

EDITORIAL

With Paul Nolan



My 'dream team'

A few weeks ago *The Tanner* received an editorial award in the Ontario Community Newspapers Association's Better Newspapers Competition. This result was an honour, but it was no accident; a lot of hard work by a team of talented people goes into every edition of your community newspaper.

I'd like to take a few column inches to say some words about those people whose names you see on our masthead every week. I call this "giving credit where it's overdue" and I promise that this will take less time than most Academy Awards speeches.

Georgena Petty is simply a treasure – the heart of this office. Of course, if you've ever been in to 12 Church to place a classified ad or drop off a sports report, you already know this. Ena does it all (she turns "irate" phone calls into happy customers, she manages our banking, our invoicing, collection calls – the list goes on), and she does it with a special kind of grace and good humour that makes everybody's day a bit brighter.

I couldn't ever ask for a better person to work with than Doug Harrison. Tons of ability. So dependable. Solid as a rock. Doug covers this community like a blanket; there's not much that gets by him, and if anything does it surely was a well-kept secret!

If you like our approach to news, then much of the credit must go to Joanne Stevenson, our copy editor. Not only does Joanne look over – correcting, improving, verifying – every inch of copy that runs in this newspaper, she has built a loyal audience for her *Across the Fence* column that often runs in this space.

Elaine Petkoff? Amazing. Elaine started here a couple of months ago and it was about 15 minutes into her first day when I realized that we were dealing with a dynamo. It seems that Elaine is liked and respected by everyone in town (watch out Rick Bonnette if she ever decides to run for Regional Council), and she operates at about 110 miles an hour all day long.

You wouldn't be reading this newspaper if it were not for Irene Birrell. Every Wednesday morning Irene bundles up a couple thousand *Tanners* and takes them to all our carriers and newsstands. Sick carrier? Irene covers their route. Paper blown into the ditch? Irene handles it. Organized, tireless, always smiling – this lady is one of a kind.

Frances Niblock is another important member of this *Tanner* All-Star Team. Fran brings you "hard copy" (front page news, political reports), and she excels at it. I marvel at her news instincts and her knack for getting the right angle every time. Like everyone else mentioned in this column, it seems that Fran's goal – week in, week out – is to produce the best newspaper possible. Easy to say, not easy to do.

A while back columnist Mike O'Leary approached me about switching his title from Regular Contributor to "Staff Curmudgeon." However my Oxford dictionary defines curmudgeon as a "bad-tempered person," and that's not our Mike. Aside from being an unusually gifted writer, Mike O'Leary is opinionated. He's outspoken. And he doesn't let up when he sees that something is wrong with the world. Every community and every community newspaper needs a Mike O'Leary; in Acton we're lucky enough to have the original.

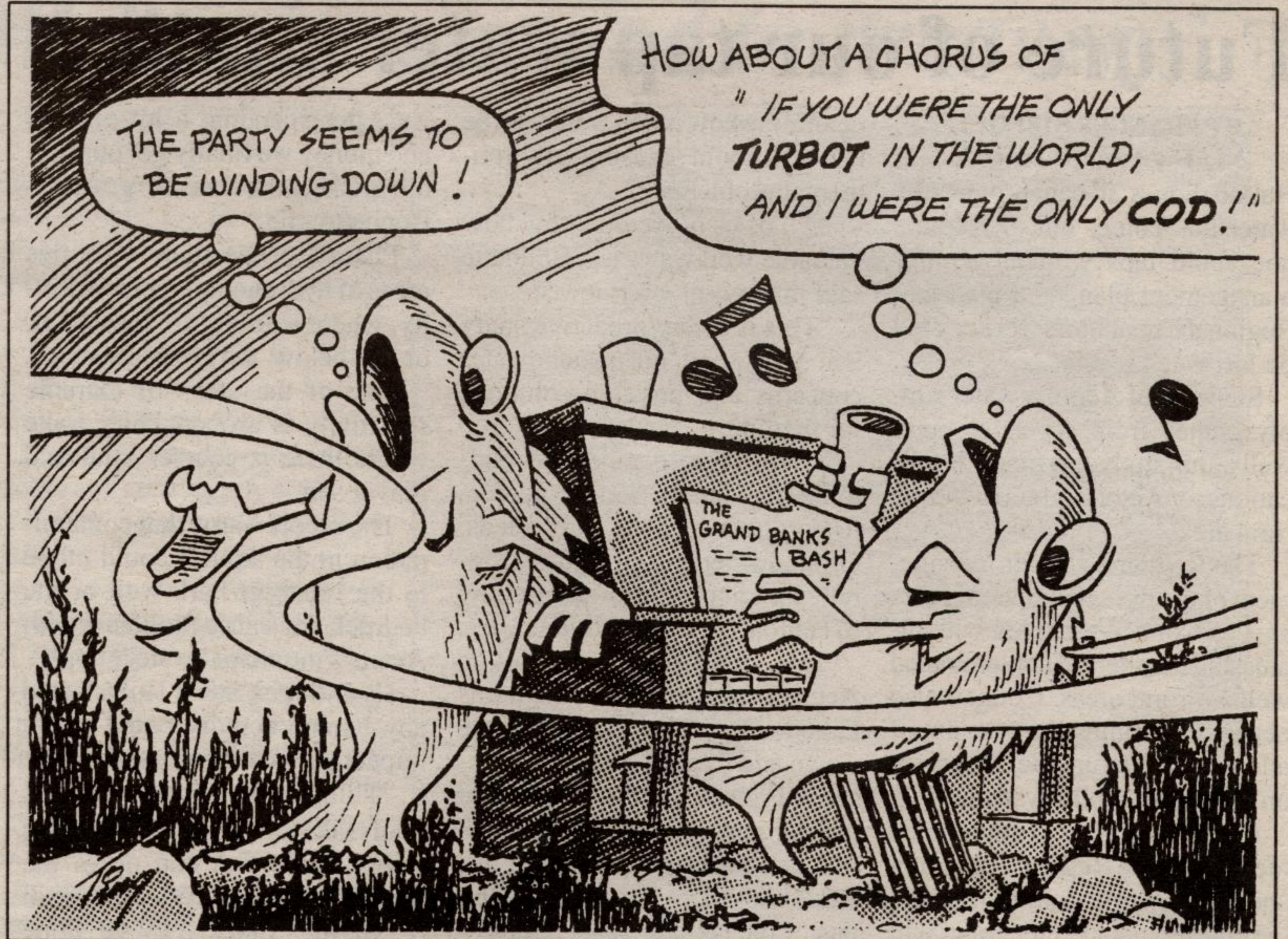
Before I run out of space – OK, so it ended up being longer than a speech at the Oscars – I must mention Lori Frechette and Eve Martin, Hartley Coles and Carol Murphy. Mike Bodi, Deb and David Quaile ... I could go on and on.

Like I said – it was time to give credit where it was long overdue. Thank you for this indulgence.

It's been almost one month – and we're still waiting!

Back on March 22 we asked MPP Noel Duignan for some answers about his Halton North Gazette promotional piece. We wanted to know how much it cost to produce, who paid for it, etc. Since then we've heard from the MPP and his assistant, both promising us some answers. We originally were promised a response two weeks ago – but still no real answers.

We're starting to lose patience. Aren't you?



LETTERS

Hole-in-one event

To the Editor,

Calling all Acton golfers!

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Halton-Peel district, in conjunction with Nevada Bob's Discount Golf and Sportdomes, present the first annual Million Dollar Hole-In-One Shootout event at Oakville's Sportdomes (just a half-hour south of Acton) on Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28.

Participants will attempt to qualify for the district finals which are determined at specific time intervals to move on to the finals.

Anyone scoring a hole-in-one, as well as those qualifying within a three-foot circle, 100 yards from the tee, will move on to the finals at the end of the weekend.

Only one winner will move on to the Division Shoot-Out for the million dollars, to be held in the greater Toronto area later this year.

The competition is open to amateur golfers 18 or older. Professional golfers are ineligible.

As plans for this exciting week-end unfold, we are seeking sponsors to share in our vision to reach the goal of \$20,000 in support of CNIB Halton-Peel.

There are 2,327 blind, deaf-blind and visually impaired people served by the CNIB Halton-Peel.

For information please call me at 905-275-5332.

Lucy McIntosh
CNIB Halton-Peel

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

April 19, Wednesday — 8:30 to 11:30 am: ASSIC will host its Step Ahead Foot Clinic at their office at 19 Willow St. N. Call ASSIC at 853-3310 for an appointment. Cost is \$11.

April 22, Saturday — 5:30 pm: Knox Presbyterian Church is holding their Poor Man's Dinner and Auction. Hosted by the Knox Ladies Aid group, the auction will include a variety of items, like baked goods and donations from businesses. Tickets are \$6 and are available at the church or at Village Variety.

April 24, Monday — 7:30 pm: CHADD Halton will hold its monthly support and information meeting at M.Z. Bennett. A panel of adults and teens with ADD will discuss aspects of the disorder. For info call Wanda, 853-3803, or Lesley, 853-2684.

April 26, Wednesday — 7 to 9 pm: The Dublin Women's Institute invites you to an information evening about breast health, including cancer research, self-examination, and mammography — it could save your life! At Knox Presbyterian Church, free admission and refreshments. R.S.V.P. Ruth Kranendonk, 853-0882 or Maisie Lasby, 856-4436.

April 27, Thursday — 9:30am: Susan Fullerton, Litigation Counsel for the Attorney General's office, and Ron Henry, Braida and Henry, Barristers and Solicitors, will speak about Power of Attorneys and what you should know. At the Acton Seniors Recreation Centre (Acton arena), sponsored by ASSIC. Call Sue at ASSIC, 853-3310, for details.

April 27, 28 & 29, Thursday, Friday & Saturday — 7:30 pm: Acton High presents *The Truth About Cinderella*, a musical comedy. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for students and \$4 for children and seniors and are available from the school office or at the door. Contact Mrs. Mistruzzi at 853-2920 for info.

April 29, Saturday — 10:30 am to 2:30 pm: Come celebrate Trinity United Church's 150th Anniversary at their Springtime Tea and Bake & Craft Sale. Tea tickets are available at the church office, 853-2090 or at the door.

THE ACTON Tanner

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ADSALES: Publisher is responsible for errors in advertisements to extent of cost of that portion of the space occupied by erroneous item.

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