

EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



Trudeaumania? Again?

Did you see *Pierre Elliott Trudeau Memoirs* Sunday evening on CBC?

I'd waited weeks for the five-part series to begin; since the network began airing those "buckskin warrior in a canoe" previews, I'd looked forward to Jan. 9.

Despite the critical failure of Trudeau's best-selling book, there was much anticipation of what producers Brian and Terence McKenna might do with such a grand theme as "the life of the most compelling figure of contemporary Canadian politics."

Anyway, I was not disappointed.

The 90-minute opening chapter revealed Trudeau as a compelling composite: a man of ideas *and* action. Before he entered politics Trudeau was a journalist; he accepted his role as critic and thinker, believing that he would never be considered "leader" material. Too much a rebel, too long a rebel.

But then Trudeau and his good friend Gerard Pelletier were swept into Lester Pearson's Liberal party by Jean Marchand. Before long he was Minister of Justice, a position from which Trudeau (a self-described rock-star politician) captured the imagination of many Canadians.

By 1968 he was PM, a job he held on to for 16 years. His political foes said he was aloof and arrogant; he intimidated many of those same critics with his intellect — or at least his "intellectual pretensions."

I met Mr. Trudeau when he was PM and I was a political science student at the University of Western Ontario, in London. I met him at his hotel the night he landed in town, and the next day I squeezed into the front row to see him address a gathering of Young Liberals at the school.

To be sure, I admired Trudeau more for his style than for his substance. Didn't we all?

I mean, the man was fearless. He was barely an adult when he took on Quebec Premier Maurice Duplessis, despot that he was. As a young man he somehow wandered into the middle of the Arab-Israeli war; he was arrested for suspected espionage, but was later released. One must assume it was because he proved to be a royal pain in the butt to his Arab captors. And as PM, his battles with Rene Levesque and Quebec separatists were classic.

As much as anything else, Trudeau has been a battler. He never has been able to turn down a fight.

Be assured, there will be more than a few punches thrown for the next four Sunday nights. Get yourself a ringside seat; you'll emerge with a better understanding of this man ... and this country.

ASSIC happy with support for Christmas program

ASSIC ALERT

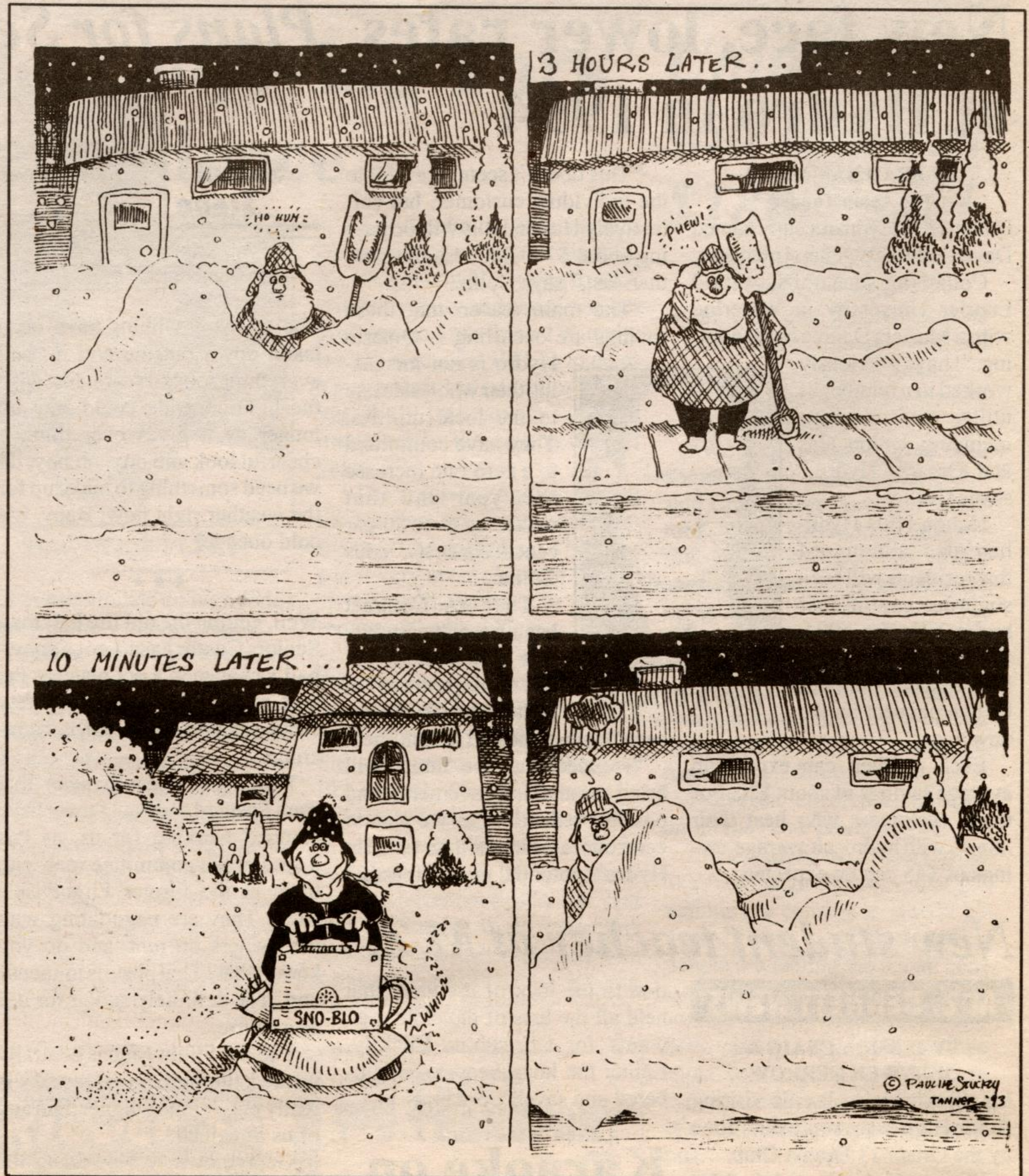
As the Community Support worker at Acton Social Services and Information Centre, each year I coordinate our Christmas Needs Coordination Program. For those unfamiliar with it, ASSIC attempts to acquire and distribute donated items to those in need.

With all this talk of recession and depression, I was rather skeptical of the number of donations we would receive from various individuals and groups. After all, it is often difficult to donate cash, new clothes, toys, etc. when it becomes harder for us to make ends meet in our own lives. However, Acton is a community full of caring, giving and helpful people

and this year was not an exception.

The donations we received this year consisted of seniors dropping off knitted sweaters, mitts and hats. Others dropped off Christmas trees and turkeys that they wanted to give to needy families; still others brought in canned food, new and unused clothing, toys, money, food vouchers, books and quilts. It was quite touching — it shows that Acton really is full of thoughtful, caring people.

On behalf of the 50 families (88 children) we assisted this year, the staff and board members of Acton Social Services and Information Centre would like to wish Acton a peaceful and happy New Year. Thank you.



WHAT'S HAPPENING!

A Weekly Round-Up of Coming Events in Acton & Area

Jan. 14, Friday — 2 pm: Valentine's Day crafts at the Acton Branch Library for children five years and up. Don't miss the fun as we create an origami gift basket and more! There is no cost for this activity but spaces are limited so be sure to sign up in person or by phone: 853-0301.

Jan. 15, Saturday — 10 am to 4 pm: "Barney" will be visiting the Georgetown Marketplace (Zellers Mall). He is promoting "Project Jessie", the Waterloo-Wellington Alliance for Animals Foster-Adoption Program. Various items will be sold. The volunteer group rescues abandoned and lost dogs, who if not claimed, end up in research labs. For more information call Jim Prudom, Kitchener 519-579-6156 or 519-654-3872.

Jan. 15, 16, Saturday, Sunday — 9 am to 4 pm (Saturday), 1 to 4 pm (Sunday): CPR course. For more information call Yvonne Essiembre at 853-4889.

Jan. 17, 19, 24, 26, Mondays and Wednesdays — 6:30 to 9:30 pm: First Aid course. For more information call Yvonne Essiembre at 853-4889.

Jan. 23, 1994, Sunday — 1:30 pm to 4 pm: A Robbie Burns Ceilidh at the Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin St. S. Scottish refreshments, Scottish dance and entertainment, kids craft table and activity area. Free admission. For more information call 836-1221.

Jan. 28, 1994 Friday — 8 pm: The Second City Touring Company is coming to Georgetown to perform their irreverent comedy show. No subject is taboo, every politician is fair game. Tickets are \$15 each. Call Maureen Walker at 877-4323 for more information.

Jan. 30, 1994, Sunday — 2 pm: The Col. John McCrae Memorial Lecture, at the Guelph Branch Legion Hall, 919 York Road. "The Sharpe End: The Canadian Soldier In Normandy". A lecture given by renowned historian, Professor Terry Copp. Tickets are \$10. For more information call 836-1221.

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