month the March is the get promise. promise of spring with our early thaws and the beginnings of life after Its also the winter. promise of mud, of our the dogs dragging in newfound winter bounties and of kids with "soakers". Luckily for us, its also the beginning of gardening season.

Many of you will have seeds started your own the containers in kitchen, if you have not yet done so, there is lots of time as I write We do not begin this. to seed our tomatoes for until the sales retail end of March so do not just get out a panic, flower pots, visit your local seed rack and get a bit of a head start on spring. We use a very sandy mix or artificial mix for our seedling trays and find that this works well. The baby seedlings a good head start with an open sandy soil the roots get enough aeration and really get quickly. established I can not stress this point enough. following The major cause of seeds dying in the pots is that people cover them deeply. The second . cause is that the seeds cold. Seed too are packages typically say cover seeds 4" deep in the pot. We do not cover our seeds at all! With only a few exceptions, eg. pansy and large seeds melons our seeds are uncovered in the trays. We find that they germinate better this way. If you have to cover



your seeds, do so lightly. We use vermiculite for this purpose but you could use a bit of your potting Make sure you can soil. still just see the seed finish you your as Also remember, covering. temperatures that soil 10 degrees cooler are temperatures, air than if your house is 72°F then the soil is 62°F. Seeds like a 72°F soil temperature but they will germinate at cooler temperatures, it just takes longer. Put them in a warm window or on top of the refrigerator to warm up the soil. March is also the time to do some gardening. and other Apple fruit trees can be pruned now. If in doubt about how to prune fruit trees, visit your local library or garden centre for advice

and handouts. There are

several systems depending

on the tree variety but

one should be picked out

to flow is a good time

to get the pruning done.

You can also apply a

dormant oil spray at this

tree

Before the

future

and

good

time.

and

followed to ensure

development

sap begins

Dormant oil is

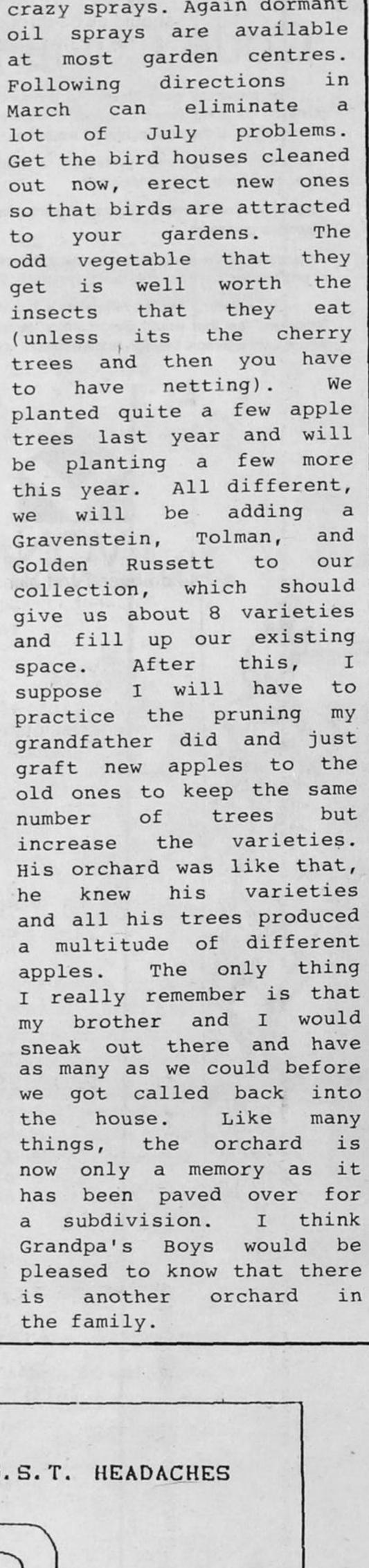
fruiting.

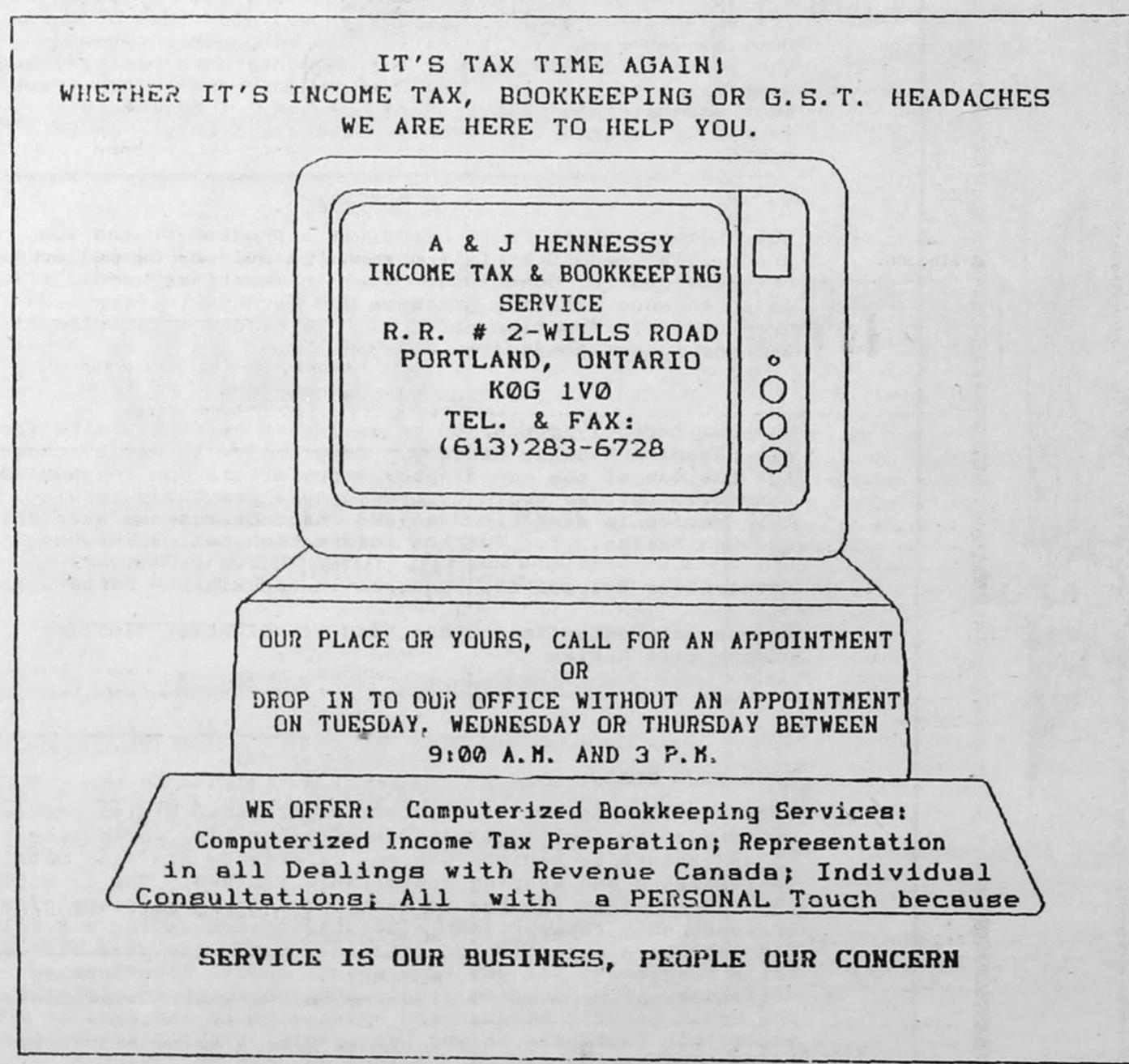
control environmentally on fruit insects many trees without a lot of crazy sprays. Again dormant oil sprays are available at most garden centres. to your gardens. odd vegetable that get is well worth that they insects to have netting). will Gravenstein, Tolman, Golden Russett to After this, space. graft new apples to trees of number increase his knew apples. Like the house. subdivision. is another orchard the family.

way

to

great







FEDERATED WOMEN'S

INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO Search for Peace Not War The conflict in the Persian Gulf has been on the minds of all Canadians, including the 20,000 members of The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, the largest rural women's organization in the province. On their behalf, on January 14th, while Parliament was debating the topic, the President of FWIO, Peggy Knapp sent the following letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, to Joe Clark and to the Minister of National Defence: "Twenty thousand members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have following events in been the Persian Gulf throughout serious crisis this commend our government for pursuing diplomatic channels in search of solutions. May we urge you to continue search out all possibilities for peace, and with the other members the of United Nations coalition, extend the sanctions against Saddam Hussein's Iraq, the so terrors of full-fledge war may not set loose the force of arms again in our world." As an organization founded in 1897 FWIO has experienced the effects of war on its communities. During the first World War the WI members not only increased their work on the farm but they also found the time and money to support the needs of others. They raised over \$4,000,000 which was used to finance a hospital ship, field kitchens as well as overseas relief. Not content with money they knitted socks, sweaters and mitts as well as sewn articles. During the second World War the Women's Institute members made over one and half million knitted articles for the forces as well as hundreds of quilts. Other activities included furnished recreation room at Camp Borden, tons of jam made by the WI members and sent overseas as well as raising over \$1,000,000. After the Korean War the WI members helped purchase hand looms and sewing machines for the refugees. FWIO cares for its members and their concerns, as well their local communities and the world wide community, through its membership in the Associated Country Women of the World. For more information contact Peggy Knapp, FWIO President 416-822-0416 Geraldine Campbell, FWIO

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