

2001

CAP site opens in Formosa

By Brandi Cramer
GBTW Staff Writer

Not quite sure what is meant by the Internet? Thought Webs came from spiders or that a mouse was a furry rodent. You are not alone.

Residents of Formosa will now be able to overcome their fear of computers through the federal government's Community Access Program (CAP).

CAP was started three years ago by Industry Canada to help teach people how to cope with the fast-growing world of computers.

Industry Canada partnered with the Formosa Lions Club to bring the CAP program to this small town.

"The whole purpose of the CAP program is to bring the Internet to rural areas, and Formosa is pretty rural," said CAP trainer Richelle Keip.

The program has been running since the second week of January.

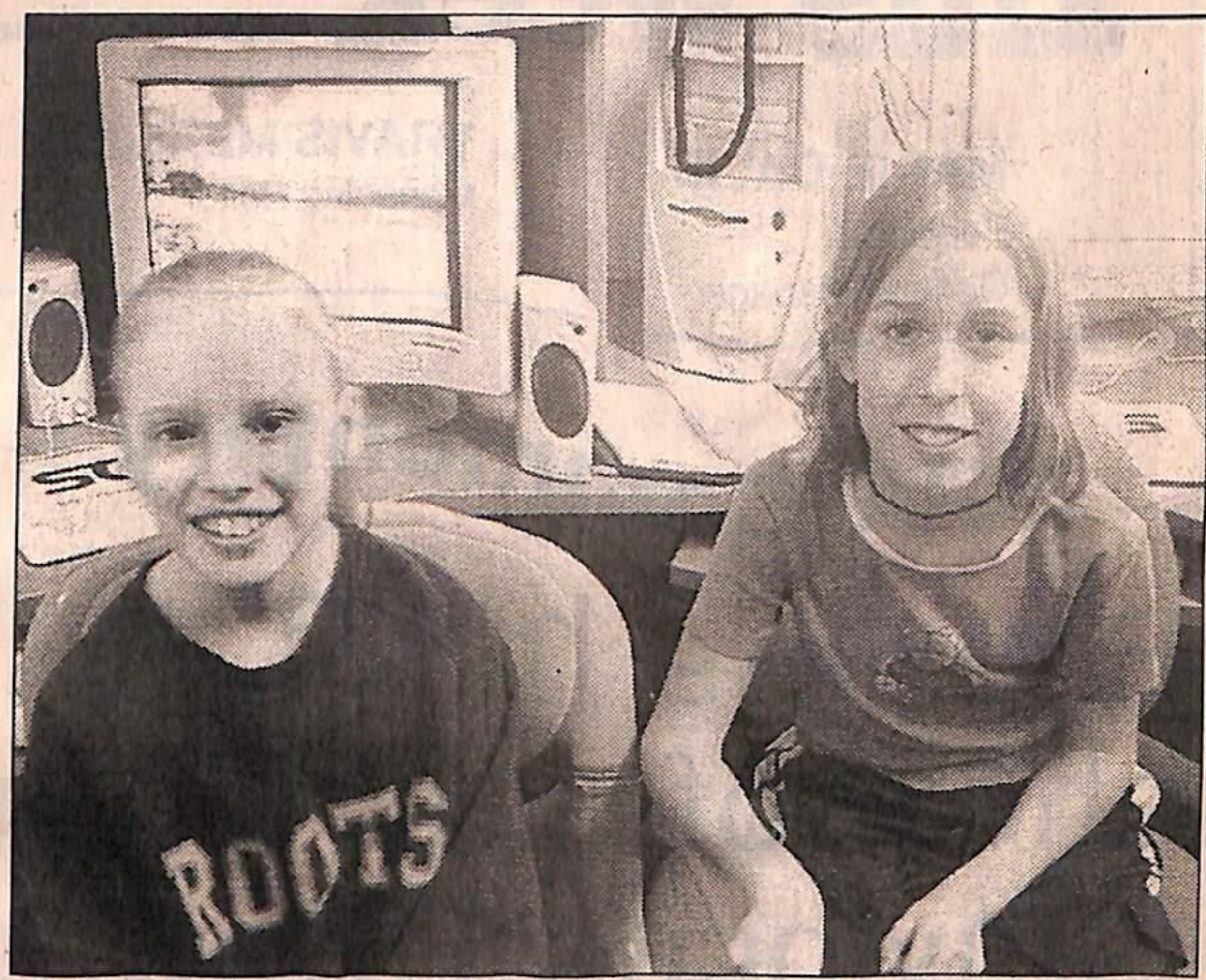
"There have already been 123 visits (to the office located at the back of Oberle General Store). A lot of those are repeats, but obviously they're happy and they like it," said Keip.

She teaches visitors anything computer related, including the Internet, software or simply how to use a computer.

"Anyone can sign up. It's for the general public," she explained.

All training is provided free of charge and, for those who are simply interested in using the computer, there is a \$2 per hour charge.

"A fair amount of people are



Meg Kluhspies (left) and Jacqueline Borho get ready to try out the new computers set up at the back of Oberle General Store for use by Formosa residents.

Contributed photo

interested. A few couldn't be bothered, but most are fairly open to it," explained Keip of the reaction from the community.

The program houses two new, top-of-the-line computer systems, with high-tech toys including a scanner and a digital camera.

The centre will be holding its official grand opening on March 31 from 1 to 3 p.m., when Joan Borho, president of the Formosa Lions Club, will do the official ribbon cutting.

"It is only with the support of the whole community of Formosa that we were able to get the site

established," said Trish Borho, the CAP administrator.

The centre is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Keip offers training on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 7 p.m., and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Those interested can call the CAP centre at 367-5756 or stop in to book an appointment. For those who do have a little Internet savvy, the centre can also be reached via e-mail at fcap@scsinternet.com.