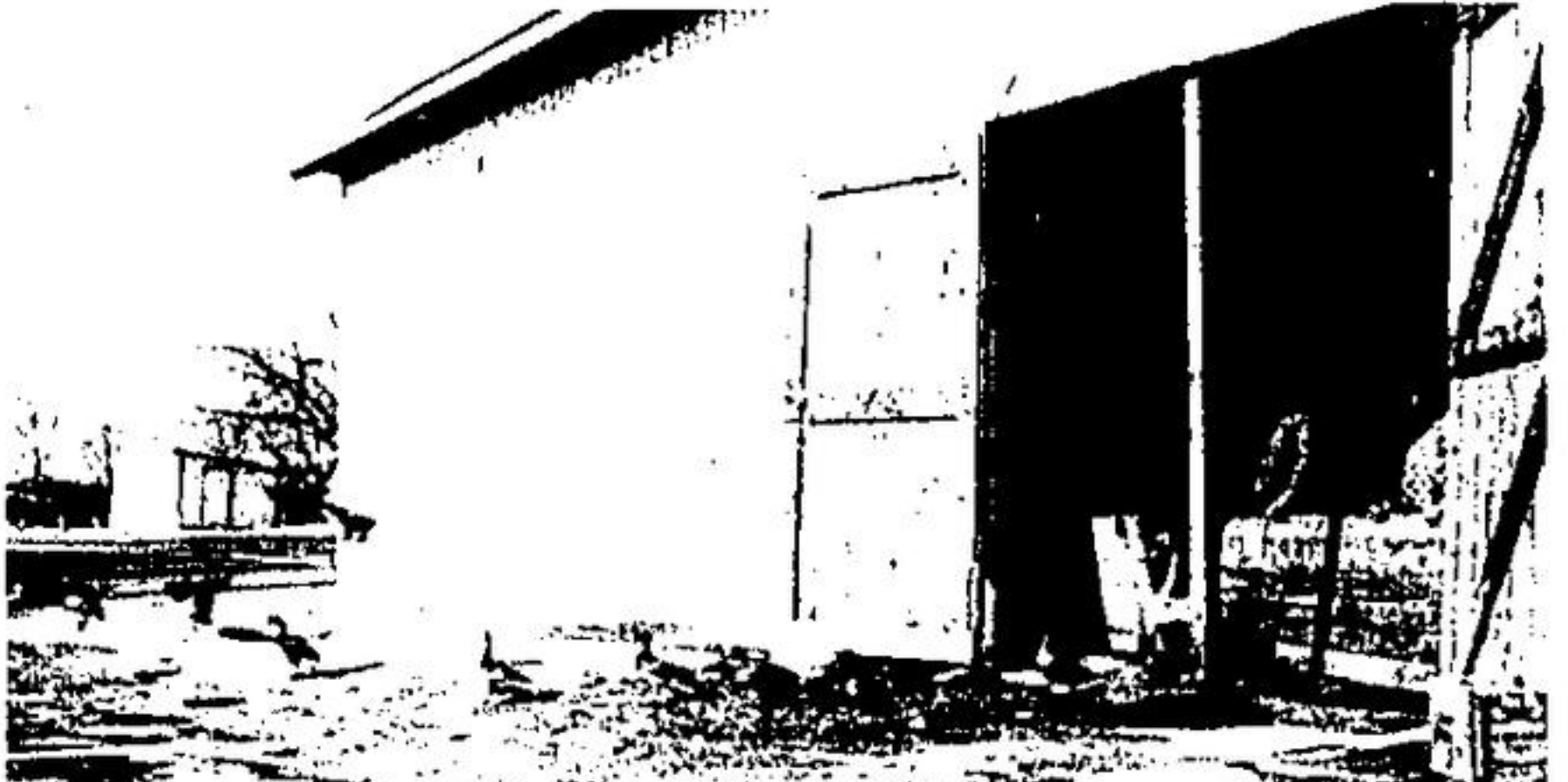


One to get ready.

Two to get set.

Three to GO.



THE DUCKS AND SWANS at first took their time coming into the sunlight after months of winter confinement in the poultry building. Once, however, the first few followed the path laid out by workmen, they discovered the warmth of the spring sun last Thursday morning, and took

off with the rest following suit. Most of the fowl made their own way to Fairy Lake. A few at first seemed bent on waddling to Lake Ontario instead. But they soon got their bearings. "They (the birds) were happy to get out," said services superintendent Alf Duby. He and several

townsmen released the birds from the shed. Arena manager Harold Townsley also took part. Last winter was the first time the birds were sheltered in the poultry building. Town men will continue to feed the birds regularly until the ice melts in the lake.

Ducks set free head for lake

They took to water like ducks... and no wonder. The hundred birds set loose from the poultry building Thursday morning were indeed ducks. Except for three swans. Town men opened the doors for the birds and they headed out, slowly at first, gathering speed and confidence. They veered for the water, waddling along and then flying more enthusiastically. The three men who watched were amazed at what happened next. The hundred-odd birds set out immediately to bathe themselves. They

worked at their feathers until they were completely neat and clean. The swans were the most fastidious of all, and washed themselves for about half an hour, Alf Duby said. Good shape They were happy to get out! he commented. Facilities superintendent Duby said the birds were in "real good shape" after their winter in the poultry barn. They headed for the open water near the arena, but soon mingled with the 60 or so birds who had wintered near the dam. The men couldn't tell the difference between the two groups. Both had been fed regular-

ly, but the number of birds over the Bearmore water intake had been cut drastically by keeping the one flock in the barn. In Portuguese The men who fed the birds faithfully all winter are town workmen Gerry De Ponte of Georgetown and Charlie Sheppard of Acton. Gerry especially built up a great friendship with the ducks. He always talked to them in his native Portuguese, and every day they talked back. Now, declares Alf Duby solemnly, when Gerry talks to the ducks they answer him back in Portuguese.

But the birds recognize their old fine-feathered human friends, too. Both Colin MacColl and Esther Taylor say when they called the ducks in their old familiar way, the birds rushed over to greet them. They clambered up over the ice and onto the shore to surround Colie and Esther at different times and different places. Colie says the swans headed excitedly over to him, but their long legs couldn't get them up over the ice to come near him. Both report joyous reunions with the birds who had been in the shed for months.

Better plan Superintendent Alf Duby hopes the matter of housing some of the ducks will be settled by next winter. He thinks one of the tin buildings in the works yard would be a better place to house them than in the poultry building. The fair board had materials stored here which could have been damaged, and these materials also cut down on the space available for penning the birds. Mr. Duby thinks a good idea would be to build a proper enclosure out into the lake with a bubbler in it to keep the

water open. It would have to be well fenced to keep children away. He thinks a shelter should be built on shore in conjunction with the open water on the lake, so the birds could be either outside or in depending on the weather. Some birds are still in a barn at Fred Kentner's, including swans. The town men will continue to feed the birds at the lake regularly till the ice is all out and vegetation sprouting. Council has asked for a report, before deciding on a policy for next year.

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Open House Saturday at new Y centre

The new Community Services Centre in the Y held Open House Saturday afternoon, and co-ordinator Judy McLin was pleased with the response. Although the crowd was not huge, she felt the people who attended were those who would be able to refer others to the facility. Some represented specific

groups such as the Cancer Society and Friends-in-Deed. Staff of the groups which already use the room in the Y for appointments were there, as well as members of the founding board of directors. Welcome There was no formal program—just a hearty welcome, coffee and cookies.

The purpose of the Services Centre was explained. It originated with the feeling that Acton was lacking its share of services, partially due to the fact there was no place for meetings, and no one person to contact. The Services Centre has funding from the region and Halton Hills council. Provincial funding is also expected. Flowers decorated the rooms for the opening date. One bouquet came from the Human Services Council of Halton county. New service Mrs. McLin announced this

week that credit counselling is being scheduled for the Centre. She is receiving an increasing number of calls on a variety of subjects. While naturally the nature of the phone calls and chats is confidential, she is discovering she received a lot of calls simply asking for information. During school break week in particular she answered questions on public skating and swimming programs, or referred the calls to John Cooper's office. Mrs. McLin is in the office during regular working hours five days a week. This can be changed to afternoons and

evenings, for instance, if it should turn out this would be of more good to the community. She hopes to be able to discuss problems with local families and then be able to forward them, if necessary, to the right department or agency. Meetings could be set up right here in Acton. The centre is feeling its way, and Mrs. McLin was happy to have the chance to talk about it to some more people at the Open House. She's also accepting invitations to speak to local groups about the Centre; she's due this week at the Friends-in-Deed meeting.

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Certificates, medals presented at Legion

(Continued from Page 1) committee of the new Legion, Bob Angell, Fred Allen, Gordon James, Ed Footitt, John Goy Sr. and Gord McCutcheon. More medals Service medals were also presented to Vic Patrick, John Chapman, Max Storey and Ab Irwin. John Chapman has been secretary for 10 years, Max on the executive for years and president for nine. Vic Patrick and Ab Irwin were especially cited for their work with the Decoration Day committee since its inception. Vic is presently service officer and Ab first vice-president. A service medal was also voted to Mrs. Ruth Finlay, former president of the Lad-

ies Auxiliary and zone commander for the past 13 years. She is highly regarded throughout the zone. Mrs. Finlay was in hospital and couldn't be present for her honor. 50 years There were rounds of applause for Dr. A. J. Buchanan and Fred Wright who received their 50 year membership pins and 50 year medal. Robert Turner received his 45 year pin. There was a 40 year membership pin for Alex McDonald but he is presently staying with his daughter in Belleville so couldn't attend. The long-time membership pins were presented by Dave Capperud, a member of the Acton branch and also the provincial president of the Legion. 25 years 25 year pins were awarded to Bob Angell, John Chisholm, Alvey Gordon, George Hall, James F. Higgins, Mick Holmes, Gordon James, Vic Patrick, Frank Toth Jr. and Henry Wedge.

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Write off taxes

Halton Hills council, sitting as a court of revision, wrote off \$12,365 in uncollectable taxes, Monday night. These taxes may represent establishments no longer in business, bankruptcies or adjustments due to some error.

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