

# 'Mysterious' malady at camp still mysterious

The mysterious malady that sent 11 children, a staff leader and two volunteers from the Town's musical theatre camp at Acton High School to hospitals last week has still not been identified.

Joy Thompson, the Town's manager of recreation service told The New Tanner that tests by the fire department, public health, Halton Region and the Board of Education, all came up "clean." They tested everything, Ms. Thompson said, including the curtains, and

any possible connection to an illness and could find no cause for the illness. All tests came up negative and they were "complete and thorough," including blood tests.

The children have moved back to the high school now but they are using the cafeteria instead of the room behind the stage. The illness, which struck on Monday, July 16 when one child complained of feeling sick in the morning. It wasn't a widespread problem until about 2:30 in the afternoon when several more

children became ill and fainted.

Staff called 911 and evacuated the 40 children taking part in the musical theatre camp, as well as volleyball and soccer camps. One soccer camp participant also became ill.

We're working with the children to help them overcome feelings they might have over the incident last week, Joy Thompson said. We're also keeping parents informed about the reports they have been receiving from the various agencies.

"Parents are supportive and want to know what happened," Ms Thompson said. We're in a better air-conditioned facility now and the complete musical production is going to happen this Thursday.

The children affected are from Acton, Georgetown, Rockwood, Erin and Hillsburgh. They ranged in age from eight to 11. Four of the victims were taken to Georgetown hospital and ten to Milton hospital. They were treated

*Continued on Page 2.*

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## Communities in Bloom

# Judges to visit town Aug. 14

## 'Keepsake' book for volunteers

The Town of Halton Hills is looking for organizations within our community that have volunteers.

As the year 2001 is "International Year of the Volunteer", a commemorative keepsake book: "2001 Volunteer Memories" is being assembled to be on display at the Civic Centre, and other facilities, as a tribute to our communities volunteers. A questionnaire has been sent out to collect vital information about the role volunteers have in the success of organizations. If your organization has not received, or has misplaced their questionnaire, and would like to be recognized in the book, please contact the Mayors' Office by phone or fax, or pick up a questionnaire at any town facility: Pool, Arena, Library.



**FAVOURITE GAL:** David Byleveld from Kingston was on his way to a week in Stratford when he noticed Wetherby's and their Coronation Street afternoon in a visitors' guide. 'Rachel' a barmaid from the British TV show Coronation Street, was a favourite of Byleveld's. — Angela Tyler photo

## Pride in community reflected in gardens

Judges from the Communities in Bloom competition will be visiting Halton Hills on Tuesday, August 14, and coming down 16 Acton streets as they determine winners in the contest.

This is a town-wide project to showcase the beautiful municipal, corporate and residential gardens and green spaces in Halton Hills. Judges will follow a specific route through Halton Hills and include these Acton streets: Mill E., Acton Blvd., Frederick, Bower, Alice, Willow, main N., Guelph, Lakeview Ave., Elmore Dr., Elizabeth Dr., Knox, Park Ave., Mill W., Birchway Pl. and the Dublin Line.

The judge's tour starts at the civic centre in Georgetown and travels the length and breadth of Halton Hills, stopping at some selected places. When they are through Acton they travel down the Dublin Line and

from there to Andrews Scenic Acres.

"The whole gist of the exercise is for the whole town to compete and make people more aware of how the community looks," says Janis Fread, Acton Agricultural Society's representative on the Halton Hills Communities in Bloom committee. Halton Hills involvement in the nation-wide contest was originated and coordinated by Warren Harris, manager of cemeteries and parks.

"We meet one a week." Says Janis, explaining the scheme is to help people think of the whole community of Halton Hills, and the pride they have in their community.

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## MPP Ted Chudleigh busy this summer

What is MPP Ted Chudleigh doing this summer?

He's set an ambitious schedule consulting with representatives of chemical and construction businesses and studying access to risk capital.

Mr. Chudleigh has been to southwestern Ontario for meetings with companies in Sarnia's chemical valley. He is slated for extensive consultations with companies located west and north of Toronto as well as in Northern Ontario.

"I'm trying to understand what government can do to help these key sectors

of our economy," said Chudleigh. "If we can get ahead of the curve, and make necessary changes now, we can help these companies smooth out the economic cycle. That leads to more growth, more jobs and opportunity, and ultimately better living standards."

Mr. Chudleigh is spearheading this initiative from his position as the Parliamentary Assistant to Bob Runciman, the Minister of Economic Development and Trade. Part of the goal is to identify barriers to investment and growth.

"It is my goal to identify, red tape, in-

ter-provincial trade barriers, regulatory issues and other impediments to growth. At the end of the consultation process I will make recommendations to the Minister," said the Halton MPP.

Meetings are being arranged through the early part of September. Mr. Chudleigh said that any company or trade association with interests in chemicals, construction or access to risk capital is welcome to become involved in the consultation process by contacting Lara Coombs at 416-325-8679 or e-mailing at lara.coombs@edt.government.on.ca



Ted Chudleigh

**What's Inside**

Acton schools had their start early in the 1800s. Later the fine home of Sidney Smith (shown above) was converted into a high school. See Page 6 for the story.

These two families will be moving into Habitat for Humanity Homes in Rockwood in September. See Page 11 for details.

Some of Acton's outstanding gardens are seen on Pages 8 and 9 waiting for Communities in Bloom judges.

Halton Hills Bulldogs took a silver medal in lacrosse action at Mimico recently. Story and photo on Page 13.

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