

Busy time for volunteers at Wastewise

By **DIANE van de VALK**

Special to the Independent/Free Press

So much has happened at Wastewise during the past several months!

First, and most importantly, many new volunteers helped out this summer or have joined us this fall: Barbara Burnell, Sean Cotton, Garth Demenint, Kara Edwards, George Farrell, Elliot Glass, Ken Hunziger, Valerie Irwin, Andrew Kane, Sadie McCristall, McFarlane and Co. (Ross, Duncan and John), Tanya Mitchell, Brigitte and Joyce Morris and Dan Timmons. The 6th Pineview Guides and the 5th Georgetown Guides also volunteered for an evening.

Many people continue to make regular appearances, helping us keep the shelves tidy and the recyclables sorted: Dave Bowman, Bruce Davison (a.k.a. volunteer extraordinaire!), the Fox Family (Helena, Devon, Emma and Victor), Myles and June Gilson, Mary Horvath, May and Shel Lawr, Ann Moorhead, Dee Rockley, Al Sippel, Steve Wheeler and Jim Wray.

Anne Klassen of ak&a Desktop Publishing Services volunteered her special talents and

equipment and produced ads, labels and a desktop recycling container. Sign Service Label Products donated \$300 worth of labels for our waste assessment program participants. A special thanks to Dave Bowman and Bob Bruce for collecting lumber donated by McKenzie Lumber and building new stands for the books. Kathi Hull, who has kept the books for Wastewise for five months, is moving to the States. Thanks Kathi... we miss you already!

The Town of Halton Hills continues to collect all blue box materials at no charge. Smith and O'Flaherty continues to donate 2,000 square feet of space at no charge to Wastewise. Finally, a very special thanks to Shawn Wood who volunteered on a full time basis throughout the summer and has continued part-time during the school year.

Last quarter (July - September) Wastewise diverted from disposal 79.7 tonnes of reusables and recyclables. At \$150/tonne (the disposal fee in Halton) this represents \$11,955, which is secondary to the

resource savings! Revenues from flea market and recyclables sales during the same period totaled \$14,663. This is \$5,200 more than forecast.

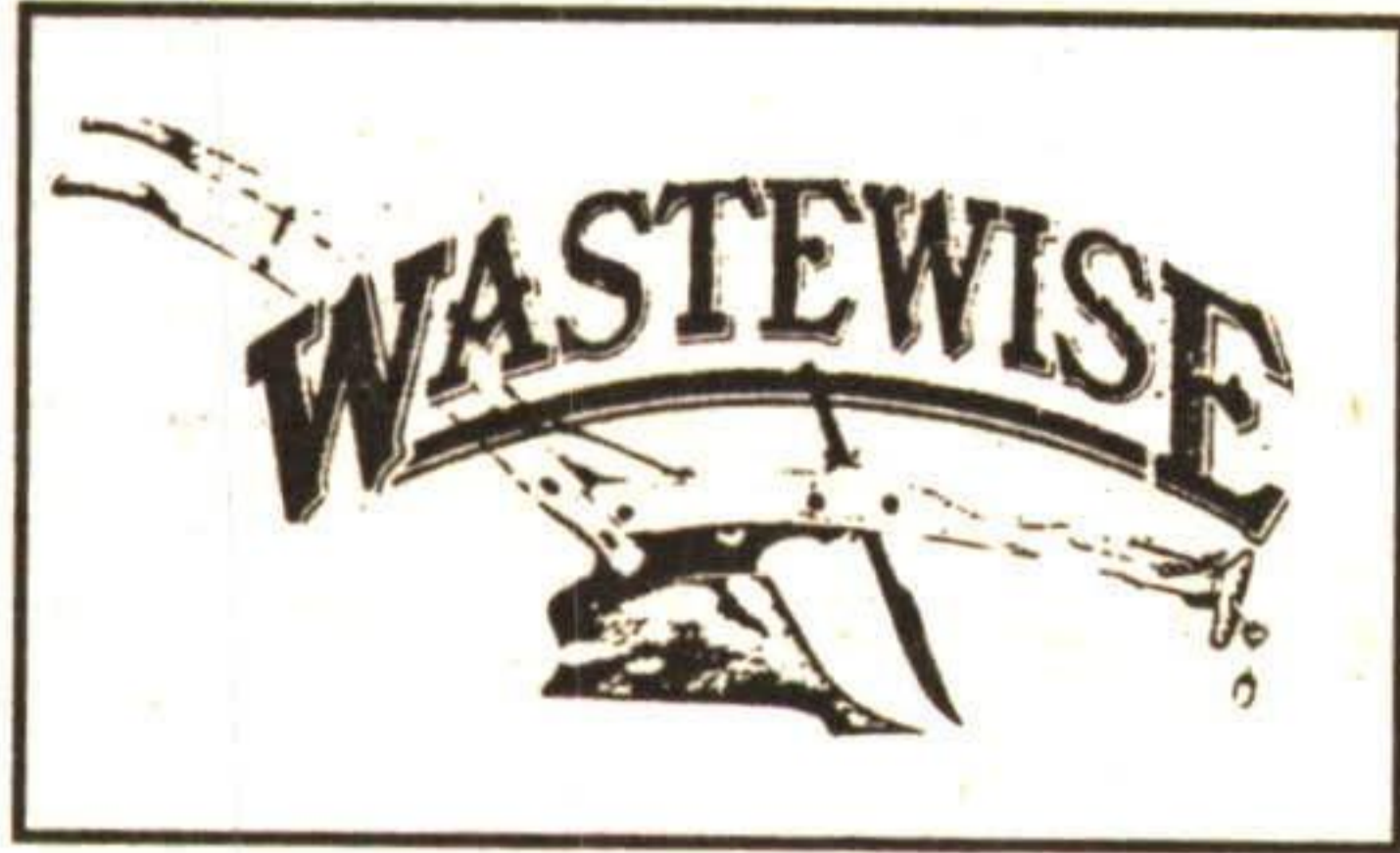
Wastewise has distributed guides on how to start a "community resource centre," by request only, to more than 200 community groups and organizations throughout the continent! We continue to provide information to Halton Hills' businesses and residents on a daily basis. Recent articles about Wastewise in Canadian Living Magazine and R i c k y M c M o u n t a i n Buyers Guide have

spurred new interest in the centre. During the last quarter we conducted 13 tours, held three seminars and one contest (for Waste Reduction Week) and staffed two displays, one in Halton Hills and the other in Toronto. Four students hired through the federal program, SEED, visited 335 businesses in Halton Hills this summer to discuss problems and opportunities. Two Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) students worked with Wastewise

through the summer. Our EYC proposal was approved for the fall/winter term, so two students will be with us until March-end working on events, tours, displays and operations. Three full-time workers keep the centre going on a daily basis. We have purchased racking to increase our storage capacity and to tidy things up a bit.

The future holds several interesting challenges for Wastewise. We have applied for funding from Halton Region through the Community Based Waste Diversion Program. With all necessary approvals, our project will work toward a higher level of participation in backyard composting. The most significant challenge Wastewise faces is the goal to become self-sustaining by December 1993. Time moves quickly and most of the board's energy is now focused on achieving this goal. To cover all expenses including (but not limited to!) property tax, wages and rent, Wastewise must earn \$16,000/month. We are currently earning an average of \$4,500/month.

Please call us if you have suggestions for the operation of the centre, particularly if you would like to put your ideas to work! (416) 873-8122.



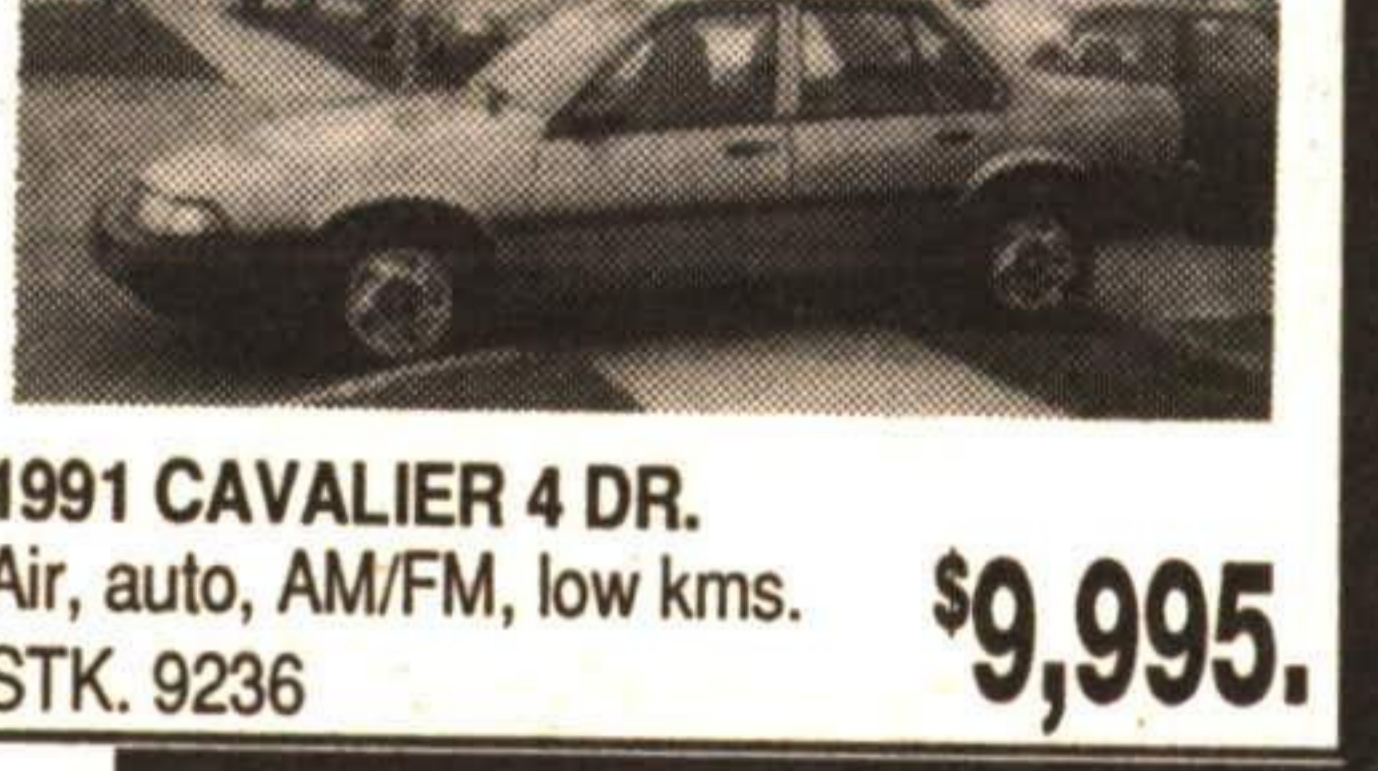
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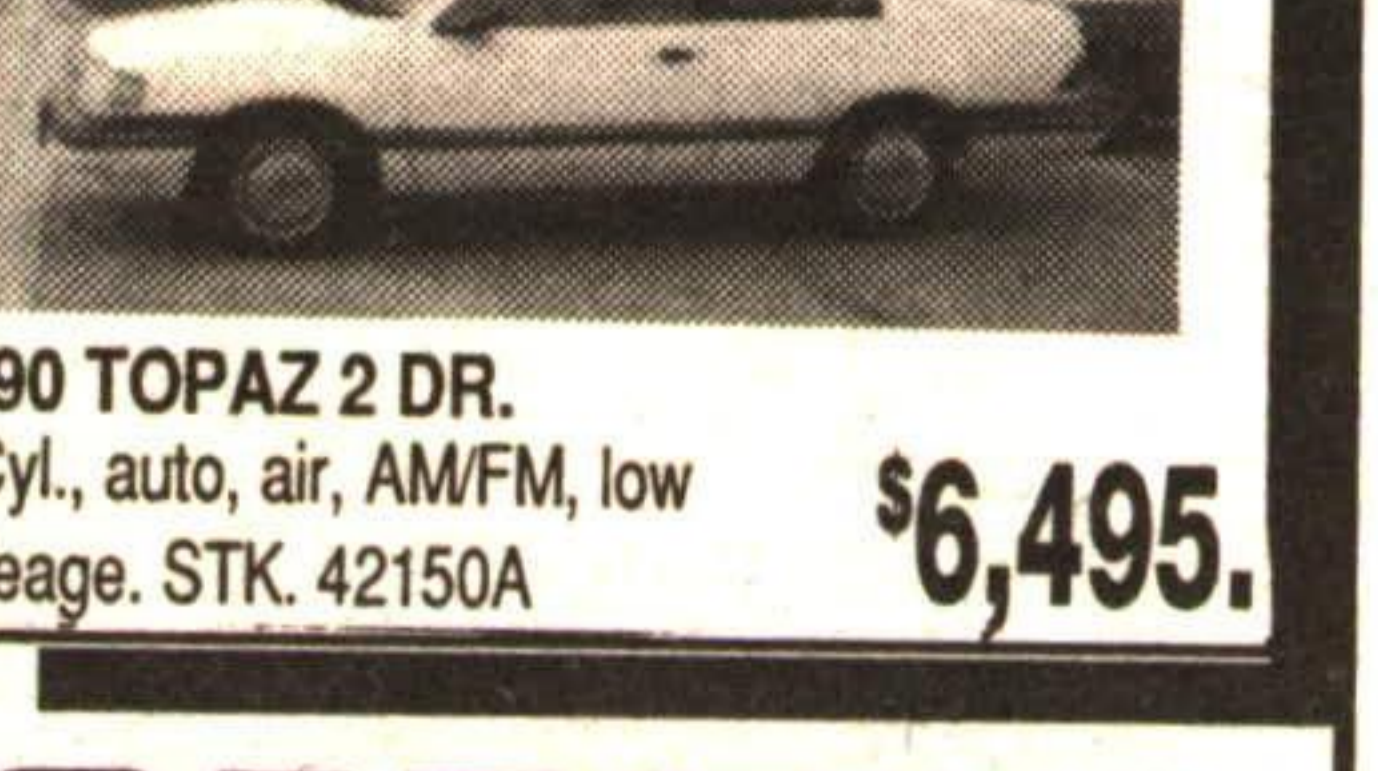
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