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I dream of Africa

Allison Dwyer and Georgetown Optimist Club

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANN KORNUKA

This coming spring Allison Dwyer of Georgetown has the chance of a lifetime. Allison has dreams to travel to Kenya with a group called Leaders Today, a non-profit volunteer organization of young people who are determined to stand up and make changes in the world. This adventure is something most 19 year olds in Halton would not normally do. Never the less, Allison is willing to take a risk. Currently, Allison is looking to her community to help pay for the trip to Kenya and the Georgetown Optimist Club contacted the Halton Compass to help her with her dreams.

"I do not know when I first started getting pro active about world issues but it has been something I have been very interested in. I knew I had to do something," Allison said.

Allison said she discovered the Leaders of Today group and felt it was something she had to take part in. "This is Craig Kielburger's organization and I have been following him since I was high school. I would write projects on sweat shops and try to raise awareness about them in my school. When we are down there in Kenya, we plan to build a school, teach the students English and we're going to be doing community work. We are going to take a Swahili language class there so I am excited to learn a new language," Allison said.

Her parents are supportive of her quest to help others off on the other side of the world but remain a little shocked at their daughter's decision. "My father kind of flipped when he first told him what I wanted to do," Allison said laughing.

"This is totally on my own. When I got to school I did not really know what I wanted to do so I just signed up part time so I could keep a job and volunteer in my community." Throughout her young life, Allison has volunteered in Georgetown with summer camps, swimming lessons for children and has been an altar server and member of the choir at her church. So far, her local church has already paid for 10% of her travelling expenses, something Allison is very grateful for.

Her trip will also give this University of Guelph student a chance to see the world, another dream Allison has. "We will be doing some traveling when we are down there. I am excited about visiting an elephant orphanage... as well as meeting different people. Our guide will help to teach us about the area in the thirty days we will be down there," Allison said. "I do not think I realize now it is a chance of a lifetime, I think everything will settle in after I have come back. I do not know how it will change me, but I hope for the best."

Allison explained how she first learned about Craig Kielburger after discovering his book *Free the Children*. When Craig was twenty-two, he had already traveled to over forty countries visiting street children, working to end child labour and speaking out for children's rights. Craig in the past has won awards for his work including the 2000 Distinguished Peace Leadership Award from the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, the Roosevelt Freedom Medal in 1998 and has been nominated for three Nobel Peace Prizes.

Allison is not gaining anything from this trip except the chance to help others in need. She is asking for community support to help pay for the \$5300 cost that covers airfare, transportation within Kenya and accommodation. If you would like to help this young pro-active student reach her dreams, you can help sponsor her by email at kenya.countdown@hotmail.com

Bang-O-Rama
Victoria Day Weekend
Family Weekend

PRESENTED BY THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF GEORGETOWN HELD AT THE GEORGETOWN FAIRGROUNDS

Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship

Fireworks At Dusk
(Monday Night Admission after 6:00PM)

Schedule of Events:

- Friday May 20th
11:00 am • Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship (School Special Price)
• Conklin Supershows Midway
- Saturday May 21st & Sunday May 22nd
• Conklin Supershows Midway • Pony rides
2:00PM • Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship
- Monday May 23rd
• Conklin Supershows Midway • Pony rides
• Classic Car & Tractor show
2:00PM • Final Competition Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship

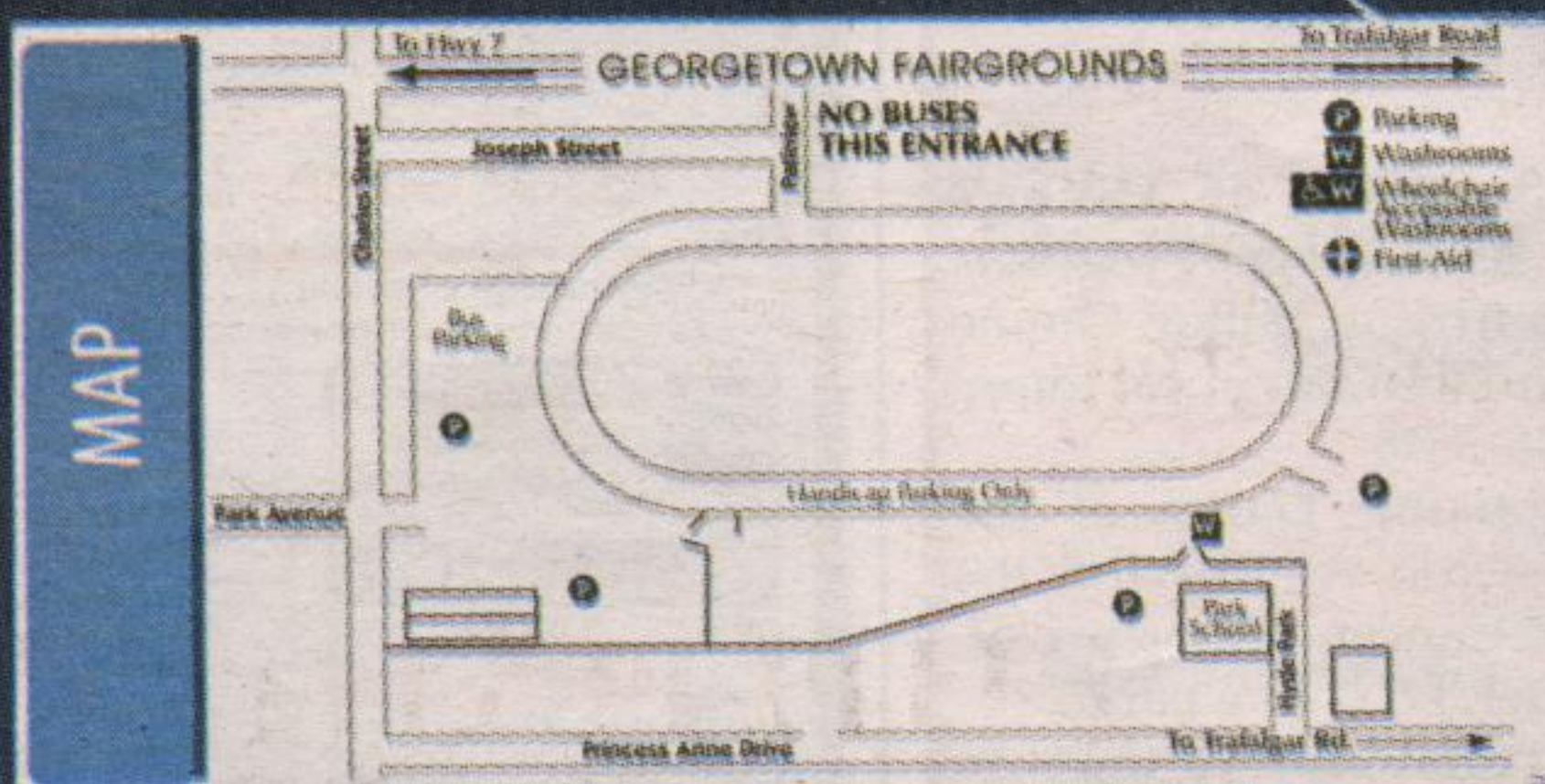
Parking Available at the Civic Centre and Main St. Municipal

Sponsored by the Halton Compass

PARK OPENS DAILY AT: 10:00AM

ADMISSION PRICES

Jousting	Fireworks (Monday night after 6:00 PM)
Child \$10.00	Adults & Children \$5.00
Adult \$15.00	Family of 6 \$20.00



Advance Tickets Call 905.877.6457 poster designed by: [paintbndesign.com](http://www.paintbndesign.com)



Allison Dwyer of Georgetown is asking for community support to help send her to Kenya to help build schools and stronger communities like the ones found in Halton.