



### 'BREAKING' THE ICE

Christine Steer doesn't seem too sure about whether or not she wants to venture out on that huge, slippery ice surface at Alcott Arena Friday afternoon at the parents and tots skating session. But after a little consultation with her brother, David, on

the finer points of skating, she made up her mind to go for it, only to find it's a little more difficult than she expected it to be. Did Karen Magnusson really start this way? (Photos by George Evashuk)

## Planners offer cool response as housing proposals studied

**Herald special**  
Two proposed residential developments on Highway 25 south of Acton were referred to the planning department after an unenthusiastic reception from the town's planning board last week.

Both developments require amendments to the Esquimes official plan.

M.A. Quazi made a presentation on behalf of Kay Fisher of Mississauga who hopes to turn 36 acres half a mile south of town into 110 lots with an average 65 foot frontage.

In his presentation Mr. Quazi said the town seemed to have sufficient water and sewage capacity available to ac-

commodate a predicted population increase of 400 people.

Services could be made available to the development, he said, by extending existing water and trunk sewer lines which end reasonably close to the property. Storm sewer water could be allowed to escape into a nearby creek.

Alternatively, a temporary small treatment plant could be installed to serve the development and removed later when services could be extended from Acton.

Coun. Ross Knechtel pointed out that some of what appears to be surplus sewage capacity at the Acton plant has been set aside to serve future industrial development in the town.

He said the ministry of environment sets the control on the amount of capacity in the pollution plant, not the plant's apparent capacity.

A second proposal for residential development, put forward by Ronald Green of Georgetown, would see 97.4 acres of farm land two and a half miles south of town turned into 24 estate lots ranging in size from 2.3 to 3.6 acres. The homes would be serviced by wells and septic tanks.

Included in the second proposal is an offer to grant a portion of the property to the Halton separate school board to be used as a site for a future high school for Acton.

When asked about the board's interest in property in Mr. Green's development Halton separate school board vice-chairman Hartley Sherk said that the developer had made the offer to the board.

"It does fit into our long-

range plans," he said. "But that's all I can say at this time."

Since both proposals deal with property outside the acton urban boundary, Coun. Marilyn Serjeantson questioned the point in even sending them to the planner for a report.

"I get the feeling that this is premature," she said. Any developments in this area would require regional approval and she feels this would not be forthcoming.

Town planner Mario Vendetti said that in making his report he would only be looking at the merits of the proposals in light of them becoming feasible.

### LAOTIAN REFUGEES EXPECTED MONDAY

The town's newest group of southeast Asian refugees, this time a family of nine Laotians, is expected to arrive in Georgetown Monday, according to Mike Harris, spokesman for Project Ark, a Glen Williams-based sponsor organization.

The family arrived in Montreal yesterday and will fly to Toronto Friday, where they will stay in a hotel while a house in Glen Williams is prepared for them.

There are seven children in the family ranging in age from seven to 19. "They are quite an unusual family," Mr. Harris said.

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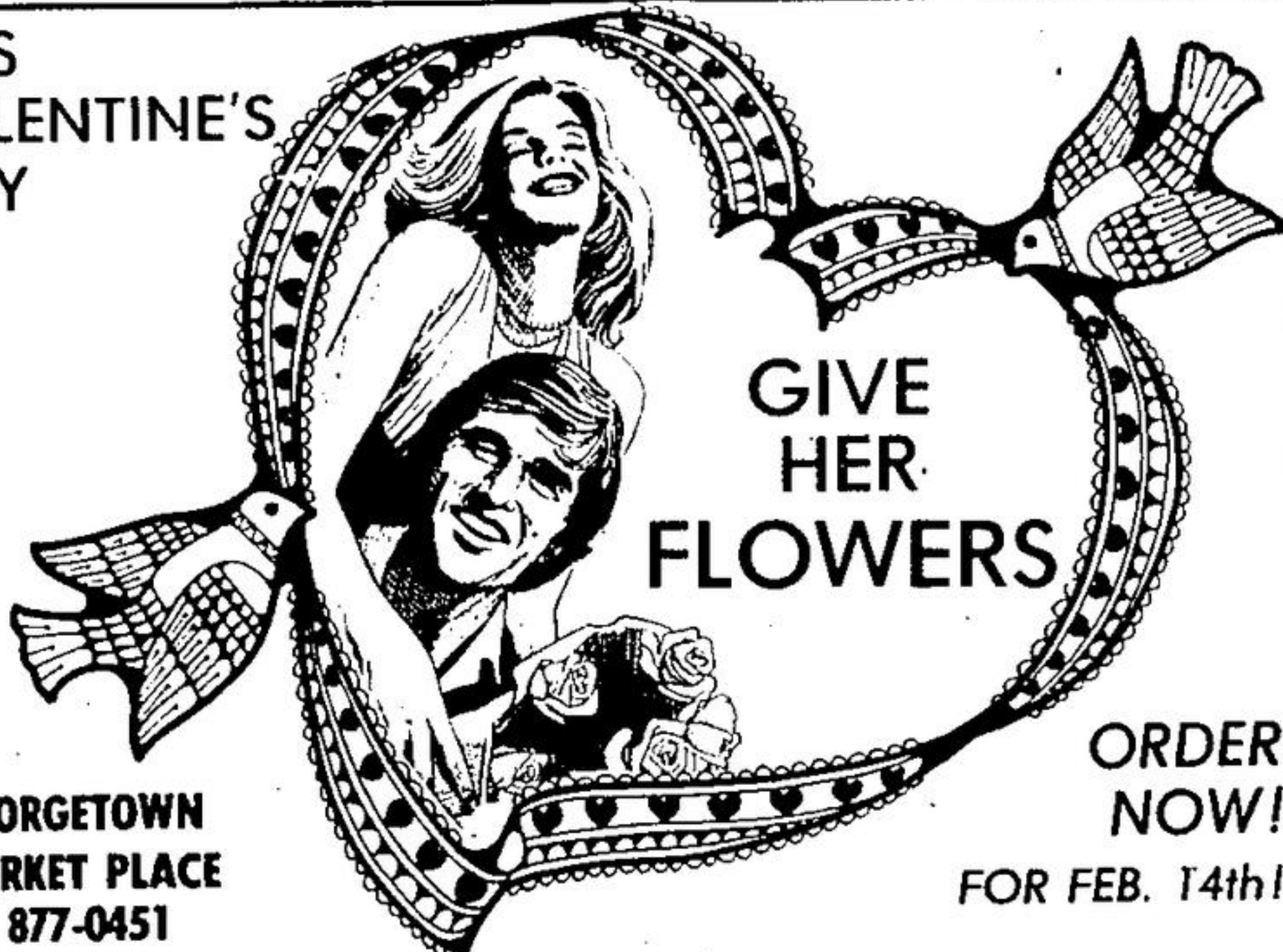
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## Strike possible February 19

**HERALD SPECIAL**  
Halton regional workers can strike as early as Feb. 19 unless agreement can be reached between Halton Region and 120 members of Local 636 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

A conciliation report received Saturday from the ministry of labor states that a settlement cannot be reached at this time, said regional works director, Dennis Camm. The two sides have not met since Jan. 11.

Workers may strike 16 days after the report is received, said Union representative Larry Cox. A strike vote taken last week

unanimously approved the strike action to back demands.

Mediation is the next step in negotiations, Mr. Cox said. The union confirmed its availability for a mediation meeting Friday but has not yet received confirmation from the ministry of labor. Workers now earn from \$5.82 to \$6.75 an hour and also realized about 21 cents on a cost of living clause in their last contract which expired Dec. 31.

In addition to the regional workers, local 636 represents Acton, Milton and Georgetown Hydro employees and town work crews in Milton and Burlington.



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### TELEPHONE SERVICE: REDUCTION IN TWO-PARTY RATES

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has directed that, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 19, 1980, Bell Canada monthly rates for two-party residence service will be decreased. Reductions will vary between 15 and 90 cents depending on the applicable rate group.

For example, in communities such as Beardmore, Bright, St-Zéphirin and Chute-des-Passes, where individual-line service costs \$4.95 a month, two-party rates will be lowered from \$3.60 to \$3.45. In communities such as Howick, Thetford Mines, Stratford and North Bay, where individual-line service is now \$6.25 a month, two-party rates will be lowered from \$4.60 to \$4.00. In Ottawa and Quebec City, two-party rates will decrease from \$5.30 to \$4.80, and in Montreal and Toronto, two-party rates will decrease from \$6.15 a month to \$5.50.

In addition, for two months starting on February 19, the installation charge (service charge) for two-party residence service will be reduced to \$5.00\* provided the service is for new customers in households which do not have any telephone service and which are located within the base rate area of an exchange.

\* Customers who take advantage of this reduced charge and who, within six months, request to change to individual-line service, will be charged the difference between the reduced and normal installation charges.

For further information please contact any Bell business office.

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