

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Phantom of the library

It seems appropriate, with Halloween on Monday, to tell you about the strange discovery I've made.

My house is haunted.

This is not your typical chain-dragging, spooky noise-making ghost. Nor is it a do-gooder Casper-the-friendly ghost type either.

My ghost likes to play pranks — harmless enough, but it's beginning to get on my nerves. Let me give you some examples.

A few weeks ago I was looking for the tweezers — we had a sliver emergency. No one had seen taken the tweezers or even seen them in recent memory. In short, they had vanished. But a few days later the tweezers appeared on the bathroom counter, without explanation.

Despite our rule that snacks and drinks stay in the kitchen (this cuts down on vacuuming and increases the life of couches and carpet), I still find opened pop cans in the basement. The kids know nothing about them (and therefore won't put them in the blue box), but the phenomenon continues.

I had a spooky experience when I made my grocery list, clipped coupons, gathered up my cloth shopping bags and put them all in the car. I know I did! But when I got to the grocery store none of them was with me. I had to rely on my memory, which is scary enough, and when I got home there they were, bags and all, sitting on the kitchen table.

You might be thinking you have a ghost in your house too. It would explain how the T.V. remote control finds its way under the couch, the clean clothes get under the bed and the missing keys and glasses turn up in the refrigerator.

There's a comic strip family who have named their ghosts "Not Me" and "Ida Know." All I know is that I wish my ghost would stop taking socks and gloves from the dryer, only to return them after I've thrown out the other half of the pair.

And now it seems the public library is haunted too. The library's ghost sneaks into houses at night and hides books that have already been returned, behind dressers and under beds.

These phantoms are diabolically clever, aren't they?

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

Oct. 26, Wednesday — 11 am to 6 pm: "Open House with Juris Berzins" in the Flight Line building at 7 Mill St. E. On display will be the proposal for greenery nodes along Mill Street, another phase in the Facade Improvements to downtown. Presented by the BIA.

Oct. 29, Saturday — 9:30 am to 3 pm: Acton Sabres Novice 1 hockey squad will be collecting refundable bottles to raise funds for tournament expenses. Please help the players by leaving any returnable bottles outside your front door for pickup.

Oct. 29, Saturday — 10 am to 2 pm: Knox Church Bazaar. Soup and sandwich lunch. Homemade mincemeat, cabbage rolls, crafts, baking and more. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

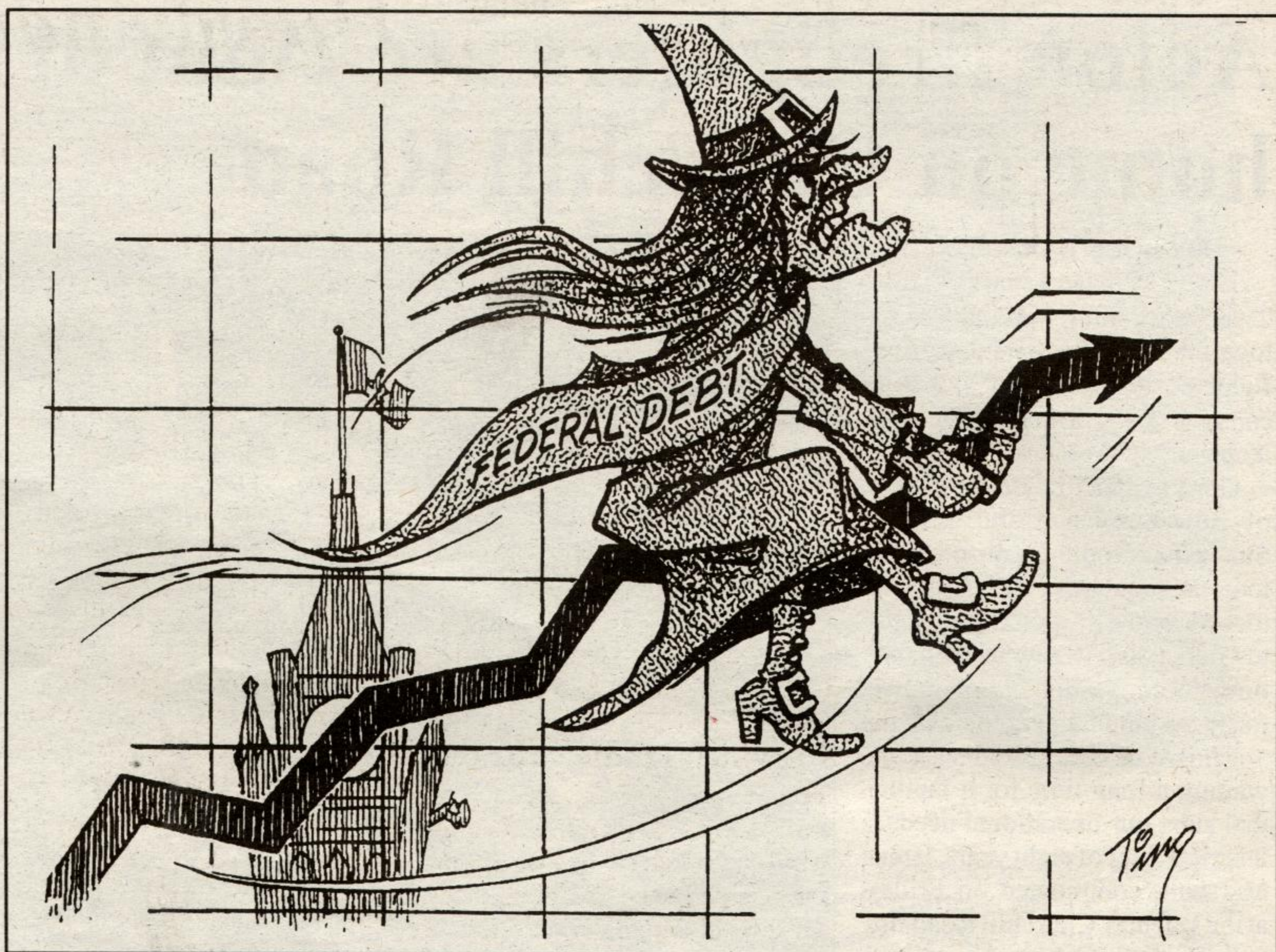
Oct. 29, Saturday — 10 am to 2 pm: Bethel Christian Reformed Church will hold a Bazaar. Lots of crafts, baked goods, soup, buns and more. See you there!

Oct. 29, Saturday — 9:30 am to 12:30 pm: Ladies, come and bring a friend to Churchill Church for a time of fellowship. Theme: "Fight, Flee or Favour One Another." Speaker: Rev. Helen Pasanen.

Nov. 3, Thursday — 7 to 10 pm: Meet the candidates for the Nov. 14 election at the Acton High Cafetorium. All candidates for Mayor and Ward 1 Councillors will be there, so plan to attend.

Nov. 5, Saturday — 2 pm to 4 pm: St. Alban's Annual Tea and Bazaar is fast approaching. We have goodies to tempt everyone, a bake table, penny sale, jewellery, crafts, country store plus a table for the kiddies. Of course, we have our scrumptious tea for weary shoppers. See you there!

Nov. 5, Saturday — 9 am to 3 pm: Acton Parent-Child Resource Centre will feature various local artisans at their Annual Pre-Christmas Craft Sale in the Band Hall at 85 Wallace St. Light lunch and home-baked goods available. Free Admission.



LETTERS

Bill 79 + health care cuts = hypocrisy

To the Editor,

It wasn't all that long ago that Ontario's Health Minister Ruth Grier spent thousands of Ontario's tax dollars to run advertisements stressing that Ontario residents shouldn't run to their doctor for every little cold and sniffle and that smokers should quit smoking.

The ads noted that if Ontario's citizens would co-operate, it would relieve the great financial strain the current health care system is experiencing.

I find this move by Ruth Grier and her health ministry not only a complete waste of taxpayers' money, but also a prime example of the hypocrisy that her Ontario NDP government appears to stand for.

How does Ruth Grier's NDP government intend to save money on health care when they have put a mechanism in place that is not only conducive to creating ill health, but will eventually do so at a record pace?

I'm referring to Bill 79, of course — Bob Rae's attempt at employment equity. Due to its racist discrimination, Bill 79 is creating and will continue to create major stress in members of the one racial group

and gender that Bob Rae has seen fit to ostracize.

White, Anglophile, heterosexual males are feeling major stress due to this bill, manifesting itself in the form of increased physical and mental illness, requiring an ever increasing legitimate access to Ontario's health care system.

In the NDP government's own words, white, Anglophile, heterosexual males now make up the largest work group in Ontario. Just think of the increased cost to Ontario's health care system as young white males increasingly feel the stress of not being able to become gainfully employed, and the already employed white, heterosexual males continue to be stressed out, worrying constantly about what they would do if they should lose their jobs.

White males in Ontario are discriminated against due to race, gender, sexual preference and linguistic ability, ensuring their unemployability no matter how much education or how qualified they may be for a job. This is the direct result of Bill 79.

Just as Bill 79 can't solve racial discrimination in the work place because the Bill itself is racist, the NDP cannot cut down on health care expenses because these flawed legislative bills create an atmosphere that creates ill health.

I find this a total exercise in hypocrisy — a state in which this government seems to find itself on a regular basis.

John D. McConnell,
Greenore Crescent

We're asking for your HELP!

Each year members of the Ontario Community Newspapers Association work together to recognize the best in Ontario's youth and we are asking you to help us find those deserving young people. If you know someone between the ages of 6 and 18 who has shown initiative, dedication and commitment to our community - please contact this community newspaper.



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