



OLD TIME ROCK 'N ROLL! We caught Robert Little ukelele club members Jason Drechsel, left, and Adam Roach, both 10, strumming away at practice on Thursday. The club gets together every Thursday after school under the tutelage of teacher June Tribe. (Doug Harrison photo)

By-law infraction cases abandoned

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Acton Tanner

Acton Councilor Norm Elliott is concerned that the Town's ability to prosecute by-law infractions is "getting out of control."

Elliott is unhappy with the latest enforcement services report showing that the Town had to abandon 61 by-law infraction cases because the statute of limitations expired before staff could get the cases to court.

At a recent Town meeting, Elliott wondered if the possible revenue from the abandoned cases, had they been prosecuted successfully, would have been enough to hire more enforcement staff.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the reason why the total number of cases fell last month. They were not resolved - they were abandoned," Elliott said as he noted he was almost concerned enough to suggest additional staff be hired to handle complaints.

Henry Tse, of building, zoning and enforcement services, said the 61 cases that were abandoned were one group of offences that "we just couldn't get around to."

"The dollar value that we can obtain through fines would likely not be sufficient to pay for additional staff to prosecute the cases that were abandoned," Tse said.

At this point in the discussion, Town Administrator Ray King cautioned Council that if they intended to discuss the issue any further, they should do so behind closed doors.

There was no resolution from the in-camera session that followed and on Thursday the Town's by-law enforcement officer Ron Stein would not say what type of by-law enforcement cases were aban-

doned, except that they were not "life safety issues."

"Once the statute of limitations is over we would have to re-investigate," Stein said.

"If it is a continuing offense we would have to begin a new investigation of those incidents."

Stein said the abandoned cases were covered by permissive by-laws that allow Council to make policy decisions as to whether or not they are enforced.

NEW BABY?



Time to call your Welcome Wagon hostess. She'll bring congratulations and gifts for the whole family.

Judy: 853-2977



BADGE WORK: On Saturday, the Third Acton Scout troop performed their "B.P. Woodsman" badge at Blue Heron Scout Camp. From left, are Gareth Davis, leader George Henderson, Michael Grierson, Randy McPherson, Kyle Larose and Eric Pinkerton, posing in front of their teepee. (Eve Martin photo)



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Green Thumb Gardening

Earthworms

Have you ever wondered about the earthworms that you find in your garden as you cultivate or dig in the soil? What are they? What do they do? Why are they important?

Earthworms are probably the most familiar and recognized soil animal. Their long, cylindrical bodies are divided up into many segments that expand and contract to allow it to move through the soil.

As earthworms move through the soil, they consume minerals, organic matter and other constituents of the soil. Earthworms can process several tons of soil per acre in a single year! The end result is the production of earthworm castings.

Earthworm activity and castings are important to keep the soil fertile. They increase the availability of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other minor nutrients to plants.

Each week Len Tuitman and staff at Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden showplace.

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We would also like to thank Acton's Tim Horton Donuts for sponsoring the Day of Champions cup weekend, held Sept. 9 & 10.

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