

Local farmers chip in Feeding the world's hungry

By **TED BROWN**
Staff writer

There is a field situated on the west side of Trafalgar Road, south of Ashgrove, where a stand of corn is growing, and that 18-acre plot is destined to feed some of the world's hungry.

Through a group effort, members of the Halton Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Halton Junior Farmers, a few businesses and individuals are cosponsoring the project, and the fruits of the harvest are to be donated to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a charitable organization dedicated to collecting and distributing food grains to the world's hungry on behalf of Canadian Christian church denominations.

The Trafalgar Rd. site is one of 31 projects across Ontario, the total of which reaches nearly 1,000 acres of crops such as corn, soybeans, wheat and barley.

Organized in 1983, the Foodgrains Bank originated in the prairies, but has been operating in Ontario for the past four years.

Foodgrains Bank chief executive officer Al Doerksen recently visited the plot, located on the Maple Leaf Research Farm. He travels all over Canada, meeting with those groups donating crops, and viewing the sites.

"It's really exciting to see the

efforts of all involved here in Halton Hills," said Doerksen "And to see the Junior Farmers, the people who will be leaders in the future, taking this initiative and setting this example; it's a good omen for the future."

Halton Soil and Crop president Murray Brownridge has been involved in the project from the beginning.

rented, was donated rent-free. All the labor and machinery contributing to the cause has been given freely by local farmers.

Ken McNabb, whose farm is located across from the field, has taken an interest as well. He originally rented the land, and approached the landlord to donate the property for the project.

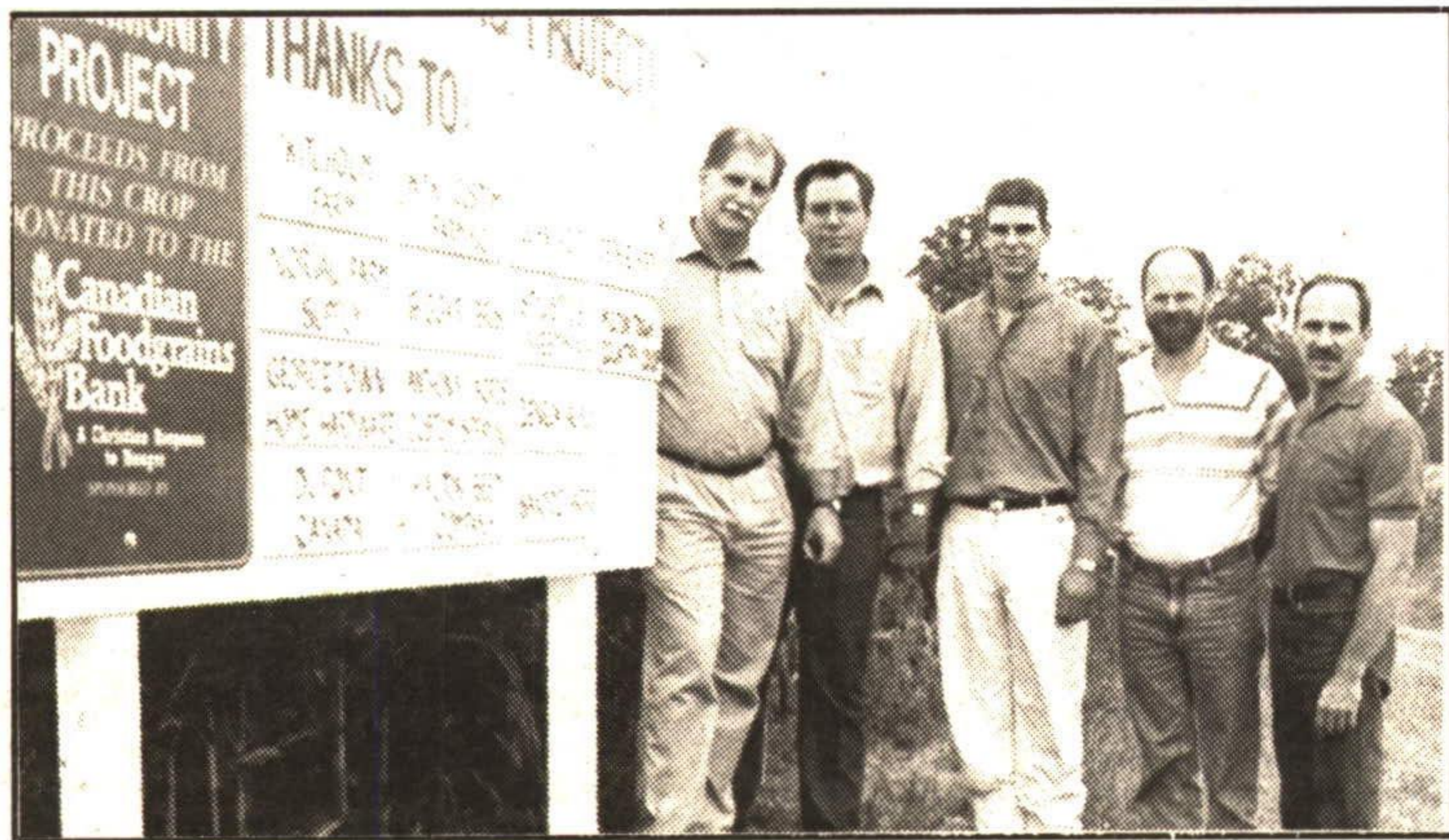
When the harvesting is completed, the grain (the corn) or proceeds from the sale of the grain, will go directly to feeding the hungry.

"Apparently, the grains are given to some countries as food, while others are used in 'food-for-work' programs in some third world countries," said Ken, "The food-for-work programs generate work and help boost the local economy in those countries, by offering an incentive to work."

Although the crop is presently growing quite nicely, the work is far from finished; the final job remains this fall, when it will be harvested.

"We're looking forward to seeing this field combined (in November)," says Brownridge, "We're hoping to bring in six or eight big combines all at once, to take off the crop, and have some sort of a celebration."

And no less impressive will be the fact that many hungry people will be fed, through the generosity and efforts of a few local farmers.

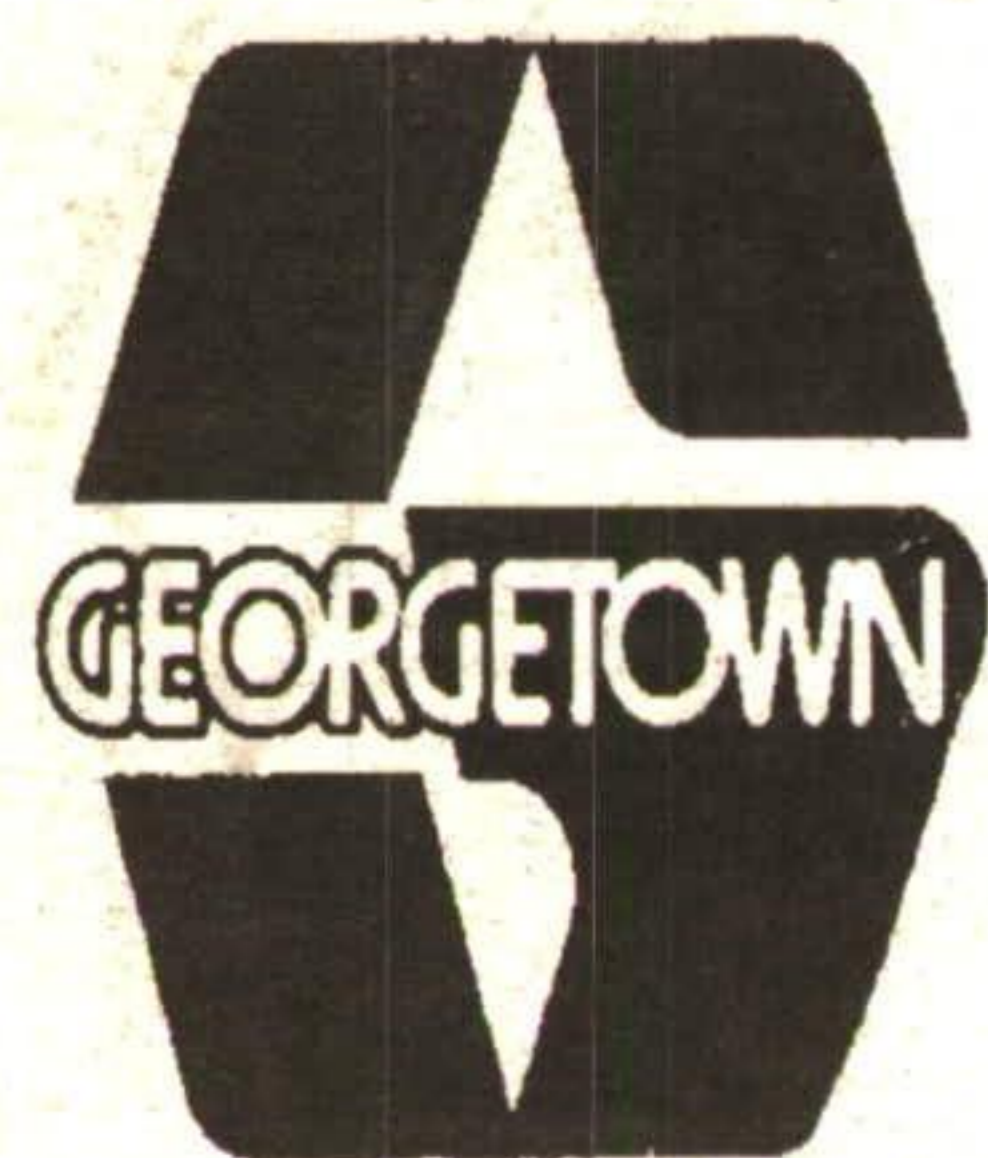


During a recent visit to the Trafalgar Road site, Canadian Foodgrains Bank executive director Al Doerksen was joined by Jim Pepple, Ontario coordinator, along with Tyler Brander of Halton Junior Farmers, and Halton Soil and Crop president Murray Brownridge and Ken McNabb, as they inspected the site.

"It's not easy these days to get someone to donate to a cause," says Brownridge, "But in this project, our members aren't necessarily reaching into their pockets to donate money. Instead, they have contributed their time, seed, products and physical labor, to make this project work. It's much easier to do it that way."

As a result, the 18-acre plot was plowed by volunteer labor, and worked and planted in the same way.

Even the land, which is normally



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Fees: Tyke \$140

Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam
Midget & Juvenile \$165

- * birth certificates are necessary for first-time registrants
- * health card numbers are needed
- * all outstanding debts will be collected before this season's registration is processed
- * an administration fee of \$25 will be charged to all players registering after September 10

Equipment Exchange:

Drop off used equipment 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

SALE NOON - 3:00 p.m.

Pick-up of money and unsold items 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

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