

## EDITORIAL

With Tim Morgetroyd



### Keeping our fingers crossed on economy, Hide House

We hope it's the news we've all been waiting for.

But as welcome as they are, the signs the economy is finally turning around are so long overdue everyone is too cautious to celebrate just yet.

According to an old saying there are three kinds of lies: lies, damn lies and statistics. The Federal Tories have never been shy about juggling figures to hide unemployment and poverty, redefining them down to less embarrassing numbers while constantly referring to the depression the economy has been locked into as a recession. But the latest statistics would be good news even with some tampering.

Statistics Canada reported 99,000 new jobs were created last month across the country, 27,000 of them in "recession" battered Ontario. According to those statistics, slightly more than half the new jobs are full-time. About 52,000 are high-quality jobs in the retail and trade sectors.

For these numbers to keep climbing, low interest rates for business are a must. They have been just the opposite because, as someone once said of banks, they only loan you an umbrella when the sun is shining. Such a backwards policy is reflected perfectly on unemployment office bulletin boards where the great jobs all say five or 10 years of experience is needed. Where do you get that experience without first being hired?

If blood banks were run this way people dying from loss of blood wouldn't be given a blood transfusion because they might die and waste it. The plasma would likely hang next to the bed until the patient recovered and proved he didn't need it.

The real cause for hope wasn't an unemployment rate dropping from May's staggering 11.4 percent to June's staggering 11.3 percent, leaving Canada still in first place for highest unemployment rate of the G7 nations. It was last week's lowest bank prime lending rate in 26 years. September 1967 was the last time it was at 5.75 percent. Major banks are also dropping key mortgage rates.

A chief economist for one major Montreal bank tells us even this pushing down of interest rates on loans to businesses and consumers gives him no sense of the economy roaring back. The chief economist of another major Montreal bank declares the signals have never been stronger for a rebounding economy, with stronger retail sales and the boom in Canadian exports finally convincing business to begin hiring.

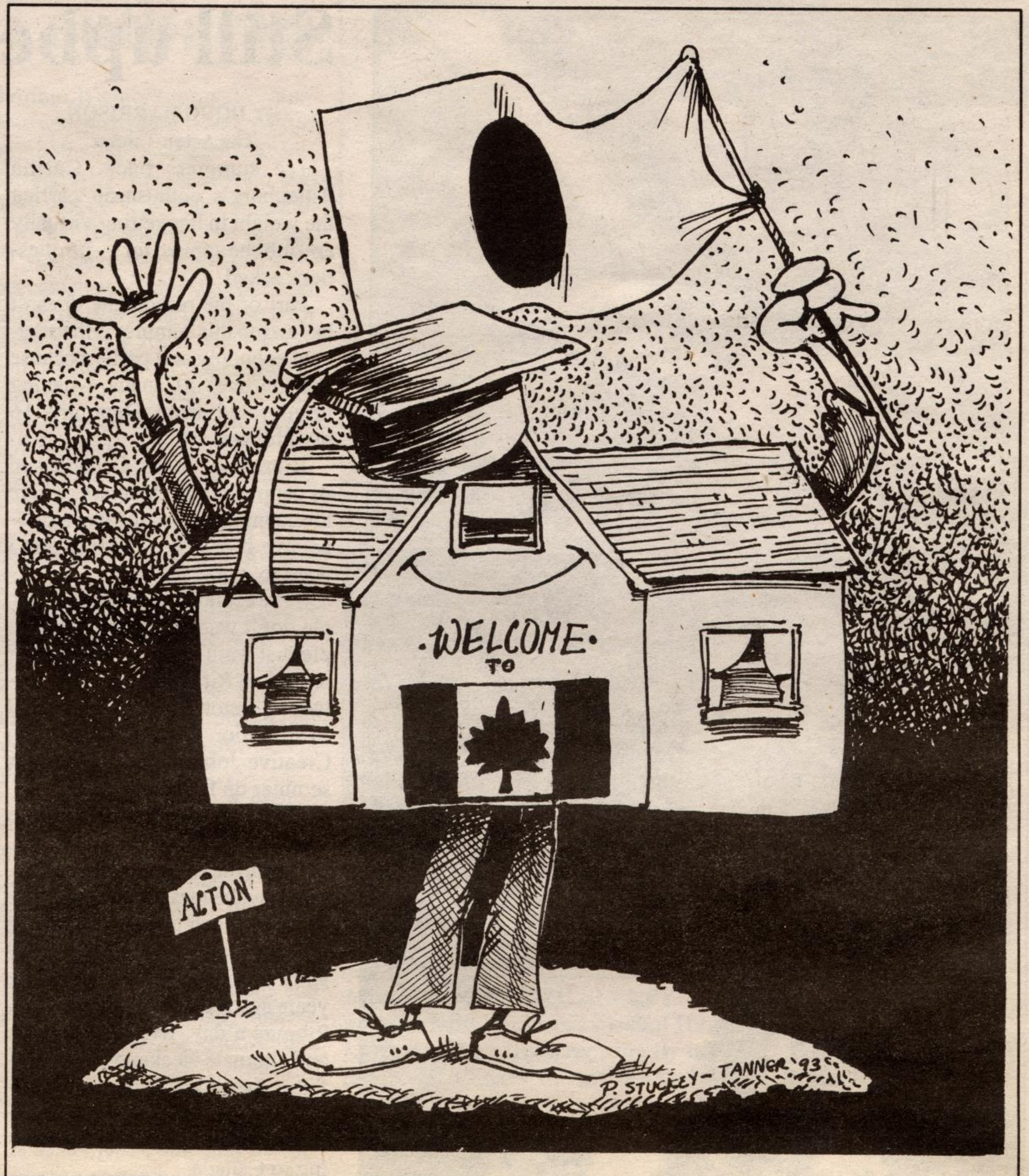
No wonder so many remain cautiously optimistic.

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"Cautious optimism." That is the phrase repeatedly used by Steve Dawkins, president of the olde Hide House, and if the end of economic hard-times is at hand it will be especially tragic if his creditors refuse to allow him to reopen. It would be as unfair a blow as the soldier killed on the last day of the war.

And if we are near the end it makes the need to expand Acton more urgent than ever. The bureaucrats who may deadlock Acton development will be seen as stopping the extra hands needed to push our stuck economy out of the mud.

We had better keep our fingers crossed.



## LETTERS

### Witch-hunt for racists?

To the Editor,

On July 14 CBC Evening News reported that a Donna Young was paid \$10,000 to do a study on racism. From that study a report was made to the Ontario Human Rights Commission recommending that anyone accused of racism in this province should be presumed guilty until proven innocent.

It is shocking and disturbing beyond all comprehension that such a thing could even be suggested in this country. The presumption of innocence until proven guilty is one of the most precious rights we have in Canada. Can anyone imagine what tyranny would result if it were taken away.

The news of this report and its recommendations was the last

straw for me. The witch-hunt for racists in Canada, and particularly in Ontario, is beginning to equal the McCarthyism which had its day in the United States. The majority of Canadians, I believe, assess others according to the behaviour they see. If they condemn someone, it is more likely to be because he acts like a rude, arrogant, lazy, loud-mouthed slob than because of his colour, race, etc.

During the past 30 years, I have worked in four major Canadian cities with people of all kinds. It has been my experience that both the good and the bad come in all races, colours, religions, nationalities, shapes, sizes and in both sexes. I have seen very little of racism. In fact, the few instances of racism that I did encounter were demonstrated by people who appeared to have brought prejudice with them to Canada.

Multiculturalism is hardly a new thing in Canada. The country was built and made great by a diversity of cultures. New Canadians in past times learned to live together and

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### Thanks from NHADH

To the Editor,

I wish to thank the Acton Tanner for their contribution to the 3rd annual Halton Hills Bike-A-Thon. Providing advertising, marketing and promotional support was a great benefit to the successful outcome of this event. We appreciate this support.

We are very pleased this event was successful in raising over \$10,000 in support of North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped.

NHADH relies on contributions of various kinds, to assist in the

expense of providing quality service for, presently, 143 citizens of North Halton. Support and sponsorship in special events from individuals and groups in our community indicates a shared investment in our goal of ensuring that people with developmental handicaps live in a state of dignity and have the opportunity to share and participate in all aspects of community living.

Again, I thank you and look forward to your support again next year.

Anne Sidebottom  
Community Relations, NHADH



### Write a letter to the Editor!

You can fax it to us at 853-5040, drop it off at our 7 Mill St. E. office, or mail it to P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3

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