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The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1991

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VOLUME 7 -- NO. 24

What's on?

Desert Cat visits

David Deere of Georgetown will be at Oxbow Books today, Saturday, Sept. 21 starting at 2 p.m. Deere edited Desert Cats, a book about the Persian Gulf War, which he served in. He will autograph books and answer questions about his experience.

Hockey Rock III

Georgetown Minor Hockey Association presents Hockey Rock III in the Memorial Arena, Mill St., Georgetown, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. tonight, September 21. It features a live band, The Haircuts with The Ponytales. Tickets are available at the Time Out Road House, JV Clothing, MVP Distributors, Steak Express, M & M Pro Sports and Prestons of Glen Williams. Or call Joanna alchin, 877-9680.

Diabetes Association

Canadian Diabetic Association General Meeting will be held at the Lion's Club Hall, Georgetown, on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Churchill Church BBQ

Churchill Church, at the corner of Town Line and Churchill Rd., N., is holding its annual Chicken BBQ on Saturday, September 28. Sittings start at 5-7:30 p.m. Take-outs are available starting at 6 p.m. For tickets call Wallyat 877-2055 or other church members.

University info

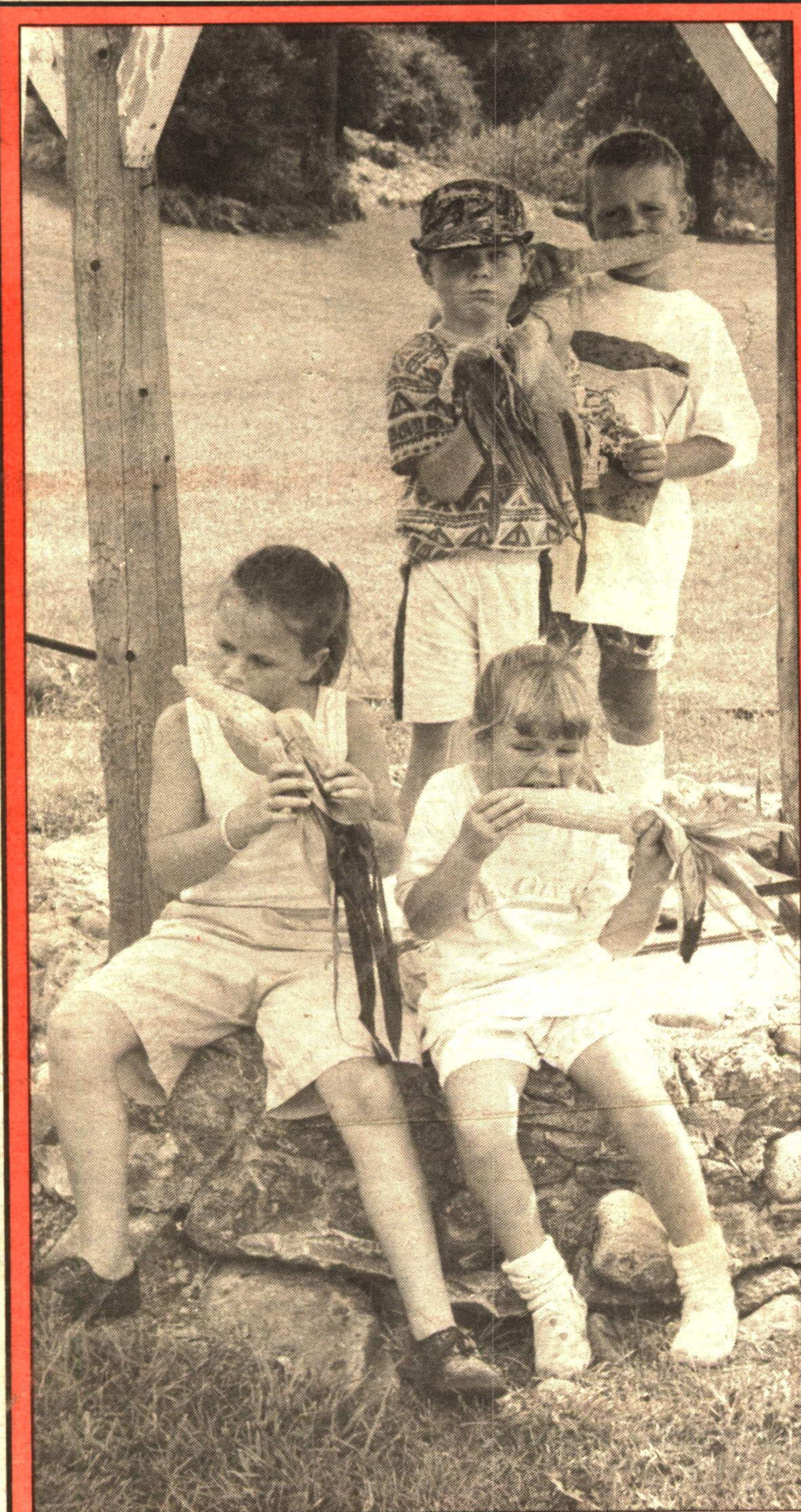
Secondary students will have the opportunity ask questions about university at an Information Day at Bishop Reding High School, Tuesday, September 24, 12:30-2:40 p.m.

ESL classes

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program is run at GDHS on Monday and Wednesday evenings, 7-9:30 p.m. It is a conversational, non-credit class. Register at school in Room 107 on the evening the class.

Blood clinic

A blood donor clinic will be held at Bishop Reding High School on September 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Give the gift of life.



TAKE A BITE OUT OF AUTUMN

Today's the first day of autumn, so get out and enjoy the best the season has to offer — the great outdoors. Local farms and orchards have the best in Ontario's produce — apples, raspberries, corn, and harvest vegetables. Many autumn lovers love to get out to the country and enjoy making a day of it on these specialty farms like these group of children, Angle and Jeffrey Blignault and Janet and Rickie Whittingstall, who celebrated Family Day recently at Long Lane Orchards on 2nd Line, Nassagaweya at Brookville. Don't forget the local conservation areas all offer lots of hiking trails showcasing the changing of colors on trees.

Welfare rolls on the rise — again

By ROB KELLY

There will be a \$500,000 shortfall in funding for welfare at Halton Region this year, which will mean across the board budget cutbacks in regional programs and possibly staffing.

That was the news from regional health and social services director Bonnie Ewart Monday, and it came on the heels of more bad tidings. The number of people on welfare in Halton is climbing again.

In August there were 2,498 welfare cases in Halton, the highest total since the punishing economic recession began. That was 89 more than in July. July marked the first time in 1991 when the total actually dipped marginally from the previous monthly high. Then there were 2,409 welfare cases (each case can represent an entire family) and in June there had been 2,434.

"We think this is the beginning of unemployment insurance benefits being exhausted," Ewart said in response to the swelling numbers. The trend will continue "probably for the next six months" as people who had collected unemployment insurance turn to welfare in the face of a still bleak job market.

"Everyone says the recession is over but we don't see that with our numbers," Ewart pointed out. Earlier in 1991 Halton approved an \$800,000 increase in its welfare budget due to the dramatic rise in the caseload. That's proved to be insufficient - a possibility the Region accepted at the time. It was also decided then that should the situation worsen, as it has, the necessary new funding would come from cutbacks, not increased taxes, Ewart said.

Welfare is expected to cost about \$19 million in Halton for 1991. The Region pays 20 per cent of that tab and the Province picks up the remainder.

The situation is no better elsewhere. In fact it's worse in many places, Ewart said. Halton's welfare caseload is still less than two per cent of the overall population (about 300,000). In other jurisdictions, four per cent is not uncommon. "Many more municipalities

every month are moving into that category," she said. When the numbers get that high, a special provincial government assistance program comes into play due to the gravity of the situation.

Commenting on the fact that many people have searched in vain for work long enough to exhaust their unemployment insurance benefits, Ewart noted, "there must be some very discouraged people out there now."



Blood donor clinic Thurs.

AB Foodland in Acton is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic at the Acton Legion Hall this Thursday, September 26, between 5-8:30 p.m.

It takes only a half an hour to give the gift of life. Please support this important community service.

Donate a pint of blood and receive a coupon for a free video rental from PREview Video in Acton.

INSIDE

Ted hobnobs with royalty. See Ted Bit on page 5.

GDHS principal, Bryn Davies introduces us to a new column. Page 9.

Clergy Comment and Norval news on page 10.

Darts League begins new season. See details page 11.

FALL SAVINGS!



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