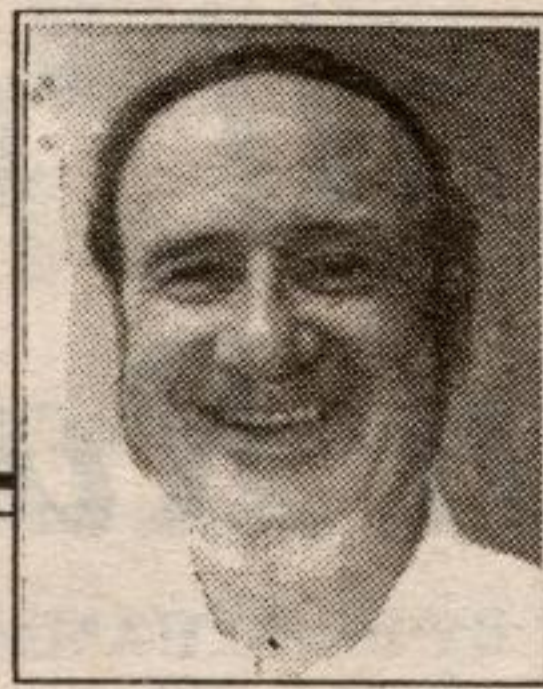


EDITORIAL

With Hartley Coles



Let's get behind our noses!

Some people, especially in the media, scoffed when Jack Carpenter drummed up support for a Lighten Up Canada Day in the gloomy month of February. Three years later, with the event gathering momentum all across Canada, the scoffers are turning into supporters. Now, there's support for turning the "red nose event" into a national holiday to beat those winter blahs.

Telephones and fax machines buzzed over the last few weeks as newspapers and the electronic media blitzed the Carpenter home in Acton for information about wearing red foam noses on Feb. 7 and having some fun despite the country being buried under two feet of snow and a mercury that hadn't risen above freezing since Dec. 22, 1993.

Jack got the idea for this unusual celebration of fun from a similar event in England where they celebrate St. Jacques Day, patron saint of comedy. He broached the idea of a similar Canadian celebration on his Music Hall radio show on a Kitchener radio station in 1992.

The initial reaction from dour Canadians was hardly enthusiastic. Nevertheless, 12,000 noses were sold. In 1993, prompted by Jack's enthusiasm, the total number of noses sold was over ten times the previous year — 125,000. This year over 200,000 people sported the red schnozzes from coast to coast. The fun created could never be recorded but it's considerable.

Many of us have wanted a national holiday in the dead of winter. Here's an opportunity to promote one that everyone can join in without any misgivings. It offends no one, spans races, creeds and colors. It's all in fun!

Let's go for it!

It was like a take from the television drama when Ed Hillier rescued Peter Papillon from his burning kitchen recently.

In a departure from his regular routine, because of an increased workload collecting garbage, Ed noticed smoke coming from the roof of the Papillon home at the dead end of Elmore Drive. Earlier he had smelled wood smoke in the area and his training as a firefighter clicked in. He called a neighbor to phone the fire department and rushed into the home, finding Mr. Papillon standing in his kitchen, phone in hand, with flames crackling all around him.

Ed said plaster was already falling from the ceiling and Peter seemed frozen to the spot. Admitting he was scared, Ed nevertheless pulled Peter from the burning home and averted what could have been a tragedy.

Halton Hills Deputy Fire Chief Bob Hyde said Ed's quick action saved Mr. Papillon's life. "In five minutes he would have been on the floor," he said. The fire, which originated from grease left on a lit burner, caused damage estimated at \$75,000, most of it in the kitchen with smoke damage in the rest of the house.

Ed Hillier's prompt action in saving Peter Papillon from the flames is certainly worthy of commendation from the Town and this community. Yes, we know, the Town honors its citizens on an annual basis but sometimes the thanks of the community in the form of awards takes too long. Many people have forgotten the circumstances by the time awards are given.

Surely, when exceptional circumstances occur, such as Ed Hillier's daring rescue, there should be some form of almost instant recognition while the deed is still fresh in everyone's mind. It would be not only appropriate, it's deserved!

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for the exceptional service they give to our community?

Broadcast it in your community newspaper.
Write a letter to the Editor!

Our address is P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3.
You can also drop your letter off at our 12 Church St. offices or fax it to 853-5040.



LETTERS

Congratulations to Chretien

To the Editor,

Congratulations to Prime Minister Jean Chretien for lowering cigarette taxes.

This is the first time in many, many years that a Canadian politician has had the guts to make a common sense decision despite the squawking protests of special interest groups. It is a step in the right direction. However, if anyone believes it will stop the illegal cigarette trade, they are mistaken.

The entire underground economy sprang up as a revolt, not only against high taxes, but against irresponsible spending of tax money and too much government control. Civil disobedience seems to be the only way that the silent majority can get its message across.

As more and more people see crime as a means of getting the attention of those in power, it is reasonable to believe it will grow.

Canadians are not the fools politicians seem to think we are. We see clearly our tax money wasted, our jobs lost and our rights and freedoms eroded by governments and minority groups seeking to gain power and control for their own selfish reasons.

We see our health care, education and justice systems failing while more time and money is spent on foolish, unnecessary schemes. We see hypocrisy and stupidity as government spokespersons attempt to brainwash us into believing that "Big Brother" knows best.

It appears that governments have two ways to effectively stop the tax revolt. They can ride off into the sunset and give us back our lives, or they can poll the voters and act on the wishes of the majority when making decisions on controversial issues.

Eileen Hutcheson
Knox Avenue

Family in need of appliances

ASSIC ALERT

Acton Social Services and Information Centre (ASSIC) is presently looking for a fridge and stove for a family in Acton.

We have also had requests for a washer and dryer. If you can help or know of anyone who can, please call ASSIC at 853-3310.

As a community service, ASSIC offers rides to seniors in Acton and surrounding areas.

We take seniors to appoint-

ments with their doctors and lawyers, as well as to visit friends in hospitals or nursing homes. We will also take small groups of seniors to local stores or shopping malls.

Preferably two to six people should be able to go at the same time, so give us a call and we'll see what we can arrange. There will be a small charge to help cover mileage costs.

This service is available to all area seniors and we encourage you to call June at 853-3310 for more information.

THE ACTON Tanner

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