

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Those family ties

Christmas is a time steeped in tradition. From Christmas trees to turkey dinner complete with stuffing and gravy, there are elements of Christmas that should never be messed around with.

A few years ago we added a new tradition to our Christmas — the family tie.

The day of my sister's wedding, my other sister and her husband brought their clothes to my house to dress for the wedding. They had laid out their things the night before so they wouldn't forget anything.

But when they arrived, my brother-in-law realized he had left his tie at home. He hunted through every store from here to Brampton trying to find a nice tie that would match his suit. He ended up paying big bucks for a tie like the one he'd left at home, and made it back just in time for pictures.

The teasing he has had to endure since then has truly made him feel part of the family.

That Christmas I found the ugliest tie I could and gave it to my brother-in-law. He gave it to my dad the next year, and now the mystery of who will receive the "family tie" is looked forward to with as much anticipation as what Santa will bring.

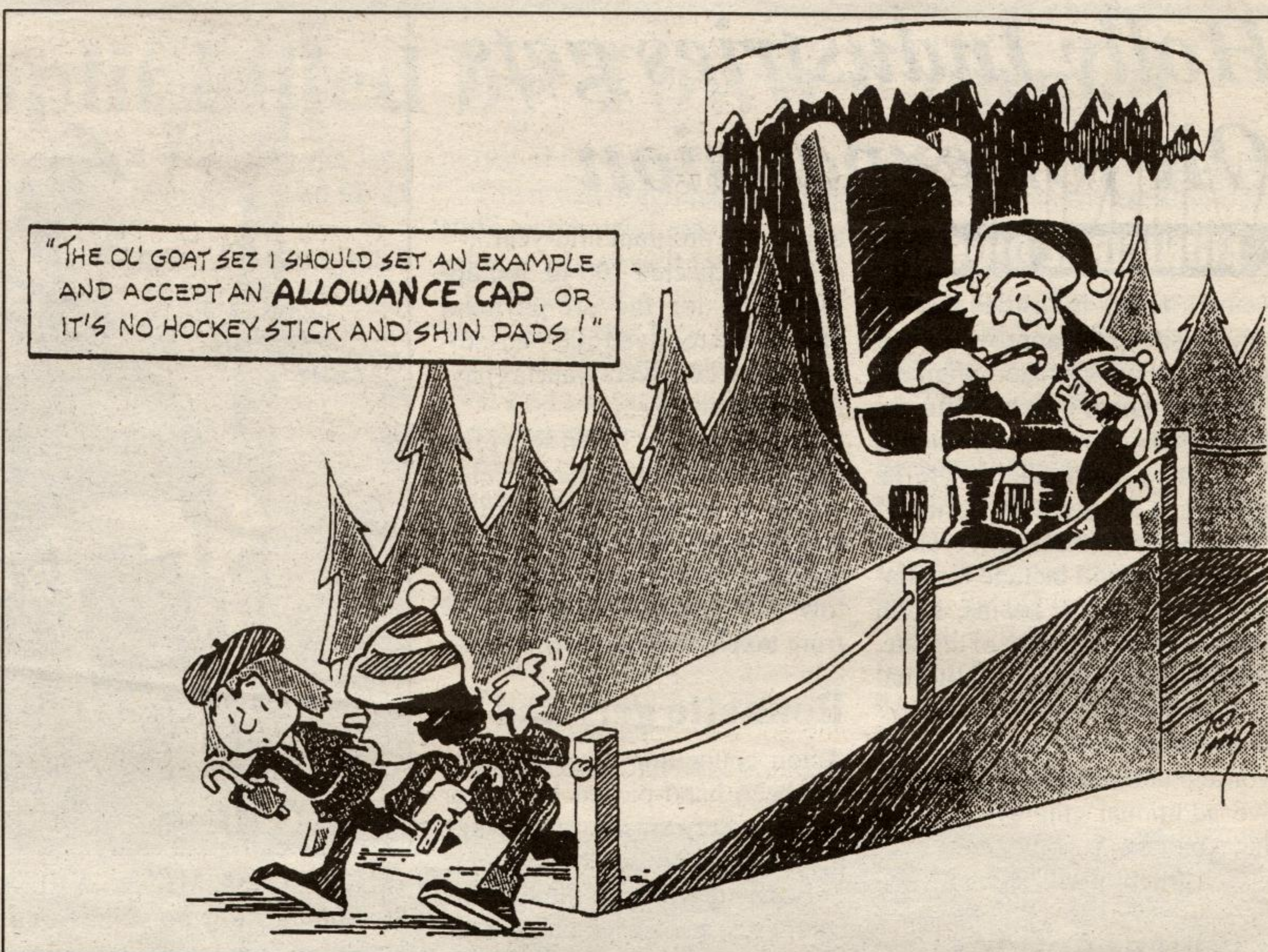
I love Christmas. Despite my grumbling about shopping and writing Christmas cards, the extra cleaning and baking, trying to see everyone and still manage to squeeze in a few hours of sleep, I wouldn't miss Christmas for the world.

I love to sit down with the kids and watch the Christmas specials on TV. No matter how many times I've seen it, I still well up with emotion when the Grinch's heart breaks that heart-measuring contraption. And when the little drummer boy plays for the baby Jesus, you will find me choking back tears.

Up until yesterday I was in a state of panic. But now the shopping is done, the Christmas cards mailed, the tree is up with some presents under it. I still have some baking and wrapping to do, but with the kids home all week to help, it should be a breeze. They really can be helpful sometimes.

I hope you all find some time this holiday to spend with family and friends, to think about what Christmas means to you, and to enter the new year refreshed and ready to go.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and the very best for 1995.



LETTERS

Fund-raising ideas for charities

To the Editor,

In Ontario, prior to the calling of a provincial election, the incumbent member of the provincial parliament provides a list to the chief returning officer, of people to be selected as enumerators, deputy returning officers, and other paid election positions.

It occurs to me that many local community groups could use this opportunity as a fund-raiser, to help support the many good works they undertake. Therefore, I am asking service clubs, community organizations, church groups, young people's associations such

as Girl Guides and Scouts, etc., to provide me with a list of people who would like to undertake this work for the benefit of their organization.

The lists should comprise mature individuals with people skills who are physically able to canvass door-to-door. People with disabilities could be considered for deputy returning officer positions.

Fees will be paid by the Chief Election Officer of Ontario to the individuals who do the work, and not to the organization they represent.

Financial arrangements between those who wish to work and their corresponding charitable organization must be determined privately. About 130 opportunities are available in the riding.

Thank you for enabling me to use this letter to contact everyone interested.

*Noel Duignan
MPP for Halton North*

Thanks, Acton!

To the Editor,

On behalf of the board of directors of the Acton FoodShare, I would like to thank the many contributors who have generously donated to the Acton FoodShare during the past year.

The list is too lengthy to list everyone individually — we are blessed with the tremendous community support.

Our sincere thanks and best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season.

*Arlene D. Fritz
Secretary, Acton FoodShare*

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Peace On Earth ...

A Christmas prayer ... that the spirit of that first Christmas in Bethlehem so long ago fills all the world with its promise and light, so that someday all peoples of the earth will experience the joy and hope of a deep and abiding peace. Best wishes to you and yours for a happy holiday season, from all of us at The Tanner.

The Acton Tanner will be taking a Christmas break from Boxing Day through to Dec. 30. We will not publish on Wednesday, Dec. 28. See you in the New Year!