

# Fairy Lake fowl fed in foul weather

The ducks, geese and swans of Acton's Fairy Lake will be fed and cared for by town workmen, but this year will not be permanently housed in the Prospect Park poultry shed, if council accepts a

works committee recommendation. The committee Monday responded to the plea of Esther Taylor, Main Street North, by promising to supply the approximately 150 birds currently living around the lake with

food and water during the winter months. Pending approval by the Acton Fall Fair Board, the fowl may also be given shelter in the board's poultry shed adjacent to the Acton Arena, but will not be confined there as they were last year.

Miss Taylor, who has almost single-handedly assured the ducks a daily feeding during the past four years, reported to the committee that the swans and geese would require between three-quarters and half a pound of feed a day, while the ducks would eat about half that amount. Corn on the cob, she said, can be obtained for \$3.50 per hundred pounds, while "scratch" corn sells for \$7.95 per hundred pounds.

Information obtained from the Kortright Waterfowl Preserve in Guelph, Miss Taylor said, shows that the feed can be supplemented with inexpensive duck pellets. Kortright ducks are fed twice a day enough to satisfy their appetites, she said. Coun. Dick Howitt estimated the town's total food expenditures for 150 winter-days at \$200 to \$300.

## Flooding continues, council will not act

An Elmore Drive, Acton resident may have received some assistance from the town works crews, but council will likely draw the line at helping solve his basement flooding problem.

David Sale stated in a letter to the works committee, tabled Monday, that town workmen had answered his request to clear the ditch in front of his home to allow water to flow freely.

## New plaza

Town planning board last week considered a proposal by John Civiero to replace a single building he owns at RR1 Acton, with a 17,000-square foot commercial plaza. The board's recommendation to council on the matter was tabled during an in camera session.

The major problem remains, however, of water seeping into his basement, raising the point from the floor and soaking carpets, Mr. Sale said. Blaming the seepage problem on faulty engineering, the Elmore Drive resident asked the works committee, which allowed the construction to go ahead, to take action on the matter.

Informed by town engineer Bob Austin that the water seems to originate from an underground stream, the committee decided to deny any responsibility for the eleven-year-old problem.

"We're getting into a very dangerous situation," Coun. Ern Hyde agreed. "This would be a legal-type commitment. He's saying it's the town's fault because of (inadequate) inspection."

Miss Taylor explained that on the town trying to show how fast they can go. Coun. McKenzie predicted that if the committee failed to take action, the citizens will band together to meet council and demand the stop sign. He stated that District 1 Police Superintendent Floyd Schwartz recently endorsed a stop sign for Cobblehill-Victoria after hearing complaints from residents.

Mr. Civiero explained that a 6,000-square foot merchandise outlet which he would operate would be among the 10 retail stores in the plaza. Although he types of stores included has not yet been decided, he said, septic tank requirements for the site will prohibit the opening there of restaurants, taverns or abattoirs. The two-acre site presently allows parking space for 61 cars.

Street intersection, as requested by Coun. Pat McKenzie. The recommendation was prompted by a presentation to council by Peter Homer last week, in which the Churchill Road South resident said that police radar traps have done little to deter speeding motorists from driving along the residential street at 65 miles per hour.

Mr. Homer presented a petition signed by his neighbors requesting three-way stop signs to be placed at the street's Westcott Road, Orville Road, and Longfield Road crossings.

When Coun. McKenzie asked that the Cobblehill-Victoria corner be added to the list, town engineer Bob Austin objected, stating that the action would be "abusing the idea of stop signs."

The signs are not aimed at simply slowing down traffic, he said. Coun. Dick Howitt pointed out that drivers tend to compensate for the slower overall speed by racing from one stop sign to the next.

# Committee OKs signs, police report sought

Works committee Monday night recommended the Halton Regional Police be requested to comment on an Acton resident's plea for stop signs to be installed at three Churchill Road intersections.

The police will also be asked to determine the feasibility of a fourth three-way stop sign at the Cobblehill Road-Victoria

intersection, as requested by Coun. Pat McKenzie. The recommendation was prompted by a presentation to council by Peter Homer last week, in which the Churchill Road South resident said that police radar traps have done little to deter speeding motorists from driving along the residential street at 65 miles per hour.

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## Parking not a problem

Town works committee decided Monday that there is little it can do to answer complaints from G.A. Harrap of St. Albans Drive, Acton, regarding the alleged contravention of that street's parking bylaw.

Both town engineer Bob Austin and Coun. Pat McKenzie stated that they "seldom" see cars contravening the bylaw by parking along both sides of the street. Coun. Joe Hurst noted that some motorists do park illegally while visiting the nearby garage during the supportive peak hours.

Assured by Mr. Austin that traffic appears to flow smoothly along the street, despite the current reconstruction of Mill Street, the committee voted to inform Mr. Harrap that his letter has been "duly noted and filed."

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## ACTON NEWS

### LOADING ZONE

Acton Pro Hardware will have a 100-foot loading zone if town council accepts a works committee recommendation next week.

Works Superintendent Frank Moretti pointed out that neighboring merchants cannot complain about losing even more on-street parking since the loading zone will actually occupy only one legal parking space, while still allowing for the necessary 30-foot space to the intersection.

Miss Taylor concurred with Coun. Joe Hurst that provisions will eventually have to be made to alter the situation in future years.

"I've got the same misgivings as you about this," she said, "but let's get through the winter first. Then maybe in the summer we can get some advice from someone who has no axe to grind about the ducks."

"That's what we said last year," Coun. Hurst commented.

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