



**A WELCOMING SPONSOR:** Tuitman's Garden Centre was recognized last Wednesday for being a 10-year sponsor of Welcome Wagon. Presenting Elly and Len Tuitman with a certificate and commemorative plate were Gail Bibby-Labranche, at left, and Shelagh Rowney of Georgetown Welcome Wagon and Ruth Becker, far right, from Acton Welcome Wagon. (Karen Wetmore photo)

## Latest budget cuts will affect students

Continued from Front Page of secretaries and administrative staff and possibly two superintendents.

Some parents and trustees argued cutting the non-teaching staff would backfire because the Board might end up paying more later to help a child who didn't get what he

needed in Kindergarten.

One amendment not to pass was a proposal to switch to all-day, alternate-day Kindergarten which would have saved the Board \$500,000 a year in noon-hour transportation costs.

"There were too many concerns expressed by too many people at the Board table for that one to pass," Kingsbury explained.

Trustees did cut bussing for Kindergarten to Grade 2 students who live within 1.6 kilometers of the school for a savings of \$26,000 this year.

Currently students who

live less than a kilometre from the school must walk. That cut will need a two-thirds vote at the Board to change the bussing policy and it did not have that margin at the Finance Committee meeting.

Although an amendment to eliminate all bussing for French Immersion students failed, trustees did decide to set up central bus-stops for immersion students who live within walking distance from their home school.

Kingsbury said a 10 per cent, or \$700,000, reduction in the amount that will be spent on all school consum-

able supplies may mean that parent-teacher groups, school organizations or parents will have to help pay for the supplies, or do without.

Trustees deferred several proposed cuts to the end of the budget process, including a proposal to cut \$6 million from the budget for benefits for teachers, principals and vice-principals.

If no further cuts were made to the budget, an Acton taxpayer with an average assessment of \$6,700 would pay 4.8 per cent more in school taxes this year - a \$65 increase totalling \$1,426.

## MP Reed launches hemp campaign

Halton-Peel MP Julian Reed will be launching a campaign to move the control of industrial hemp from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Agriculture this week.

Calling it "a wonder crop," Reed explains there is now a hemp plant which does not contain significant amounts

of narcotic chemicals.

Some of this hemp's products include a high quality fibre used in making fine paper, a liquid fuel for internal combustion engines and a seed oil which is second only to canola oil in terms of unsaturated fat levels.

The plant is frost-hardy

up to minus 8 degrees and is adaptable to almost any type of soil.

A ban on growing hemp in Canada has been imposed since 1946, due to its narcotic qualities.

Reed said growing hemp as a crop would not endorse the growing of marijuana.

## NEWS SHORTS

### Bowl-O-Rama rolling

The Rotary Club's Bowl-O-Rama has started and interest is picking up, reports Rotarian Rob Charette. Proceeds from the week-long fundraiser will go towards computer products for McKenzie-Smith Bennett school.

"We started off with a bang and are going well so far," Charette said.

There are still some openings left for teams of four to bowl tomorrow (Thursday), Friday and Saturday. Cost to enter is \$80 per team. First prize is a trip for four to Florida or \$1,600 cash.

If you would like to support the school by bowling this week, call Charette at 853-4577 or Acton Bowling Lanes at 853-0470.

### Grass fires

Acton volunteer fire fighters were called to put out a grass fire along the CN rail tracks at the Third Line last Wednesday evening.

The fire fighters also assisted with several other grass fires along the tracks which had been caused by a train with mechanical problems.

### Grass possession

A 14-year-old young offender has been charged with possession of marijuana. Police were called when two male youths were seen acting suspiciously behind a Churchill Road North property.

One of the youths admitted to owning the marijuana found by police. He appears in court May 17.

### Computer theft

A Macintosh computer was taken from an office at Robert Little School on April 4, shortly after school was let out for the Easter weekend.

The computer's value is estimated at \$2,500. Police are still investigating the theft.

### Garage items taken

A Peel Street homeowner was the victim of a break-in overnight last Saturday.

Police say someone entered the home's unlocked garage. Once inside, the suspect took various items from the garage, including a barbecue lighter, chair pads, sanding disks, a portable grinder and pruning shears. The items were valued at \$225.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Maybe I don't know enough to say 'no' sometimes, but it's a lot of fun and I've met a lot of nice people and made some great friendships, so it's all worth it."

— George Henderson, Citizen of the Year, Page 5

### DID YOU KNOW?

You'd be put to death if you killed a cat in ancient Egypt.

### Happy 40th Shirley!



Love from the family

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— Sincerely, Sue & Olev Richling

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