

Town will fence off Fairy Lake beach

There will be a fence erected between the road at Prospect Park and the Fairy Lake beach. The beach will be enclosed and no picnic tables will be allowed on the beach this summer.

This week, in separate interviews, Mayor Peter Pomeroy and recreation director Tom Sheppard discussed minor changes being made at the swimming area at Fairy Lake as well as the municipal disposition of coroner's inquest jury recommendations aimed at improving swimming area safety.

Last September a coroner's inquest jury handed down 10 recommendations after hearing two nights of evidence about the tragic drownings last July of two little Acton boys, Brent Patey and Nick Dmicic, at the Fairy Lake swimming area.

Evidence at the inquest indicated the boys may have been jumping off a picnic table beyond the buoy line or swinging into deep water from willow tree branches just before they disappeared. Exactly how they came to drown was never established.

Both Pomeroy and Sheppard indicated because the Patey family launched a law suit against Halton Hills which hasn't been resolved yet, they couldn't get into too many specifics.

Pomeroy said council some time ago received from Sheppard, in-camera because of the legal sensitivity of the matter, the 10 coroner's inquest jury recommendations.

The mayor explained legal advice to the Town was that until the litigation matter was resolved, council couldn't take any action, if in fact the municipality wanted to, on the recommendations. The coroner's office was notified of this situation.

Once the court action is settled, then council will look at the recommendations. Pomeroy said the Town has received no court date for the suit.

Following 90 minutes of deliberations the jury made the following recommendations:

- 1.) That one additional person be employed to patrol the park area to ensure that park property is not being abused;
- 2.) That picnic tables be fastened in such a manner so that they cannot be moved;
- 3.) That standard lifesaving equipment be installed in the beach area;
- 4.) That the willow tree located at the eastern end of the beach be trimmed to a minimum height of 10 feet above the water level;
- 5.) That the fence be extended a minimum of 10 feet past the buoy line (preferably chain link) and that an appropriate warning sign be permanently attached to the fence to indicate danger;
- 6.) The buoy line be attached to the fence at the existing post that is located at substantially the water's edge;
- 7.) That the rules and regulations of the swimming area to be attached permanently to the lifeguard's chair;
- 8.) That a set of rules and regulations be formulated specifically for outdoor open swimming areas. These rules should include clearing the controlled swimming area at regular intervals;
- 9.) That search procedures be revamped to assume that the missing person is in the water until proven otherwise;
- 10.) That proper supervision be strongly encouraged in any manner possible.

Sheppard said there will be no lake or wading pool supervisor procedure changes for this summer, adding evidence and the (Continued on page 8)



While there weren't any Acton delegates at last week's federal Tory convention there were a number of former residents in attendance. Former local Tory big-wig Brian Cargill was there supporting eventual winner Brian Mulroney. Another ex-Actonian, Frank Bean, now chairman of Peel Region worked as a reporter at the convention. Former Acton representative in the Ontario Legislature, George Kerr, (second row, hand on face) was a Michael Wilson booster and here listens to his man's speech. Former Rockwood resident Janet Gallin, whose parents still live in this area, was a youth delegate, from her Alberta college and backed Joe Clark. Free Press editor Gord Murray attended the convention and brought back news about numerous well known North Halton and area Tories beside these four people. Turn to Newsmakers for more photos and an in-depth convention notebook.



The Acton Free Press

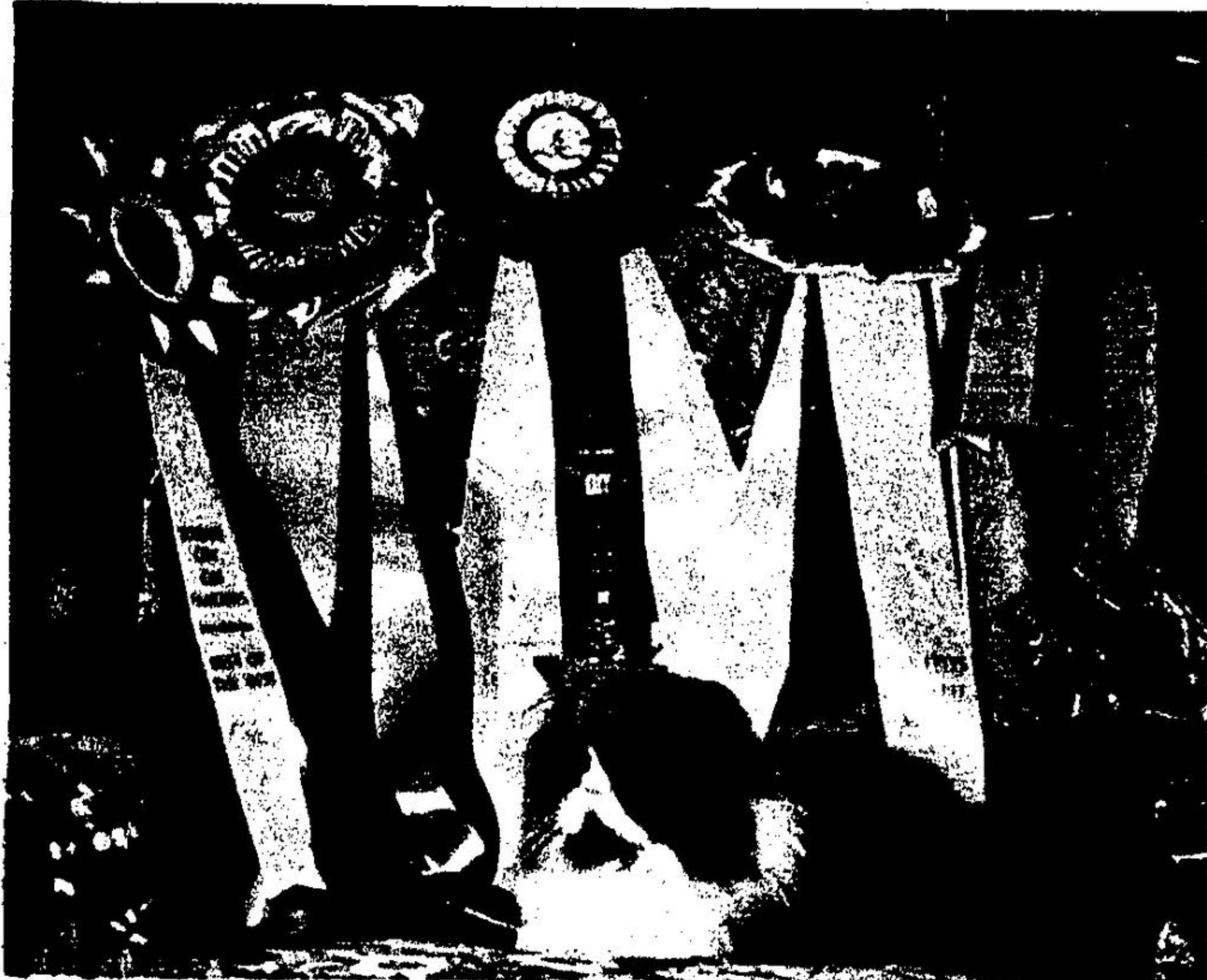


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He looks regal and he should—he is the top cat in Canada. Judged Best Cat in Canada in the '82-'83 season Jezeanne's Rebel Houser, called "Rebel" for short is owned by Joanne Ezard, of Halton Hills.

He accumulated 3400 points in the season, making him a run-away winner, with twice the number of points of the second place winner. Photo by Anne Currie

Hydro explains cost saving 1,000 sign petition protesting changes

Halton Hills Hydro Commission received a petition Friday morning signed by 1,000 Acton and area residents protesting any changes in staff and bill paying arrangements at the Alice St. office.

Commissioners explained the reasoning behind moving a staffer and computer terminal head to Georgetown, but didn't discuss future billing arrangements beyond using a summer student in Acton for a three month "trial" period.

Mayor Peter Pomeroy, who has proposed making arrangements so citizens can pay their hydro bills at the Town office downtown starting this fall, didn't raise his plan at the meeting.

Tom Watson and Peter Papillon presented the petition to the commission.

Last month local hydro commissioner Doug Mason and chairman Bill Smith revealed staff proposed plans to close out billing operations in Acton as of this September in an interview with this newspaper. Smith referred repeatedly to use of a summer student as a move to "phase in" new changes and "phase out" old arrangements. They said people paying cash would have to go to Georgetown. People who pay their bill by cheque would, after September, have to put their payment in a tray on the counter of the Alice St. building or else put their payment through the letter slot. Further, the two commissioners said bill stubs wouldn't be stamped paid in Acton after the fall, cancelled cheques would serve

as receipts. Also, there wouldn't be anyone in the Acton office to handle billing questions in the future, people would phone Georgetown.

Less than a week later Pomeroy told councillors there had been "confusion" and "misunderstanding" on the part of the two commissioners who had talked to this newspaper, that no final decisions had been made except that the staff member and computer terminal would leave Acton for the Georgetown administrative office.

Pomeroy vowed as long as he was mayor there would be a place to pay hydro bills in Acton and suggested arrangements would be made for people to pay their bills at the Town office in the Y building.

The mayor's assurances calmed what was looming as a big fight and a few days later only about 50 people attended a public meeting dealing with the issue.

Watson chaired the meeting and Mason and commission vice-chairman Murt Allison attended. They couldn't answer most questions about the use of the computer, the need for it to be moved to Georgetown and cost savings. Commissioners dealt with many of the citizens' questions at Friday's meeting.

Following the public meeting citizens decided to circulate a petition calling for no staff or billing operation changes in Acton and collected 1,000 signatures in just a few days.

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Sweden's nice, but there's no place like home says Alanna

by Helen Murray

There's no place like home, as 17-year-old Alanna Bowen discovered Friday when she returned after nearly a year in Sweden on a Rotary Exchange program.

It was an exciting opportunity for the teenager, as she was immersed in a new culture, learned a new language, and made new friends.

And even though she's only been home a few days, she is already talking about returning to Sweden, and touring Europe and North America.

Alanna's trip home Friday was a long and tiring one. She flew from Stockholm to Hamburg, Germany, to Frankfurt, to Toronto.

She admits to a few tears in the final few minutes of the flight, as it approached Toronto. But the usual tie-ups at the airport seemed to vanish as she quickly went through customs, and, then the impossible, both her suitcases were the first to come down the luggage turnstiles. Within minutes of getting off the plane, she was greeting her parents, sister and boyfriend and was back in Acton in an hour.

Alanna loved Sweden, although she never quite adjusted to the unfriendliness towards strangers. She explains storekeepers never smile or speak to the customer, not even to say hello. And while waiting for buses, one stands completely emotionless until the bus

pulls up. But towards people they know, Alanna said, they are a warm, friendly people.

Staying in the town of Tumba, Alanna spent most of her 10 months with the Hess family, where she was adopted by the family, and replaced their own daughter, who was also on a Rotary exchange program in Woodbridge.

It was with this family that she spent weekends at their cottage on the Baltic sea, near where mysterious submarines evaded the Swedish navy.

At Christmas time, she was treated as one of the family, sharing all the family traditions.

A diet of elk and fish quickly replaced her familiar beef. But, she says, she is very pleased to be back home, with good old Canadian food. Her father Alan points out her first meal back home was Chinese food. Sweden experienced the same mild, snowless winter as in Canada. However, in February, she did manage to go north for a few days of cross-country skiing.

And her travels were not confined to Sweden. She made a few trips to Finland, to go shopping. And in March, a Limehouse friend, George Gastull spent a week with her in Sweden and then the pair went on to Chester, England, to attend George's sister's wedding.

Easter was the last holiday spent with the Hess family before she went to another family. The holiday is much the same as in Canada, except they take Chicken feathers,

dye them various colors, and tie them to birch twigs, which are taken into the home.

In mid-April, Alanna and another exchange student, from Minnesota, decided to trade families for a week. They each enjoyed themselves so much, they traded for the duration of their stay.

One Swedish custom which took her awhile to get used to was their nudity. Everyone goes topless, wearing the bottoms of their bathing suit only. It takes some getting used to, but those not bending to the custom are the oddity. The country is a lot easier about pornography than here, she notes.

Completely fluent in Swedish in November, after almost four months there, she was able to communicate well enough that her family stopped speaking English to her. The only English she ever heard was few television shows, such as Dallas, (which has Swedish subtitles) or British shows. Her only English reading material was Time magazine, and the Acton Free Press.

Very little Canadian news filtered into her, and at \$10 for a copy of Vogue magazine, she didn't even learn how the fashion world was doing over here.

Television was something else, Alanna recalls. There were only two channels, one airing from five to 10 p.m., the other from seven to 10 p.m. And every Tuesday morning, a radio station played English news for 10 minutes. However, she was always in school at that time so she doesn't know if (Continued on page 5)



Alanna Bowen's home from a year in Sweden.

inside today's Free Press

Red Cole pleaded guilty in connection with the incident which led to the police Tactical and Rescue Unit to surround his Cameron St. home one night last month. More on page 5.

The Baptist Church honored Wally and Edna Gordon Sunday. More on page 8.

There's been another assault police incident in Acton. Turn to page 8.

A rural Acton area man is going to jail for three months for having his wife sell drugs to an undercover officer. Details on page 5.

Police nabbed a number of people in connection with local crimes this week. Turn to page 5.

A number of foreign Rotarians were in Acton last week. See page 7.

