

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Just an average Jo

I think of myself as an ordinary person.

I am of average height and weight, have medium-brown hair, and wear the most common-sized shoe (which means it is most often out of stock).

My blood pressure is normal, I'm fairly even-tempered — I even take my coffee regular.

This column might more accurately be called "Sitting on the Fence" since my Libran sense of fairness forces me to see both sides of an issue before making up my mind.

That's probably why I took a double-major at university.

You can imagine my surprise at finding myself at the centre of controversy.

Mike O'Leary and I have been sparring with each other on these pages the past few weeks. Mike took a shot at women drivers; I shot back with a comment about men never stopping for directions. Then most recently Mike made a dig about how men are forever waiting for their wives at flea markets, rest stops and the like.

I don't know how he can get away with comments like that, what with five women living in his house, but that is not for me to say.

I stand corrected on the Moses issue. If Mike says it took Moses 40 years to cross the desert, I must defer to his greater experience and knowledge. And while I could only guess what Moses and his wife might have talked about on their foray across the desert, I bow to the wisdom of my older and wiser colleague.

Despite the fun we've been poking at each other, I know Mike to be an intelligent, well-informed and thought-provoking columnist. And whether you agree or disagree with his views, he brings the spotlight to issues that need your attention.

I marvel at the insight of our parents, who chose our destiny when they chose our names. I, your *average Jo*, write about the ordinary, every-day events in our lives.

And like that most indispensable piece of audio equipment, Mike speaks loud and clear about politics and injustice where he sees it.

To put an end, once and for all, to the *dueling columnists* as we've been dubbed here at the office, and lest you think we really believe the sexist jokes we've been throwing at each other, I share with you a verse I've carried in my wallet since high school.

Woman was made from the rib of man.

Not from his head to be above him,

Nor from his feet to be walked upon,

But from his side — to be his equal,

Near his hands — to work together,

And close to his heart — to be loved.

Let's all remember that neither of us is named 'Les' or 'Moe.'

A couple of weeks ago I told you about the North Halton Literacy Guild, which helps local adults improve their reading, writing and "math" skills. Well, the Guild still is desperately short of tutors in the Acton area.

The Guild will be holding a tutor training session on the evening of April 5 and all day Saturday, April 8. Participants must attend both of these dates.

If you can help out (it will take only a few hours each week), call the Guild at 873-2200.

You can still make a donation to the trust fund that has been set up at the Bank of Commerce to help out the Ken Hurren family. Ken and his two sons lost their Third Line home to an early-morning fire two weeks ago.

At press time, according to one bank employee, over \$7,400 had been deposited to the Hurren account by caring Acton residents.

There is also a drop-box for donations of food, clothing and toys at the Hydro offices on Alice Street.



LETTERS

Heralds of spring

To the Editor,

While most of us are still battling the never-ending winter, volunteers for the Acton unit of the Canadian Cancer Society are very busy making plans for the arrival of hundreds of bunches of golden trumpeted daffodils.

These wonderful flowers have long been the symbol of hope for the Cancer Society, as well as earn-

ing much-needed funds for cancer education and research.

Look for our volunteers at key locations throughout Acton from Thursday through Saturday, March 30 to April 1.

You won't be able to resist those golden heralds of spring.

Also, the Northern Triangle Fashion Show on Tuesday, March 28 at Jack Tanner's Table promises to be an exciting event.

Tickets for the 7:30 pm show are \$10 and participating stores include the Hide House, Erin House Gallery, Minerva's and Elizabeth's Fashions.

Call me at 853-1424 for tickets.

Cathy Gerrow
President, Acton branch

Chesley High?

To the Editor,

The Chesley District High School will be holding a school reunion on Sunday, July 2, as part of the Chesley Homecoming Celebrations. We are trying to contact as many of our former students and staff as possible.

We hope that any of your Acton and Rockwood readers who attended or worked at Chesley District High School will contact us

with their addresses and the names and addresses of any friends and relatives who came from the Chesley area.

We can be contacted by mail at P.O. Box 310, Chesley, Ont., N0G 1L0; by fax at 519-363-3449; or by phone at 519-363-2344.

The success of our reunion depends on our being able to contact as many of our former students and staff as possible.

Dale Ahrens, Ruth Ferguson
Co-chairs, CDHS Reunion

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

March 3, Friday — 7:30 pm: Acton will hold its World Day of Prayer service at the Evangel Pentecostal Tabernacle, 33 Churchill Rd. N. This year's theme — The Earth is a House for All People. Guest speaker, Mary Farrow. Nursery will be provided. All Acton churches are participating. Plan to come and join in worship.

March 4 and 5, Saturday and Sunday — 9 am to 4 pm (Sat.), 9 am to 1 pm (Sun.): Learn first aid and CPR, taught under Heart and Stroke Foundation standards. St. John Ambulance offers classes at the old school in Norval, on Mary Street behind the used car sales lot on Hwy. 7. Call Yvon at 853-4889 or David at 877-1045.

March 7, Tuesday — 7:30 to 9:30 pm: Linda Rivard will speak about "Space Invaders: Child care and sibling rivalry" at the Acton Parent-Child Resource Centre. This networking session is free to child care providers and parents in and around Acton. Call the Centre at 853-2574 for details.

March 8, Wednesday — 7:30 pm: You've been hearing about the new seniors' centre for years. Come to this meeting at the Acton Legion to find out what's really, finally, happening!

March 9, Thursday — 7 to 9 pm: Join the Acton Arthritis Support Group when they meet at the ASSIC office on Willow Street. Pharmacist Gary Barton will be on hand to answer questions about some of the arthritis drugs on the market. Pauline, 853-4940 can give you more info.

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