NICE FORM, MATE!

We caught Neil Miller carpet bowling recently at the Acton Seniors' Centre. There was a delay with the carpet, as it was being shipped from Australia. All seniors are invited to bowl every Monday and Wednesday afternoon at 1. (Doug Harrison photo)

Heartworm not caused by fleas

BY KAREN WETMORE The Acton Tanner

Acton veterinarian Stephen Hess wants to clear the air, or fur, concerning heartworm disease in dogs.

Robert Little public school's column in last week's Tanner reported on the school's visit to the Acton Veterinary Clinic. It incorrectly stated that dogs can get heartworm from fleas and this could cause death.

"Heartworm is actually caused through mosquitoes," said veterinarian assistant Sherri Burton.

The disease can be successfully treated with a monthly pill given to dogs from May to October, when mosquitoes are out. Left untreated, heartworm can kill dogs.

Fleas will not kill dogs, Hess said. The worst harm they can cause in dogs is tapeworm, a nonlife-threatening disease.



GOOD DOG! Benny, the large and affectionate black Lab cross, gets some words of encouragement by owner Sherri Hurton, veterinarian assistant at the Acton Veterinary Clinic.

Family still recovering after fire

BY DOUG HARRISON The Acton Tanner

It's 5:45 am on Feb. 14, 1995. Ryan Hurren hears a crackling sound coming from his family's rural Acton home. He assumes it's his father, Ken, preparing lunches.

Only Ken, who didn't have to get up until 6:30 for his job as a foreman at Halton Hills Hydro, was sound asleep.

Ryan looked out to the home's adjoining garage, smelled smoke and immediately ran to alarm his dad at the far end of the house.

Ryan often talks about the fire

that destroyed his home. He still asks Ken to unplug electrical items in their Third Line residence.

But if not for the 12-year-old's quick actions, Ryan may not be able to look back with his dad and younger brother Luke, 8, on the fire that caused \$200,000 damage.

Only the bungalow's sub floor remained unscathed. The ground floor of the house was engulfed with flames, as was the adjoining garage. Day by day the bad memories are slowly fading away.

"We're back in the house, getting our life back to normal," Ken

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said on Thursday, adding he spent the spring and summer living in a rural Acton farmhouse and "living out of boxes," at a Kingham Road residence.

"You never think something like this is going to happen to you. At the time you think about getting out. Fortunately we got out safely. There are days when I think how lucky we were."

Days after the fire, Ken's coworkers set up an account at a local bank. Before long, \$5,000 had been donated by the union workers and another \$1,000 by the hydro commission. Actonites contributed another \$3,500.

"I thank them all," said the appreciative lifelong Actonite, adding one local resident brought him a box of tools for renovations. "We really appreciate it. People come together in a small town. We wouldn't have received this kind of treatment in a big city."

Christmas is helping neighbours

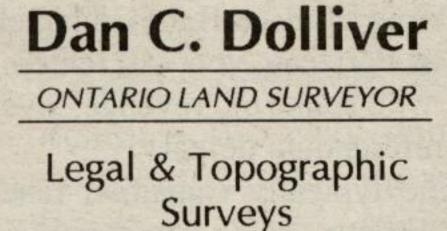
ASSIC ALERT

It is that time again. Christmas is rapidly approaching, which means it is time to think about items that may be needed for the season.

ASSIC is now accepting applications and donations for the Christmas Needs Program. We always look forward and appreciate receiving practical gifts and monetary donations, which assists us in giving out and purchasing much needed items such as blankets and clothing.

If you feel that this Christmas may be a little tougher than usual, and you live in the Acton area, please visit our office at 19 Willow St. to fill out a confidential application form. Inquiries can also be made by phoning 853-3310.

If you have furniture or household items you would like to donate, ASSIC has some families who are looking for items such as beds, couches etc. Call ASSIC for more information.



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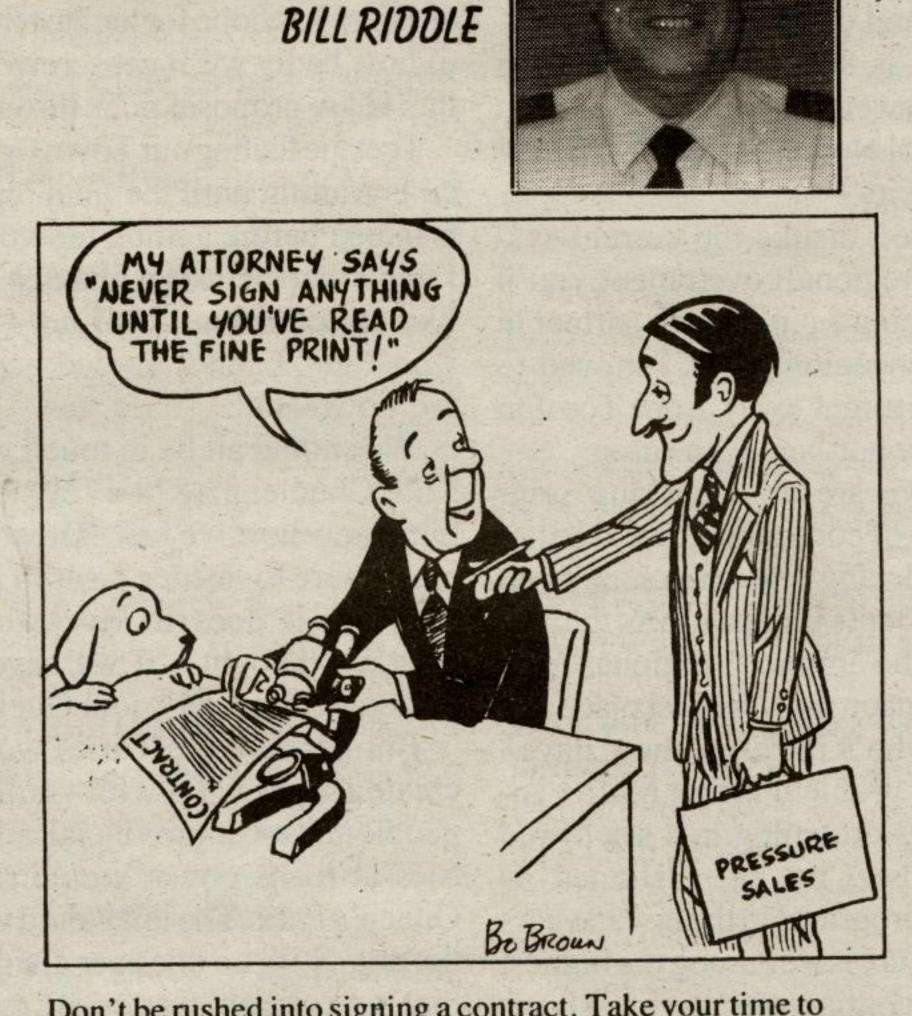
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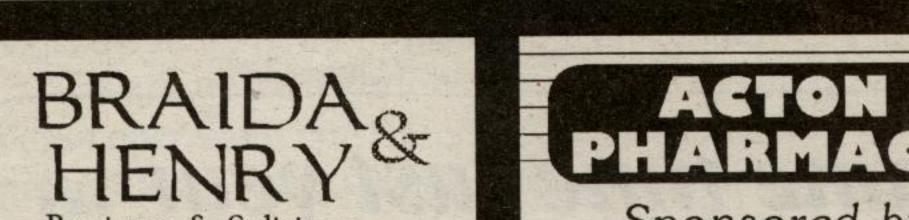


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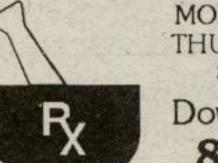
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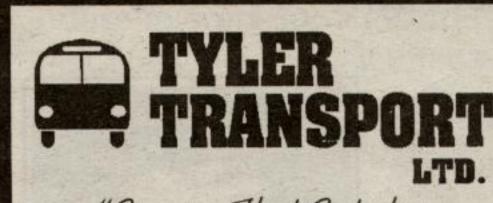
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