

## WORD'S WORTH

With Eric Balkind



### Count your blessings — and be accountable

To state that times are difficult is to say nothing we don't already know; there are problems and challenges and surely there are moments when the walls around us seem almost impossible to surmount. Around the globe there are crises, apparently almost without end, and here at home Canadians are still working through a most difficult depression. Our litany of woes, both real and imagined, seems almost endless. So, just what can we do to survive and to help ourselves through tough times?

It may be helpful to remember the remarkable advice contained in a single line from one of the great hymns: "Count your blessings, name them one by one..." In the process of doing so, we focus attention on the good and we may accomplish a remarkable psychological and perhaps even a spiritual change. Lo and behold, our troubles don't necessarily go away but we begin to see through them and we are then better able to bear their various burdens.

This same wisdom — knowing enough to look on the bright side — is the most remarkable strength of the optimist. The optimist says of the vessel which contains life: "My glass is half full." The pessimist says: "Mine is half empty."

Well, the beginning of February is the right time to start counting; winter is more than half over and days are lengthening. Moreover, with spring comes the promise of new life and the enormous energy of growth. So, let's seize the moment: turn the corner, cross over to the sunny side of the street, start the last mile, or whatever.

Oh, by the way, just in case you think you're not interested in joining us you'd better remember that some folk believe that "the devil takes the hindermost."

So consider the glorious promise that is 1993 and the possibilities for both individual and collective action. On several stages significant changes are already underway:

People know there is going to be a federal election and they remember (as the result of the ill-considered Constitution boondoggle) the power of the vote.

There is general impatience with the garbage crisis; it is clear that the current system is failing us and increasingly the public is saying "We won't take this any more."

There is awareness that the justice system is in need of an overhaul and there is public insistence that changes begin now.

The power of the medical establishment is being challenged as, here in Ontario, midwifery is finally to be recognized.

So, let's hear it for the positives in life and the remarkable events which are unfolding before our collective eyes. And let's remember that we have an important part in the play — to ensure that when all is said and done there will be a series of satisfactory results.

Moreover, since the play never ends we've got plenty to keep us busy for a long time to come. And while we are undertaking these great accomplishments let's enjoy each other and have fun. It's the only way to go!

## Wit & Wisdom

When we were kids we would ask each other improbable questions like: "What happens when the unstoppable meets the immovable?" Now that we're all grown up we can move onto more complex matters but we'd do well to remember that our language can be used both this way — and that!

\*\*\*

What is the opposite of nuts? It's soup! Let's have no ifs or buts. In any suitable repast, The soup comes first, the nuts come last. Or that is what sane folk advise; You're nuts if you think otherwise.

\*\*\*

What is the opposite of doe? The answer's buck, as you should know. A buck is doe, you say? Well, well, Clearly you don't know how to spell. Moreover, get this through your head: The current slang for dough is bread.

\*\*\*

The opposite of squash? Offhand, I'd say it might be expand, Enlarge, uncrumple, or inflate. However, on a dinner plate With yellow vegetables and green, The opposite of squash is bean.

— R. D. Wilbur



## LETTERS

### Time to "band" together

To the Editor,

I was surprised and upset to read in *The Acton Tanner* that the Acton Citizen's Band was having financial difficulties.

I have been playing in bands in England, Germany, Switzerland and Canada for many years, having started my playing career back in 1922. I was a member of the A.C.B. for many years both as a player and, when requested by the bandmaster, as a conductor. I now play for the Mississauga Concert Band.

There is quite a difference in the financial arrangements of the two bands. The M.C.B. like the A.C.B. has to pay a bandmaster; it must buy new music and pay for instrument repairs. It also has rent to pay for practice space and storage space for the music library and the percussion instruments. The difference is the manner in which they raise funds.

Each band member pays \$10 per year as their membership fee. On practice nights coffee and soft drinks are sold during the intermission at 25 cents per cup. Also, a raffle is held each practice night with tickets for one dollar. The winner gets a small prize. Once a month the band has a Bingo Night for which they are licensed. Band personnel whose names are on a roster officiate at the game.

As you can see, the band works to become self-supporting, although in fairness I must say that I believe they receive an annual grant from the City. At the end of each

year our balance sheet is very favourable.

I believe the Acton band could at least partly overcome their financial problems by taking the following steps.

Firstly, each player should pay one dollar into the band fund each week. That would bring in approximately \$1,500 per year. A raffle such as the M.C.B. holds would probably bring in another \$1,500 per year. Add that to the sale of soft drinks during the intermission, which I think brings in a few dollars a night, and this would all help to balance the budget.

I am rather surprised that the bandmaster receives a salary, however small. Although in England the top brass bands such as Foden's pay their bandmaster and their instructor, most of the smaller bands — of which there were literally dozens — did not pay theirs. A bandmaster who was poorly off financially would no doubt be pleased to receive a small stipend but that is not the case with Dr. Elliott. However, that is up to the band committee.

There are so many ways in which the band's coffers can be replenished. It doesn't need a financial genius — just a bunch of people with a lot of determination and a will to keep the band solvent.

Charles E. Wright  
Churchill Road South

### Not very Waste-"wise"

To the Editor,

Wastewise was notified on Tuesday, Jan. 19 that our last pick-up for Blue Box materials would be Jan. 25. This service is being revoked despite a promise from the Town on Oct. 26, 1992 to continue

Please turn to Page 15

## THE ACTON Tanner

**Publisher & Editor**  
Paul Nolan

**Associate Publisher**  
Dianne Preston

**News Editor**  
Frances Niblock

**Production Manager**  
Sandra Snyder

**Advertising Sales**  
Elizabeth Kessler

**Office Assistant**  
Kate James

**Distribution Manager**  
Irene Birrell

**Staff Photographers**  
Mike Albano  
Jim Warrington

**Darkroom**  
Michael Bodi

**Regular Contributors**  
Eric Balkind  
Pat Giguere  
Doug Harrison

THE ACTON TANNER is published weekly on Wednesdays by Wicklow Hills Publishing Co. Inc. at 7 Mill Street, East, Acton, Ontario. L7J 1G8. Mailing address: P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3. Telephone: 519-853-5100. Facsimile: 519-853-5040. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. Ideas expressed herein are those of the author only.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscription rates are: \$28.80 for one year (52 issues for the price of 48) and \$4.80 for two months (eight issues). First Class Mail subscription rate: \$74 in Canada.

Phone: 519-853-5100  
Fax: 519-853-5040