



Spring! Tra-la, Tra-la!



by Mary Hubell
Mother and father, the miracle of happiness glowing in their eyes, name their baby girl "April" - not because that is the month of her birth, but because of the mystique surrounding that lovely sound in the English language. The second syllable pops from the lips like the first crocus from the soil - in April.
The French "Avril" has a smoother, more teasing sound, as of a tender leaf bud slowly unfolding in the April sun.

In Ukrainian the name for April is a variation of the word for "flower". Cree Indians from Moose Factory to Nelson House mark the new season by calling it "Niska Pesim", or Grey Goose Sun.
Our northern hemisphere displays many moods in April, most of them sweetly promising or coyly demonstrating the good days to come, exciting the senses and lifting the spirits of all creatures....
Then why, oh why, does April in Terrace Bay have to be such a

phloop, such a double-crossing, sadistic, capricious phoney? Why does it pick you up one day and blow you down the next? What's the good of melting all that dirty snow if the dirty ground isn't going to green up for another month? The seed catalogues confidently advise "plant when danger of frost is past" - haw! I'd like to invite just one of those editors to spend just one April here! Next year in those colorful envelopes we would probably find a neat string of cut-out paper

dolls.
And then...and then... the miracle comes: the warm sun and cold wind are at odds, but high in the sky comes the urgent honking and calling of the geese. Their welcome signal rings through the ears and right into the heart, helps you locate that brave troop up there, heading for the northern nests. Through misty eyes you watch till they fade into the far sky, and suddenly April seems warmer! Suddenly you can see buds on the honeysuckle, red-nosed tulip tips pushing through the earth, and a wee bright bird you

haven't seen for months calls from a bare tree branch. Suddenly you can believe again and trust again!
April's mean temperature (you should pardon the expression) since 1958, is 13.5 degrees C. and will climb to May's more promising 17.3 degrees C. and you can start to consider seriously growing your flowers, vegies and, of course, herbs. So, as the Good Book says in Hebrews 12:12, "...lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet..."

Mainstream Canada

Frankenstein tax monster

By W. Roger Worth

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business is far from happy with the way Revenue Canada operates.

Indeed, more than 2,000 of the organization's 64,000 members have complained in no uncertain terms about specific reassessment and collection problems emanating from Revenue Canada.

"The horror stories about the way these Canadian taxpayers were treated by 'civil servants' is appalling," says the CFIB's president John Bulloch. "What our members' stories reveal is a Frankenstein tax monster which is spreading fear and abuse throughout the country."

The result of the uproar over Revenue Canada: an in-depth Federation brief to Finance Minister Marc Lalonde, and appearances before the Progressive Conservative Party's National Revenue Task Force. In both instances, the Federation outlined the serious problems that exist at Revenue Canada, as well as proposals that should help overcome the difficulties.

Among the suggested solutions:

- That RevCan's basic assumption that taxpayers are guilty until proven innocent be reversed.

The broad application of these powers is not only contrary to the basic principles of justice, but it forces taxpayers to pay the department's tax assessment even before an appeal is heard. So even though the department may be wrong (and RevCan was proven wrong in more than 80 per cent of recent notice of objection cases), taxpayers, and particularly people operating smaller firms, are forced to tie up

"RevCan is using this power to intimidate smaller firms, many times treating the honest entrepreneurs as crooks," says Bulloch. "Taking away this excessive power would place the two opposing sides on a more equal footing."

- Appointing a strong minister for the department, as well as a deputy minister with technical expertise in tax matters.

RevCan has had 12 ministers since 1968, with each serving an average of 15 months. To make matters worse, deputy ministers with no knowledge of the Income Tax Act have headed up the government mandarins running the department.

"There's no consistent administration, so there's little wonder the department is a mess," says Bulloch.

- That assessment quotas forced on RevCan employees be eliminated.

- That taxpayers be awarded full costs where appeals to the courts are won, or the department decides to drop its case.

- That the administrative function be overhauled and upgraded so that all taxpayers do not have to wait months before they get refunds from the department.

- That RevCan stop "promoting" the names of people who have been charged under the Act.

On a positive note, Bulloch said it is only fair to give full credit to Lalonde for the tax simplification measures he introduced in his recent budget. The business leader also said that Lalonde gave the CFIB a good hearing on the proposed changes, and showed good faith by meeting with CFIB officials.

"At this point the ball is in the minister's court," said Bulloch, "hopefully he'll take action to remedy this serious

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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

A "Coffee Hour" will be held on Monday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m. in the library of Terrace Bay Public School. At this time formal registrations will take place for students who will be attending either Junior or Senior Kindergarten for the **first time in September, 1984**. Please bring your child's immunization record and proof of age with you. Throughout the week of April 16, we will be accepting registrations from parents who cannot attend the "Coffee Hour". If you have any questions please call the school office at 825-3253.

D. L. Davey,
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I would like to thank Dr. Adey, Dr. Wilkes, Nurses and staff for their care while I was a patient in The McCausland Hospital. And since returning home a special thanks to my relatives, friends, neighbours and Home Care Nurses for their help, get well cards, visits and the lovely food.

Sincerely,
Esther Birch

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