

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



'Mom' is the word

Eleven-and-a-half years ago I had a life-altering experience. It could be that you know someone in this same situation.

Temporary, and sometimes long-term memory loss, multiple personalities, decreased energy level and a tendency to call people "Honey" or "Sweetie" are just a few of the symptoms I've suffered.

I'm speaking, of course, of motherhood. And with Mother's Day just around the corner, it seems appropriate to reflect on this important institution.

Even before you become a mother, you realize your life is not your own. You can't eat or drink what you want, you can't sleep when you want, and the simplest task — like tying your shoe-laces — becomes difficult.

Get used to this — it is good training for life after birth.

As a pregnant woman, you are at the mercy of doctors and grandmotherly types, who don't hesitate to offer advice on pregnancy and child-rearing.

The closer you are to your due date, the more child-birth horror stories you hear (48-hours-of-labour-and-then-she-had-a-C-section!).

Never before have people felt so free to comment on your weight. Total strangers ask to feel your belly. And at parties you find yourself seated in a rocking chair with a glass of milk.

After the baby is born, you no longer matter. It's the baby people want to see — you are merely the chauffeur and valet. (Get used to this too — the chauffeuring only gets worse!)

But despite all that, motherhood is wonderful. It changes absolutely everything — how you look, what you think about, how much money you have and what you spend your money on.

It changes your priorities, what you do in a day, the way you perceive yourself, the way others perceive you.

Your tastes change too. Best movie is now *The Lion King*; most popular character — Barney; best TV show — Sesame Street. And suddenly you know all the words to *Skinamarink*.

You also gain some magical qualities. Like the ability to know what is going on in another room simply by listening. Like being able to stop your child in his tracks with only a look or *that* tone of voice.

For me, Mother's Day is the best day of the year. It's certainly more important than my birthday (I'm trying to ignore those).

And though I love the home-made cards and gifts (I have them all in a "treasure box" in the basement), and I'd never say "no" to jewelry, all I really want for Mother's Day is an extra hour's sleep and for someone else to clean the bathroom. There's nothing sexier than a man with a toilet brush in his hand.

To all you moms out there, near and dear or dearly departed — happy Mother's Day.

The Acton Rotary Club's annual Gala Dinner Auction is slated for this Friday evening at the Legion. As we said in last week's paper, the club is offering some great deals on some great merchandise — and all for a great cause.

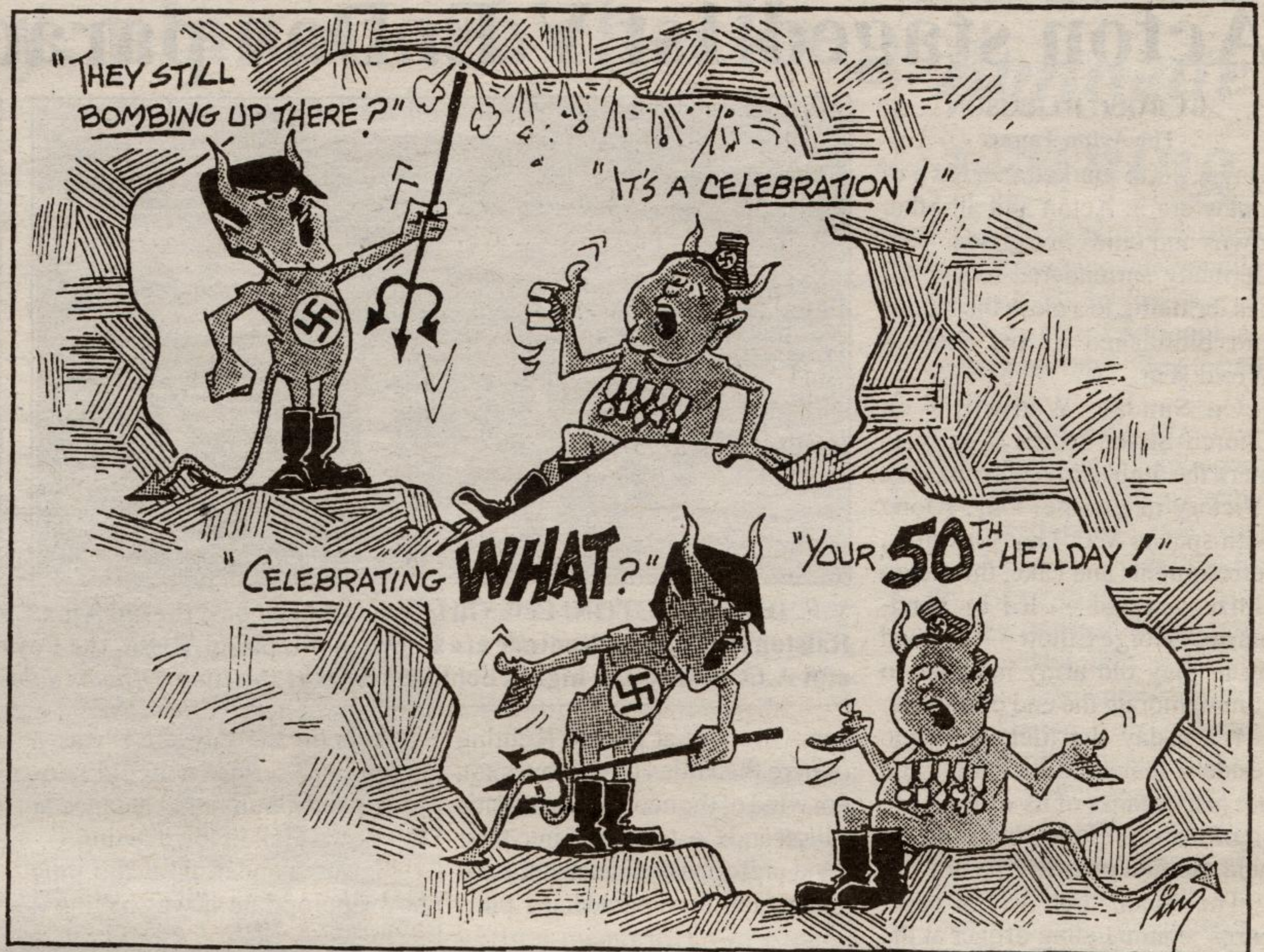
There are still some tickets available and you can show up as a single, a couple, or even reserve a table and invite all your friends and family.

"We always have some really good deals," explained Rotarian Rob Charette last week. "There will be everything from sports memorabilia to furniture; there's a good range of items that have been donated by local businesses."

Items include golf passes, Blue Jay tickets, Marineland passes and a hockey stick autographed by Don Cherry.

Viewing begins at 6 pm, followed by dinner at 7. The auction itself begins at 8:30.

All Acton residents are invited to the event. Tickets (\$25 per person) are available by calling Charette at 853-1190 or Jake Kuiken (853-5062 or 853-4299).



LETTERS

Time to reflect

To the Editor,

Last week, acts of remembrance were begun throughout most of the world and most particularly in Europe honouring the 50th anniversary of V.E. Day.

It is time for all of us who had the luxury, because of age, of not having to fight in the Second World War to reflect on what those heroes did for Canada. Many of them came from the riding of Halton-Peel. Too many of them did not

return.

The remembrance of those times underscores the appreciation we all have for being able to live in the greatest country on the planet. Sure we have our problems but just to be able to work them out and deal with them as they arise in a free country should be a recognized privilege.

We too often lose sight of these things in the pressure of daily life or in the cut and thrust of political debate.

So thank you to all the heroes. You made us an independent nation in fact and you had a lot to do with laying the groundwork for our current role as peacekeepers.

Julian Reed, MP
Halton-Peel

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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

May 11, Thursday — 7 to 9 pm: You are invited to join the Acton Arthritis Support Group at our next meeting at the ASSIC office on Willow Street. Our speaker will be Dr. Thompson, Chiropractor. Call Pauline for more information, 853-4940.

May 12, Friday — 6 pm: The Acton Rotary Club will hold their annual Gala Dinner and Auction at the Legion. Once again you'll get dinner, door prizes and great deals. Contact Jake Kuiken (853-5062) or Rob Charette (853-4577) for more information and tickets (just \$25 each).

May 13, Saturday — 9 am to noon: M.Z. Bennett Public School is holding their annual garage sale and silent auction. Proceeds to go towards technology for the school. Come and find a bargain! Donations for the garage sale will be gratefully accepted any time before Saturday.

May 13, Saturday — 9 am to noon: Acton Horticultural Society is holding its annual plant sale at the Hide House parking lot. This is a sure sign of spring in town, and you're sure to get great bargains on a variety of perennials. Call Max at 853-0001 after 6 pm for details.

May 15, Monday — 7:30 pm: C.H.A.D.D. Halton will hold its monthly support and info meeting at River Oaks Public School, Oakville. Speaker Anthony Laws will explain "What is Attention Deficit Disorder?" Contact Wanda, 853-3803, or Lesley, 853-2684, for details.

May 20, Saturday — 9 am to 1 pm: After a successful first season, our community trunk sale is back! Load up the car and head for the Hide House parking lot. Cost is \$5 to park-and-sell — negotiate your own prices for the items you're selling.

May 21, Sunday — 11 am: Rev. Gerald Rennie and combined senior choir of former and present members will be at the service of worship at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton. All are welcome.

May 27 and 28, Saturday and Sunday — 9 am to 4 pm: Standard First Aid course, taught by newly trained St. John Ambulance personnel. Come to our Norval location and learn how you can save a life? For info call Yvon at 853-4889 or David at 877-1045.

THE ACTON Tanner

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