

Children's lunch program is in jeopardy

By JANET BAINE
Staff writer

The lunch program offered by the Love in Christ Food Bank is in jeopardy due to a lack of sponsors.

Twelve students under 12 years from "financially disabled" Georgetown families receive the lunches throughout the school year, said Laura Ellison, coordinator of the food bank.

This is the third year the program has operated. During the first year, which was also the year the

food bank opened, Ellison tried packing a lunch with food provided by Knectels for only one child, just to see if it would help that child. She delivered the lunch to the school and had it placed in the student's desk by the teacher. It was done before the children arrived at school, so the other children didn't know about it. Ellison is convinced the program made a big difference to that child, who had behavioral problems and a D average.

"His average went from D to B+, and by the end of the year he

had no behavioral problems and was a well-adjusted child," she said. The principal of the school thought a lot of the child's problems came from nutritional deficiencies.

Last year the Kinsmen took on the program for 12 students, which cost them \$4,000 for lunches through the school year. But the Kinsmen already contributes \$3,500 to buy baby formula for Love in Christ Food Bank, and were unable to continue to pay for the entire program this year.

"It costs \$7.50 a week or \$320 a

year to provide a child with lunches. This year I have 12 children and five sponsors. I need to find more sponsors, otherwise we're going to have to decide which children will get the lunches, and I really don't want to make that decision," Ellison said. "It's really a concern to me. If we can help a kid get a better education, maybe that child won't be part of the welfare system."

Now the way the program works is that the mother gets vouchers to buy the food so that the child can get a sandwich, juice and a treat,

like fruit or a pudding cup. That's the only thing the vouchers can be used for. The principal makes sure the child gets the lunch and Ellison said she knows all the children, and she makes sure they are getting their lunches as well.

"It's a really vital program," Ellison said.

Individuals who sponsor the program can get tax receipts, but groups cannot, she said. Anyone interested in finding out more about sponsoring the program can call Ellison at 873-1328.

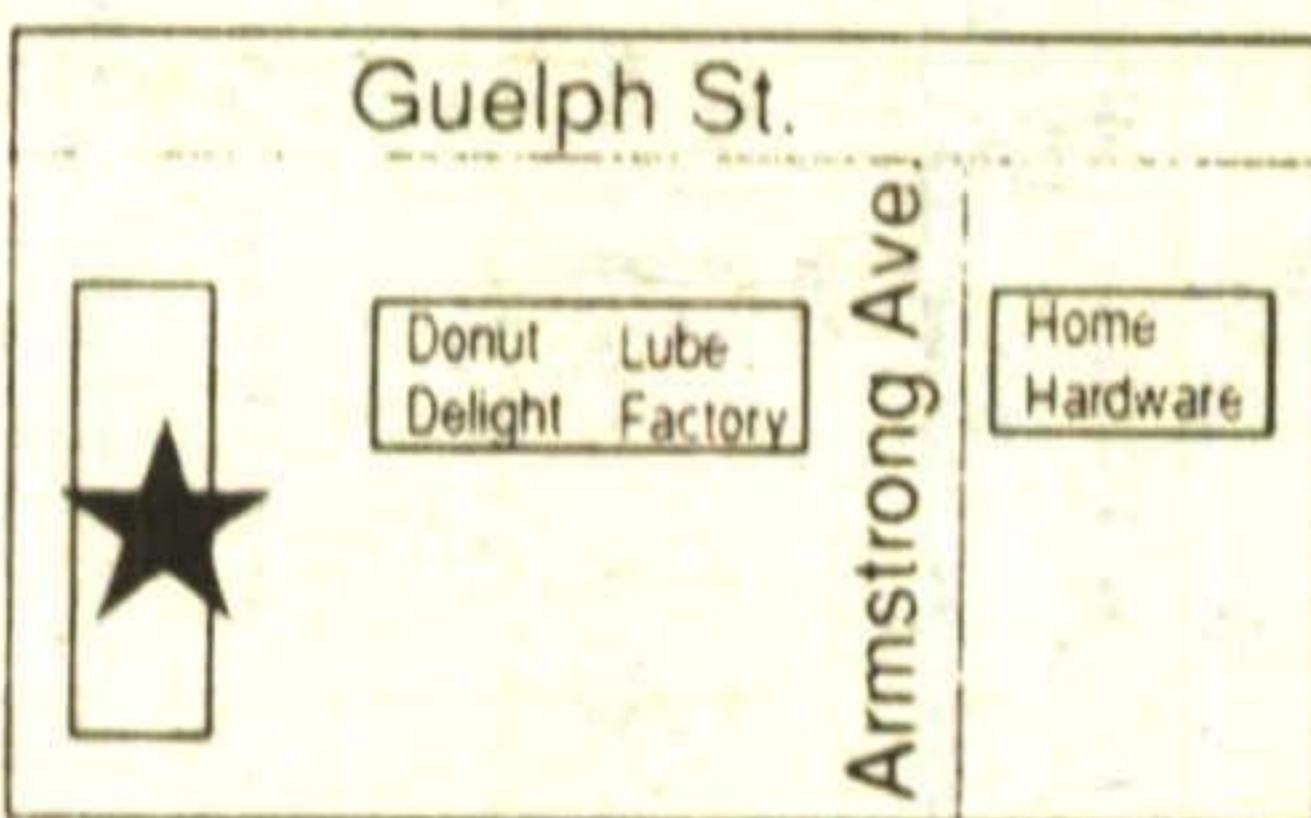
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Open Door, a non-profit program, is celebrating its 10th year of operation in the Halton Hills region. It assists hundreds of youths each year, both through the Drop-in Centre and Young Parents Program.

As part of its celebrations, Open Door is having a fun fundraiser to raise money for the organization with the help of Scotsdale Farm's "Catrina" a 1700 lb. show cow belonging to Emmerson Clark. Scotsdale Farm is owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and operated under the auspices of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

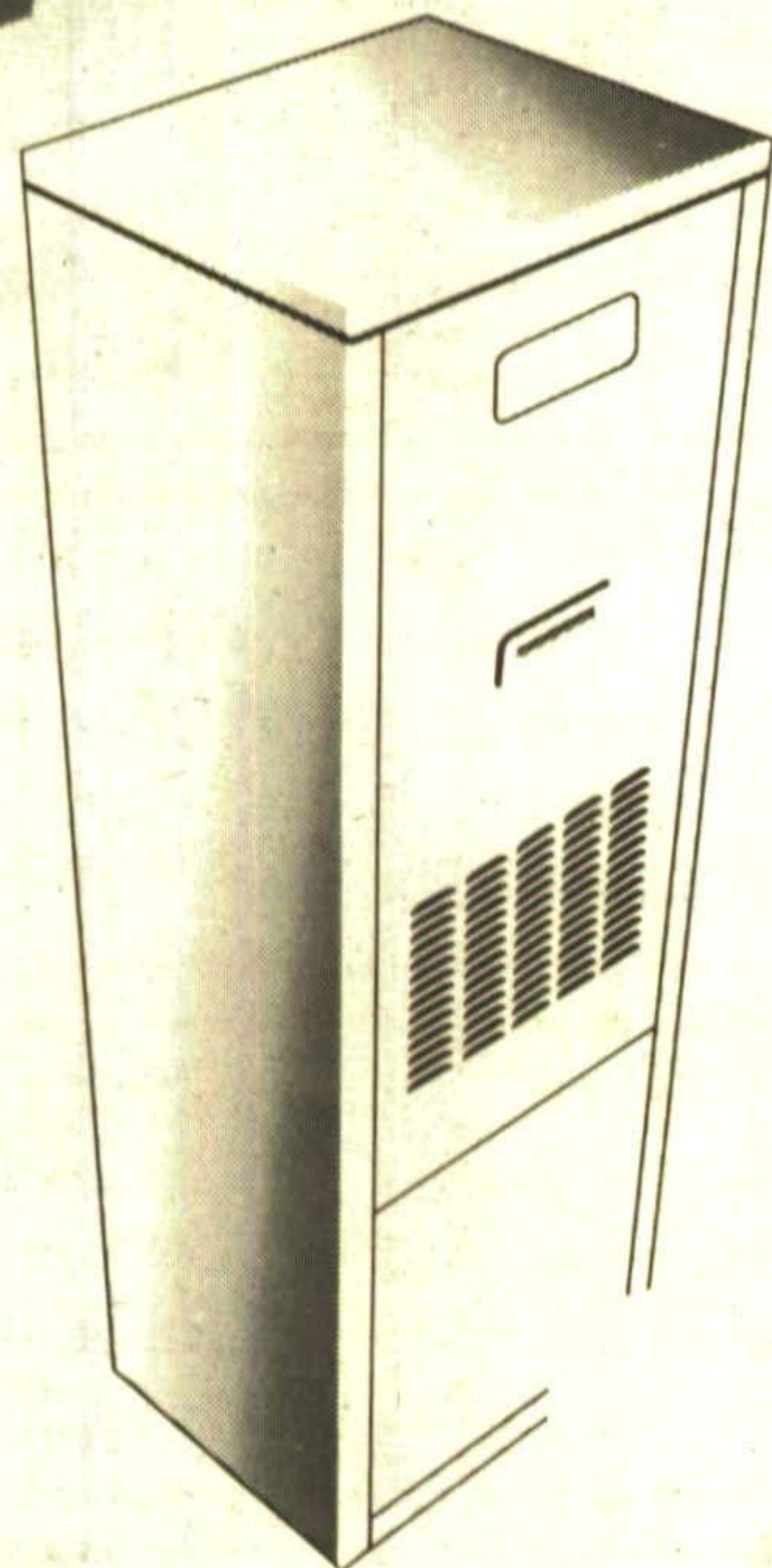
On November 20, Catrina will be released into a paddock which has been marked off into one square yard plots. Tickets are being sold on the squares at local malls, businesses as well as door

to door. Wherever Catrina drops her paddy, the person holding the corresponding square's number on their ticket will win a Panasonic CD player, courtesy of G/S Television.

Other prizes, which will be drawn for randomly, include a Sony walkman, provided by G/S Television, a children's bicycle helmet donated by Ollie's Cycle & Ski, a cotton afghan donated by Doreen Bergsma from My Hometown Gifts and family tickets to see the Dinosaur, Greatest Show on Earth, donated by Ontario Place. The event is being sponsored by AMJ Campbell Van Lines.

Open Door would like to thank all of the above mentioned persons, organizations and businesses who have offered their support to this event.

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