

# Alanna halfway through year in Sweden



Acton's Alanna Bowen spent weekends on an island in the Baltic Sea last summer as part of her Rotary exchange program to Sweden.

by Helen Murray  
Many people would find it difficult to leave home for a year and learn a new language in a completely foreign land. But for Acton's Alanna Bowen, they have just become two minor inconveniences to overcome as she experiences the most exciting year of her life.

Alanna, 17, is halfway through her year in Utran, Sweden, as part of the Rotary Club's student exchange program. She said goodbye to her family and friends last August, and has made the most of every situation which has come her way since then.

Unlike other exchange programs, where the students live in three or four homes over the year, Alanna is staying with just one family the entire year. And not totally by coincidence, she is taking the place of her host parents' daughter, who is also on a Rotary exchange, in Woodbridge Ontario.

Her adopted home of Utran is about 30 kilometres from Stockholm. With a population of 1,000 people, residents find themselves going to nearby Tumba for shopping and schooling.

Her host father, Carl Huss is a treasurer in

Stockholm, while her host mother Gudrun is a pharmacist. Alanna complements a family of two brothers, Henrik, 21 and Gustaf, 18. Their 16-year-old daughter Karolina is away for a year.

Alanna explained in a letter to the Free Press that in Sweden if a student wants to go abroad for a year, their parents are encouraged to take an incoming student, even if they are not Rotary members. In case Alanna did not get along with the Husses or there was some other reason why she would have to leave them, an alternative family had been named. But Alanna can see no reason why she would leave the Huss family before her year is up.

Karolina had not yet left for Canada when Alanna arrived last summer, and was a great help in telling the Acton girl what kind of clothes to wear, and other items she may need to know in the following 12 months.

Alanna attends school in Tumba, taking English, Swedish, art and drama, among other subjects. There is little communication gap between herself and the other students, she explains,

because everyone can speak English, and in fact, take advantage of her presence to practice. However, Alanna encourages them to speak Swedish so that she may learn their language.

So far, she says, she's not fluent in the Swedes' mother tongue, but she admits she is getting pretty good at it.

Most of her weekends in the summer were spent at the Husses' summer home, on an island in the Baltic Sea. There she enjoyed sailing and swimming. However, because the island is so close to military installations, Alanna writes, she needed special visas to go to the cottage.

In fact, Alanna pens, the suspected Soviet submarine which was trapped in Swedish waters shortly before Christmas was just off the coast of their island.

At Christmas, Alanna found herself visiting the Huss' relatives, and eating the delicacy elk tongue. She reserved comment on whether she like it or not. In what little spare time she has Alanna manages to take Judo twice weekly, and enjoys going into Stockholm just to take in the sights of the city.

Meanwhile, on the homefront, her parents Alan and Lynda Bowen, of Wynford Place, have had a chance to shorten the miles between themselves and their youngest daughter.

Last November, Mrs. Bowen explains, the couple spent a very enjoyable evening with Mr. Huss in Toronto, where he was visiting while on business. Mrs. Bowen notes how very rare it is for the parents to actually meet their child's host parents. "It was unexpected plus," she said. "We had an extremely pleasant visit with him and can see for ourselves what a good home Alanna is staying in."

A few weeks later, the Bownes played host to Karolina Huss who came from Woodbridge to spend a weekend. They felt by extending their hospitality to Karolina, it was a small way of thanking the Husses for seeing that Alanna was having such a wonderful time.

It's been six months of fun and adventure for Alanna, with another six months ahead of her. She's made many friends and seen many things, and just knows the next half a year is going to be as great as the first half.

# The Acton Free Press

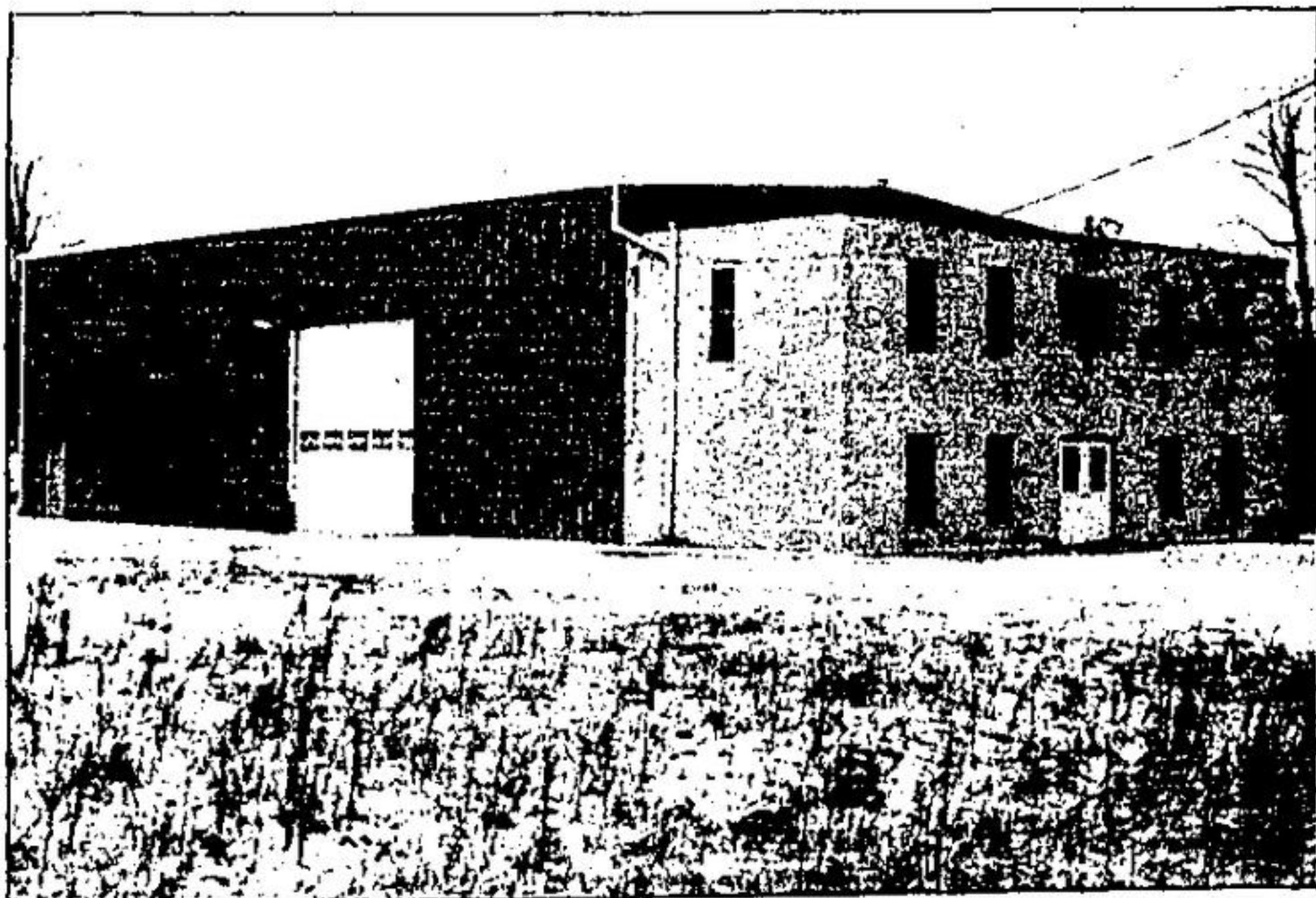
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This long vacant factory in the industrial area will soon be filled with equipment and an estimated 18 workers. Galvcast's move here will create 12 new jobs.

## Will create 12 new jobs

# Galvcast moving to Acton

A new industry is moving to Acton and during 1983 this firm will create 12 new jobs.

Galvcast will be moving to Acton from Milton and hopefully open in mid-March.

Currently the firm is preparing its new factory in the industrial park. The firm has been operating in rented quarters in Milton for about 18 months now.

The move from 309 Steeles Ave. to 111 Commerce Crt., a building which has stood vacant since it was built a couple of years ago, will increase the operation's production and other space from 3,000 square feet to 8,400 square feet.

Galvcast makes galvanized steel. The company bought its new building and 2.4 acres of land in Acton, which allows for future expansion, earlier this month.

Six employees will be moving with the firm from Milton to Acton. Throughout the rest of the year, owner Brian Luckett said, about a dozen new jobs will be created and hiring will be done locally.

New workers will be trained by the firm for their

jobs. Luckett added the company already has contracts for the balance of this year for which additional workers will be required. He expects gradually over the year the firm will move to a three shift operation.

Luckett noted that new councillor Rick Bonnette assisted with the firm's purchase of the property in Acton. He explained he had been looking at the move to Acton for some time, but they wanted to settle natural gas supply questions before making a final decision. Working with planning depart-

ment staff, Bonnette obtained information for Luckett on natural gas supply and assisted in arranging to have a gas main installed for the plant.

Preparation of the building and site will include making and installing a crane, installing equipment and roof vents, and putting pits in the factory floor.

Luckett has been planning on relocating for about a year and began looking at Acton in June. In October he decided if the natural gas supply could be secured he'd move his firm here.

## Move swans to open water, seek permanent fowl solution

The Fairy Lake swans were moved by works staff Tuesday afternoon (yesterday) from near the poultry barn to open water at the end of Prospect Park.

There had been some suggestion at Monday's general committee meeting the birds would have to be moved to the sewage plant on Churchill Rd. South. However, that won't be necessary since the water will remain open at the end of the park in the vicinity of the Prospect Park water well.

It also appears council will examine ways of solving the swan problem permanently well before the start of next winter.

Amid gales of laughter from councillors, Monday night new Councillor Rick Bonnette raised the subject of the swans and his fears they might not be moved soon enough to open water at Fairy Lake or elsewhere and could die.

He said in 1972 the swans were donated to Acton and earlier in 1972 he contacted recreation director Tom Shepard about having them moved, but was promised no action. He reported Shepard wasn't interested in having the birds moved, seemed unconcerned they could die and suggested they wouldn't be a problem if one individual (left unnamed) didn't feed them.

Bonnette said Shepard also seemed unaware that shortly after birth the swans' wings are clipped so they can't fly south and it is against a federal regulation for swans to be permitted to fly.

It was wrong to leave the birds to die because there was no open water for them and he felt something should be either done to care for them or else they should be permanently removed from Fairy Lake. He added the swans were costly and he felt since Acton agreed to care for the birds, Halton Hills had assumed the responsibility.

Another new councillor, Finn Pulstrup, asked Shepard what could be done about the swans.

Shepard said he felt the birds have become more of a "nuisance" than a problem, and the original birds donated to Acton mostly aren't around now. Birds have been exchanged, more were donated and others dropped at Fairy Lake over the years.

A number of years ago council decided arena staff should care for the Fairy Lake birds, but he questioned the wisdom of that idea today in light of the high wages paid to staff now. One problem with feeding the swans has been how to keep the ducks away. Shepard said. People are feeding all the birds at Fairy Lake and there are some who think the Town should be caring for them, but Shepard asked "whose problem are they (the swans)."

In previous years Beardmore kept some Fairy Lake water open in winter with a bubbler machine, but the tannery doesn't do that anymore so now when the lake freezes up there are fowl problems.

He thought it was a poor use of arena staff to have them running around the lake with nets chasing swans and looking "foolish."

Bonnette noted he had also contacted arena manager Harold Townsley about the swans and his concerns. He reported Townsley was more "sympathetic" about the swans than Shepard and might be rounding them up Tuesday (yesterday) to be moved to open water. He said he wasn't looking for the swans to be fed and cared for on a daily basis.

Shepard noted there are conservation authorities and the Humane Society to take care of wildlife. He added Townsley has more time, invested in the fowl than he does.

Bonnette said he didn't care about the ducks, they could fly away, but the swans couldn't and something should be done to take care of them.

The recreation director responded he didn't think it should be arena staff taking care of the

swans. He recalled last year the birds were eventually moved to the sewage plant where the water never freezes and then they were moved back to Fairy Lake at the end of winter.

Councillor Marilyn Serjeantson was surprised the Fairy Lake swans can't fly, she has seen swans from North Halton Golf and Country Club fly in Georgetown.

It is hard to move the swans from Fairy Lake before the ice is thick and safe, Councillor Ross Knechtel said. Bonnette countered there were snowmobiles on Fairy Lake over the weekend so it is likely safe enough to walk on the ice.

Council must decide if it wants the ducks moved or have them removed permanently. Knechtel predicted there will be "noise" in Acton over the issue, but couldn't say if that would be "good or bad."

Shepard's view was supported by Councillor Tom Hill, the birds should be turned over to the Humane Society or a conservation authority. The birds weren't the Town's responsibility simply because they were donated to Acton. He recalled previous controversy over the Fairy Lake ducks.

Last year the works staff moved the swans, Knechtel said.

Since there was an Acton lady who was willing to feed the birds they should be moved, Councillor Phil Carney said. He remembered a subdivision was rejected in Georgetown once because a blue heron was on the property, so surely the swans could be moved.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy said the birds will be moved Tuesday and won't get back to Fairy Lake this winter unless "they walk down Mill St." (if they were removed to the sewage plant.)

Next year the issue should be dealt with "sooner" and taking care of the ducks was an "assumed responsibility" for the Town, the mayor declared. He added Halton Hills may have to buy its own bubbler or "something else" to solve the bird problem at Fairy Lake permanently.



Joe Willmott, Dana Petrillo, Hilda Hinojosa, Janet Hinojosa, and Robbyn Burke stand in one of the deep ditches in the Holmesway Pl. area demonstrating just how dangerous they could be if filled with water. Halton Housing Authority has asked

Halton Hills to do something to ease the worry of parents in the area and the matter is being examined by the engineer. Possible solutions will be reviewed by the budget committee later.

## Municipal complex

# Councillor Carney urges more appraisals before buying site

It would appear likely that before Halton Hills council decides if it will buy the Stevens' Estate as a site for a municipal complex one or two additional appraisals will be carried out for the property.

In November the old Town council voted to put down a \$10,000 deposit as an option to purchase the 30 acre site on Maple Ave. in Georgetown for \$650,000. Previously council had an appraisal, water and sewer servicing study, land survey and soil testing conducted on the property. These studies, which haven't been made public yet, cost about \$20,000.

Noting the option to purchase expires tomorrow (January 20), new Councillor Phil Carney of Georgetown suggested a second and possibly third appraisal be obtained. Several councillors immediately volunteered to second Carney's motion. Carney thought extra appraisals would be "advisable" and felt the information could be useful to both the special municipal building committee and council.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy said he had no problem with Carney's request and Councillor Russ Miller said staff could be directed to contact two appraisers and have the work done.

Councillors Dave Whiting noted he could appreciate new councillors not wanting money wasted because of a decision made by the old council, but he wanted to know how much was going to be spent on having two more appraisals conducted. He felt there should be an "upset limit" or maximum amount of money to be spent on the additional appraisals.

Carney agreed there should be a maximum that will be spent on the appraisals. He said he didn't want to see money squandered, but felt the purchase price of \$650,000 justified having more appraisals. He said the item could be brought back to next week's council meeting with appraisal "cost factors" included.

Another new Georgetown Councillor Finn Pulstrup noted there is a building committee (Continued on page 6)

## inside

Police are probing three break-in attempts at Glenlea plaza. Turn to page 8.

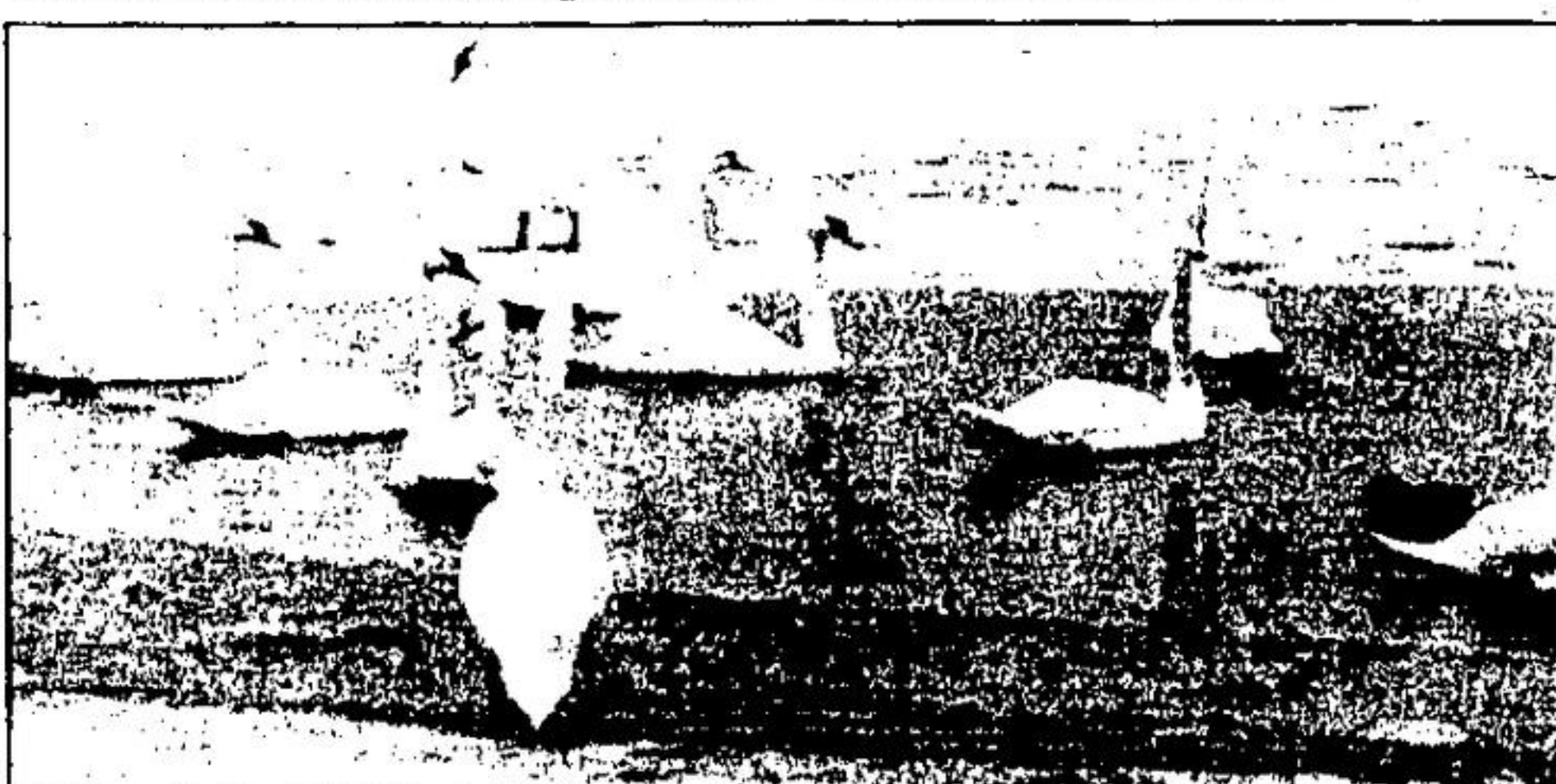
The handicap ramp will likely be included in the 1983 budget, but Halton Hills is going after a make work grant for the project also. Details on page 3.

They are working out all the fine points of the town hall restoration project and Acton's and the Restoration Committee are aiming to start work February 1. See story on page 2.



Deals Devine turned himself in to police. See page 2.

They say I'm over the hill. Funny, I don't remember being on top.



The Fairy Lake swans were moved yesterday (Tuesday) from near the poultry barn to open water at the end of the park in the vicinity of the Prospect Park well.

## Council tells Defence secure hatch to air raid siren switch

The hatch leading to the platform at the top of Acton's air raid siren or "early warning device" should be locked so nobody can get up there, according to Councillor Dave Whiting.

Monday night he called for council to ask the Department of National Defence to make a full report on how the siren came to go off in Acton and wait away for over three hours on January 1. He noted press reports indicate the siren was deliberately set off by someone flipping the switch on the tower. Council supported seeking the detailed explanation.

Council also agreed with Whiting's suggestion

that the defence department be asked to report to the Town how they intend to secure the siren platform hatch.

Whiting said it is hard to believe missiles can be sent great distances across the skies, but the siren hatch can't be secured. He said it seemed simple to him that the hatch could just be locked to prevent unauthorized people from going up and turning on the siren so that it can't be switched off at master control, necessitating numerous phone calls and delays in having hydro cut off the power. The defence department seems unwilling to take steps to prevent the siren being sounded again.