

The lull between those storms

Is it my imagination or is there the faint smell of turkey dinner hanging over Acton? I don't know about you, but I love hosting these special family dinners. Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter are just the excuse I need to pull out the fancy china, polish the silver and iron the linen tablecloth.

The best part about preparing a turkey dinner is that I won't have to cook again for at least a week. And for two or three days, my people

won't protest the left-overs.

After all the hustle and bustle, the fighting for a parking space, the planning and wrapping and list-making, shouldn't Christmas last longer than one day?

And after stuffing the bird at 9 am (distasteful at any time, but there should be a law against stuffing a turkey before your second cup of coffee) and basting it all day long, shouldn't the actual dinner hour take at least an hour?

I hope your Christmas lived up to your expectations and that there weren't too many returns - happy or otherwise. I have been enjoying this lull between Christmas and New Year's.

The hectic pace of the past few weeks came to an abrupt halt for me on Boxing Day as I slept till 9 am, was dressed by 2 pm, and was reheating those left-overs for dinner at 9 pm. If it wasn't for the dog, I don't know as I'd have ventured outdoors at all.

I'm finding it hard to get motivated - in fact

coming to work this morning was a chore in itself. So don't ask what my New Year's resolution will be. Perhaps by next week I'll have some energy to declare my plans for the new year.

It's hard not to feel guilty about relaxing so thoroughly. After all, there's laundry piling up, garbage to go out, and all that good china to

put away. I can ease some of this guilt by blaming my ill health - yes, I have a dose of the plague-flu-cold, like everyone else.

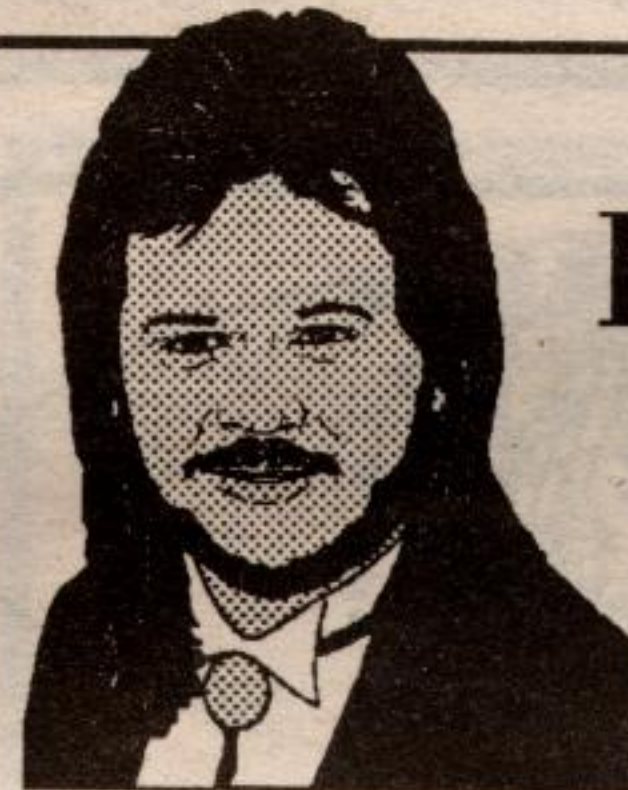
Soon enough though, I will have to declare myself well and the whole family machine will move forward again. I hope I don't strip any gears going from neutral to full-speed-ahead too rapidly.

ACROSS THE FENCE

With Joanne Stevenson



IN TUNE: The Acton Citizens' Band annual Christmas concert took place at the Band Hall recently, with three clarinet players keeping their eyes on their pages as the Band played a selection of seasonal songs. (Eve Martin photo)



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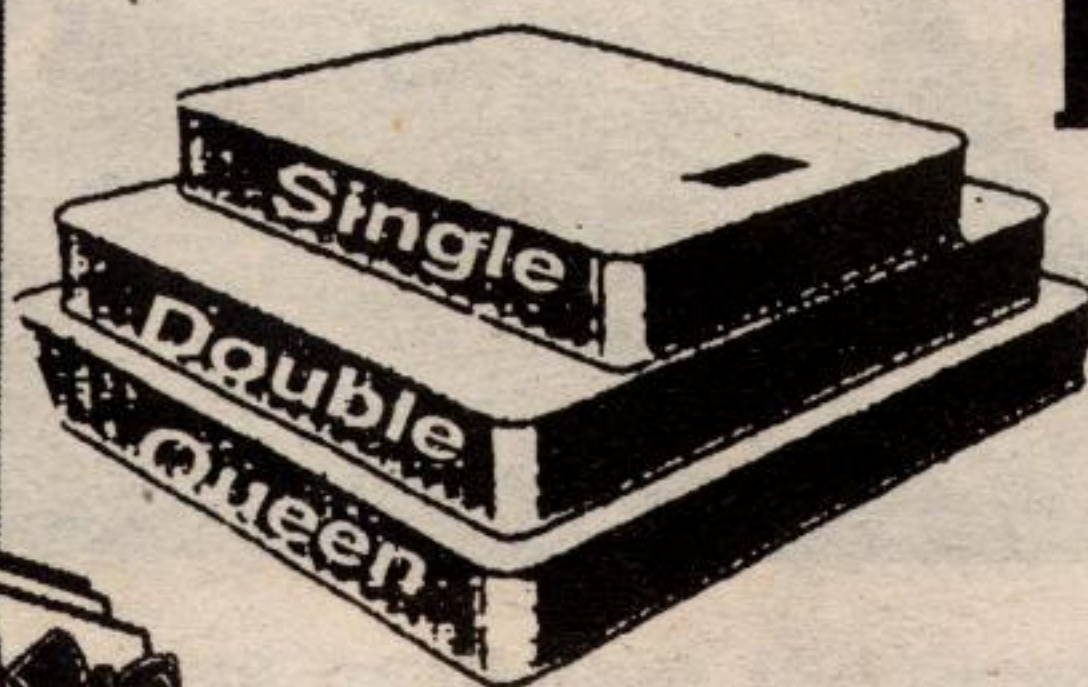
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