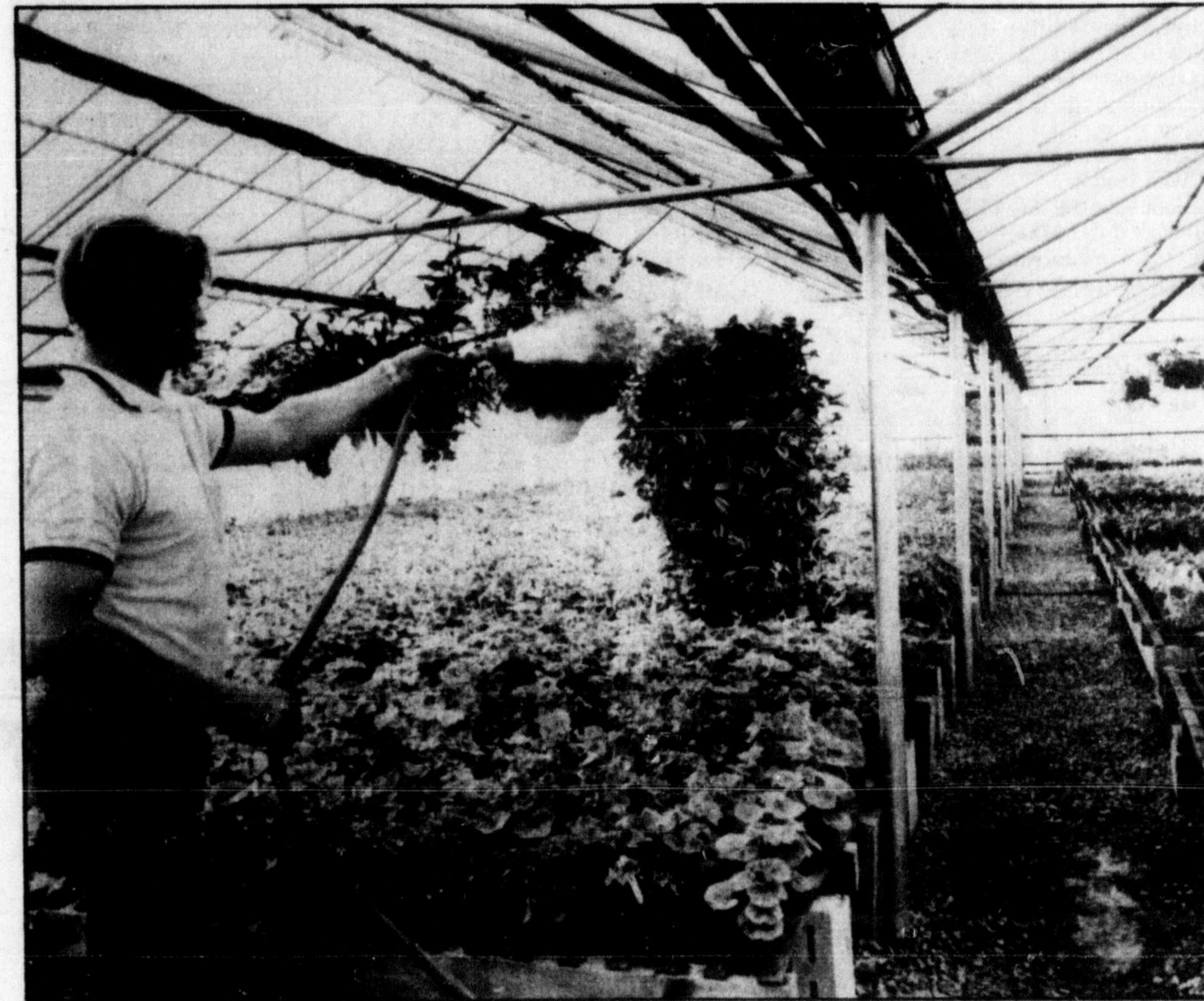


**COUNTRY GARDENS** on Five Sideroad in Milton offers a variety of plants, trees and shrubs for springtime buyers. Local garden centres are fully stocked for the spring growing season and operators report sales have been booming, due to the

earlier than usual arrival of spring this year. This week The Champion salutes the growing season with this special feature and a home and garden supplement inside today's paper.



**WATERING ANOTHER CROP** of flowers and small green plants at Heystek Nurseries is no easy task. Last week the greenhouses were completely sold out of fully

bloomed beautiful flowers and the second batch is ready to go. Heystek Nurseries is located south of Five Sideroad, near Campbellville, west of Highway 25.

## Step by step instructions

# Time to tune up your mower

If you're like a great number of Canadians, winter "snuck up on you" last fall and you probably did not have time to do more than run your power lawn mower dry before the snow came.

Here are a few tips for you to make sure that your mower does its designated job on your lawn this summer.

First thing, remove the spark plug. This will ensure that the mower doesn't kick over and the cutting blade spin suddenly when you're working on it.

Then, thoroughly clean your mower:

—scrape out the inside of the housing to remove caked-on grass.

—remove and scrape out inside of muffler.

—when cleaning the muffler, check the exhaust ports for any carbon build-up, and remove according to instructions in your owner's manual.

—clean inside of gas tank to remove any foreign particles.

—air filter can be cleaned with varsol.

—then engine and housing should be cleaned with engine degreaser or varsol.

On most lawn mowers the carburetor bowl is a simple twist operation to remove and it should be cleaned of any sediment, old gas or water. Some mowers have a drain on the bottom of the carburetor bowl for this purpose.

If fuel hose is removed from tank on carburetor, make sure hose is fully engaged on the nipples and clamped, to prevent fuel leakage. If hose is deteriorated, it is good insurance to replace it now than have to deal with fuel leakage and possible fire later. See your dealer for hose suitable to be used with gasoline.

Next, check the blade. If it is badly nicked or bent, follow the direction in your owner's manual to remove it, then take it to a dealer or service

centre for sharpening and balancing, or replacement. When you re-attach the blade to the mower again, follow the directions in your owner's manual. All parts must be replaced carefully and tightened as specified.

Check all bolts and tighten any that may have come loose.

Finally, replace spark plug with the same numbered plug that came with your mower

## Strawberries adapt to home garden

By W. D. Evans  
Department of Horticultural Science

Strawberries adapt well to home garden production. They are not difficult to grow and with proper care, will be productive for a number of years.

Home garden strawberries are generally of better quality than commercial berries. Since varieties which do not ship well but which have better flavor can be grown, these varieties are also better for freezing and jam making. Strawberry varieties adapted to Ontario conditions are Veestar, Vibrant and Bounty. These are high quality, high-yielding varieties varying in season. Certified plants should be used if available.

Chances of success will be greatly increased by paying attention to a few pointers. Strawberries thrive under a wide range of soil types, but because 90 percent of the roots grow in the top six inches of the soil, the soil must be in good condition. It must be well-drained but must have good moisture-holding capacity. Generally, this means it should be well supplied with organic matter. It should also be fertile. Avoid planting on land where tomatoes or potatoes have been grown in the past three years because crops harbor a soil-borne fungus which attacks strawberries.

After selecting the location, the planting system must be chosen. If space is not limited, a row system is probably easiest to manage. Rows are planted 3½ feet apart with plants 18 to 24 inches apart in the row. The runner plants which form are spaced six inches apart until a row two feet wide is established. When space is limited, a bed planting is better. In this system, two rows are planted with two feet between the rows. The runner plants are spaced six inches apart and a bed four feet wide is established. Initially, you can expect from two to three quarts of fruit for

and tighten to torque specified in owner manual. Re-attach the spark plug lead to the plug securely.

Move the mower outdoors and fill up the tank with a new fresh gas-oil mixture, at the ratio specified in your owner's manual. If you have gas left over from last year that hasn't been stabilized with a fuel conditioner, dispose of it safely . . . outside. 'Stale' fuel, where the lub-

ricating qualities of the oil have deteriorated, can result in carburetor contamination problems, or even worse, piston and cylinder scoring.

Be sure the ignition switch and the fuel valve are turned on. You'll have to use the primer a few times to get the gas from the tank, through the carburetor, then pull the starter cord. If your engine refuses to start after a few pulls, it's best to take it to a servicing dealer for an ignition and compression check.

Many people report that their old lawn mowers start on the second or third pull, even after being buried in the snow all winter. This is a little much to expect, even from the finest machines. A little service and maintenance now, will go a long way to assure trouble-free operation this year.



**WHEN TUNING UP** your lawn mower for this summer, check the blade. If it is badly nicked or bent, follow the directions in your owner's manual to remove it, then take it to a dealer or service centre for sharpening and balancing, or replacement.

## At Putzer Nursery

# Trees grow up from seed

The main difference between Putzer Hornby Nursery and other nurseries, according to



**BUDDING IS A KEY PART** in the growing of a tree at Putzer Hornby Nursery. John Putzer checks one such tree which has been grown from its own bud implanted in the tree stalk.

seed goes into the ground until it's sold.

"It's a complete cycle. A lot of nurseries will buy small plants and grow them. We start right from the seed."

The 250-acre nursery is on the Sixth Line in Milton, immediately south of the CPR line north of Derry Road.

On it, the Putzers grow an estimated 100,000 evergreens, 100,000 small deciduous trees, and about 50,000 bushes and shrubs. About 220 different varieties are grown.

Although the operation currently specializes in wholesale nursery work, there is a retail outlet on the premises this year for the first time.

Mr. Putzer's daughter Heidi operates it. It sells the same kind of plants the wholesale outlet deals with, but they're smaller in size.

Mr. Putzer said the difference is a homeowner would be primarily interested in trees of two or three inches in diameter. He said it would be easier for a homeowner to plant.

The wholesale outlet sells larger trees, up to eight inches in diameter, to private landscaping firms, garden centres, parks boards of many municipalities, and

several provincial ministries.

Some trees are also shipped to the United States and Europe.

Mr. Putzer said the nursery does not carry flowers or smaller plants.

He said the retailing outlet will possibly be expanded next year to include fertilizers and pesticides. Right now, he said, there is no building space available for something that large on premises.

There are 15 full-time employees who deal with propagation, machinery work, and basic plant care. Summer help is sometimes added to the staff.

Mr. Putzer said the way he grows his trees is to let a newly-planted seedling grow for a year or two, then clip it near the base of the plant and graft in a seed from the plant.

The base of the plant has had two years' growth, and the seedling grows from there in a controlled environment for another year or two, then is planted in a field and allowed to grow on its own.

Mr. Putzer said care is needed to ensure the plant is watered and fed regularly, and is kept free from insects.

# Spring planting best for roses

By Patricia M. Harney  
Department of Horticultural Science

Roses may be planted in spring or the fall, but spring planting is recommended so plants can become well established before winter.

Buy roses from a reputable dealer. Choosing the best grade on the market, even though it may cost a little more, will be well worth the extra few cents. Do not be misled by so-called "bargains" that may be successful for the first season and then die off or become weak and unsatisfactory if they should manage to survive.

Examine rose plants carefully. Before planting, cut off all injured or broken roots and prune back most canes to three

or four buds. If the plants have been dried out in transit, soak the roots in water for several hours before planting.

Plant bushes in well-drained, friable loam. Ideally rose beds should be excavated to a depth of about two and one-half feet and the bottom six inches filled with crushed stone or gravel for drainage. Cover the aggregate with a six-inch layer of organic matter, such as peat moss or well-rotted barnyard manure and fill in the excavation with a three to one mixture of good loam and organic matter.

Each rose plant should be set on a slight mound of soil so the roots will not be damaged.

A grafted rose bush should be planted so that the graft is about one inch below the surface of the soil.

If roses are planted too shallow, the graft, which appears as a swollen section of the stem, may be above the surface of the soil and encourage the growth of canes from below the graft. These suckers should be cut off as soon as noticed because they may eventually cause the bush to go "wild".

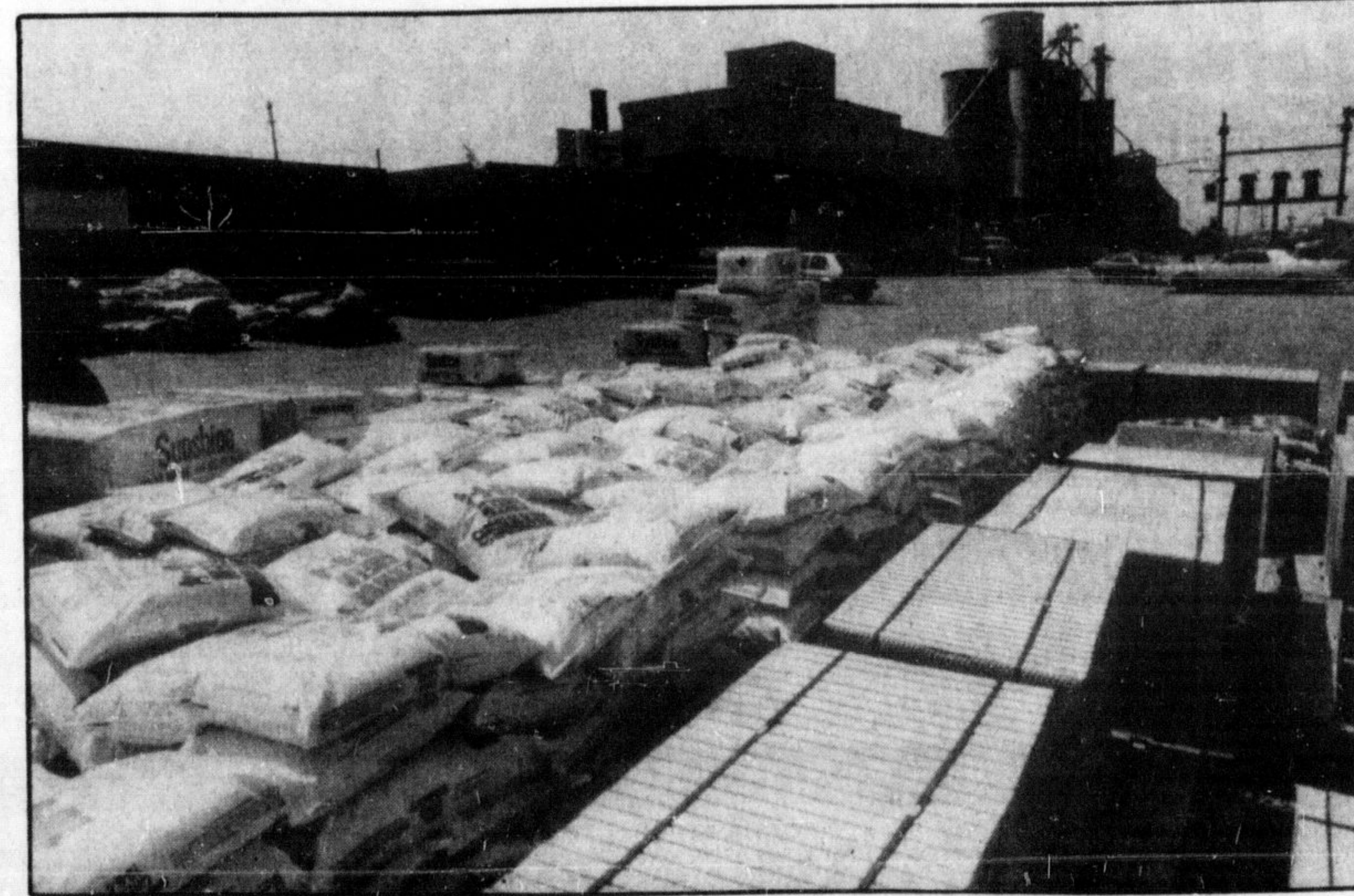
Roots will arise above the graft if the plants are planted too deeply. These roots have been produced by the portion of the rose plant grafted onto the hardy rootstock, and will not be as hardy as rootstock roots.

The soil should be packed firmly around the roots so they are in contact with the soil and no air pockets are formed. After the soil has been well packed around the roots, the plants should be thoroughly watered.

Soil should be mounded around the base of the

canes for the first three or four weeks to protect the canes from drying out until the plants become established. After a month or so, this soil should be removed and worked into the bed around the plants.

The distance between rose plants in a rose garden is governed by the type of rose. Large plants, such as hybrid perpetuals and grandiflora roses are usually planted two to two and one-half feet apart, whereas hybrid tea roses will grow well if planted one and one-half to two feet apart.



**HOME GARDENERS** don't have far to go for all they need to do the job: stores and outlets in Milton have it all. Photo from the Co-Op garden centre on Bronte St. shows only a small portion of what's available for green-thumbers.

## It's time to grow . . .

At last, it's here!  
Spring planting time, that is.

Time to get the flower beds and vegetable garden raked up, the ground turned over, and the seeds or plants planted.

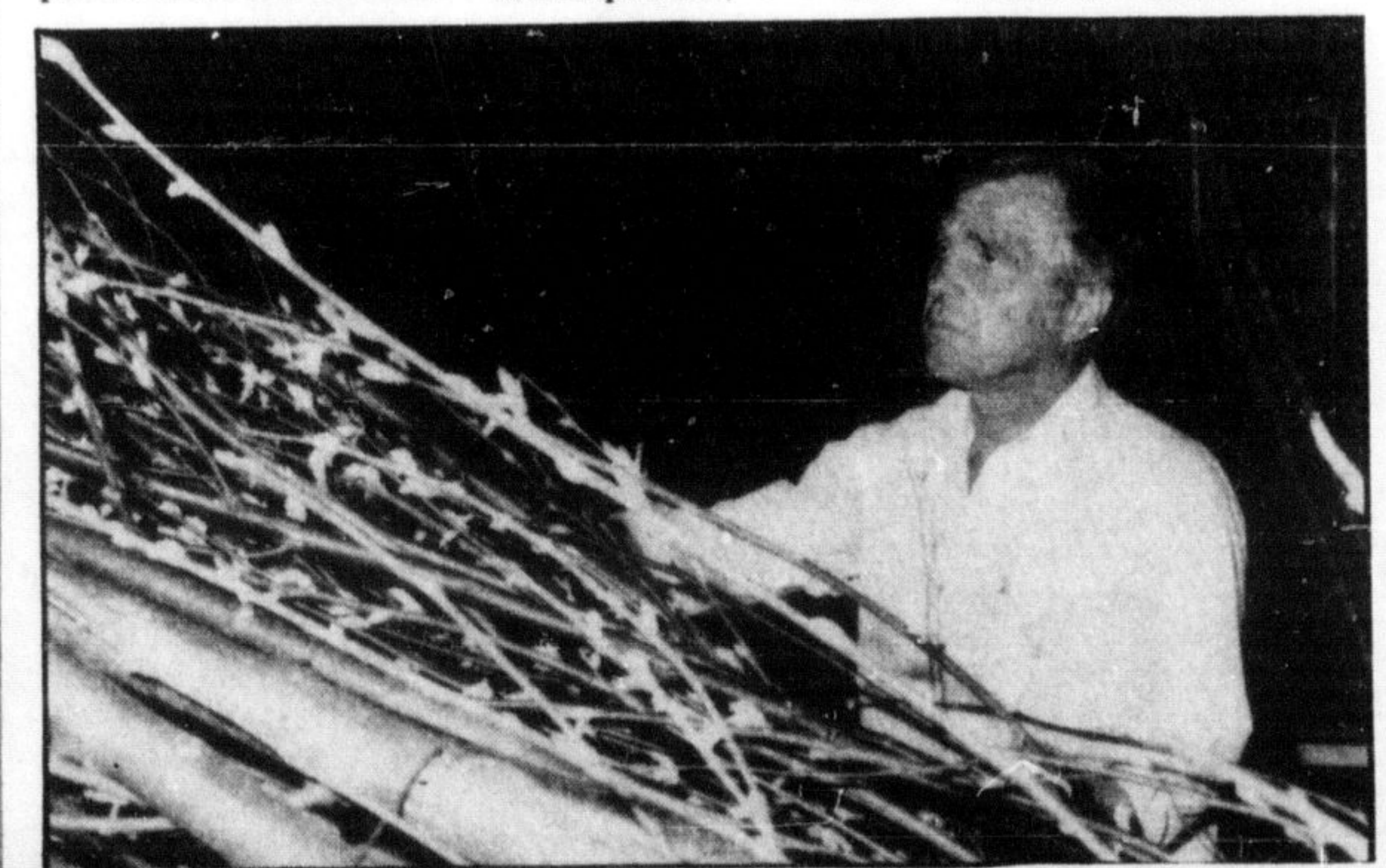
Traditionally in Milton, the 24th of May weekend is the "right" time to do the spring planting, although due to some extra warm weather earlier in May, many have already started.

This feature, plus a special 12-page tabloid supplement in today's Champion, are presented to help you do it right.

Good reading. And good growing!

John Putzer, owner-operator, is that it grows its own trees right from scratch.

Mr. Putzer grows plants from the time the



**STACKS OF TREES** are examined by John Putzer, owner-operator of Putzer Hornby Nursery—the only nursery in the area, he claims, to grow its trees right from seedling. The whole process can take as much as 10 years. A retail outlet is beginning this year, with the possibility of expansion next year.

## Checks on hustle halt

Halton Board of Education health officials will delve into the reasons why the once popular Health Hustle has been discontinued in at least one school.

Program Superintendent Robert Dixon, in reply to an inquiry by Acton-Esquesing trustee Betty Fisher, indicated the staff will talk to critics of the Health Hustle. The board's guidelines refer only to fitness. Health Hustle is left to the discretion of the school principal.