

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



T.G.I.W. – again!

Most people agree with T.G.I.F., Thank God it's Friday, but ever since I've had children, I've lived for Wednesdays.

Wednesday is the day my dear, dear friend Shelley and I get together for lunch.

Shelley and I were in the same class in school, and we've been friends since Grade 8. We went through the Teen Years together – boyfriends, parties, school, and parents – parents go through such a funny stage when their kids become teenagers, don't you think?

We were maid-of-honour for each other at our weddings. We had our children around the same time, and our lives seemed to be following similar patterns. We decided to set up the regular Wednesday lunch and work other appointments around it. It was our own little survival network.

While the kids would play, we would talk and laugh – giving each other the strength and spirit to get through another week. Together, over tea, we have solved the problems of the world 100 times.

As the kids began school, our lunches turned into dinners – we'd take turns doing the cooking. But as the kids' after-school activities increased, T.G.I.W. spent a year by the wayside. We couldn't seem to find an evening when both families were free.

We've revived Wednesday lunch, this time without kids. We can't swing it every week, but once or twice a month we get together. We have helped each other through deaths, illness, injury and the common cold.

If, when counting your friends, you come up one like Shelley, you are truly blessed.

Shelley and I have set another precedent that I hope will become a regular ritual, like the lunches. This weekend we went to a spa.

There is no place more perfect than St. Anne's Country Inn and Spa. The grounds are lovely, the stone mansion is gorgeous, the food is exquisite. If Heaven is as good as this, I'll go peacefully.

The only trouble with feeling so relaxed is that reality is such a shock. I'm having trouble keeping on task and I doubt I'll get anywhere on time this week.

If you see me driving dangerously, lost in the fog of relaxation, honk your horn and bring me back. But otherwise, leave me in the haze for as long as it lasts – and T.G.I.W.

★★★

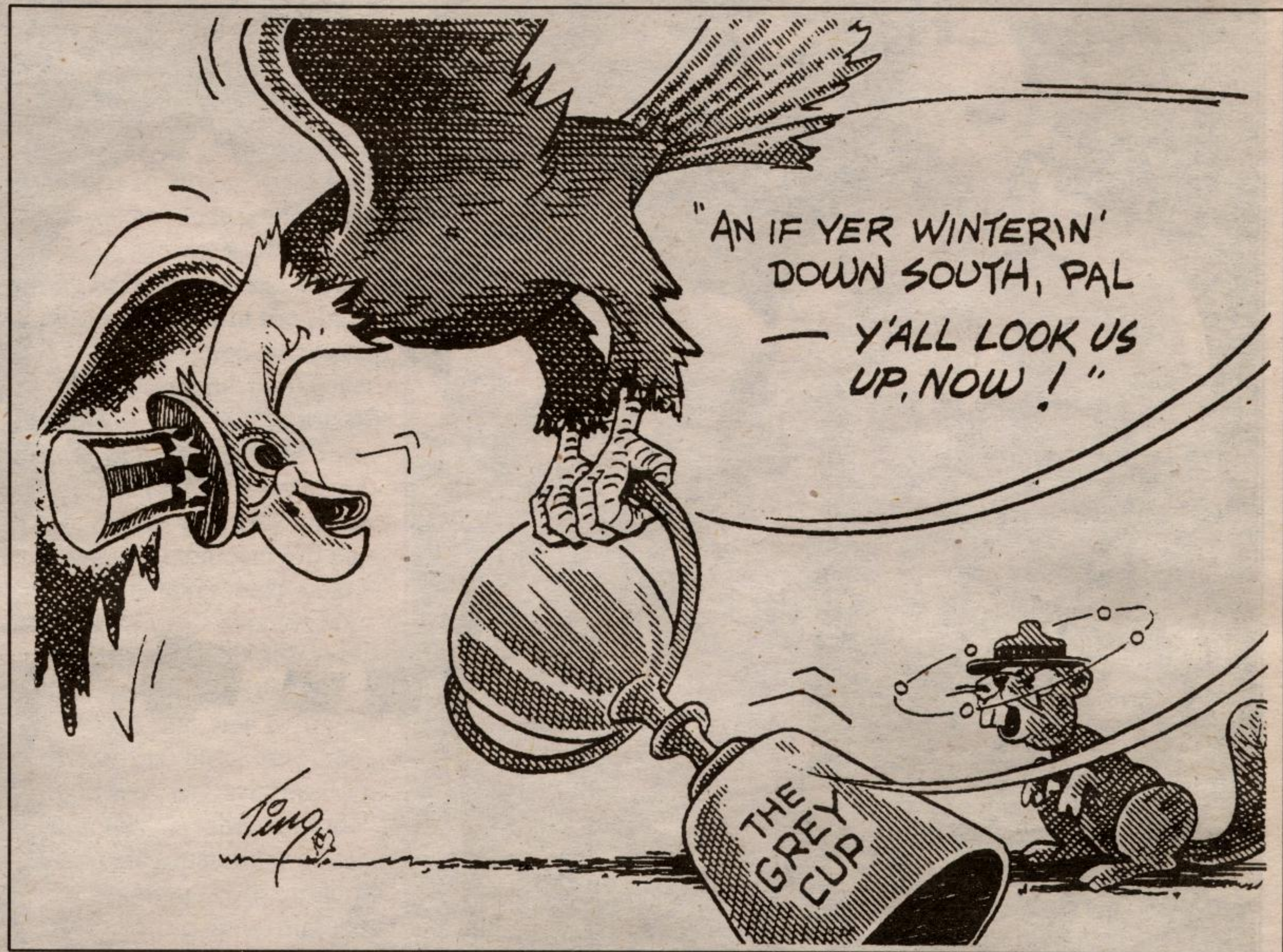
MP Julian Reed has scheduled a series of town hall meetings to be held this weekend in various locations as the Liberal government finishes its second year in office.

"The meetings will give you an opportunity to examine our work, express your concerns and perhaps more importantly, let us hear your advice," Reed says.

But with town hall meetings only scheduled for Georgetown (Gordon Alcott Arena, 2 pm Saturday), Caledon-East and Burlington, how important are Acton voices to Reed?

It may be fine to say that Actonites can drive the short distance to Georgetown to attend the meeting, but there are obviously some people who don't have access to this kind of transportation. Does this mean their thoughts and concerns about the Liberals don't merit?

It's true Reed wouldn't have the time to see and hear from everyone in Halton-Peel. And many people won't care to go to the meetings. But for those who do, shouldn't they be given the chance to speak out?



LETTERS

Scare tactics wrong

To the Editor,

So Sid Ryan and Gord Wilson want to send a message to the Harris government by shutting down the city of London, do they? Well, I have a message for them.

Ryan and his comrades readily admit that this action is not simply a reaction to Harris' recent changes to labour legislation, but to the government's entire agenda. They try to appeal to the masses by resorting to fear-mongering and scare tactics in a pathetic attempt to come across as defenders of social justice and public decency.

We are warned of the dire consequences of government cutbacks and how all of the burden will be borne by only the most disadvantaged and vulnerable segments of the population. How could we allow such a terrible tragedy to happen in a civilized society?

I consider the motives of the union leadership to be far less noble than they would like us to believe, and that their actions are

guided by a desire to maintain, if not enhance, their positions of extraordinary power at the apex of a monolithic, antiquated empire.

I also don't buy the party line that the mythical vast untapped reserves of corporate Ontario should pay more – it may sound sexy at a public rally, but it does not represent a viable option.

With respect to the public sector, our government employs far too many people, in far too many areas, performing far too many activities, under far too many programs, costing current and future taxpayers far too much money.

The hopelessness of our fiscal dilemma cries out for drastic action. The Harris platform is clear and his victory was decisive. Perhaps the leaders of the labour movement are simply not accustomed to a government that actually carries out election promises.

Ryan and Wilson should yield to the rules of the game and accept the will of the people, rather than attempt to undermine the democratic process by inciting immoral and illegal civil disobedience.

Adopting such tactics illustrates what huge obstacles impede the ability to govern responsibly and fulfill the wishes of the electorate.

Dave Dawkins
Mowbray Place

Hospital staff great

To the Editor,

I need to thank some people and let your readers know the public health system is not as bad as some stories would have us believe.

On Nov. 3, I was rushed to Georgetown hospital because I was bleeding internally. I lost six pints of blood and had six transfusions. I spent 12 days in the hospital, some of it in ICU, and the staff at the hospital was excellent.

The nurses in Ward A were professional, warm, kind and car-

ing. They would take time from their busy schedules to sit and talk to me and make sure I was comfortable. Thank you to Kim, Betty, Barb, Jo, Jeanette, John, Dorothy, and all the other nurses.

Dr. Anand is new to the hospital, but I assure you he is a fine surgeon. He even called me at home to make sure I was all right.

These caring individuals went beyond the call of duty, and helped me through a difficult and terrifying time in my life. I am grateful.

Floyd Foster
Acton Auto Tech

Cats need homes

To the Editor,

We are currently overflowing with kittens, cats, cats, and more cats. At last count, we had approximately 60 felines.

We are facing euthanizing cats that are currently being brought in because we do not have room.

The cats are housed in foster homes and are tested for feline leukemia and AIDS. They are fully vaccinated and spayed or neutered. The cost is \$60.

Those interested can call Tish at 519-855-6850.

Arlene Fritz
Humane Society

THE ACTON Tanner

Publisher & Editor

Paul Nolan

Reporter-Photographer

Doug Harrison
Karen Wetmore

Copy Editor

Joanne Stevenson

Office Assistant

Sharon Steckley

Production Assistant

Deb Quaile

Advertising Sales

Janie Smith
Elaine Petkoff

Distribution Manager

Irene Birrell

Regular Contributors

Hartley Coles
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 (50 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.

Publications Mail Registration
No. 10457

PHONE:

519-853-5100

FAX:

519-853-5040