## Fraser a star at CNE

Georgetown resident Alexander Fraser tried to catch a rising star at the 1996 Canadian National Exhibition, falling just short of the skies.

The 11-year-old performing phenom was one of 150 chosen to compete at the annual competition, which features school-aged youths from 6- to 12-years of age from all over Southern Ontario.

Fraser performed the song, Food, Glorious Food, from the operetta Oliver, based on Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens.

Fraser, a Grade 6 student at Stewarttown Middle School, was one of 24 chosen after the first round. The first cut narrowed the field to 16, which Fraser made easily.

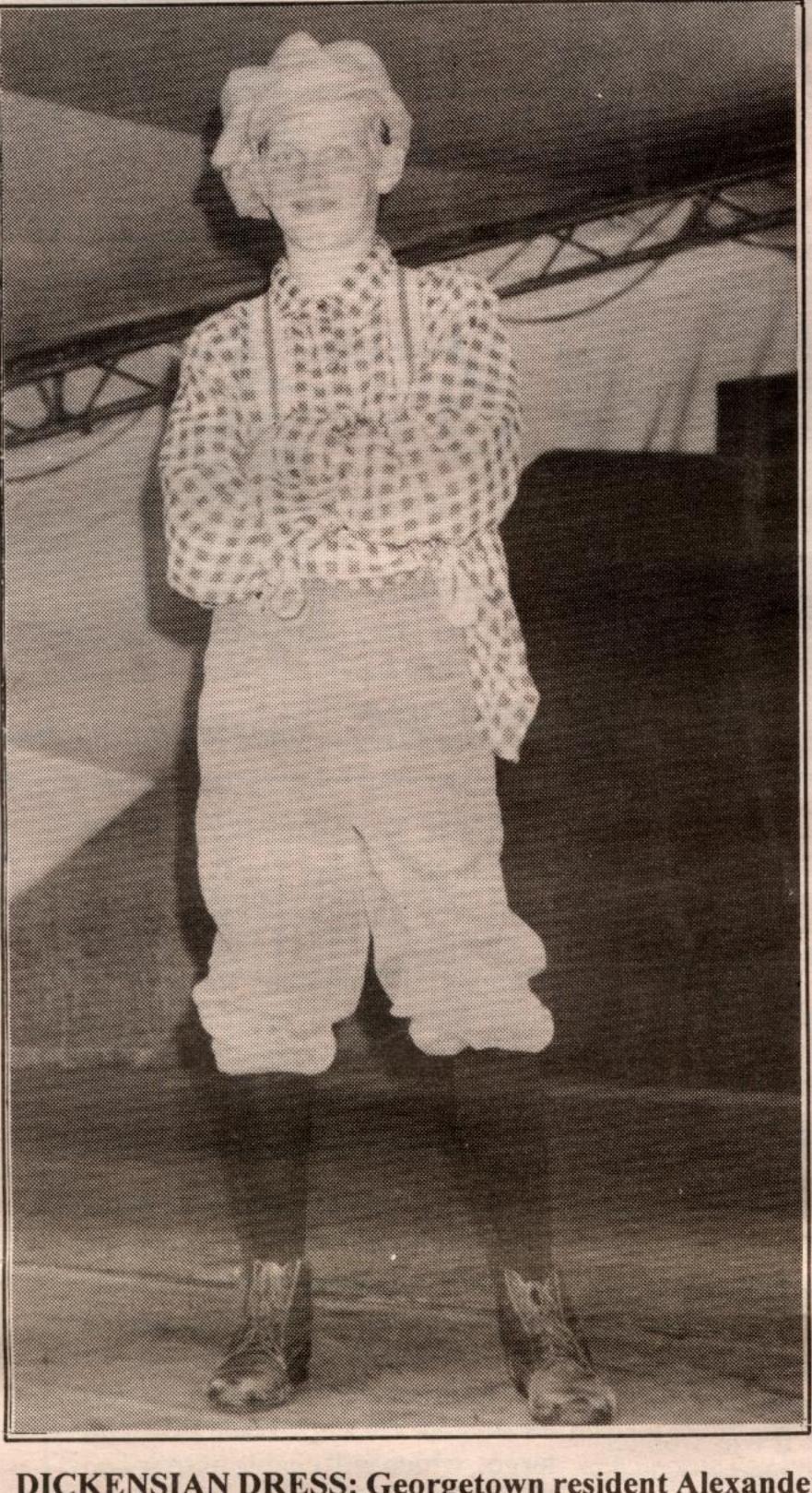
Unfortunately for Fraser, that was as far as he could go, failing to make the top eight competitors.

Each level of competition involved at trip to the Ex with his parents, Lois and Al, and sisters Joanna and Katie. Nonplused, Fraser was philosophical about his placement this year and optimistic about his chances for the 1997 competition.

"This is the second time I've entered and made the cut to 16, but there's always next year," Fraser said, adding, "Next year I'm going to sing and dance."

Fraser has studied the performing arts for some time now, under the tutelage of Kerri Allen at Cheri with the Georgetown Children's Chorus, which his mother, Lois, administers.

Lois was proud of her son's achievement, especially in light of the fact that he relied



DICKENSIAN DRESS: Georgetown resident Alexander Fraser as he appeared in the operetta, Oliver. Fraser sang the tune, Food, Glorious Food, from the musical. He made the first cut but could not proceed to the final round. (photo submitted)

mostly on natural talent.

"The other contestants all Lindsay's Dance Studio and had private vocal coaches," Lois Fraser said. "Alexander begins private lessons with Dale Wood this September, so we know his vocal skills will really improve." Winning the Rising Star contest was a dream of Fraser's, but he knew the competition was going to be tough. Previous senior Rising Star winners include multiple Grammy and Juno winner Alanis Morrisette and The Barenaked Ladies, winner of the Juno for best new artist.

## Local woman says breast is best

BY JAMIE HARRISON

The Georgetown Gemini For Audra Biafore, mother-

hood has meant many things -long nights with little sleep, loads of laundry, dirty diapers – and breast feeding.

It is the latter which she has taken on as a personal cause. Her goal is to educate, and with luck, persuade other new mothers to chose breast over bottle, repeating the mantra, 'breast is best.'

"I think more women are returning to breast feeding because, as a society, we are becoming more health conscious," Biafore said. "I'd like to support and encourage more new moms to breast feed."

To support her ambitions, Biafore cites medical literature supporting the use of breast milk rather than formula for its health benefits,

including the ability to produce antibodies which fight infection, and to calm babies.

This shift in philosophy has made its way to hospital maternity wards where the change from even a few years ago has meant a new approach to educating young mothers.

"Hospitals are changing. Before they were promoting formula (instead of breast

milk). Babies were getting 'nipple confusion'."

Now hospitals are not supposed to promote formula except in cases where the mother cannot express breast

"A friend once told me that breasts were not ornaments. They are to be used in the manner in which they were intended," Biafore said.

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