

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Recipe for a Merry Christmas

I hate to admit it, but I'm not much of a cook. While I certainly enjoy eating, I'd rather leave the cooking to someone else.

I do enjoy Christmas, however, and ironic as it may be, I now offer my recipe for a terrific holiday.

- *Pre-heat oven.* If you haven't already got your Christmas well underway, things will be a little dicey – but not impossible. Christmas has a wonderful way of turning out just fine, regardless of the scramble beforehand.

- *Sift dry ingredients together.* Be choosy – sift through your memories and prepare only what is most important to you and your family.

- *Steep in tradition.* Whether your traditional Christmas includes midnight Mass, caroling with friends, chopping down the tree or phone calls overseas, keep the traditions that are important to you and your family.

- *Add some spice.* As important as old traditions are, remember that nothing goes as planned. Welcome the changes, as these spices can give your Christmas a unique flavour.

- *Allow flavours to blend.* With time, these new experiences may become holiday favourites, to add to the old rituals.

- *Add a dash of surprise,* a pinch of excitement. These tend to come naturally.

- *Place on the back burner* old feuds and arguments. They give a bitter taste to your Christmas stew.

- *Be liberal with love and generosity.* After all, this is what makes Christmas so special.

From me and mine, to you and yours, have a very merry Christmas.

Time to butt out

Health Minister Diane Marleau is planning to impose tighter restrictions on cigarette companies sponsoring sporting and arts events. Marleau is also working to reverse a recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling, which gives the tobacco industry the right to advertise.

Cigarette ads will be a cause for young people to smoke, says Marleau. Eliminating such trendy logos as Joe Camel and slogans including, "You've come a long way, baby!" will help to prevent trend-conscious teens from smoking just to go with what's popular.

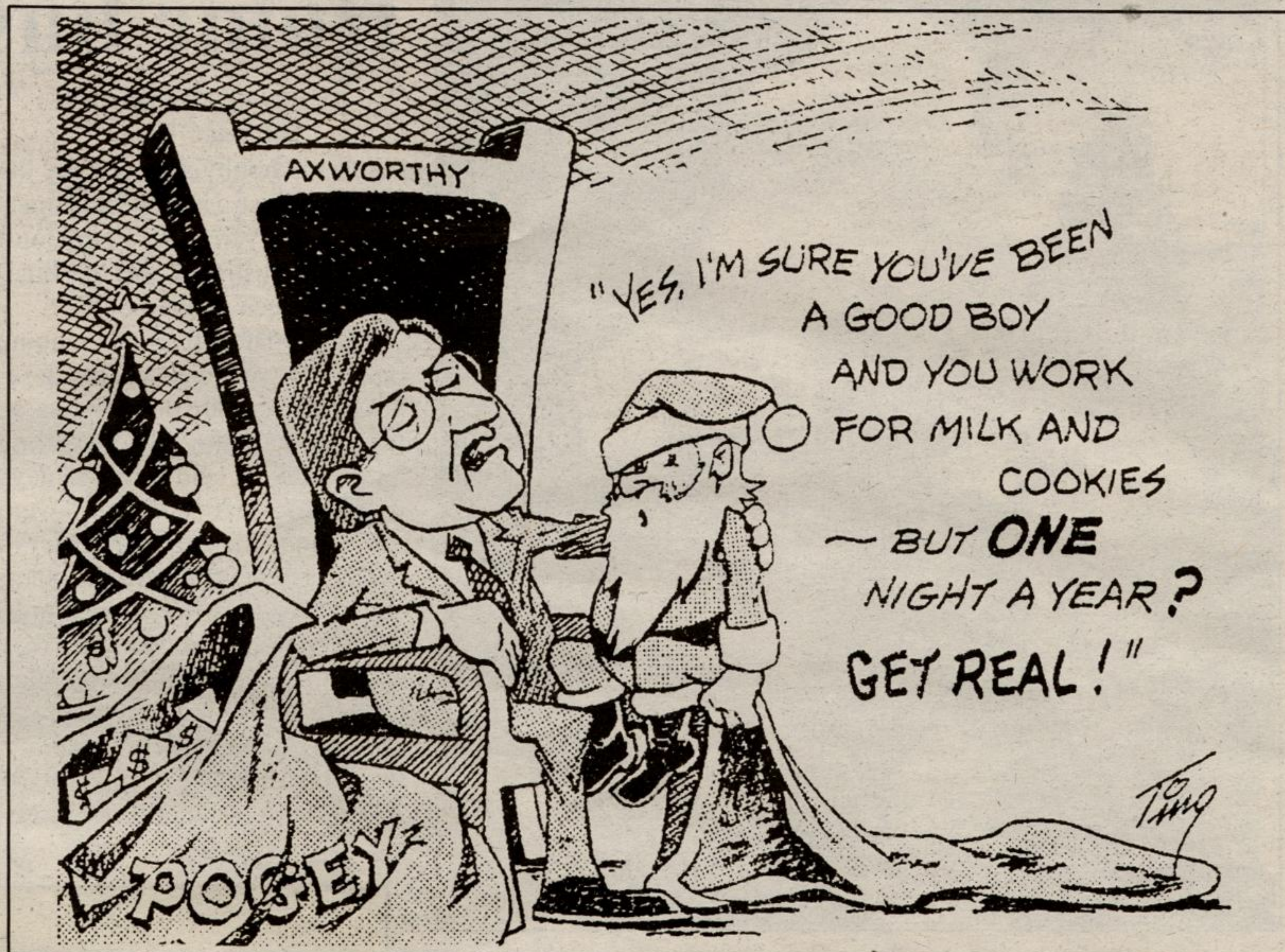
But how Marleau makes the jump from a Du Maurier tennis championship or a Virginia Slims golf tournament to a young person's decision to smoke is beyond me.

I'm sure if you were to conduct a survey at the smoking area at Acton High School (the rather large group of students out shivering in the snow and smoke) many wouldn't have a specific reason for starting the habit. A few might admit they smoke because their friends do. But it's highly improbable you'll hear even one student say he or she smokes because Rothmans sponsored a fashion show, which makes smoking their brand of smokes a cool thing to do.

Taking away the right for cigarette companies to sponsor sports or cultural events won't affect the size of the smoking group at AHS.

Marleau should be told to butt out. And concentrate her efforts on finding a way to reach young people so they'll understand the health risks they're taking by lighting up.

– Karen Wetmore



LETTERS

Parade a success

To the Editor,

The Acton Firefighters Association would like to thank everyone who helped in any way, to make the Acton Santa Claus Parade a success again this year.

For those who so kindly opened their hearts and their pocket-books, a very special thank you. The following businesses and individuals lent their support to the parade:

Acton Foodland, Acton Golden Age Club, Acton IGA, Acton Welding, Aries Investment Ltd. A-1 Sanitation, Branch 197 Legion Ladies' Auxilliary, Catholic Women's League, Commercial Intertech, Denny's Insurance, Double Happiness Restaurant, Galvcast Manufacturing, Halton Hills Electrical Contracting,

Halton Power Line, J&E Videos, Knights of Columbus, Knox Presbyterian Church "R" Fund, K.T. Taxi, Lakeview Convenience, Limehouse Cubs & Beavers, Local 603-ABTCO, McIntyre Fuels, McKenzie Chapman, McNabb Graphics, Nellis Construction, Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd., Rotary Club of Acton, Station Hotel, Steve Terry, Daniel Varanelli, Walker Lodge AF & AM, Paul & Wendy Yundt.

We also thank the residents of Maria and Church Streets apartments, the sponsors of the parade ad in the local papers, the local papers for their excellent support and coverage, and all the float entrants and clowns.

Without each and every one of you, the parade would not have been possible. Be sure to mark Nov. 16, 1996 on your calendar as we look forward to next year's parade!

Wishing you a very happy and safe holiday season.

*William R. Spielvogel,
Parade Chair*

A Christmas wish from MP Reed

To the Editor,

I wrote the following passage in 1980 in the middle of my tenure in the Ontario Legislature. When you read it you will realize there is not much new under the sun.

The events of the past year, around the world, have given us all cause for a sober reappraisal of what it means to be a Canadian and to live in a part of the world that remains at peace.

The freedoms we all enjoy were given to us in legislation when our country was formed and reaffirmed through the sacrifice that was made by so many in the great wars. Our land is rich in diversity, rich in resources, and populated by people from all parts of the globe who have come to these shores to seek fulfillment.

If we sometimes think we have internal problems, let us never forget the reasons why our ancestors came here and the reasons why millions more are lured by the call of Canada.

Our country has provided challenge, opportunity and fulfillment to all of those who were willing to work with determination and faith. It is a life most of us choose to cherish and preserve. Let it not be weakened through economic controversies among provinces or by cultural selfishness, which denies the duality of our roots, or the multicultural nature of our makeup.

Canada is an affair of the head and the heart, requiring from each of us a little more than we expect to give, and giving back to us so much more than we expected to receive.

In the years to come, each of us as Canadians will be expected to walk an extra mile and to extend an extra hand of friendship to our brothers and sisters in all parts of the country, and in that way the priceless freedom so freely given to us and so dearly held onto, will be preserved. That feeling is probably best expressed in the spirit of Christmas.

*Julian Reed, MP
Halton-Peel*

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