

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Start doing your homework, folks

I've never been a big follower of municipal politics, but the deeper the government digs into my pocketbook, the more I've been paying attention to it.

In the last provincial election, Ontario spoke loud and clear that we didn't want David Peterson and his Liberals in power.

In last fall's federal election, Canada let Kim Campbell and her nemesis, Brian Mulroney, know that we'd had enough of the Conservative government as well.

It was not so much a case of the new parties *winning* the election as it was the old government *losing* by a landslide.

I find this *re-active* behaviour on the voters' part very disturbing. We don't seem to know what we want; we only know what we don't want. And public opinion has been very fickle in the last few years.

So as a municipal election approaches, I see an opportunity to make a *pro-active* statement.

If you're like me, municipal elections are often confusing. There are so many candidates applying for several, and extremely varied, positions. What power does the mayor really have? What is the difference between a councillor and a regional councillor anyway?

It is a mistake to bury our heads in the sand when it comes to municipal government. Federal and provincial governments are huge and seemingly inaccessible. Municipal government is right here, and the way you vote can directly and immediately affect the quality of your life.

These are the folks who can have that pot-hole fixed, build an arena, amalgamate schools or not, increase the public library's hours, facilitate new development, and allocate education dollars. Ottawa and Toronto are miles away, but your municipal official might even live next door.

In the next few months the newspapers will be full of quotes from the candidates; there will be open meetings and public debates. It will be the smart voter who will be clear in his or her mind about the issues already, and will make an informed decision on election day. Start doing your research now. Follow the local issues and think about what the candidates are saying.

I won't tell you who to vote for — I have enough trouble making up my own mind. But if you think about the issues that are important to you and find out not only who is saying what you want to hear, but who is *doing* what you want done, you can make a positive, pro-active, and informed decision this fall.

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

Aug. 27, Saturday — 10 am to 4 pm: Car wash at Acton Auto Tech on Main Street North. All proceeds will go to Acton High School.

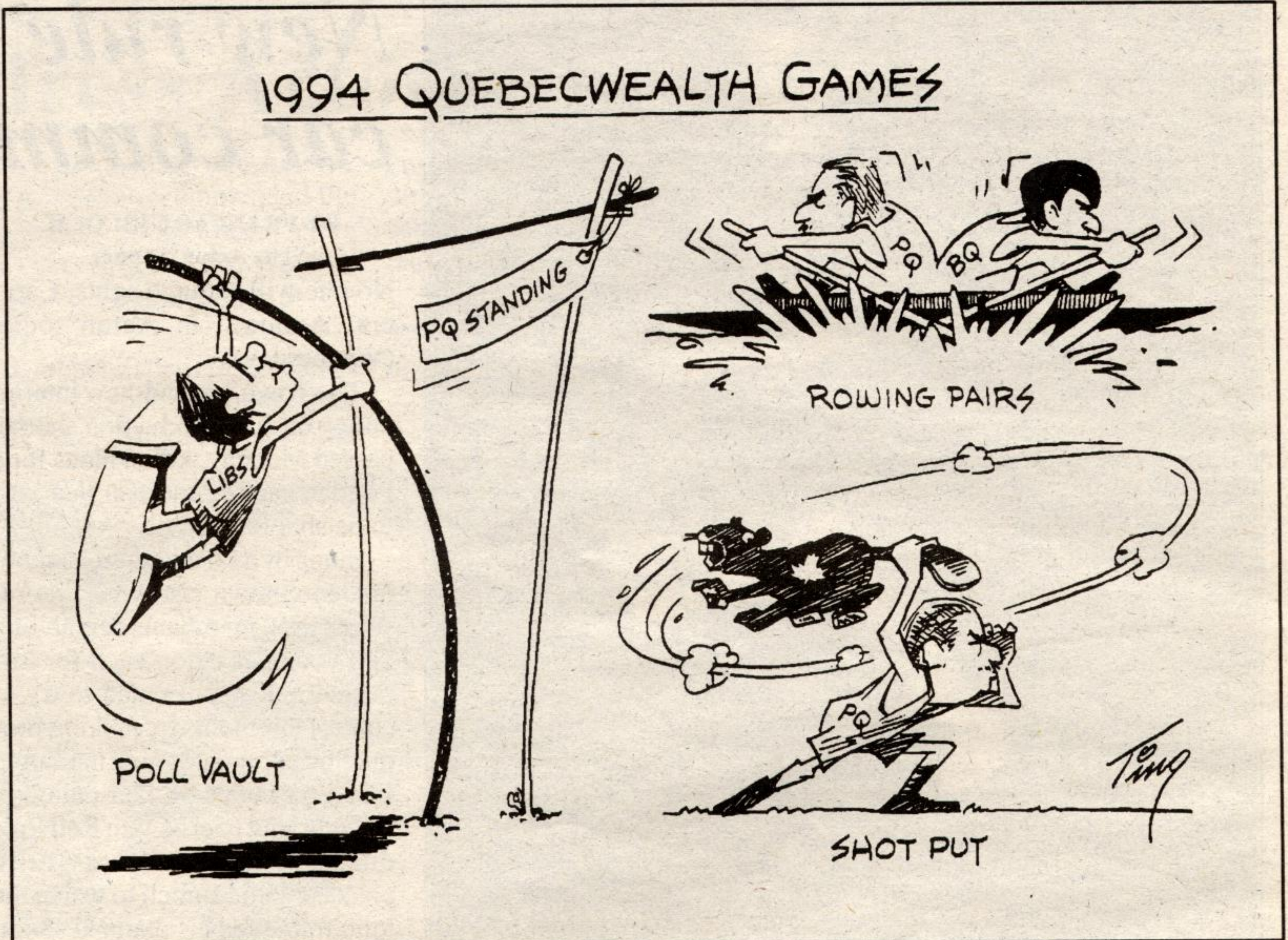
Aug. 28, Sunday: Wading Pool and Boat Rentals at Fairy Lake will close for the season.

Sept. 6, Tuesday: Summer vacation is over and reality sets in as the kids are back at school at all Halton Board of Education elementary and secondary schools.

Sept. 6, Tuesday: Tai Chi classes start. To register and for more information call George Lee at 853-1066.

Sept. 8 and 10, Thursday, Saturday — 7 to 9 pm (Thursday), 10 to 12 noon (Saturday): The Acton School of Dance is offering Ballet classes for ages three to adult to be held at St. Alban's Hall. For info call Susanne Keith at 853-0390.

Sept. 12, 14, 19, 21, Mondays, Wednesdays — 6:30 to 9:30 pm (evenings): First Aid Course at St. John's Anglican Church (Trafalgar Road and 15 Sideroad). For info call Yvon, 853-4889.



LETTERS

A case of 'foot-in-mouth' disease

To the Editor,

As a Halton Hills business person who resides in Acton, I have found the comments made by Carol Ann Whitehead-Perrott regarding Acton very offensive.

Ms. Whitehead-Perrott was quoted as saying, "Acton is a low income town with lots of derelicts on the streets." Is this quote based

on facts or merely an expression of opinion?

It's beyond belief that a person seeking public office would make such derogatory remarks about a town that she may have to represent at the Regional level if she is elected.

It is unfortunate that individuals seeking public office would make such divisive comments that may potentially damage the harmony between Acton and Georgetown.

In the future, Ms. Whitehead-Perrott should get her facts straight about Acton before she puts her proverbial foot in her mouth.

Pat Hatch
Elmore Drive

Whitehead-Perrott: Is this a joke?

To the Editor,

(Re: Carol Ann Whitehead-Perrott — Candidate for Ward 3 Regional Councillor seat this fall. Campaign comments include: Acton is full of low income derelicts, Fairy Lake in Acton is 60 per cent goose s---, more chain restaurants are needed in Acton, Fairy Lake should be cleaned with a "giant vacuum.")

Carol Ann Whitehead-Perrott. Is this a joke? Does someone who says that Fairy Lake is 60 per cent anything actually believe that people are going to believe that she'll have the competence to do something about any such issue? This whole affair has left me with some questions that I'm finding rather disturbing.

1. How do I tell if I'm a low income derelict or not? Does simply living in Acton qualify me?

2. How will more chain restaurants help bolster Acton's

economy-tourism? With more chain restaurants Acton will look like any other community and therefore couldn't possibly expect to attract anything. Why would anyone want to go to McDonald's et al in Acton if they can do so in their own community?

Incidentally, I very much prefer the locally-owned establishments with character and decent food over an American cultural disaster with bad food.

3. I've seen many people swimming in Fairy Lake and there are no signs directly warning against such activity. How come Ms. Whitehead-Perrott alone is party to this shocking information concerning the lake?

Ms. Whitehead-Perrott has also indicated that it's *not* worth the drive to Acton. I believe that it is — it's my home.

I only wish that she would take her ridiculous ideas and go elsewhere.

Paul Wilkinson,
Acton

YOUNG PEOPLE

make a measurable difference in our town. To nominate a young person, aged 6 to 18 years, for a

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please contact this community newspaper today. The deadline for nominations is October 31st, 1994.

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