

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Sometimes, tomorrow never comes ...

Jim and I are terrible procrastinators.

Actually, we're very good at it.

It's not that we're lazy. Jim leaves the house before 7 am and doesn't get home much before 10 each night. He works Saturdays, and often Sundays too (though, according to the fine print in our marriage contract, Sundays are *family days*).

While he's at work, I'm at home doing all those home-type jobs. I shovel the driveway, cut the grass, trim hedges, prepare meals, do laundry, get the kids off to school and to their ball games. You know — everything else!

But if we can put it off till tomorrow, we will. And sometimes, tomorrow never comes.

For example, Jim's great-aunt gave us her old bedroom furniture when we got married. The set had been painted in the '50s, when it was fashionable to paint wood furniture, and we decided we'd strip this bedroom set and refinish it. We'll be married 14 years this summer and the bedroom set is still not complete.

It was five years ago when we re-shingled our roof (that's the royal "we" — I was in charge of beer and hamburgers) and we still haven't painted all the flashing and trim to match the new roof colour.

We thought if we patched the holes and cracks in the living room walls, we wouldn't be able to stand that "Cuban Revolution" look, and we'd paint that much sooner. I guess it worked, because it only took *two* years for us to get the painting done.

I think Jim and I should head the Acton chapter of the Procrastinator's Club of Canada. We'll celebrate New Year's Eve in July, and send out monthly newsletters. Quarterly.

That is, if we ever get around to it.

Sunday is fast approaching, and I hope you're planning to attend the third annual Leathertown Festival at the Hide House parking lot.

Besides all the neat entertainment, good food and friendly faces, the Festival is a great reminder of the leather-industry heritage of our community.

Which reminds me — now that we've turned the calendar to August, guess what Festival-type event is coming up next month. That's right, it soon will be Fall Fair time!

I am a community newspaper.

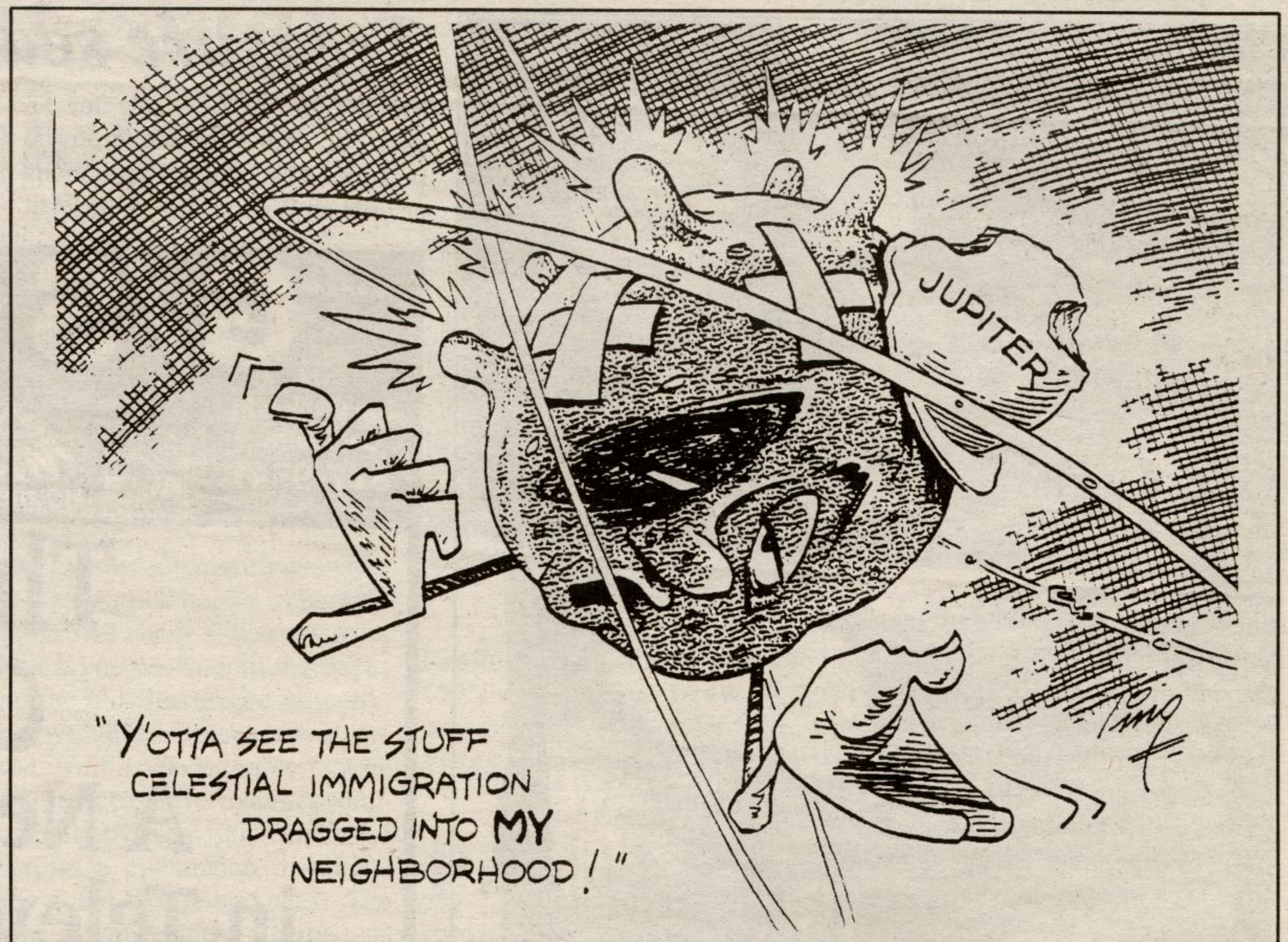
While the high and the mighty strut and stamp across the world's stage, a handful of proud citizens tend the flowers in downtown planters. A young boy scores the winning goal in a hockey game. The high school theatre group produces a smash hit. Town council passes an important new law.

The real lives of real people. People who don't start wars, who don't build empires, who don't get into the history books. But those whose stories are exciting, interesting, vital and important. Stories that should be told.

I am community newspaper. I am welcomed into hundreds of homes every week. Not as an intruder, shrieking out the harshness, violence and complexity of the world. But as a friend. A mirror of my reader's lives. Their joys, sorrows, accomplishments.

I am a community newspaper. I am proud, tough, independent. I know when to smile, when to grumble, how to chide, how to help.

I am a community newspaper — in a great community. And I'm proud of it.



LETTERS

Successful summer!

To the Editor,

The local Canada Employment Centre for Students will be closing its doors on Friday, Aug. 12, ending a very successful summer.

We had a 22 per cent increase in the numbers of jobs available for students over last summer. Usually July is a slow month, but we had a 54 per cent rise in job opportunities for July.

In all the centre has posted 489 job vacancies and seen over 546

students hired for various positions between April and July. More students were hired than positions notified because some employers decided to hire more students than they had originally intended.

The centre attributes its success to great media coverage, community support and more aggressive marketing of the free service.

The CEC-S will be accepting business and home-owner job requests up until the Aug. 12 deadline.

Any businesses or non-profit agencies interested in hiring students next summer may inquire about wage subsidy information by leaving your name and number at the centre (877-7797).

Melissa Blease
CEC-S supervisor

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

Aug. 3, Wednesday — 7:30 pm: Action for Acton monthly meeting at the Legion. All residents and business people are invited to come out and help make our community a better place to live and do business. For info call 853-5100.

Aug. 4, Thursday — 7:30 pm: Living with Cancer. Meetings are held every second Thursday at Milton Baptist Church, corner of Nipissing and Thompson Streets. For more information call Eleanor Shannon, 878-1876.

Aug. 6, 13, Saturdays — 9 am to 4 pm: First Aid Course at St. John's Anglican Church, Trafalgar Road and 15 Sideroad, Stewarttown. For more information please call Yvon Essiembre at 853-4889.

Aug. 7, Sunday — 11 am to 5 pm: Acton's third annual Leathertown Festival at the olde Hide House parking lot. There'll be a million things to do for adults and kids, too! Games, demonstrations, entertainment ... you can even check out a display that explains why our community is called Leathertown. Acton Star Thru Squares and the Acton Citizens' Band will be there. For more info, call Wetherby's at 853-1633.

Aug. 15 to 19, Monday to Friday — 9 am to 11:45 am: Daily Vacation Bible School at Acton Baptist Church, 80 Mill St. E. Ages 5-12. Fee for the week is \$5. Call 853-0690.

Aug. 20 and 21, Saturday and Sunday: St. John Ambulance is offering a C.P.R. course for local residents. Hours are: Saturday from 9 to 4 and Sunday from 1 to 5. Also, a weekday course will be offered on Aug. 22 and 23, from 9 to 4. Stewarttown location. Call Yvon at 853-4889 for more info.

Sept. 11, Sunday — 9 am: The second annual Climb Against Crime 10K race and 2K "Fun Run" invites runners to challenge the Niagara Escarpment in Milton. This is a fundraising event for Crime Stoppers of Halton. For more information call Bill Robertson at 878-1756.

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