

Freshness, friendliness in abundance at Market

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
The Georgetown Gemini

It's freshness that draws shoppers to the Downtown Georgetown Farmer's Market - it's the friendly atmosphere that keeps them coming back.

Designed as a way to try to revitalize the downtown, the Market offers a wide variety of just-picked fruit and vegetables, organic beef, chicken and pork and unique crafts.

All is for sale every Saturday morning on a stretch of Main Street that is closed to traffic between Church and James streets from 8 am until 12:30 pm.

"The Market essentially began because there was movement in the community and among Main Street merchants to try to revive the core area," explained Judy Gibson, chair of the board of directors of the 12-member Farmers Market Association, last Wednesday.

Gibson, who lives in the park area, is former manager of the farmer's market at

Nathan Philips Square.

"I just love the downtown - I do all my shopping there and drag my family out of bed every Saturday morning to come with me - it's a real social thing," Gibson said.

Gibson said the Farmer's Market began in response to the mall opening and taking business from the core.

"The downtown was really suffering so a very large community meeting was held at the Cultural Centre during the winter of 1993 to see how people felt about bringing in a Farmer's Market."

From that meeting working groups were formed to actually organize the Market with the first one being held in the summer of 1994.

"The organizers are happy with the Market and the vendors are ones who we've had for three years so they are happy with their returns but, of course, we wish it was busier," Gibson said, noting that they are competing with two very successful, long-

standing farmer's markets in Milton and Brampton.

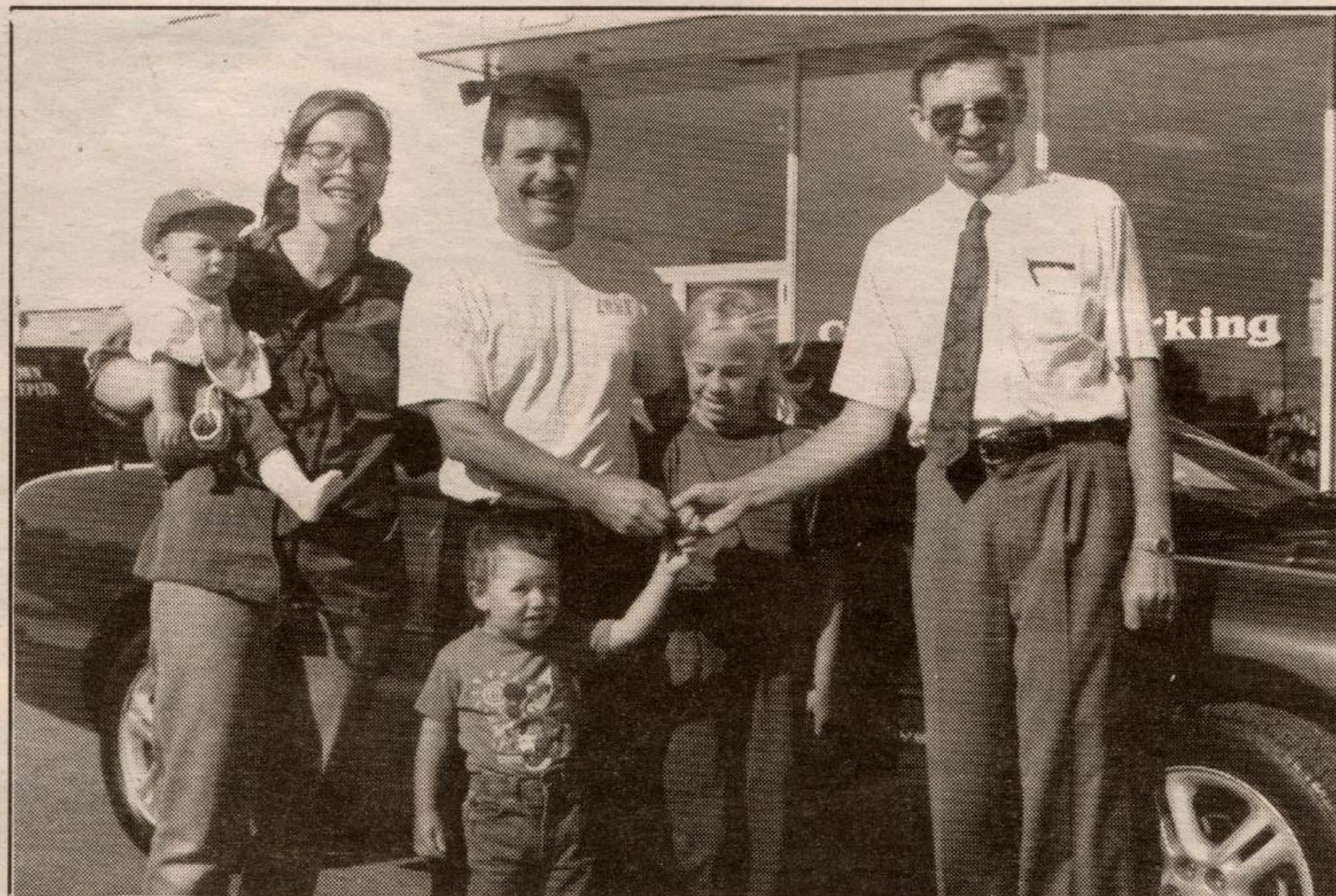
"We do have a real following that come rain or shine and they are the ones who keep it going. It's really a neat social atmosphere and if you come down each week you see the same faces of people shopping and chatting and having a cup of coffee and catching up on news."

Also for sale at the Market are fresh and smoked fish, melons, muffins, home-baked goods, perogies and two vendors who supply breakfasts.

"This is the first year that we have had arts and crafts and we are still looking for artisans who offer really good quality work."

The cost of renting space for food vendors for 18 Saturday markets is \$250 and the arts and crafts people pay \$20 a week.

For more information about the downtown Georgetown Farmer's Market call Gibson at 873-8663.



WINNERS! Chris Miller, right, of Georgetown Chrysler Jeep, hands over the keys to a Sebring convertible Saturday morning. The Corbett family (from left: Josh, Lyn, Chris, Justin and Cassandra) won the use of the car for one day in Georgetown Chrysler's recent Drive Against Cancer Draw. Some \$5,000 was raised. (Kevin O'Brien photo)

Fall-winter Recreation brochure

Feeling the summer heat? A great way to cool off is to start planning your recreational activities for the upcoming fall season.

Watch for the new edition of the Rec & Parks Fall-Winter Community Activity and

Service Guide. Brochures will be sent to Georgetown residents in mid-August.

This issue features many opportunities for leisure activities and community services offered by the Town and other service providers.

Please submit to the Town your Fall Aquatic and Community program registrations prior to the lottery processing deadline of Wednesday, Aug. 28 at noon.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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