

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Can't-miss courses!

If you've been thinking of signing up for an instructional class this fall, for yourself or for your children, look no further than your Rec and Parks brochure.

Information on everything from Aikido to 'Y' programs can be found in the booklet. Dance, music, sports, fitness classes, computer training, swimming lessons and crafts are just a few of the highlights.

One glance through the brochure and you can't help but realize what a diverse and interesting group of people we have living here in Acton.

Everything you could imagine is included in the book. Well, not quite everything ... I have some suggestions.

I would dearly love to see a 10-week workshop for kids entitled *Simple Words; Difficult Concepts*. Such a course would explain, in detail, what exactly the word "in" means. As in, "Put your dirty clothes *in* the laundry basket, and not *in front of* it." Or, "Put your dishes *in* the dishwasher, and not *in the general vicinity of* the dishwasher."

Or how about a class that concentrates on the concept of "away." Like, "Put your clean clothes *away* and not *under the bed*." And after all jackets, backpacks and lunch bags are *away*, perhaps the instructor could take a look at the idea of "closing closet doors."

Another useful tutorial would be one that studies the difference between "on" and "off." If you're finished watching TV, turn *off* the set; when you leave a room, turn *off* the lights; when you're done in the bathroom, turn *off* the taps.

"Empty" and "full" can create confusion when combined with "in" and "out." For example, the *full* milk jug goes *in* the fridge; the *empty* carton stays *out*. More advanced students could study the notion that the *empty* milk bag can go in the garbage, to be replaced by a *full* bag, which, of course, goes back *in* the fridge.

Then there are those difficult words "before" and "after." This takes a lot of self-discipline to fully understand - as in "You may watch TV *after* you get your homework done," and "*before* dessert you must finish your vegetables."

The natural progression, after completing *Small Words; Difficult Concepts*, would be the more advanced *Tough Jobs Made Easy*. This seminar would cover such complicated tasks as *Putting the Cap on the Toothpaste*, *Helping to Bring in the Groceries*, *Taking the Dog for a Walk* - and I, myself, would be willing to teach the lesson on *How to Replace the Toilet Paper Roll*.

Watch for registration info. If they ever materialize, I have a feeling these classes would fill up in a hurry!

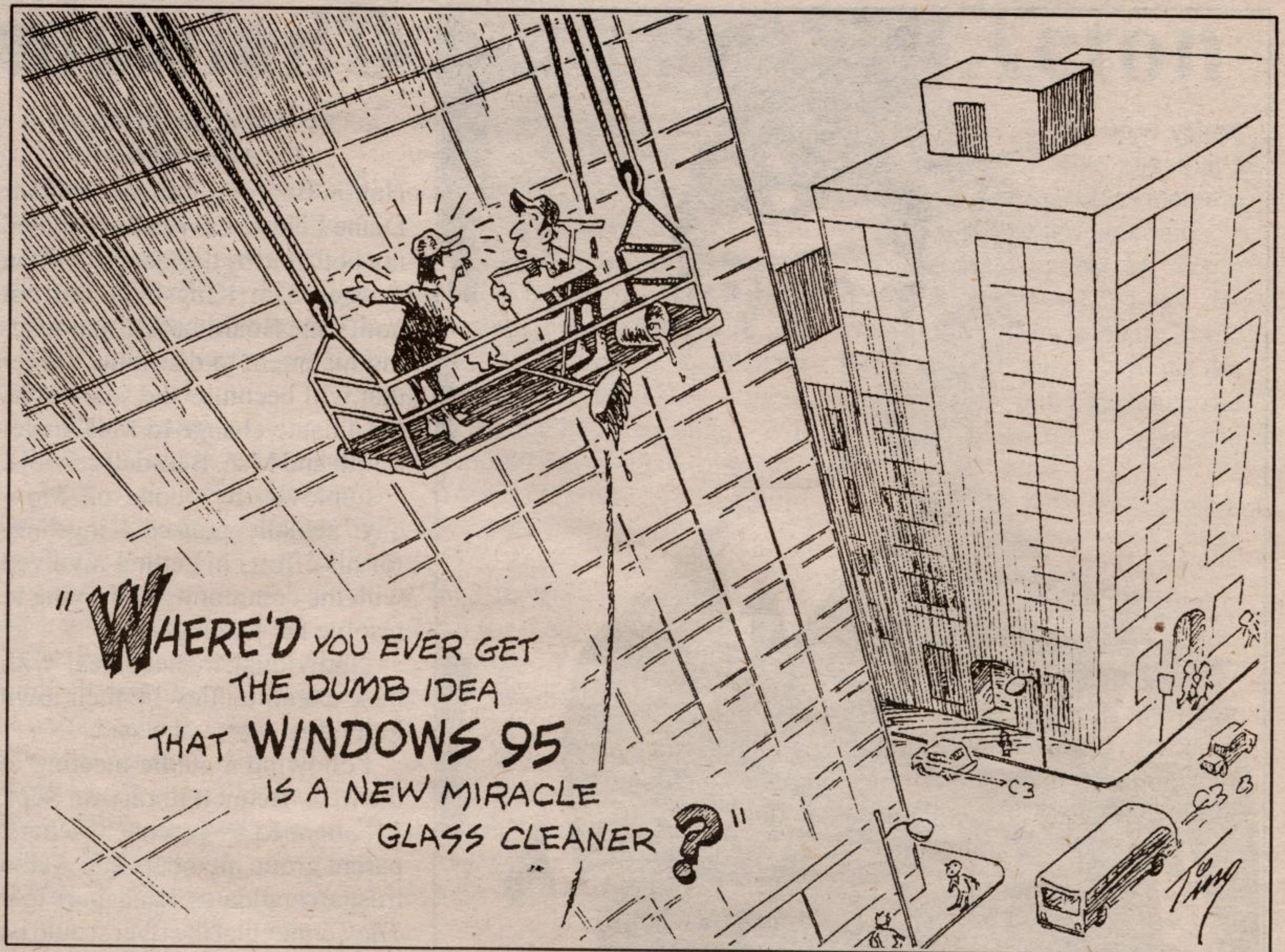
We didn't win the event, but the *Tanner* team of rowers came up with a big effort in the first annual Crazy Canoe Relay Race at the fair on Saturday.

J.T. Young, a local team of electrical contractors, finished first in the competition, which was held at Fairy Lake and was sponsored by Canoe Country Nature Shop in Norval. Peter Zions Construction and Acton High School finished second and third.

We may have finished at the back of the pack, but just as soon as I can move my arms again, I'm going to start training for next year's race. Congratulations to my teammates - Irene Birrell, Dawn Goddard, Doug Harrison, Frances Niblock and Elaine Petkoff.

What a great fall fair! The organizers again deserve a lot of credit and a lot of gratitude. From Friday's Ambassador Pageant to Saturday's parade to Sunday's cattle show, from the homecraft exhibits to the midway to the ever-popular *Spot in the Park* beer tent, the 82nd edition of our town's fair must have been the best yet.

I do have one suggestion, though. Shouldn't we give this annual event a new name ... say, The Acton Fall *Excellent*? After all, there's nothing just "fair" about our fair!



LETTERS

Parents responsible

To the Editor,

I am writing in response to last week's article in *The Tanner* about bussing 3-year-olds.

Children have been walking to and from school for many years. I will agree that a 3 or 4-year-old is not able to walk alone, but then neither are 5-year-olds.

Parents have managed this task for years. It is a parent's responsibility, not the taxpayer's. If you are not eligible for the busing service, then be prepared to pay.

Let's all go back three years, when it was decided that it was costing too much money to keep a crossing guard at two of the busiest crosswalks in town over the noon hour.

This decision left our Kindergarten children unattended while crossing Hwy. 7. Parents had to deal with this on their own. Isn't it time we took some responsibility for our children?

With regard to Junior Kindergarten and the overcrowding in the classroom, being a certified E.C.E. teacher, I will agree that a teacher-student ratio of 1:25 is too much to manage. However, if parents had investigated thoroughly before enrolling their child in J.K., they would have seen that.

Nursery schools are governed by the Ministry of Social Services and have very strict regulations, one of them being a ratio of 1:8. J.K. follows the guidelines set out by the Board of Education, allowing for a ratio of 1:25. Both programs deal with children of the same age, but there is a difference!

A visit to any nursery school will show you that a smaller ratio is more beneficial. There is one important difference that we should not forget - nursery schools require that you pay for your child's pre-school experience; with J.K. we all foot the bill.

J.K. is an optional program. If parents want a smaller teacher-student ratio in the classroom, they should have enrolled their children in the Acton Co-op Nursery School before it was forced to close its doors.

Nicole Barends
Longfield Road

'Not doing his job'

(Editor's Note: The following recent letter to Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed was submitted to *The Tanner* for publication.)

Dear Mr. Reed,
I quote from the August issue of *Hunting and Shooting* magazine: "Every Canadian who values his democratic freedom *must* get a copy of Bill C68 and read it."

The writer of this article did not take into account MPs such as yourself - who mislead the public concerning Bill C68, saying how good it was, and that all one had to

do was ask to receive a copy.

I asked. I have been ignored. The MP who is supposed to work for me, doesn't. So why are we paying this man? Even worse - one day, he may qualify for *two* pensions.

No wonder he thinks the economy is doing so well.

Oh - since I know how bad Bill C68 really is, please do not bother to send me a copy. The shock of some kind of action by you would probably be just too much!

John Shadbolt
Tidey Avenue

A 'great success'

To the Editor,

The seniors of Acton wish to express their thanks to the local businesses that sponsored and supported the Acton Seniors' Centre ball hockey fundraiser located in the batting cage at the Acton Fall Fair: Acton IGA, the Big Scoop Cafe, Bruce Hood Acton Travel

and the Red Dog Cafe.

The event was a great success and the co-operation of the local businesses is much appreciated.

Gerald Rennie
Seniors' Recreation Centre

SPEAK UP!

Write a Letter to the Editor

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