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**What's Inside**



Acton's Dave Lajeunesse, top scorer with Georgetown's Junior A team this season, has been drafted by the OHL Kitchener Rangers. See Sports pages for story.



What, a singing dog? Yep, right here in Halton Hills. See story on Page 2.

Two Acton residents were presented with awards for teaching excellence by Prime Minister Jean Chretien. See Page 3.

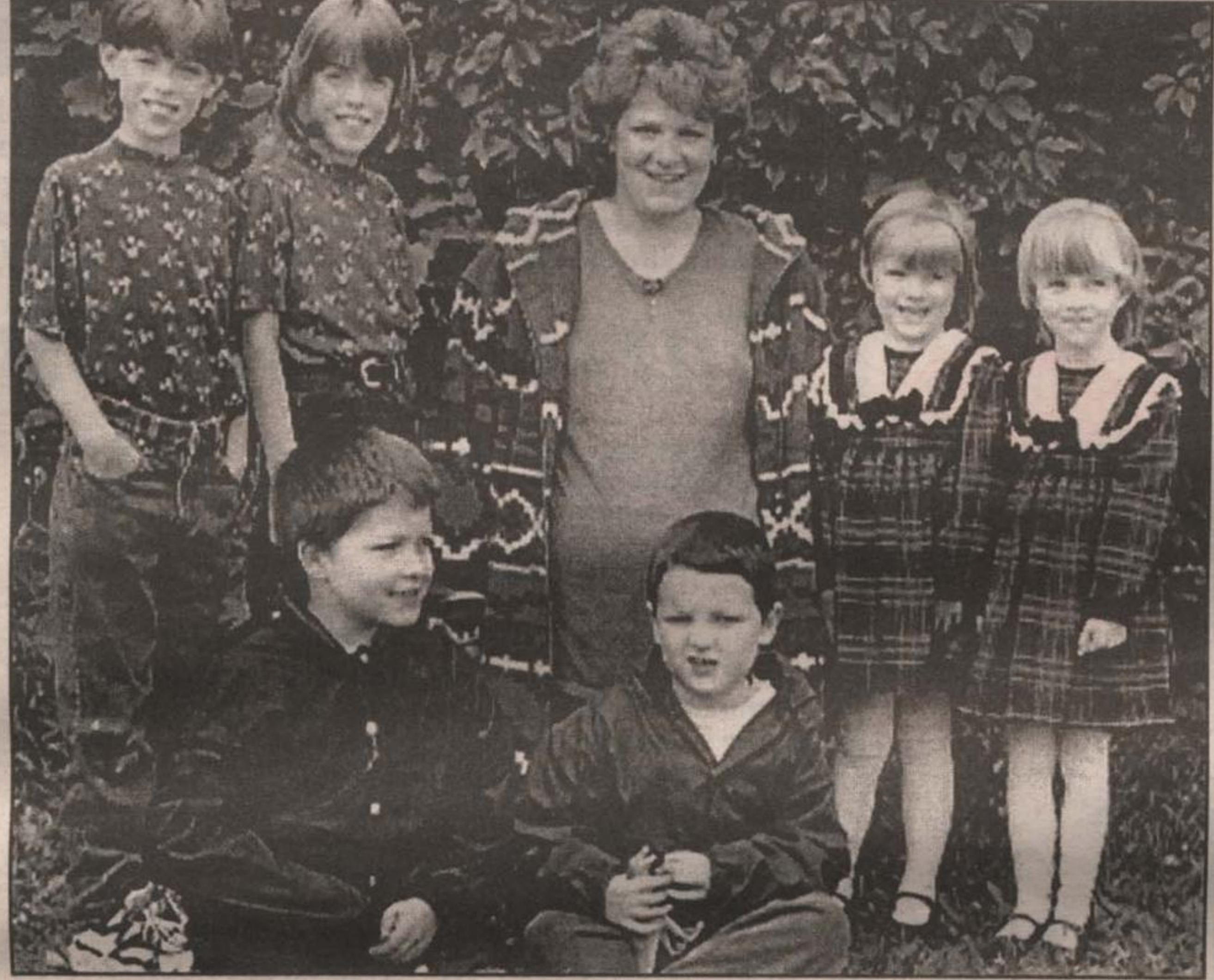


An Intergenerational Luncheon was held at the band hall on June 1. See Page 10 for photos.



The Royal Canadian Legion presented a new trailer to Halton Hills emergency response unit. See Page 8.

**Stiff opposition to parking proposal**



**SEEING DOUBLE:** Maybe there is something in the water in the Kingham area! That's just one of the theories as to why there have been so many sets of twins conceived on Kingham Road. Some of the multiples got together for this photo on Sunday. Back, left to right: Brenna and Brianne Cole, Jane Buston (due any day with twin boys), Sarah and Alexandra Leitch. Sitting James and Gordon Rugg.

**Kingham twins multiply**

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**  
The New Tanner

There are as many theories about why so many twins have been conceived on Kingham Road as there are sets of twins. A check of current and former residents of Kingham turned up at least six sets of twins and another set due later this month. Although twins run in some of the families, in many there was no history of multiple births until they moved to Kingham.

"We used to joke that maybe there was something in the water or something in the air because for a while there almost everyone who was pregnant on the street had twins," said Jennifer Cole, mother of 8-year-old identical twin girls Brenna and Brianne. Mrs. Cole's husband's brother and sister are twins and Cole miscarried a set of twins before having her

daughters. "I was very surprised to learn I was carrying twins after losing a set. Now that I look back there were twins popping up all over the street when I was pregnant and there have been a lot more since. It's got to be more than just coincidence," Mrs. Cole said.

*Something in the water?*

Mrs. Cole's former neighbour, Thelma Kessler, gave birth to twins girls a month before Cole did and Cole also babysat for another neighbour who had twins. That neighbour was Teresa Rugg who had fraternal twin boys, Gordon and James, in 1992.

"Even though my great aunt had twins and my cousin's wife had twins I was still surprised to learn that I was going to have twins," Rugg

explained in a recent interview.

"Maybe it is something in the water. I think that there are too many multiple births on Kingham for it to be a coincidence."

Alexandra and Sarah Leitch, 4, are twin girls who live on Kingham with their parents Sandra and Peter who said in an interview on Sunday, "I'm pretty old and we didn't think we would have children. When we moved to Acton I joked to my wife that she shouldn't drink the water because she might get pregnant and sure enough that's what happened."

Neighbours also know of another set of twins, a boy and a girl, who were born on Kingham in late 1996 but have since moved away, a young set of toddler twins who live around the corner on Greenore Crescent and a set of 6-year-old girl twins on Campbell Court.

**Suggestion to make area pedestrian friendly**

A proposal to ban parking on one side of Mill Street between Elgin and Main Streets on a trial basis this summer generated such vehement opposition from downtown merchants that the proposal will likely be shelved.

Acton BIA (Business Improvement Area) co-ordinator Janis Fread suggested that traffic be banned on the north side of Mill Street in an effort to make the area more pedestrian friendly and less congested with traffic. The ban would have removed approximately 22 parking spaces.

"We want to create the illusion of more room in the area at the corner at Mill and Main where there is a perception of a bottleneck of traffic," Fread explained on Friday, adding that they wanted to put planters or greenery on the edge of road by the sidewalk to make it more "people friendly."

Fread said she was surprised at the total negative response from business people in the area.

"Everyone who took the time to call after an item about the possible ban was included in the latest BIA newsletter was emphatically against the plan," she said.

Some businesses said their customers expect to be able to park in front of their stores and others complained there isn't enough parking in the downtown area now.

Fread said the issue of parking is a difficult one to

deal with. "We want to encourage the tourists who come to Acton to walk along the streets and see what we have to offer, not just park their cars, go into a few stores and go home," Fread said, adding she was disappointed that merchants wouldn't consider the ban as temporary.

Former Mill Street merchant, Jake Kuiken, whose son now owns Halton Hills Furniture, said a long-term solution is what is needed.

"Ten years ago I said that something needed to be done to ease traffic congestion on Mill Street. I think they should make both Mill and Bower one way and that would allow for wider sidewalks and easier movement of traffic on Mill," Kuiken said on Saturday.

Val Manes, co-owner of Acton Home Hardware, questioned the BIA newsletter statement that a majority of people don't think that there is a problem with parking in the downtown core.

"I bet that nine out of 10 customers would say there's a problem finding a parking space downtown so I can't imagine that removing spaces would be a help," Manes said on Monday.

There are approximately 70 parking spaces on Mill Street between the railway tracks and Main Street and another 70 on the side streets in that area. There are also three Town-owned parking lots with approximately 85 parking spaces.

**Blood urgently needed**  
Don't forget today's (Thursday) blood donor clinic at the Acton Legion, 15 Wright Avenue from 3:30-7:30 p.m. There's an urgent need for blood for patients in 61 hospitals in Central Ontario. A single donation can save as many as four different lives since each blood component can be given to a different person. For instance, the red cells could go to someone in surgery, platelets to a person with leukemia and plasma to a burn victim. Healthy individuals from ages 17 to 70 with proper identification can give blood. The Toronto Blood Centre needs to collect at least 650 units of blood per day in order to meet patients' needs.

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