

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



Filling the blanks

Every year, at this time of year, I look forward to getting a new calendar. Page after page of empty boxes stretch out before me, heavy with promise and potential. For a brief, blissful moment, 1996 looks like it will be care and worry-free.

Then I start writing in the birthdays of the people in my life. It doesn't take long to get to December. Boy, the year sure flies by.

Next, I record the dates of events I know - hockey schedules, school events, dentist appointments, dance recitals, taxes due. My stress level begins to rise.

There are a few dates I look forward to, way off in the future. The Acton Fall Fair runs Sept. 20 to 22, the Santa Claus Parade on Nov. 16. I'd like to mark the date of the Leathertown Festival too, but that one is still up in the air.

On my wish list for 1996 is the official opening of McKenzie-Smith Bennett school (I'm confident it will happen this year), the ground-breaking ceremony of the new Acton arena (less confident but still hopeful), and a celebration that every storefront on Mill Street is home to a thriving business (wouldn't that be great!)

Going through last year's calendar brings back some great memories: we got a dog (this also brings back some not-so-great memories, as Sam ate the couch cushion, broke a few china figures and demolished the back yard, among other transgressions); we rented a cottage for the summer, which led to my blissful *Home Alone* weekends, Parts 1 and 2; my sister-in-law had twins!; I turned 29, again; I had a wonderful weekend at Rancho Relaxo and now pay homage to my favourite saint, St. Anne; after two years of plywood floor, we finally had carpet installed in the family room.

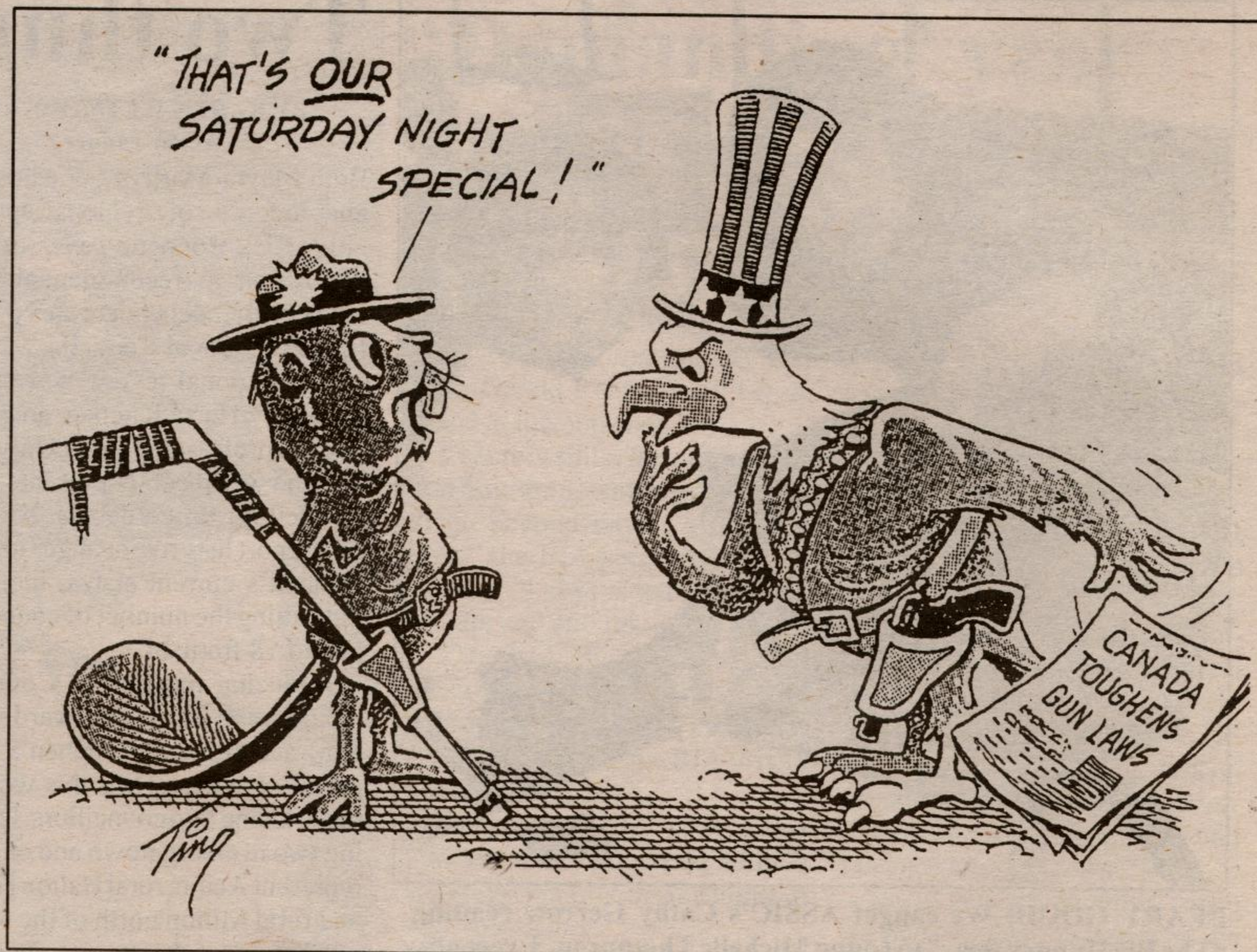
For me, 1996 will be the year I complete several home improvement projects that haven't quite got finished. It will be the year I fit into that pair of jeans I can't bring myself to throw away. It will be the year I keep on top of the ironing and mending.

I hope those boxes in your 1996 calendar are filled with fun and exciting events. And that at least some of those boxes remain empty. After all, we all deserve a break now and then.

Trinity United Church is preparing for a treat at next Sunday's 10 am service. The congregation will be joined in worship by Ron Klusmeier, a composer and worship leader who serves the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, Ontario.

Klusmeier is a composer and worship leader who has more than 600 published anthems, hymns and songs by over 70 publishing companies and denominations worldwide. The popular *Songs for a Gospel People* hymn collection contains more of Ron's original compositions than any other contributor. In fact, 18 of his hymns have been selected for inclusion in *Voices United*, the new hymn and worship book of the United Church of Canada.

Rev. Matton, of Trinity United Church in Acton, invites everyone to this special service that is sure to interest and inspire all.



LETTERS

Why close business?

To the Editor,

I read with interest the article on a small, home-based craft business in Acton being forced to close. As I understand it, there were two concerns, one being parking - which was the basis of the complaint - and the other was that the business was not allowed under current zoning by-laws.

The logic in forcing this business to close defies me, as the appropriately zoned types of business, i.e. a doctor, would in fact cause a significant increase in traffic and parking problems.

From my perspective, there are several other issues of concern:

1. The loss of an apparently viable small business to the community.
2. The lack of flexibility of a long term "master plan" for business development. Apparently the

current plan seems to ignore the needs and contribution of small business, let alone realistic economic development.

3. The precedent being set for any future small business development - by both potential and current small business owners.

4. Poor example by Council in resolving the dilemma or encouraging small business development.

The owner's claim of several other businesses operating in contravention of the by-law is not valid. All small business owners and potential entrepreneurs have a responsibility to check zoning by-laws and other requirements before commencing start-up.

However, the town should also have in place a policy that encourages the development, support and promotion of small business via flexibility. There are reams of data available documenting the contribution of small business to the local economy.

It seems to me that more effort could have been made in order to retain this small, home-based business contribution to Acton.

*Teressa Gibson Smye, RMT
Rockwood*

Acton gives 104 gifts

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Halton Hills branch of the Canadian Red Cross, we would like to say "thank you" to all of the people who took part in the Acton blood donor clinic.

Once again, the people of Acton showed their concern and willingness to help others as 104 units of blood were collected at the Dec. 28 clinic. With the hectic holidays, we appreciate your generosity in this season of giving. For those people who couldn't make the clinic, we encourage you to make your donation at any other clinic, as the need for blood never

decreases.

Special thanks to Walker Masonic Lodge, who sponsored this clinic and to *The Acton Tanner* for advertising the clinic in this paper. Of course the clinic could not be such a success without the many volunteers who helped run it, and the support of the Acton Legion.

Thank you to all of the great donors and volunteers from Acton and the surrounding area. You have made it possible to give others the gift of life!

We look forward to seeing you at the next clinic on March 21.

*Joe Graf, Julia Roehrig
Halton Hills Red Cross
Blood Donor Committee*

Co-op's donations

To the Editor,

We have finished our bookkeeping and would like to let Acton know about our charitable donations. The profits we had after all the many years of hard work went to The Hospital for Sick Children (\$1,000), Halton Women's Place (\$2,000), Acton's Scouts Canada

building fund (\$500) and McKenzie-Smith Bennett Public School's DARE program (\$2,056.10).

Thank you again, *The Acton Tanner* for all your support. Sadly, as the cancellation of JK seems imminent, the closure of the nursery school is final.

*Julian Roehrig, President
Acton Co-operative Nursery
School*

THE ACTON Tanner

"Neighbourhood News" from
Acton's Award-Winning
Hometown Newspaper

Publisher & Editor

Paul Nolan

Editorial Staff

Doug Harrison
Karen Wetmore

Copy Editor

Joanne Stevenson

Office Assistant

Sharon Steckley

Advertising Sales

Elaine Petkoff
Janie Smith

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).

AD SALES: 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