

*High school message*

# Send us your computers!

By **STEVE CREVIER**

Special to The Independent/Free Press

accessible from any networked computer in the school. It will be part of the curriculum and an invaluable research tool from now on.

The key, of course, is more computers. We have unlimited space and can organize the wiring into our network of a great number of machines but now we have only about 40 machines for 1,500 people to use.

A school computer plan which looks optimistically to the near future would have at least one, and ideally six computers in each classroom, instead of in "labs." This adds up to over 600 computers in the school!

Any computer that has a 386 or newer processor is able to function on our newest network as a workstation —

we need many.

We could make use of 60 or more IBM compatible 286 machines. There is some need for Macintosh computers for various tasks.

In short, please don't send your "obsolete" machine anywhere but to a good home in your local high school where it will lead a very useful life and be greatly appreciated.

Please call me, Steve Crevier, at 877-6966 if you have any questions at all or if you can donate equipment to the school.

I was told by a colleague after a parents' night at the school that I really should write an open letter to the community. He said that I should ask for computers and equipment for our students to use. He had been told by a parent visiting the school that his company had recently sent 30 "obsolete" computers to the former Yugoslavia. Ironically, the parent had been surprised to discover that those computers were in fact as good as any that we have in the school for his son or daughter to use!

This past year we have benefited greatly through the kind donations of several private and corporate sponsors. Bell Canada,

Synoptics, and Bay Networks donated networking equipment, and many kind individuals donated their time, led by Mike Dillon, a Bell employee from Georgetown.

Their efforts have made a really big difference and set in motion big changes in the school. For example, our school library catalogue is now computerized and students using our new school network can access resources in libraries and schools in the region.

The Internet with its vast wealth of information is now directly

### ADHS needs help too!

Due to budget cuts, Acton High School can't buy all the resources needed for the classroom. Computers are a particular need: 386 or better — IBM or Macintosh — are wanted for use in Auto Shop, Special Education and classrooms. Printers are also needed. Call the school at 853-2920

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