



Leadership development is an important part of the cadet's program. Here, 12-year-old Chief Petty Officer First Class Anton Osterman, instructs (from left) Ashton Castellino, 10, Kyle Hopper, 11, Kirstan Foley, 11 and Josip Osterman 10, in the naval flag signalling code of "Semaphore."

*Photo submitted*

## Navy League hosts Open House tomorrow

By **EMILYYATES**  
Special to *The Independent & Free Press*

The Navy League Cadets in Acton are looking for recruits. The corps, parents and executives gathered last week to discuss the issue of dwindling numbers and its future viability as a club. The meeting identified two ways to bring numbers back: an increase in parental involvement and enhancing community perception of the club.

Right now, the corps stands at less than 10 members. In order to keep the corps open, Commanding Officer Norma Henry is looking for at least 15 members.

"We're a pretty well-kept secret around the community," said Henry. "There are many people who don't know the Navy League Cadets actually exists."

The club is inviting the community to attend an Open House tomorrow (Wednes-

day), 7:30 p.m. at the Legion, 15 Wright Ave. in Acton, for refreshments and information as club members demonstrate their skills.

The Navy League is a self-supporting, not-for-profit organization run by volunteers for boys and girls age 9 to 13. It is a military-based program established in 1948 and focuses on skills, drills and decorum. They meet every Wednesday at the Acton Legion between 6:40 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Executive Officer Glen Wilkinson said at the meetings "there is a format of drills and training for rank promotion that we have to adhere to, but that doesn't mean we don't want to have fun too." Trips, speakers, inter-corps competitions, parade participation and fundraising are regular activities and help promote patriotism while entertaining and educating.

"Kids that are really shy, it just brings them right out of their shell," said Henry.

For details, call Henry, 905-497-5024.

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