

Bang-a-drum at Bang-O-Rama

By DONNA DANIELI

Looking for someplace fun to take the family on the Victoria Day weekend? Then look no further than the Georgetown Fairgrounds as the Optimist Club of Georgetown presents the Bang-O-Rama Family Weekend.

The schedule of events runs over the entire weekend, beginning Friday May 20 with the first event in the Canadian National Heavy Armour Jousting Championship. Look for the Jousting Championship to continue on Saturday May 21 and Sunday May 22. The Jousting Championships will conclude with a final competition on Monday May 23, offering a grand prize of \$10,000 to the winner.

The Conklin Supershows Midway will be open all four days as well, offering fun and excitement for all ages. Pony rides will also be available on Saturday and Sunday.

Have a car fanatic in the family? Make sure to stop by Bang-O-Rama on Monday May 23 for the Classic Car and Tractor Show. Since you're already there, make a point to stay for the final Fireworks show that evening, ending the holiday weekend with a bang!

The park opens daily at 10:00 am and admission costs vary. Admission to the jousting events is \$10 per child and \$15 per adult, while admission for the fireworks display on Monday after 6:00 pm is \$5 per adult or child, or \$20 for a family of six. Advance tickets are available by calling 905-877-6457. Plan early to attend this fun filled weekend of excitement.

St. Andrew's Auction helps Habitat for Humanity

Halton Habitat for Humanity's project in Georgetown is over \$4000 closer to its goal thanks to Saturday's Auction at St. Andrew's United Church.

This year St. Andrew's wanted to earmark half of the proceeds to a specific community need and decided that Habitat for Humanity would be a logical beneficiary. Habitat for Humanity builds homes for deserving families, who must also contribute their own 'sweat equity'.

"People went home with lots of bargains," said Linda Burt who, with her husband Garnet, catalogued all the donations. Local merchants generously donated everything from gift baskets to a gas BBQ. Donations from St. Andrew's members themselves included a quilt by Joan Lovegrove, crocheted capes and afghans, gourmet dinners and cottage vacations in Muskoka and Temagami.

Said Rev. Grant Williams, minister at St. Andrew's "The auction is truly an example of many people using their God-given gifts for the benefit of others."

Teaching Baby to Sign

By ANN KORNUA

Every parent understands the frustrations of learning to communicate with their infant. Establishing a close bond with the child can help parents learn what their child is really saying. *Little Hands Talking*, is Leslie Lang's class for parents willing to embrace a new language by teaching their babies to sign. Leslie, a certified instructor in early sign language for infants, is helping parents in Halton strengthen early-years communications. She says the results are amazing for both parents and child.

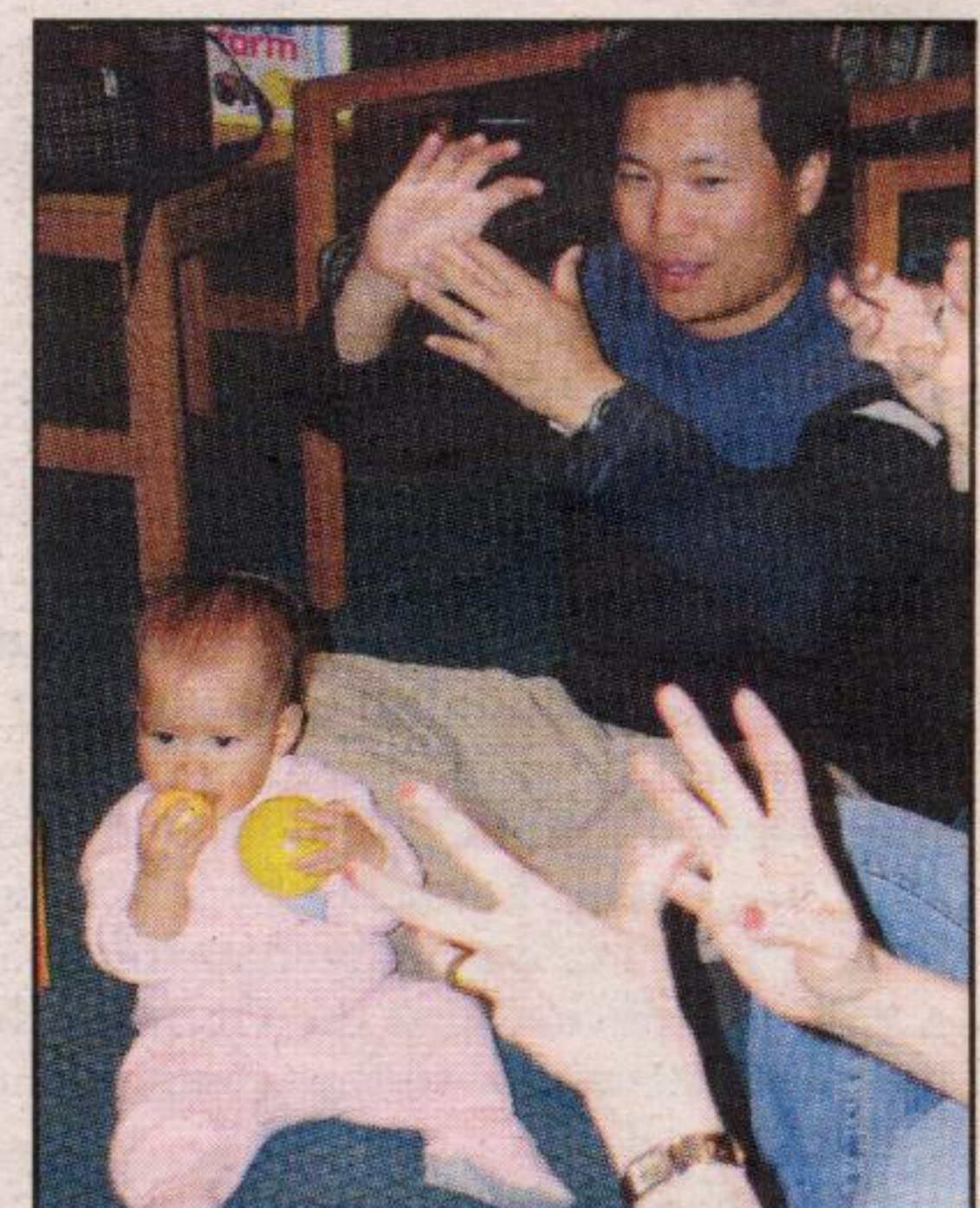
Leslie took a Kinder Signs program with her own child and was astounded at the results. "It took our son two months of encouragement to start signing, but when he did it was just a wonderful moment," Leslie said. "I remember he asked for more cereal and I was all alone in the house and I was just jumping up and down, it was like he said his first word." It was only after talking to other parents who were amazed at how she could communicate with her child through sign that she chose to start up her own workshops in the Halton area. "I was looking for something to do. I am a stay home mom, and I wanted something to do that can work around my life. I wondered if there was some way I could bring this program to other parents. I did the work, I did the research, and I received my certification."

Leslie explains that her certification is through the Kinder Sign program. "It is based in American Sign Language with around fifty different signs. We work out the best way to teach their baby those signs," Leslie said. The workshop teaches the Kinder Sign program, but Leslie fine-tuned it and changed a few structure plans. "I changed the format to how I feel works best for parents and children," Leslie said. "We try to show parents the best associations through sign to make it easier for both parents and children. I give hand-outs with charts of all the signs and show parents through every day association how they can start communicating better with their child"

Leslie explains that signing helps pre-verbal children communicate. Starting as early as six months, children in her class are taught to make the connection between signs and words. Leslie's workshops help to teach parents both the signs and keys to successful communication with their babies. Currently, Leslie offers three different classes involving babies from 6-12 months, toddlers 12-30 months, and specialized workshops for people involved in daycare and childcare.

"Although I am based in Milton, the program is portable. If there is a group in Acton or Georgetown, I can bring the classes there. It can be in a church, or a home and the nice thing about that is I can work around your schedule," Leslie said. "I can come to you."

Currently in Milton, they are available through the Seniors' Activity Centre, the Leisure Centre, and the Ontario Early Years Centre. Her workshops consist of two sessions over two weeks where parents learn some of the fifty signs they will teach to their children. To discover the benefits of signing with your child, you can contact Leslie by calling 905-876-2547 or visit her website at www.littlehandstalking.ca



SUBMITTED PHOTO
One of Leslie's classes at work. Here, Dad sings with his daughter "The itsy bitsy spider" and shows her the sign for spider while doing so.

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

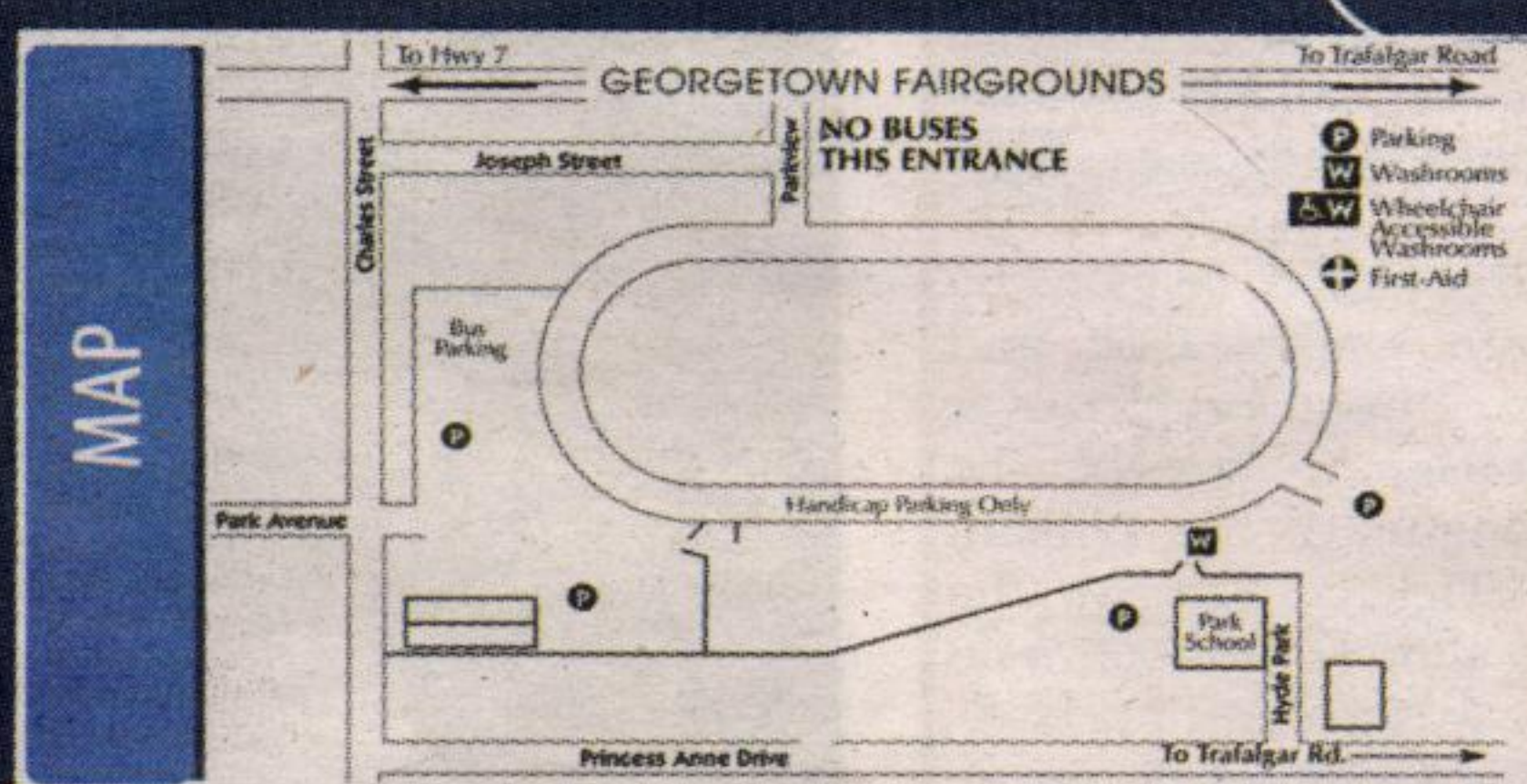
Parking Available at the Civic Centre and Main St. Municipal

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: [pointindesign www.pointindesign.com](http://www.pointindesign.com)