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# Sports

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**BIKERS:** Acton High's mountain bike team members recently competed in province-wide championships. Team members include, front row from left, Corey Brock, Chris Scully, Jeff Mills, Brett Timukas and Tom Wolfer. In back are Michael Hills and Buchanan Elliot. Missing from the picture is Ben Elliot. (Submitted photo)

## Phys-ed deemed as unnecessary

BY KYLE GOODLET  
The Acton Tanner

It is no secret that schools in Ontario have been hit hard over the last year by government cutbacks which are affecting the quality of our educational curriculum.

While these cutbacks are detrimental province-wide, a recent discussion paper from the Ministry of Education and Training which indicates that physical education will become non-compulsory, coupled with a recent Board decision to close pools in Halton, has phys-ed departments in this region particularly shaken up.

The Ministry's paper, entitled *Excellence in Education: High School Reform* totally eliminates physical and health education as a compulsory part of the curriculum, and a new standardized *Report Card* does not list physical and health education as a subject area, according to a press release distributed by the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA).

Currently, high school students must take at least one physical education class to be granted their Ontario Secondary School Diploma. This one credit requirement is absurd in the eyes of some

physical and health educators, as is the concept of making phys-ed non-compulsory in an era that suggests Ontario's youth is experiencing a health crisis.

High school phys-ed teachers are concerned students will be missing the opportunity to develop attitudes for healthy active lifestyles through lessons in fitness, drug awareness and sex education, which are all part of the current curriculum. Also, according to the press release, research shows the physical activity provided by phys-ed classes can enhance academic performance and reduce depression.

While it is proposed that physical and health education programs will still exist in some altered form, as a part of another subject area, departments stand to lose a number of students who could benefit from the current curriculum — students who may only see the value of a phys-ed class if they are required to take one.

**Have a sports story to share?**

Call The Acton Tanner:

**853-5100  
853-5040 (fax)**

*We want to hear from you!*

## Mountain bikers ride far

Special to The Tanner  
The Acton High School Mountain Bike team competed in the Ontario Mountain Bike Championships at Hardwood Hills on Sunday Oct. 20.

This was the first year of competition for several of the

team members, and just one event of many for those who compete on a regular basis throughout the summer season.

Acton's top four riders, whose points go toward the team placement, were Buchanan Elliot who placed

19th, Michael Hills who finished 75th, Brett Timukas in 101st, and Ben Elliot who came in 133rd.

Acton finished the competition in tenth place out of 33 Ontario schools. There were 310 competitors in this junior race.

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