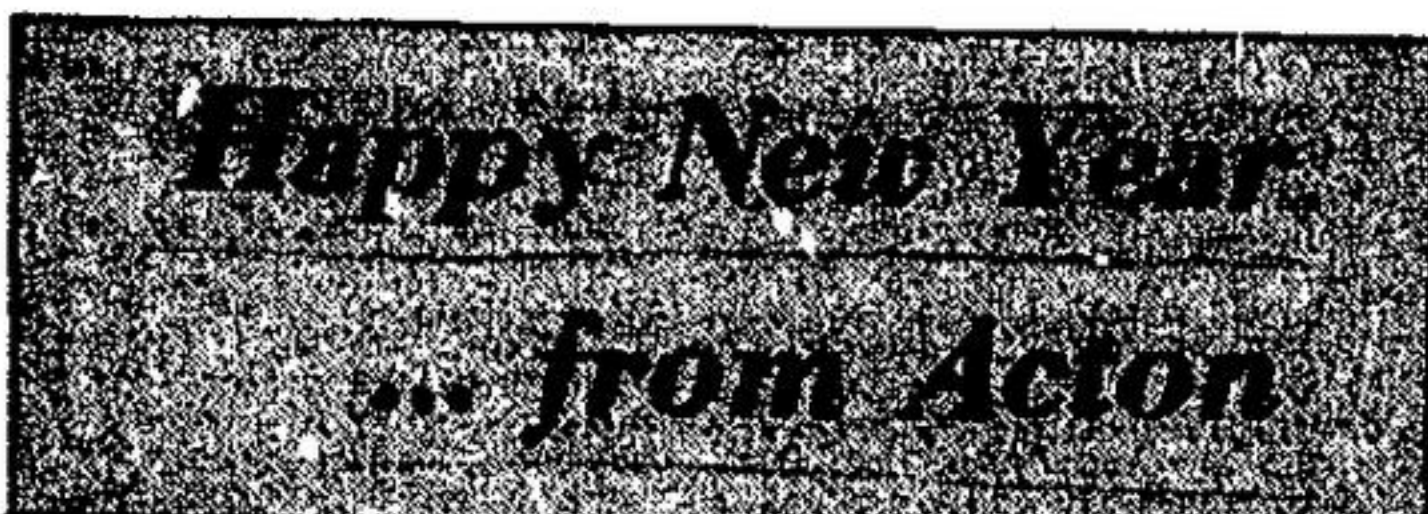
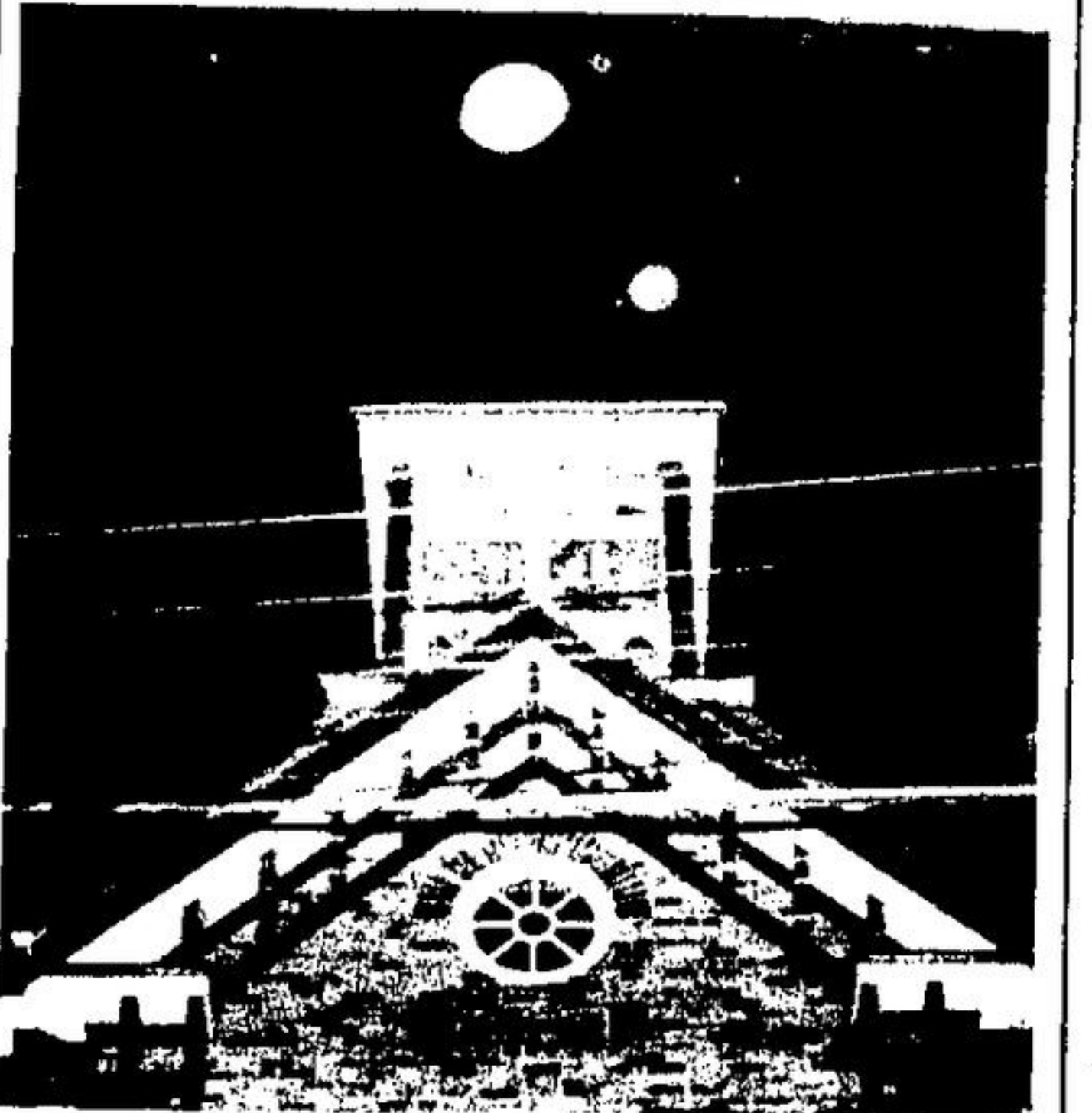


'Catch 22' for horse farm



Counting down the seconds... (Photo by Stewart Bartels)



Enjoying the night sky and balloon release... (Photo by Stewart Bartels)



Fair Princess Sharon Deer rings in the New Year. (Photo by Stewart Bartels)

A recently retired man who wants to start up his own standard bred horse-breeding farm in Halton Hills is in a "Catch 22" situation.

R.T. Cowan owns almost 50 acres of land on the west side of Highway 25 north of the Fifth Sideroad. The land currently has one home on it but it's in poor condition. Mr. Cowan wants to build a new residence for his family and refurbish the current home for living quarters for farm help.

But the Regional Official Plan's rural designation says a second residence is only allowed on a rural lot if it is crucial to the economic viability to the farm.

Councillors don't want to grant Mr. Cowan permission to build the second home before he starts up the farm operation.

Mr. Cowan says he can't start up the farm operation until he builds the new home. "I don't want to set up an operation and build barns unless I can be there," said Mr. Cowan.

Council's main concern is that if they grant him permission to put up the new house and the breeding farm is not set up, then the new house will violate the Official Plan.

Both the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Region's Planning and Development Departments have objected to the second residence on the grounds that it doesn't fit the Official Plan.

The Ministry said "there does not appear to be any farm related need for a second dwelling."

The Region argued that Mr. Cowan is not a "bona fide" farmer therefore the second dwelling is not necessary for the economic viability of the farm.

Mr. Cowan said he will be a bona fide farmer and the second residence is indeed necessary.

Mr. Cowan said he operated a horse-breeding farm a few years ago as a second occupation but health problems forced him to give up the business.

Council granted Mr. Cowan a public meeting on the proposal in the hope that he can convince the Ministry and the Region of the merits of his farm.

Town Planning Director Ian Keith said there is a perception problem at the provincial level with horse farming. The Ministry doesn't consider horse breeding an agricultural use, said Mr. Keith.

Councillor Pam Sheldon argued the Town has the authority to interpret the Official Plan without "following it to the letter."

If the Town grants permission for the second dwelling the Ministry and the Region could appeal the decision, she said.

But Coun. Sheldon argued the proposal does indeed conform to the Official Plan which calls for the town to "encourage and protect" farmlands.

"We're talking about 50 acres of land that's well suited for horse farming and that is a major industry in Halton," said Coun. Sheldon.

Town planners recommended Mr. Cowan knock down the existing residence and put a mobile home on the lot under a temporary use permit. But Mr. Cowan said that would cost him an extra \$50,000.

"I wouldn't support allowing an additional residence for an operation that may happen," said Coun. Hewitt.

He suggested Mr. Cowan show "good faith" by attempting to set up the horse farm on the site before the public meeting.

Coun. Norm Elliott agreed an interpretation of the Official Plan may be necessary in his case.

"We have to assume the gentleman is being fair with us and honest with us," he said.

Sisters' training

Training sessions for prospective BIG SISTERS have been set for Jan. 21 and 28, 1988 in the Board Room of the Acton Social Services and Information Centre, in the Old Town Hall, 19 Willow St. N., Acton, evenings from 7 - 10. This course is valuable for parents, teachers, and all community workers. Please phone if you plan to come. Big Sisters Association of North Halton, Lois, 878-0378 or Gwen, 878-0795.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUAL PRIVACY ACT

Ontario's new Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy Act, which is now in effect, provides:

- a wide range of access to government information with a few exceptions; and
- standards for privacy protection that must be followed to protect your personal information when it is either used or disclosed by a government agency.

The Act covers all ministries and more than 200 government agencies. These organizations, along with many public libraries and Ontario Government Bookstores, have copies of reference directories dealing with General Records and Personal Information.

If you would like to know more, all government ministries and agencies have a Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator who can assist you when making a request.

Or, information on the Act is available by writing to:

Freedom of Information and Privacy Branch,
Management Board Secretariat,
Sixth Floor, Frost Building South,
7 Queen's Park Crescent East,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z6.

Murray Elston,
Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet

STOREWIDE SAVINGS DON'T MISS OUT!

MOTHERS!

THIS

SALE

IS FOR YOU AND THE WHOLE FAMILY

GEORGETOWN AREA RESIDENTS - HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE BRAND NAME FOOTWEAR AT REDUCED PRICES!

BUY NOW AND

SAVE 50%

UP TO

OR MORE

OFF OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES ON ALL FOOTWEAR, PURSES, BUSTER BROWN SOCKS, ETC.

LADIES' NATURALIZER SHOES

ALL REDUCED Some As Low As

Sizes 5 to 11 Not In All Styles

\$29⁹⁹

* See Our Racks

ROHDE LADIES' FASHION CLOGS

"FITS LIKE A SECOND SKIN"

All Reduced At Least

See Our Racks At

20% OFF OUR REG. LOW PRICES

\$19⁹⁹

ALL WINTER DRESS BOOTS

DRASTICALLY REDUCED

30% OFF

OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES

CHILDREN'S SHOES

By Buster Brown, Reebok Savage, Addis & Nike

ALL REDUCED AT LEAST

Some As Low As

20% OFF OUR REG. LOW PRICES

\$9⁹⁹

ATHLETIC SHOES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

NIKE Reebok adidas

ALL REDUCED

20% TO 50% OFF

OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES

MEN'S FLORSHEIM SHOES

SUPER SPECIAL ALL

\$69⁹⁹

REGULAR TO \$125.00

CHILDREN'S WINTER BOOTS

ALL

30% OFF

Our Price To YOU is RIGHT We Know! Our Regular Customers Know! (They Keep Telling Us) We Have Comparison Priced And Know Our Prices Are lower!

PEDORTHIC SERVICE REGISTERED PEDORTHIST ON STAFF ORTHOPAEDIC PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED

FLETCHERS FAMILY SHOES

"THE FOOT PROFESSIONALS"

877-1664

41 MAIN ST. S. DOWNTOWN GEORGETOWN