

# Weekend 4-H reunion marks 80-year rural tradition

BY DOUG HARRISON  
The Acton Tanner

Ironically, the Ontario 4-H program today is not intended to be like school, but a former Halton 4-H member says the big thrust for the organization is to have 4-H programs instilled in schools.

"There was a lot more book work when I was a member," says Acton's Carol Murphy, who was a member from 1967 to 1975.

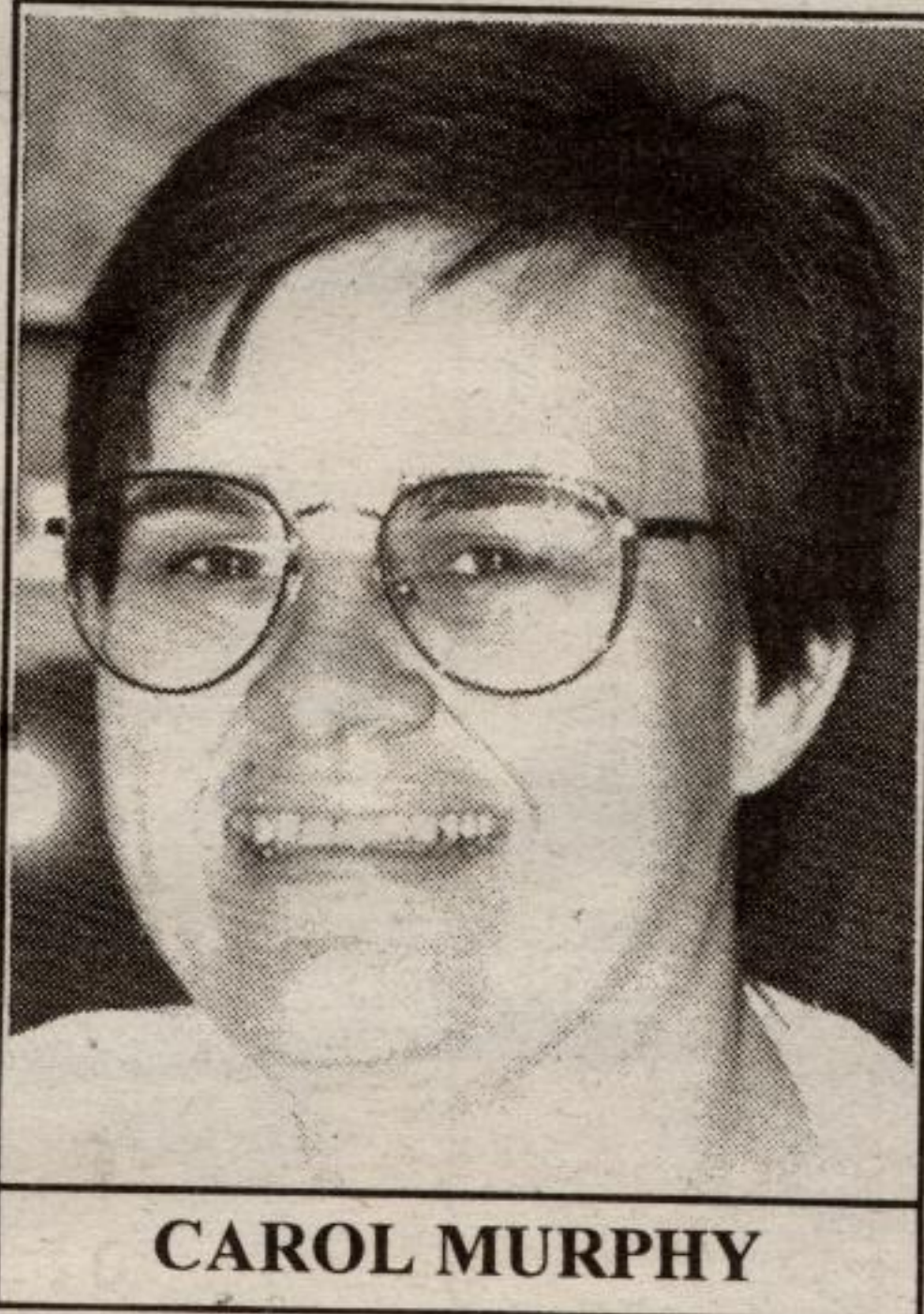
Murphy's father was a volunteer leader before that and a member of the first Acton-based 4-H club in 1939.

"It's not as competitive now, either. Kids are recognized more

for what they're doing themselves rather than from outside influences."

Murphy, 40, is looking forward to seeing her old friends this weekend at Milton's Ontario Agricultural Museum, where the Ontario 4-H Council is celebrating 80 years of 4-H.

The Acton native, who works



CAROL MURPHY

on development of 4-H resources and co-ordinates the provincial 4-H awards, is confident 4-H will be in schools in five years. Partly because some schools don't offer family studies courses and therefore the cooking skills that 4-H does.

"And because 4-H fits into the curriculum nowadays and that's why teachers are talking more frequently about it," says Murphy, who is the editor of *The Leading*

*Edge*, the 4-H volunteer newsletter. "It's a hands-on programs which is what education is based on now.

"With cutbacks in the education system, teachers are glad to have volunteers come to the school and help with activities."

For many years, 4-H was traditionally associated with agriculture and homemaking. But, as Murphy points out, it's a lot more than that. While members branch out to such projects such as woodworking, sewing, photography, financial fitness and forestry, the onus is still on personal development.

Through 4-H (Head, Heart, Hands and Health), youths aged 10 to 21 are encouraged to de-

velop self-confidence, a sense of responsibility and a good self image.

There are 14,600 4-H members and 2,600 volunteers in Ontario with over 80 projects available in English and 30 in French.

"It's a rural-based tradition," says Murphy, who has 20 years of experience with 4-H and the Ministry of Agriculture. "There are certainly a lot of families involved, some going back two, three and four generations."

Among the activities planned for Saturday and Sunday are a slo-pitch baseball tourney, photo contest, family barn dance, 4-H leadership camp reunions, variety show, square dancing and history book auction.



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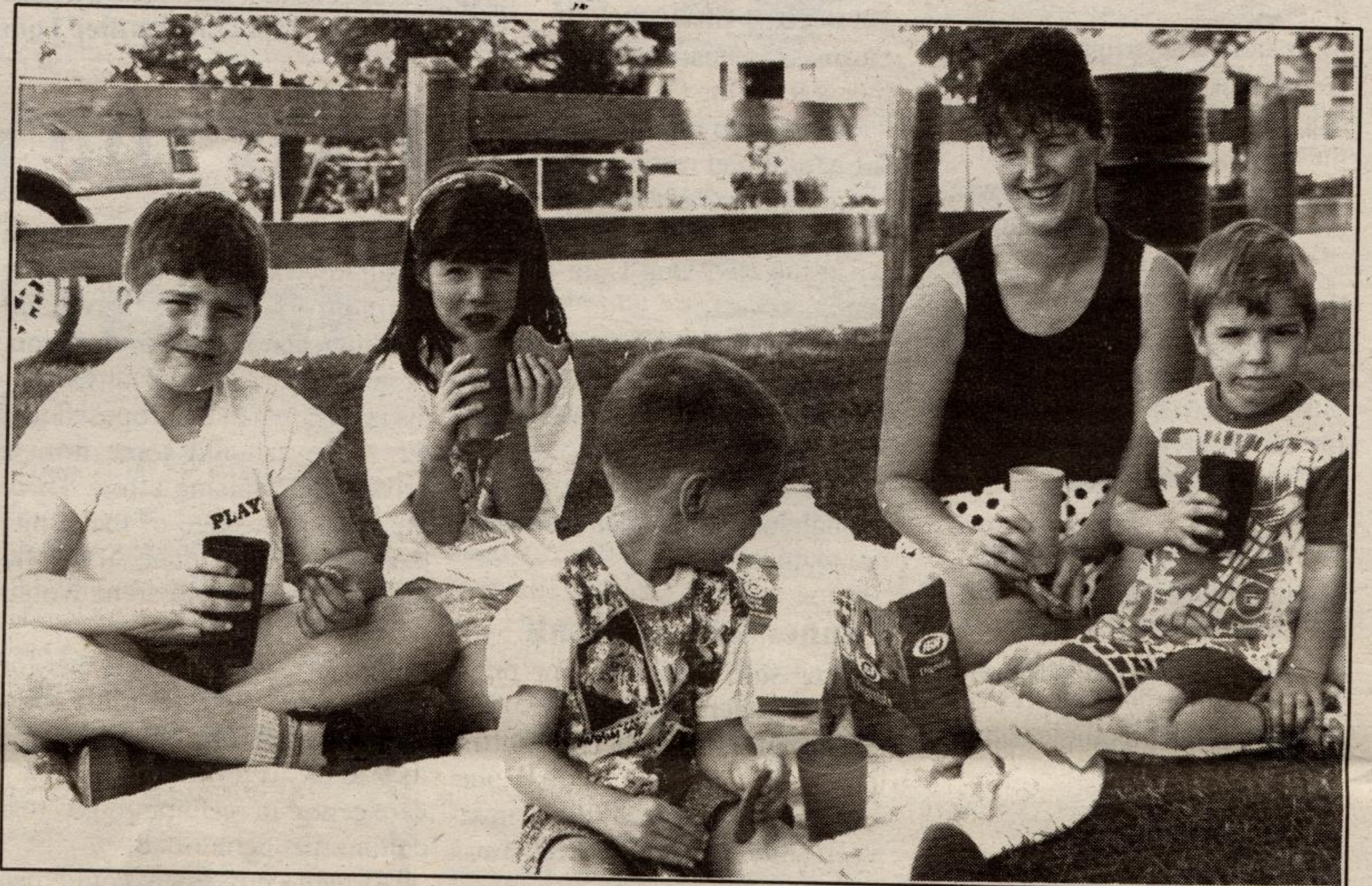
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MMM, GOOD! There's nothing like a picnic, and the Dover family found a shady tree to enjoy a Prospect Park lunch on Friday. That's Timothy, 4, with his eye on the cookie box, while mom Sheila looks on. Other, from left: Christopher, 8; Brenda Mae, 6; and Nicholas, 3. (Doug Harrison photo)



### Dolphin Desktop Expands Again!

Congratulations  
Wendy Blair on the birth  
of Meagan Alicia  
on July 19, 1995

Love, the Nicholsons

*It's a Girl!*

## 'Great' garden tour

The first-ever Garden Tour, conducted recently by the Acton Horticultural Society, was a "great success," according to club president Max MacSween.

"There was a good turnout, and everyone was very pleased with the event," reported MacSween.

The Elmore Drive resident said

that some 20 new members signed on with the club, "and we are definitely considering holding another garden tour next summer."

The Horticultural Society's new season begins on the third Tuesday in September, with a general meeting at Knox Presbyterian Church. Time is 7:30 pm.

### Announcement

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Cost: \$10 per person  
Suitable for adults & children 12 years and older

\* Preregistration required

Enjoy a day with a cycling pro and learn the basics of bicycle maintenance. Bring your bike and practice simple repairs. There will also be a display of biking accessories such as clothing, helmets and packs.

### GOING BUGGY

Sunday, August 6, 1 pm to 4 pm  
Cost: \$5 per adult, \$3 per child  
Suitable for all ages  
(6 years and older)

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### STAR GAZING

Wednesday, August 9, 8 to 10pm  
Cost: \$5 per adult, \$3 per child  
Suitable for adults and children  
(8 years and older)

Join us as we search the sky for swans, eagles, bears, dolphins and dragons, to name a few. We will learn the stories behind the stars; watch for "falling stars," and perhaps even spot a "wanderer" or two. Cancelled if overcast at 5 pm.

In 1995, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority is presenting a series of Sunday programs at Terra Cotta Conservation Area. The programs are either full day or half day events and most are suitable for both children and adults; appropriate age levels are listed in the program descriptions. A few programs are offered on both Saturday and Sunday. All programs start from the Visitor Centre in the Terra Cotta Conservation Area. For information or to register call (905) 877-9650 Ext. 22.