

## Property taxes pay the whole shot

From Front Page

Kindergarten or what he calls "a tax-subsidized day-care program. "We (the Board) wanted to start classes in Acton and then Georgetown, but (Cooke) wanted classes throughout the Region."

The modified plan calls for five classes to begin in January, 15 more in September 1995, 15 in September 1996 and 24 come the fall of 1997.

Whiting figures the Board benefited by waiting until the 11th hour for a final decision.

"The Ministry wanted to start in the 1994-95 school year, but we compromised and our option was January 1995," Whiting explained. "Starting in January takes us out

of the '94 fiscal year, so we can budget for it (J-K) next year. That was important."

Whiting, though, has never been a proponent of J-K.

"The earlier you start, the earlier you burn out," he stressed. "I've seen studies, two done in the States and one in Canada, that showed children who start school at three or four years of age don't have the inclination to go to college or university ... that's a long time to be in school."

With no new monies for Junior Kindergarten, Whiting added, property taxpayers "will be paying the whole shot." He continued by saying "you will soon see the day when all property tax — like

in Toronto — will be paying for the education system."

Last year, the Board received 22 per cent of their budget from the Province. However, 11 per cent in legislative cuts by the provincial government has seen that number shrink to 17 per cent for this year. By comparison, the figure was 26 per cent when Premier Bob Rae and the NDP Party came into power almost three years ago.

Meanwhile, the Board's budget has been chopped to \$282 million from \$285 million, meaning a .97 per cent increase in the mill rate for Acton residents.

Whiting seemed pleased by the increase, considering the heavy cuts the Board has endured from the Province.

"With all the cuts," he said, "a one per cent increase was our second option to zero per cent and we made that."

The figure ranks under the regional average of 1.34 per cent. Whiting said the budget would likely plummet another \$5 to \$6 million next year.

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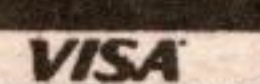
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TAKE-OUT

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## NEWS SHORTS

### Boy taken to hospital

A 13-year-old Acton boy was taken to Georgetown hospital with minor injuries after riding a bicycle into a parked car last Friday.

The boy was thrown off the bike after looking off to the side of Longfield Road and ramming a 1991 Pontiac, which was legally parked on the street.

Police said there was only slight damage to the car's left rear fender and moderate damage to the tires and forks of the 1994 CCM bicycle.

### Thieves grab golf clubs

A 13-piece set of ladies Fazer golf clubs and a golf bag were taken after thieves smashed the window of the pro shop at the Acton Meadows Golf Course last week.

Police say the burglars reached through the broken window to grab the clubs valued at \$1,200.

The incident occurred sometime during the night of April 23. There are no suspects reported at this time.

### Vacant building burglarized

The caretaker of a vacant building on Hwy. 7, east of Rockwood, has reported several burglaries during the past month.

On April 25, at 2:30 pm, the building was again burglarized and office furniture, light fixtures and gates were taken.

The previous tenant, who was locked out of the building after his business went into receivership, was questioned by police but refused to acknowledge any involvement in the break-ins.

Meanwhile, the locks have been changed while the legal dispute continues over ownership of contents inside the property.

Police say they will continue to investigate.

### Firefighters stop gas leak

Acton firefighters were called after a 1987 Chevy Astro van began leaking gas onto Mill St. E. on Monday, just after 10 am.

Firefighters used Plug and Dike, a chemical sealer, to stop the leak in just over 20 minutes after the initial call.

Approximately two litres of gas was spilled onto the road before the leak could be contained. The cause of the leak was unknown at the time of the incident.

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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Acton's Early Days has been a grand project and a lot of fun."  
— Dave Mashinter, M.Z. Bennett teacher, Page 5

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