

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Call it 'puppy love'

I don't know if its because I miss the pitter-patter of little feet now that the kids are older, or whether I would benefit from some psychiatric counselling (I have been questioning my sanity more frequently of late,) but I gave the O.K. for the family to get a dog.

Sam is a 'Heinz-57' dog: part lab, part fox terrier, part goat, part horse, part pig and part cat (and he's going through his nine lives rather quickly.)

In the first week we had him he chewed through three leashes, one seatbelt, and ate a plate of grated mozzarella cheese that was destined for a casserole.

Since then, he's pushed his head through the screen in the living room window, he's dug some nice divots in the front lawn and he's left a small mine field in the back yard (watch your step!)

Lots of people warned me that owning a dog would mean a lot of extra work. We have friends and neighbours who own dogs, and I questioned them all before taking the plunge. But, like having a baby, no amount of research prepares you for reality.

It is not all work, however. In many ways, having a dog makes my life easier. For example, I don't have to vacuum as often, because the dog eats all the crumbs from the floor. In fact, I was leaning towards 'Hoover' as a name for our dear Sam.

I don't have to wash the floors as often either. When Sam drinks from his water bowl, he drips water all over the place. Then he walks through the puddles, wiping up any sticky spots on the floor as he goes by.

Dusting is easier with a dog; the way he whips his tail back and forth ... well, with a little Pledge, he does a pretty good job on the end tables. He's a little rough on the china figurines though.

Sam has made me faithful to my exercise program, which now includes three walks each day - rain or shine, snow or slush (we'll cross that bridge soon enough!).

I feel safer knowing we're protected from suspicious-looking characters, candidates on the campaign trail, vicious attack birds, stray coffee cups and leaves blowing past the house.

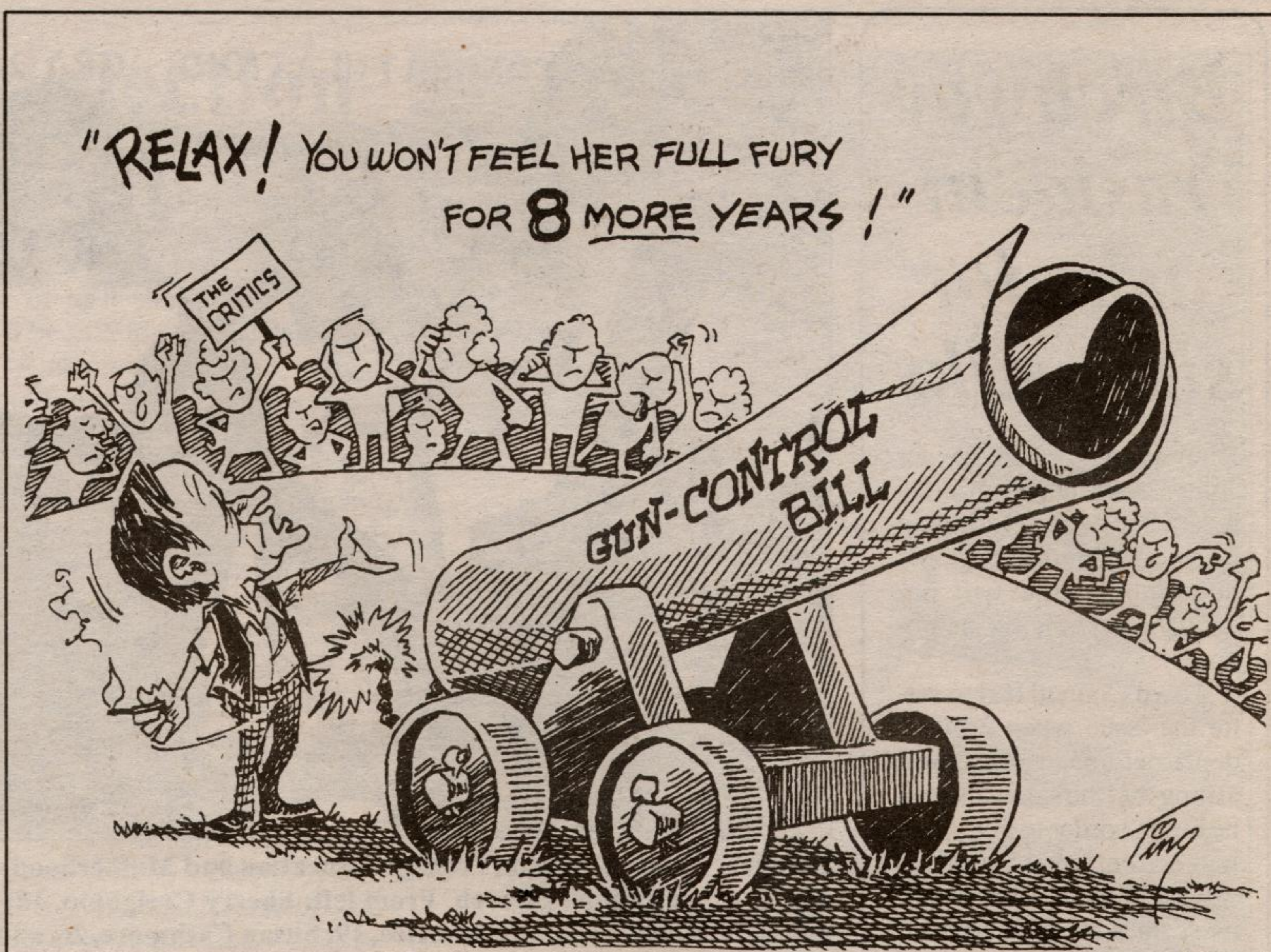
And he provides a great incentive to pick up after ourselves. Those who leave their belongings lying around the house face the very real possibility that their shoes, lunch bags and such may be eaten.

So why do we do it? Why do people want these eating, pooping machines anyway?

I must admit, Sam is pretty cute with his floppy ears and all, and it's funny the way he reacts to new situations, like barking at the oscillating fan. And when he has a bath, we all have a shower, whether we wanted one or not.

It's also gratifying when you work on teaching him a trick and he *finally* gets it.

But I think the real reason is ego - it's been a long time since anyone has jumped up and down or ran around in circles, just because I came home!



LETTERS

'Exciting times'

To the Editor,

The people have spoken. Our new government has a clear mandate. My interpretation of the P.C. victory is that Ontario wants to have less government - fewer taxes and more control over their lives and businesses.

I wish Ted Chudleigh and his fellow MPPs great success and offer my active support to him if requested.

I found your poll 10 days in advance of election day to be quite interesting. Over 50 per cent of voters were undecided. As the Liberals began to slip badly, the fear of an NDP minority government loomed large.

The dramatic shift of undecided

voters to the Harris team was a response motivated by fear - understandable fear.

The province is watching to see if we end up with continued debt growth and more excuses, or we really get the chance we must have.

If the government tries to change by forcing strategies "top down," they are doomed to failure.

Change will only come from "bottom up" forces and sadly, such ideas and concepts were missing in the document called *The Common Sense Revolution*. We will wait and see.

I would also like to say that *The Tanner's* coverage of the election was balanced and fair. Great journalism!

And by the way, the FCP will make some dramatic announcements in late summer/early fall. They will revolutionize debt reduction strategies.

Exciting times are ahead! Stay tuned.

Alex McKee
Family Coalition Party

Not very wise!

To the Editor,

The federal Liberals curtailed debate on gun control, hate crimes and MP pension reforms in order to get legislation on these controversial issues through the House of Commons before the June 23 recess.

All of these bills appear to be highly unpopular. Now, if "a word to the wise is enough" ... surely our country's leaders are not very wise!

Abraham Lincoln said "You can fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all of the people all the time."

That was before today's sophisticated methods of media report-

ing. Nowadays it is difficult to fool any of the people, ever!

Voters today are well-informed and demand a say in how their country is governed. Old-style battering ram tactics, which require members to support party policy against the will of their constituents, are no longer acceptable.

For several years now, Canadians have been expressing anger and disgust with politicians and bureaucrats who pig-out on public funds; with legislation that supports reverse discrimination; with bleeding heart socialism in its entirety.

How many Mulroneys and Raes will it take before the blockheads get the message?

Eileen Hutcheson
Knox Street

LETTERS

We'll miss you!

To the Editor,

We would like to let Acton residents know how our recent auction went.

The sale of our equipment and supplies brought in approximately \$3,000. This money will be divided among the charitable organizations of the Hospital for Sick Children, Halton Women's Place,

McKenzie-Smith's D.A.R.E. program and Acton's Scouts Canada building fund.

We thank all members who gave their time to organize and run the auction. We would also like to thank those who attended because, it was you who made our auction such a great success. A lot of the equipment was purchased by other schools, so it will continue to help develop young minds.

Thank you to *The Acton Tanner* for all your concern and support throughout the years. We truly appreciate all the community consideration you gave us.

Julia Roehrig, president
Acton Co-op Nursery School

Get It Off Your Chest!

Write a Letter to the Editor. Drop it off at 12 Church, mail it to P.O. Box 150 - or fax your letter to 853-5040 by our Monday noon deadline.

THE ACTON Tanner

Publisher & Editor
Paul Nolan

Office Manager
Georgina Petty

Reporter-Photographer
Doug Harrison

Copy Editor
Joanne Stevenson

Production Assistant
Deb Quaille

Advertising Sales
Lori Frechette
Josie Gidman
Elaine Petkoff

Distribution Manager
Irene Birrell

Regular Contributors
Hartley Coles
Pat Giguere
Eve Martin
Frances Niblock
Mike O'Leary

THE ACTON TANNER is published weekly on Wednesdays by Wicklow Hills Publishing Co. Inc. at 12 Church St., E., Acton, Ontario, L7J 1K4. Mailing address: P.O. Box 150, Acton, Ont., L7J 2M3. Telephone: 519-853-5100. Fax: 853-5040. Reproduction without permission is prohibited. Ideas expressed herein are those of the author only.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Rates are: \$28.80 for one year (52 issues for price of 48) and \$4.80 for two months (eight issues).

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

PHONE:
519-853-5100

FAX:
519-853-5040