

## EDITORIAL

With Joanne Stevenson



### Advice for new parents

There has been a mini baby-boom in my circle of friends and family, and it's got me thinking about when my kids were little.

Having small children takes a lot of creativity, ingenuity, and common sense. I don't profess to having any of these qualities, but I do remember some truths that I had to learn "the hard way." In the spirit of parenthood, I now share with you some facts and advice I only wish I had known from the beginning.

- 400 Q-Tips do not go back into the box they came out of.
- a Sony walkman is a god-send to mothers with children who cry and whine a lot.
- always have a roll or two of Lifesavers in your glove-compartment — you soon realize, in bumper-to-bumper traffic, that they don't call them Lifesavers for nothing.
- frozen waffles make wonderful teething rings since they double as drool-absorbers.
- Get a cordless phone! You'll never be stuck to the wall again.
- never wake a sleeping baby.
- never give-in to temper tantrums.
- food colouring can turn ordinary juice into exotic fruit punches.
- empty Kleenex boxes and paper towel rolls make wonderful traps for the monsters that lurk under kids' beds and in closets at bedtime.

To help keep it all in perspective however, I offer these final words of wisdom: You know what they say about free advice ... you get what you pay for!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

**June 29, Wednesday:** The kids are out of school now, so drivers should take care when travelling around town.

**June 29, Wednesday — 5 to 7:30 pm:** Strawberry Social at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton. Adults, \$7; children 10 and under, \$3. Salad buffet and strawberry dessert. Tickets available from Inez Brennan 853-4757, Church Office 853-2360, Carol Petty 856-9981 and Village Variety Store, Acton.

**July 4, Monday to Friday — 9 am to 4 pm:** Day Camp for children with asthma and their siblings. Camp is held in Georgetown, \$50/week and there are still some openings available. For more information call 905-847-1033.

**July 4-8, Monday to Friday — 9 am to noon:** Beth-el Christian Reformed Church will hold their annual Vacation Bible School program. For more information, contact Diane Leferink at 853-4493 or Barb Van Giessen at 853-1675.

**July 12, Tuesday — 7:30 pm:** Retirement Income Options Seminar. Confused about where the money will come from when you retire? Free seminar at Fergus Arena will answer your questions. Held by Gary Webers, Financial Concept Group. Call to register 843-6887 or 1-800-265-3347.

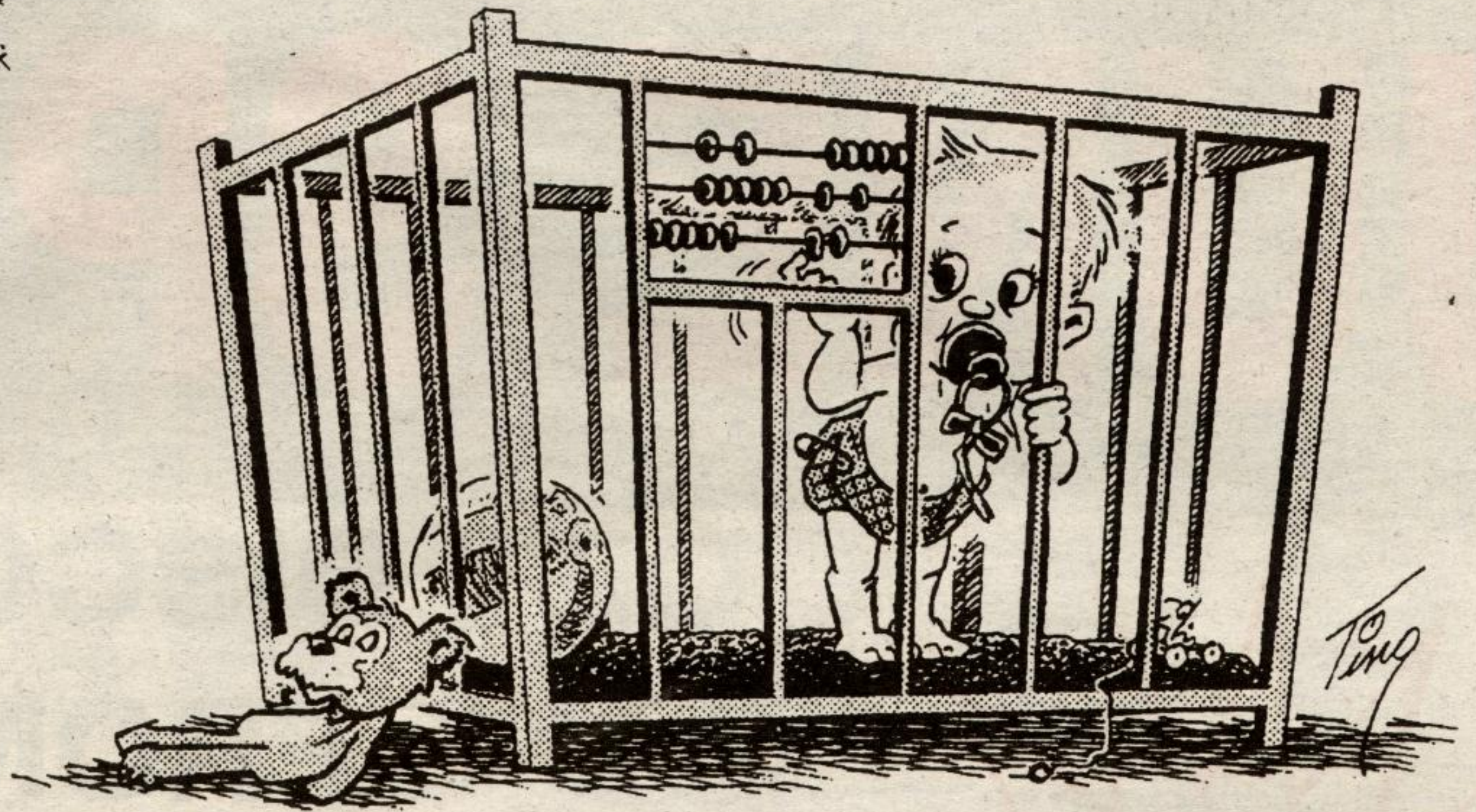
**July 22, Friday — 2 to 4 pm:** Beat the heat the Hawaii way. Come out to public swim and enjoy the fun and games at the indoor pool.

**July 23, 24, Saturday, Sunday — 9 am to 4 pm (Saturday), 1 to 4 pm (Sunday):** C.P.R. Course to be held at St. John's Anglican Church, corner of Trafalgar Road and 15 Sideroad (Stewarttown). For more info call Yvon Essiembre at 853-4889.

**July 4, 6, 11, 13, Monday, Wednesday (evenings) — 6:30 to 9:30 pm:** First Aid Course to be held at St. John's Anglican Church, corner of Trafalgar Rd. and 15 Sideroad (Stewarttown). For more information call Yvon Essiembre at 853-4889.

**July 12, Tuesday — 12:30 pm:** Arthritis Bluebird Support Group of Halton Region is holding their monthly meeting at Milton Leisure Centre. Family and friends of people with arthritis are welcome. For info: Norma Anderson, 877-9317.

TOTAL FED.-PROV. DEBT  
= \$23,000 PER PERSON



"SINCE THEY GARNISHEED MY BABY BONDS, I'LL BE 159 BEFORE I'M OUT OF HOCK!"

## LETTERS

### Reputation of ranch shouldn't be tarnished

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my outrage at the recent article in your June 15 issue entitled "Parent's concern prompts change."

I mean no disrespect to the Lima family, but I am aghast that the reputation of Rocky Ridge Ranch, known for its impeccable service for 25 years, could be spoken of in this manner because of one isolated incident that was reconciled immediately.

I feel the above-mentioned article was one-sided and painted a very bleak picture of Bruce Chapman's "Rocky Ridge Ranch." This was unfair.

My family has utilized this ranch for nine years and we have never once had a concern or complaint about the housing or any other aspect of the ranch. The food is always top notch, the accommodations excellent and the service and comfort of the visitors always A-1. Patrons' safety has always been a number one consideration of the Chapmans.

Lima's statement: "We assume that if students are going on an overnight trip with the school, the place has been inspected by fire and health officials. The Board of Education assumes that if a camp is running, it too has been inspected," is totally misleading.

Of course the ranch has been inspected. The Chapman family always has the inspections neces-

sary to protect the visitors as well as themselves. To imply anything else is totally ludicrous.

The Board of Education would not continue to associate with a business, let alone send our children there, if it were not an excellent and safe environment. To suggest that the Board of Education just assumes a place is safe is a very negligent assumption.

This trip was not the first one to Rocky Ridge Ranch by schools. Other classes from other schools have also utilized this ranch for overnight trips. They would not continue to take our children there if there was a problem with the safety of our children.

The above-mentioned article did not speak about the impeccable reputation of the ranch prior to this incident. It did not mention the number of students who have visited the ranch and were totally pleased with the conditions and trips. There was no mention of any other parents who sent their child to the ranch and who liked what they saw.

Just recently I was speaking with a mother whose son went on this exact trip last year. She raved about the trip and the accommodations. This too should have been mentioned in your article. In not doing so, this article paints an unfair and inaccurate picture of an excellent business.

Rocky Ridge Ranch is and always has been a wonderful and safe place for day or overnight trips. I highly recommend this place to anyone.

Hats off to Bruce Chapman and his family for providing a wonderful and safe place to enjoy nature.

Thank you.

Allan Cunneynworth,  
Mill Street

## Get It Off Your Chest.

Write a Letter to the Editor!

Drop off your letter to 12 Church or fax it to 853-5040

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