

## Crime spree

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but they (Tylers) don't have...any disgruntled employees or anything, so they don't know, it just looks like sheer vandalism," said Detective Sergeant Jackie Gordon, adding "there's been a lot" of crime in Acton lately.

## Vandals hit Manor

Some time between August 6 and 26, vandals sprayed a fire extinguisher inside the vacant Village Manor building on Main Street North and cut up furniture. A citizen reported finding a fire extinguisher outside the building and it was discovered that a side door had been kicked in. A television and fan had been removed, but were found on the property.

## Persistent vandals

For the sixth time in two months vandals damaged a used car parked at Yourway Muffler/ Auto Sales and Haulage on Agnes Street. The interior of a 1987 Chrysler

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**SENIORS BENEFIT:** The Senior Centres in Acton, Georgetown and Milton share the funds raised through the golf tournament Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh holds each summer at the North Halton Golf and Country Club in Georgetown. All set to tee off Monday, the founders' foursome includes from the left, Tom Kilmer, Ted Chudleigh, Walt Dixon and Pam Kilmer. In front is tourney organizer Graeme Goble. The tourney raised \$12,000 this year for the seniors. - Maggie Petrushevsky photo

as we grow



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## Home schooling popular option

The bell won't ring on Tuesday for Acton's Roger Kirkness, 6, because for him the school year - and the learning - never stopped.

Roger is one of a growing number of Halton children who don't attend a public or private school, but are homeschooled - taught by their parents, usually their

mother, at home.

"We are 'unschoolers' and don't follow a sit-down, everyday curriculum, but integrate what needs to be learned into everyday life," mom Judith Kirkness said recently, adding her husband, Richard Kirkness, owns a computer company so they have lots of great resources.

Kirkness and her husband attended alternate education programs in their school years and both sets of their parents are teachers. Kirkness said their advice, teaching materials and proven teaching methods convinced her she could give her children, including Walter, 4, and Harold, 2, the education they deserve.

Kirkness said her children have made it easier for her because they are eager learners who love to play and enjoy being part of the North Halton Homeschoolers, an unofficial group of eight families who go on field trips to places primary schools kids would - the fire hall, apple orchard and conservation areas.

Kirkness said there is a

selfish aspect to homeschooling.

"You're getting to have these kids for longer than most people and you're getting to enjoy seeing them learn - it's like being there for the first step - it's another whole set of stages that you can be there for to see their progress."

Kirkness said she's amazed at what her son Roger is teaching her and recounted a recent visit, with a former art teacher, to the Ontario Art Gallery when she kept trying

## Chair applauds ruling

Halton Board of Education Chair Ethel Gardiner applauds a recent Ontario Court of Appeal ruling that said a provincial law preventing spouses of teachers and other school board employees from becoming trustees is unconstitutional.

Ontario's top court found that the law perpetuates an unfair stereotype that spouses can't think for themselves and discriminates un-

you need," Roehrig said.

The Board will attempt to improve low teacher moral on the first professional activity day, October 8, when all 5,000 Halton staff will attend a session designed to honour the board's history, heritage and begin to collaboratively build a future.

"Times are changing and we need to relook at, rethink our mission statement as we move into the next century," Gardiner said, admitting that improving moral is a very serious issue.

"It's been so much change so fast and people are running so hard just to keep up with the day-to-day and implementation of new program, new report cards, new special education policies - staff and teachers just feel they never get their work done," Gardiner said.

At Acton District High school, Gardiner said the focus would be on "a lot more technology and computers" priorities for school staff, the school council and the Board.

## President's Ball



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7:00 p.m.

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