

ACTON'S 2001 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR DINNER

Honouring
Janis Fread

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No tickets will be sold at the door



Review request for railcrossing gates

Following is a letter of reply to Norman Foote of Acton from the federal Minister of Transport re the installation of railway crossing gates in Acton:

Dear Mr. Foote:

Thank you for your letter of December 15, 2000 to the Honourable David M. Collette, Minister of Transport, regarding the installa-

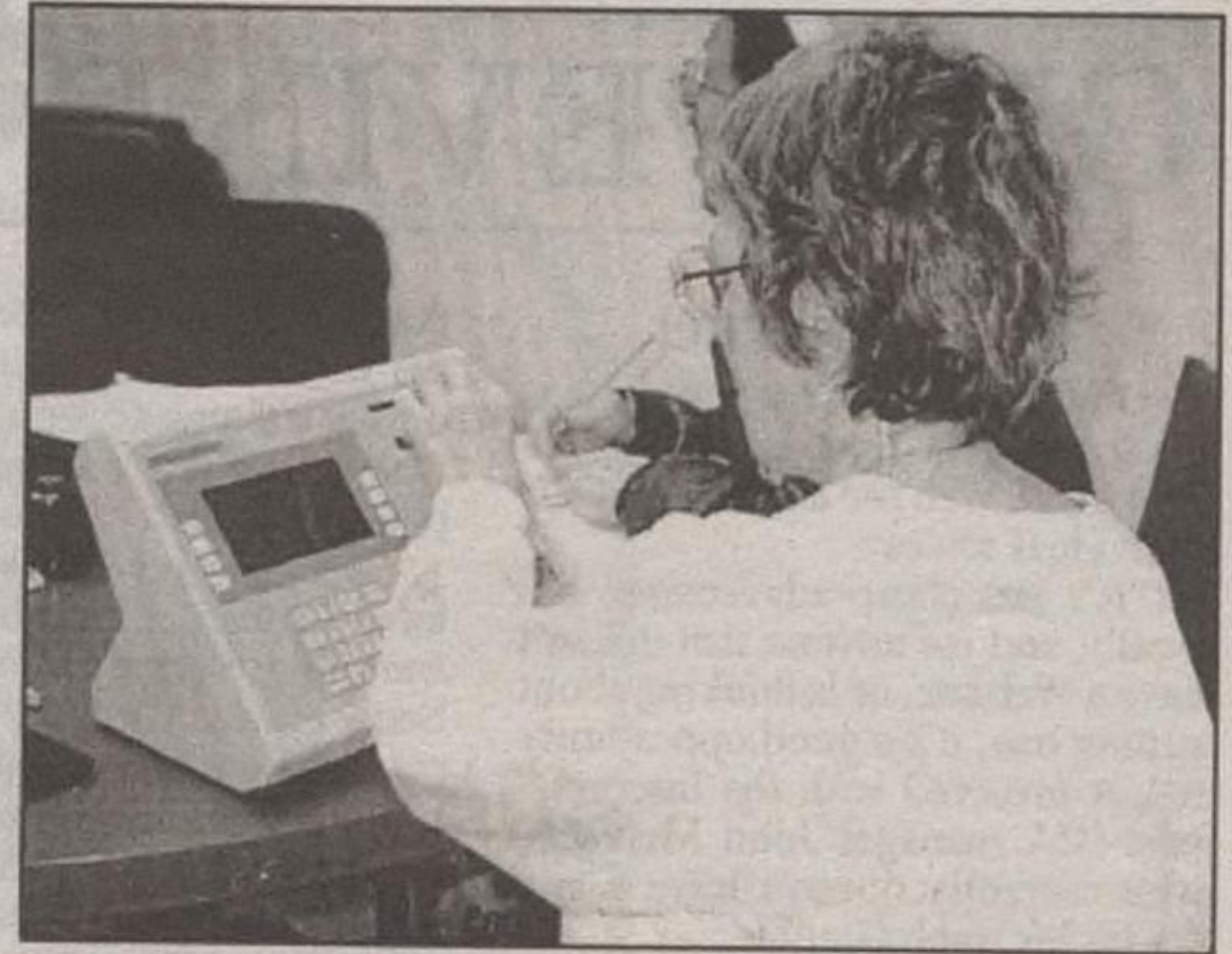
tion of railway crossing gates in Acton, Ontario. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Safety at grade crossings is a primary focus of Transport Canada. As you may be aware, the Grade Crossing Improvement Program, funded under section 12 of the *Railway Safety Act*, is designed to assist railway companies and road authorities with the cost of crossing improvement projects. In this case, I can confirm that Transport Canada has received an application from the Goderich-Exeter Railway Co. Ltd. to add gates to the existing crossing warning system. Departmental officials are currently reviewing this request.

Lastly, the time required to install gates at a crossing is also site specific and dependent on the complexity of the proposed improvement. The railway company that owns the track in question must design the proposed installation, order the required material and physically install the components.

Yours sincerely,

Cameron Summers,
Special Assistant - Ontario



ATM CLASS: Thanks to a loan of a Baby Automatic Teller Machine from a bank, adult learners with the North Halton Literacy Guild are overcoming their fear of machine banking. Here, Helen and Allen of the Acton class practise using the Baby ATM. "Where once these adults had to only use a human teller, now they have the confidence to deposit, withdraw, transfer and pay bills through a machine," volunteer tutor Janet Horwood, said.

Region officials welcome funds for local housing

The recent announcement of funding for social housing is a step in the right direction, according to officials at Halton Region. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Chris Hodgson, stated last week that 47 municipalities in Ontario would be receiving \$100 million for capital improvements, transfer and start-up costs of local housing programs - of which Halton Region will receive \$1.3 million.

"The provision of affordable housing is a priority for Halton Region," says Halton

Regional Chairman Joyce Savoline. "This funding is a necessary step for the region to proceed with implementation planning for the effective delivery of social housing in Halton."

Responsibility for the planning and delivery of social housing was transferred to municipal governments in January 2001, under the *Social Housing Reform Act*.

Halton Region is working closely with provincial staff and local housing providers to develop an effective system for administering social housing in Halton.

The money Halton is receiving is allocated into four categories:

- Start-up Funds (to cover costs associated with developing a joint transfer plan for implementation, consulting with housing providers, and administration costs);

- Employee Entitlements Fund (for costs associated with the transfer of local housing authority employees to the municipal level);

- Restructuring Funding Program (to assist with costs of restructuring administration and technology systems, staff training); and,

- One Time Federal Funds (to cover future increases in costs related to the federal housing program - can be used for building reviews, capital repairs, and other social housing purposes).

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