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BIG
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Bravo for bronze work

Justin Bravo, 10, of Limehouse School, proudly displayed his bronze cast sculpture to Halton Hills Mayor Kathy Gastle as she dropped by Limehouse School to see the Grade 5 students' creations in Kevin Waitson's class. For the third year, Artcast foundry in Georgetown has cast the class sculptures, after the kids created their art in wax in the class. The 38 pieces will be on display at the Mayor's Showcase of the Arts in the Civic Centre, allowing visitors an opportunity to see the kids' work.

Photo by Ted Brown

Police raid \$480,000 pot house operation

Another large, sophisticated marijuana grow operation has been shut down in a Georgetown home by Halton Police.

While searching the Gollop Cr. home Tuesday, police seized 450 marijuana plants with a potential street value of \$450,000, as well as \$30,000 worth of hydroponics equipment. Officers also found the hydro meter at the house had been bypassed.

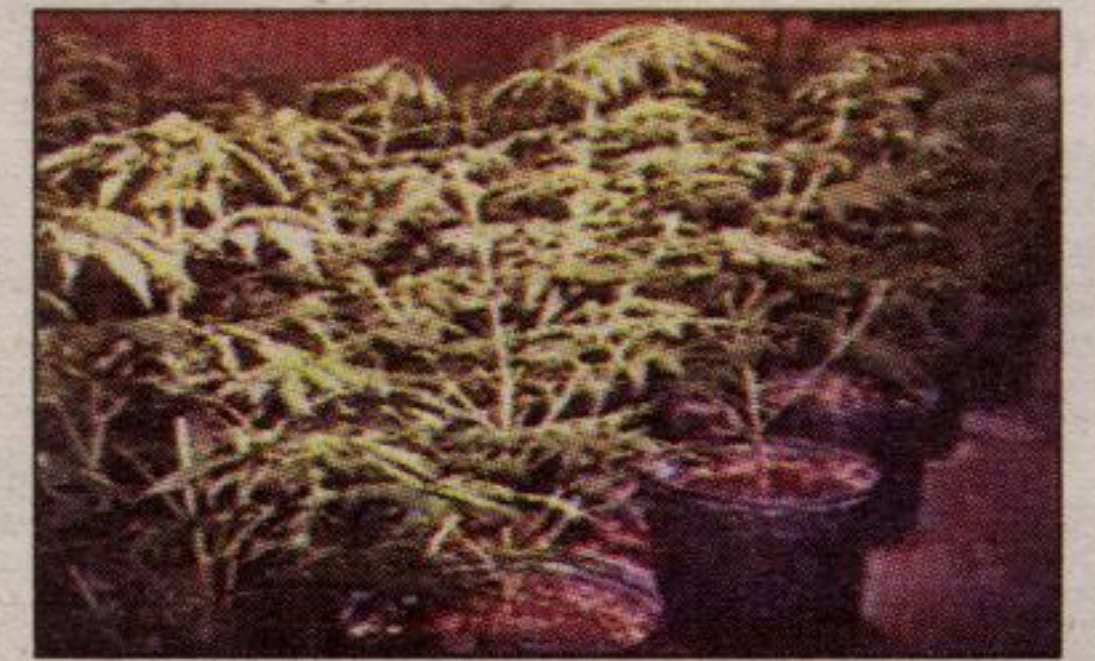
No one was in the home at the time and police are still investigating.

This is not the first grow operation police have discovered in town. Last fall they shut down three in Halton Hills, and last month, made another pot house raid at a Trafalgar Rd home.

Detective Larry Burns of Halton Police Service's Drug and Morality Bureau, said grow houses are often located in heavily populated middle-class neighbourhoods. He added there are a number of clues residents can use to determine if a grow house is operating in their neighbourhood including:

- Houses with covered windows
- Unusual noises such as hammering or drilling into the basement foundation
- Little or no garbage being put out
- Houses where individuals show up to shovel snow or cut grass then leave immediately
- People bringing into the house unusual objects like bags of soil and potting plants
- A strong, unusual odour coming from the house

Police also say other suspicious activity not usually associated with a neighbourhood may also indicate a grow house operation.



These are some of the 450 marijuana plants Halton Police seized Tuesday in a raid on a Gollop Cr. home.

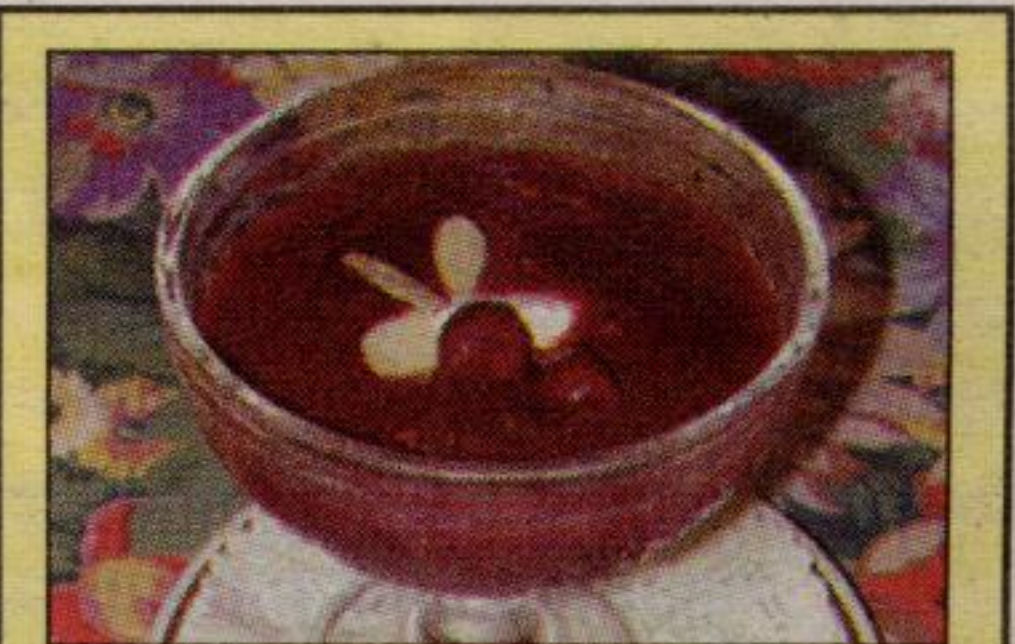
Halton Police photo

Burns added tips from the public often assist police in learning of grow house operations and each time they raid a house it has significant effect on the illegal drug trade.

"If we're getting 500 plants we're definitely taking a lot of marijuana off the street, there's no doubt about that," said Burns.

Residents who want to report suspicious neighbourhood activity can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS or 905-825-4747.

—By Lisa Tallyn,
staff writer



What's cookin'
...page 23

INSIDE

Editorial.....	6
Ted Brown.....	7
Sports.....	17-19
Entertainment.....	22
Health.....	24
Classifieds.....	25-29



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