on top, who's trying to get there and who's just doing their level best to play the game.

Advertising plays a crucial part in the success of news publications and again, we've had good support; the equation, in this regard, is straightforward — the success of the advertisers is our success and our success is inevitably theirs. The more people read us and look through our pages the more local businesses garner effective coverage and public consideration; together we are a potent combination.

We ourselves continue to work toward being the most effective possible newspaper team and, as you read this first 1993 edition of the Acton Tanner, we trust that you will consider, if you have not already done so, joining our growing ranks of loyal subscribers. Together, let's make '93 the year the people of Acton put a "big dent" in the recession!

Wit & Wisdom

We are told that, "Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings come forth wise sayings" and, truth to tell, there are those occasions when children seem to "see" into the situation more clearly than most of us. Is it because their minds are less cluttered than those of us who have been exposed to such a barrage of day-to-day nonsense for so long? Whatever! At any rate, the following New Year's resolutions, written by elementary school youngsters, suggest a certain sense of reality.

I resolved to always be fair because it is more important to be fair than rich and famous and happy ... or at least any one of these ... by itself ... in most cases.

I made a New Year's resolution once. I resolved to always finish everything I start because ... (The recess bell rang at that awkward moment.)

This year I am going to keep things short and simple. I am stopping now. THE END.



LETTERS

Thanks for gift of life

Dear Editor:
On behalf of the Georgetown and District Red Cross, I would like to wish everyone in Halton Hills a prosperous New Year, especially all of the kind and generous blood donors who showed up at our Christmas clinic in Acton on December 17/92. 1993 has the possibility of being a much healthier and happier year for a few unknown people because of the generosity of 151 Acton area residents who gave the gift of life.

The clinic was a great success! 151 people showed up and 146 units of blood were collected. We had many first time donors this time. Congratulations to Bobby Andrews Jr., Billie Wainwright, Roger Roach, Jennifer Leonard,

Christina Trotter, Mathew Gerhard, Anna Marie Hillier, David Forbes, and LeAnne Talor. They all gave the gift of life for the first time. (We hope to see all of you back again this year.)

Of course, the clinic could not have been the success it was without all of the volunteers who took part and the sponsor, Walker Masonic Lodge. A special thank you goes to the first Acton Pathfinders: Shannan Inglis, Katie Tuitman, Süzy Neary, Leah Linton and Rachelle Taylor, who provided the babysitting for the younger kids. Everyone wanted to help out at this clinic. Even Santa Claus took time out from his preparations to say hello to the donors. Thanks Santa!

If you missed the opportunity to give blood at the December clinic please consider yourself invited to our next clinic on March 25/93. We'd love to see you there.

Happy New Year!

Sandra L. Moon
Acton Red Cross Blood Donor
Committee

In my own words

As the Community Support Worker at Acton Social Services and Information Centre, I co-ordinated this year's Christmas Needs Co-ordination Program. For those unfamiliar with it, ASSIC attempts to acquire and distribute donated items to those in need.

With all this talk of recession and depression, I was rather skeptical of community members and groups being able to give so freely this year, having less money to give and having to tend to the needs of their own families before someone else's. However, Acton (and on the larger scale, Halton Hills) is a community full of car-

ing, giving and helping people — and this year was no exception.

Christmas at ASSIC was a sight to be seen! Seniors dropped off knitted sweaters, mittens, and hats; others dropped off Christmas trees and turkeys they wanted to give to needy families; still others brought in canned food, new and used clothing, toys, money, food vouchers, books and quilts. It was enough to make your heart fill with joy and happiness!

On behalf of the families assisted this year, the staff and board members of Acton Social Services and Information Centre wish Acton a peaceful and happy New Year.

Lin, ASSIC

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