

## ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



### It's a cottage life

For the past few years, we've rented a cottage for two weeks in the summer. This year we rented for the whole season, to see if we could handle owning one.

It was a good idea to rent, because we could have made an expensive mistake.

There is a lot that is wrong with cottage life:

- Between thunderstorms and car accidents, what should be a 2½ hour drive always turns into 3½ hours.
- Why do I always end up driving behind someone who rides their brakes? Or who leaves their left turn signal blinking for 50 miles?
- I don't mind roughing it once in a while. I can live without a curling iron and make-up mirror, but I just can't say enough good things about indoor plumbing.

• The 37 stairs from the car down to the cottage provide wonderful privacy and seclusion. But the eight trips up those 37 stairs – once with the cooler, once with five duffel bags, three trips with smelly bags of garbage and two with bags of dirty laundry – make me wish the cottage was right on the road.

• Going to the cottage on weekends means the bulk of the week is spent clearing away from, and then preparing for, another three days away.

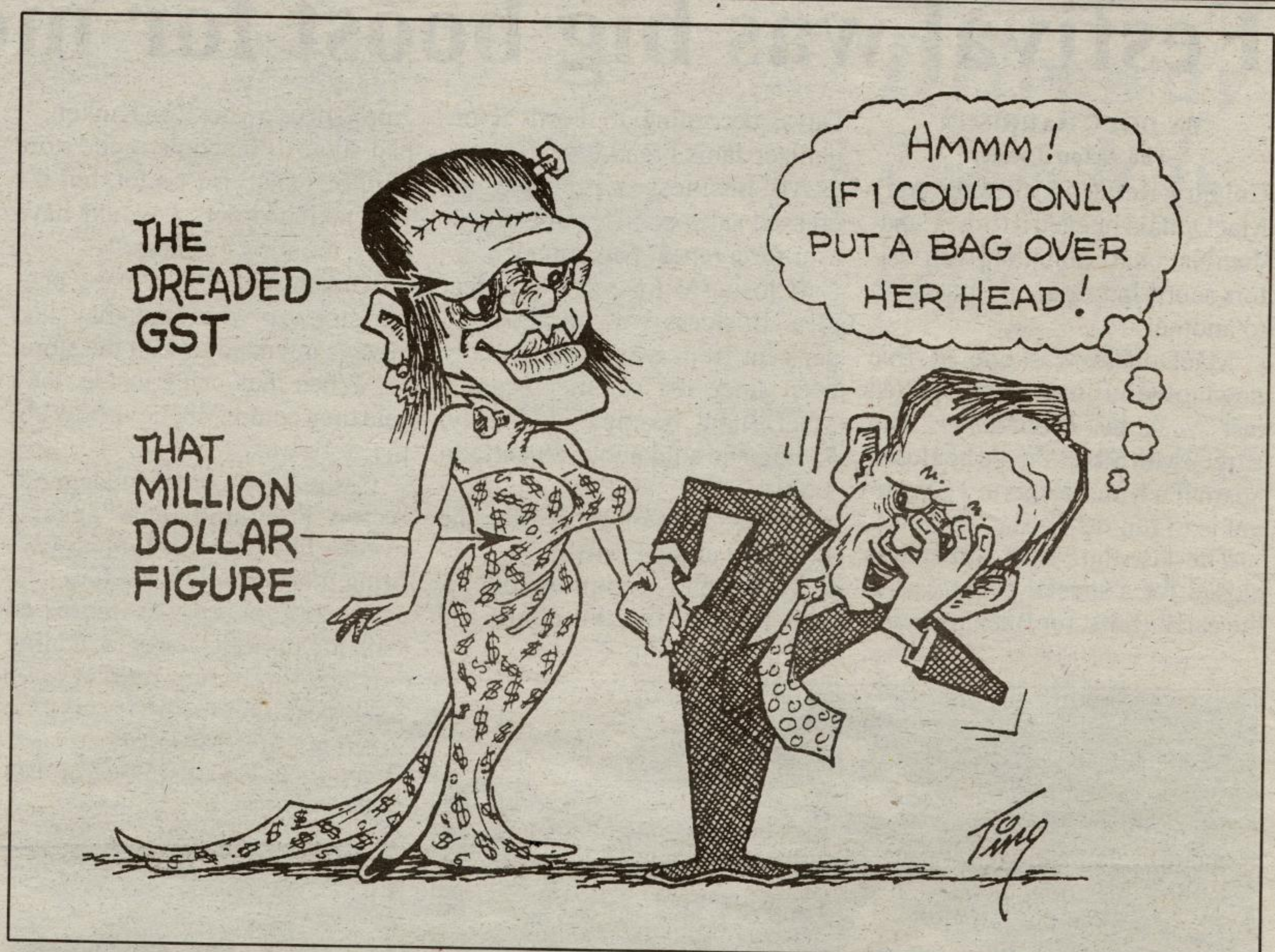
• It may be a naturalist's delight, but there are critters in them thar' bushes!

But there also is much that's right with cottaging. Our time up north is relaxing, rejuvenating, and rewarding. Things that normally bother us just don't seem to matter when we're away. The kids don't squabble, it's never too hot, dinner is an event and not something we have to finish in order to get to the game on time.

The kids have become masters at water-skiing. You can see fish jump right out of the water. The night sky is brilliant with stars at the cottage.

So while we wrestle with the dilemma "to own or not to own," we all face the same problem when holidays are over: How do you hang on to the vacation frame of mind?

And no matter how long you've been away, it only takes two days back at home to turn us into those cranky, high-strung individuals, who badly need another vacation!



## LETTERS

### Kudos to Mike

To the Editor,

Kudos to Mike O'Leary for his *The Way I See It* column in last week's *Acton Tanner*.

Like Mike, many of us average (and likely generous) taxpayers must ask ourselves after many newscasts "who are these self-appointed experts on victimization, and when do they make their contribution to society through employment if they are always in our face or at Queen's Park demanding a coup d'état of the currently elected government?"

Many of us are probably too busy or fed up to say the things Mike said, but they need to be said. Thankfully, we got rid of the abominable Rae socialists and now we need to remind our govern-

ments, at all levels, to stop hand-outs (our tax dollar-paid) to groups, who, by their membership criteria and mission statements, serve only a narrow sector of society.

I am glad Mike talked about compassion and our volunteers too. Most of us appreciate the difference between special interest "grievance mongers" and the truly special groups that serve us all.

In this I would include the likes of ASSIC, the Cancer Society, Salvation Army, etc. These groups deserve our support and I know from experience that Acton folks are generous to them.

On the other hand, Mike's column should challenge us to use our typewriters and our voices to send these not-so-special interest groups packing, through our support of leaders who listen to taxpayers and who want budgets balanced in order to preserve the social programs that any or all of us might need at some point in time (like Medicare).

David Steckley  
Mill Street

### Chamber update

*(Editor's Note: The following letter recently was sent to local Chamber of Commerce members and is reprinted here for the benefit of our readers.)*

Dear Members and Businesses in our community:

I would like to take this opportunity to bring all members and the business community up to date on happenings at the Chamber.

For those of you unable to attend the annual meeting June 21, a new board was elected, and I became your president.

As most of you are aware, Terry Jackson has resigned as executive director. We are pleased to announce the hiring of Anne Sidebottom, as of Aug. 14. An official announcement should be made soon, and I know you all will take the opportunity to contact Anne and offer your support. As well, we have capable staff in Adrienne Duff, who has been working at the Chamber for over a year.

The new Board is already in the planning stages for the coming year, however, they cannot act alone. We need your support now. This organization is volunteer-

based and without your participation, we can not succeed to our maximum potential.

The Golf Tournament will be rescheduled (three storms at Blue Springs on Aug. 14 forced us to postpone). Please call the office to inquire about openings.

Some of the events the Board is looking at include: selling draw tickets for a weekend in Toronto; an annual home show to alternate between Acton and Georgetown; a fall Social, perhaps another Celebrate Ontario night with Mike Harris in attendance; Breakfast with the Mayor in December.

At present we have 400 members representing approximately 12,000 employees, but we can always use more.

The Chamber has many benefits to membership including group insurance packages, social memberships at North Halton Golf and Country Club, newsletter exposure, plus many more.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss how we can help you better, but most of all, how you can help the Chamber.

Dave Manes, President  
Halton Hills Chamber of  
Commerce (853-1960)

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## LETTERS

### Puppeteers' thanks

To the Editor,

The Acton Baptist Hands Up Puppeteers would like to thank all those people who made our first-ever tour a great success.

We would like to extend a special thank you to:

• Mr. Ron "The Tool Man" Birrell, who created and built our most awesome stage. (We will never doubt you again Ron!)

• Mrs. Kathy Moddle, for the hours she spent creating our incredible puppets and curtains.

(You're the best!)

• Mr. Menary of Canart Aluminum Extrusion Inc., for donating a ton of materials.

• Mrs. C. Perry, for our creative set design.

• Mr. R. Lambert, for our excellent sound system.

• The Spencers and the Douglasses, for the use of their vehicles.

• Mrs. Bunt and Mr. Allen, for driving us miles and miles.

• Mrs. Janet Cullen, for feeding us and nurturing us. (We love you!)

• Willy Van Arragon and Ellwood Harris, for support and help.

And finally thank you to all our parents for their support and help in making this past week a time we will never forget.

Let's do it again soon!

Tom Cullen  
Hands Up Puppeteers

### A class act!

To the Editor,

I would like to thank Hands Up Puppeteers Shannon Birrell, Brooke and Shannan Inglis, Derek Lambert, Matthew Bunt, Ryan Bell, Stephen Flynn, Matthew "Dave" Henderson, Christy Allen, Millie Perry, Rachel Andrews, John Cullen, and Nick Fread, for

making our first tour a roaring success.

With your talent and enthusiasm you're bound to go a long way in this world. May Christ's love enfold you, may His peace go with you, may His grace be in you! Thanks for a job well done!

Tom Cullen  
Acton Baptist Church