

MILTON HOCKEY fans get a birdseye view of activities in the old Fred Armstrong Arena on Brown St. from the glassed-in coffee shop high above the ice surface.

FRED ARMSTRONG Arena in Milton survived a serious fire in 1955 to become well-known as the home of the Tricounty Juvenile Hockey tournament, one of Ontario's most famous minor hockey tournaments.

A look at North Halton's arenas

By Denis Gibbons

When Georgetown's new Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena opens this spring, the North Halton area will boast five covered artificial ice arenas.

Alcott Memorial Arena and Milton Memorial Arena have been constructed to help alleviate the pressure of heavy bookings in the old Georgetown Memorial Arena and Fred Armstrong Arena, formerly known as the Brown St. Arena in Milton.

Those two buildings, together with the Acton Community Centre have served their communities well, both as the sight of many fiercely contested junior and intermediate hockey games and various recreational activities.

It is a fitting tribute to Gordon Alcott, who initiated the Little NHL hockey program in Georgetown and Fred Armstrong, the man responsible for the installation of artificial ice in Milton that their names will remain on the facilities they did so much to promote.

For recreation buffs, vital statistics on the five buildings are.

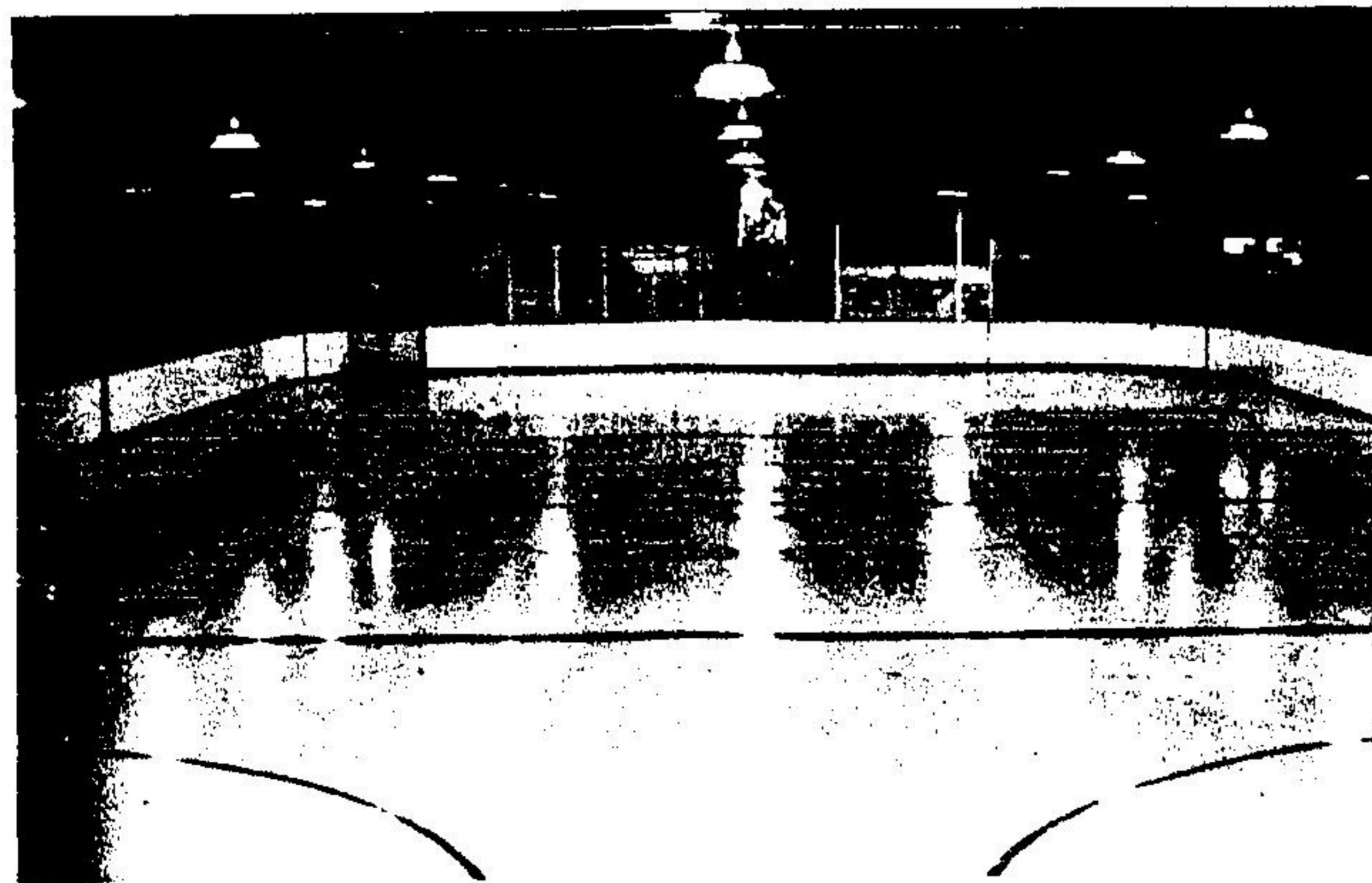
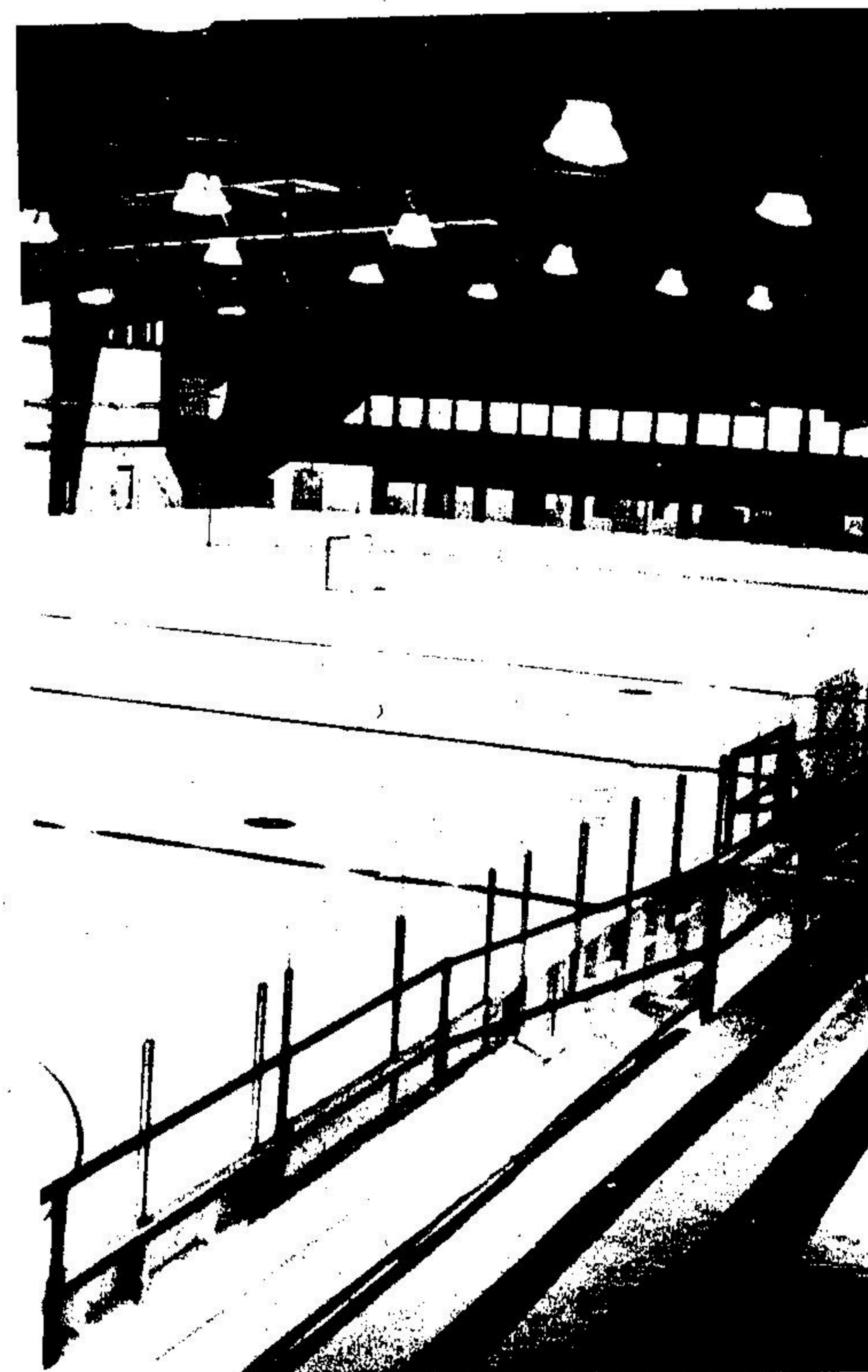
Fred Armstrong Arena — Built in 1921, renovated following a fire in 1955. Ice surface dimensions 175' x 76'.

Georgetown Memorial Arena — Built in 1922, improved with new fold-down seats in 1965 and renovated lobby and dressing rooms in 1968. Ice surface dimensions 175' x 70'. Seating capacity 600.

Acton Community Centre — Built in 1929, improved with addition of auditorium and installation of artificial ice in 1960, presently undergoing five year reconstruction program. Ice surface dimensions 179' x 75'. Seating capacity — 700.

Milton Memorial Arena — Built in 1974, officially opened with exhibition hockey game between Milton midgets and a team from Heinola, Finland, Monday, January 6, 1975. Ice surface dimensions 190' x 85'. Seating capacity 1170.

Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena — Built in 1975, expected to be open in spring of same year. Ice surface dimensions 185' x 85'. Seating capacity 1000.



ACTON COMMUNITY Centre's 179'x75' ice surface has always been known for its quality. Visiting hockey teams have used the term "as soft as a baby's bottom" to compliment the Acton bailliwick.

THE SHINY new Milton Memorial Arena on Thompson Road just east of the town has bench-type seating for 1100 and features a spacious 190'x85' ice surface, high candlepower lighting and a large upstairs auditorium.