

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Suddenly, summer!

February lasted forever, and now, suddenly, it's June.

If you have school-aged children, the end of June is bitter-sweet. We love 'em, but all day, every day, for two whole months?

I don't think there's anyone who doesn't enjoy a summer's day — OK, last week's heat was a little uncomfortable (I cooked a steak on the barbecue without even turning it on!).

But we all have memories of lazy, hazy days by the lake, by the pool, looking at cloud-pictures or flying a kite. Our children are full of anticipation, looking forward to those very same things — and maybe a movie or two, and a sleep-over, and how about a day at Wonderland? At this point, the thought of a whole summer stretched before us is very appealing.

But it doesn't take long for reality to set in. There's grass to cut, weeds to pull, fences that need repair, and company coming. Grocery shopping with school-aged kids is more difficult than shopping with pre-schoolers. And how long do you think it will be before someone whines "There's nothing to do!" I give it two weeks.

There's plenty going on in town this summer, though. Swimming lessons begin next week for those who have registered, library programs will be up and running too. Parks and Rec. has some wonderful day camps for kids, some even include outings to those much longed-for attractions.

This weekend marks the first Sample Fest for Acton — a historical walking tour through town including visits to our best eateries. Talk about eat and run!

Bargain hunters will enjoy the Trunk Sale at the Hide House parking lot every Saturday morning. And our Leathertown Festival will provide lots of family fun on Aug. 13.

And if that's not enough, there's the wading pool at Prospect Park, hiking on the trails in Rockwood and Limehouse, and some boating activities on Fairy Lake.

It won't be long before we're wondering where the summer went!

Fireworks! It's that time of year again, and there aren't many more exciting nights in this town than the annual fireworks display.

Acton's volunteer firefighters will be lighting up the sky on Sunday evening at Prospect Park. The Canada Day exhibition gets underway at dusk.

I'd like to thank all of our *Tanner* school reporters for their interesting write-ups over the past year.

The young scribes did a great job keeping us up-to-snuff on all the neat things they and their teachers do, and on all the active learning that goes on at school.

We'll miss the reports over the summer. Take a well-deserved break, and we'll look forward to hearing from you in the fall.

And finally, some words of wisdom to those who are graduating. Sometimes the most inspired learning happens when we're young. Here are a few lines from one of my favourite authors, Dr. Seuss:

Congratulations! Today is your day.

You're off to great places! You're off and away!

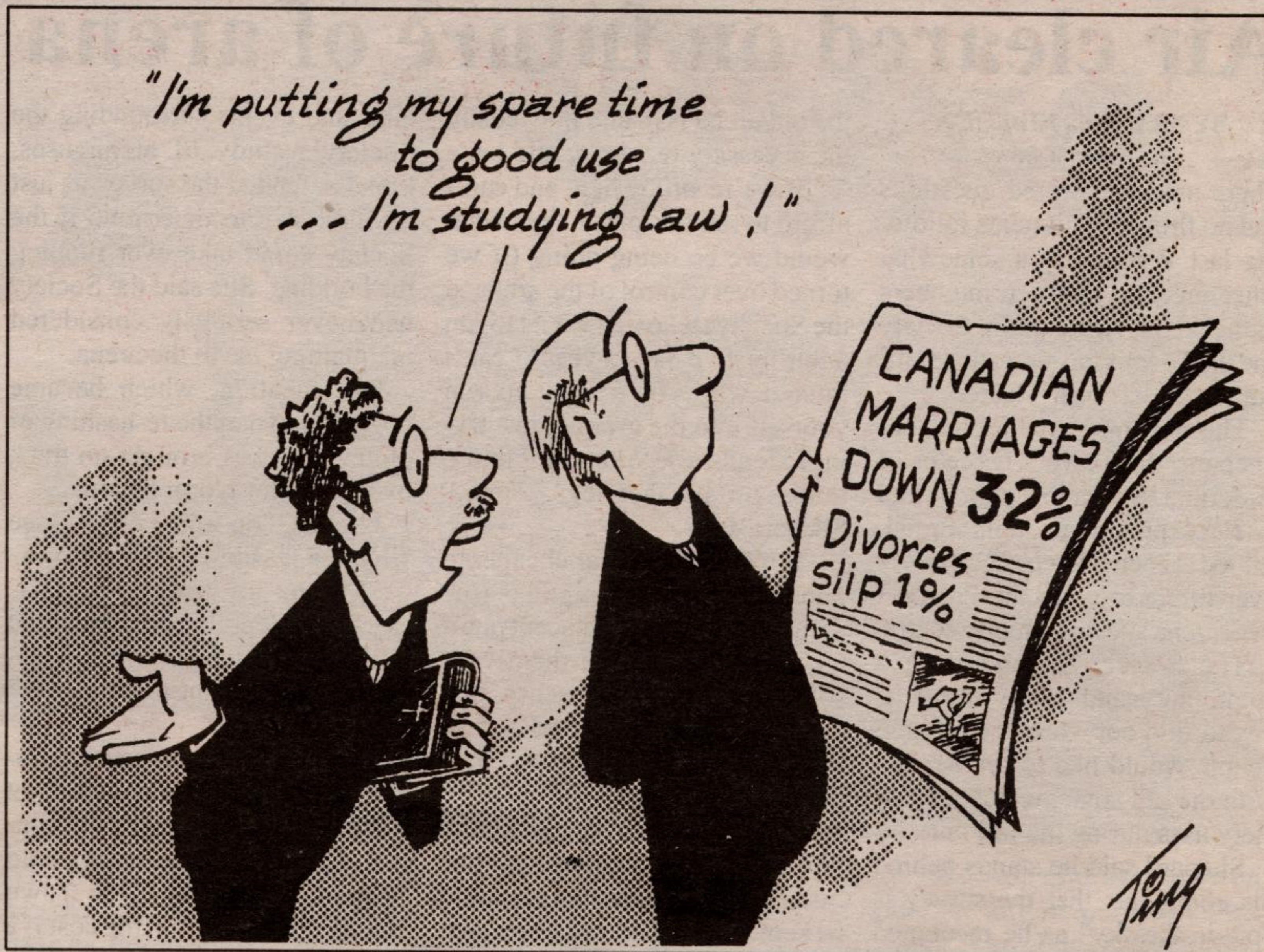
You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.

You can steer yourself any direction you choose.

... So be sure when you step, step with care and great tact

And remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act!

HAPPY CANADA DAY!
Our office will be closed on holiday Monday.



LETTERS

The gift of life!

To the Editor,

On behalf of the local branch of the Canadian Red Cross, we would like to say "thank you" to all of the people who took part in the recent Acton Blood Donor Clinic.

Once again, the people of Acton showed their concern and willingness to help others. A total of 125 units of blood were collected at last Thursday's clinic.

Blood supplies can fall seriously short in the summer months when

everyone seems to be away on vacation. For those people who can't make the clinic, we encourage you to make your donation at any other clinic, as the need for blood never decreases.

Of course the clinic could not be such a success without the many volunteers who help run it, and the continued support of the Acton Legion.

Thank you to the great donors and volunteers from Acton and surrounding area. Through your efforts, you have made it possible to give others the gift of life!

We look forward to seeing you again, at the next clinic on Sept. 28. We appreciate your continued support.

*Julia Roehrig, assistant chair
Blood Donor Committee*

Cable exec responds

To the Editor,

The letter from Mr. Quaile of Rockwood in last week's paper was so full of misleading comment that I find it useful to reply, since Mr. Quaile's colourful recollection of our conversation is quite different from mine.

I spoke to Mr. Quaile personally about the hockey game that was unavailable on regular channels on election night. I told him that we found at the last moment that cable companies were allowed to pick up the game from an unusual satellite source, and that we did not have spare equipment to receive it in Rockwood. We did have a spare unit in the main system, but there presently is no physical connection between Acton and Rockwood.

Nor could we have bought the necessary processor in time, since it takes weeks for delivery; nor were we going to spend thousands of dollars for a one-shot arrangement. Sorry, but that's life. There was no plan to exclude Rockwood from the game. It just happened through circumstance because we had an election that day. Otherwise CBC would have carried the game itself.

Nor did I suggest that Mr. Quaile visit a friend in Acton in order to see the game. I don't know where he developed that idea. It never entered my mind.

I also checked our files and found that never has Mr. Quaile

ever complained to us about poor reception. There have been no calls from Mr. Quaile. We log every call into the computer as soon as it comes in, and the notes stay there forever. Mr. Quaile admitted that he had never given us his name or address when he called. I suppose he just complained and hung up.

I also told him that we have people in Rockwood who monitor the system for us, and they had not reported any of the problems of which he complained, except one that very morning, regarding a sound problem on one channel, which was fixed that same morning. Yes, it is possible for stations to lose their satellite feed at times, but I doubt if they lose them weekly as Mr. Quaile suggests.

However, I did tell Mr. Quaile that we are constructing a link from our main system to Rockwood this summer, and that this fall, customers will have the same channel line-up as those in Acton. I wonder why Mr. Quaile didn't mention that.

We are quite open to criticism, but at least there should only be facts on the table, and without elaboration. Mr. Quaile says he wants a dish. Maybe some people just deserve a dish.

*John Ollivier, Marketing Mgr.
Halton Cable Systems*

SPEAK UP!
Why not write a Letter to the Editor?

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