

Knights raise funds cooking for Trail Riders

You may be accustomed to seeing them manning the park gates, parking cars or in charge of Acton Fall Fair admission booths. Or as part of the Acton Remembrance Day parade when the 4th Degree are in full regalia. But few people see Knights of Columbus when they are preparing meals in the wilderness for Ontario Country Trail Riders Association (OCTRA) riders who raise money for their various charities.

St. Joseph's Council of the Knights of Columbus have a crew of dedicated amateur chefs, sous chefs and helpers who can prepare a delicious hot meal in the middle of nowhere for anywhere from 50 to 150 hungry trail riders who've

parked their horses after a 50 km. ride and are packing voracious appetites. And they're doing it five or six times a year in almost all parts of Southern Ontario.

Recently, the Knights' crew packed up their portable ovens, cooking pots, tables and other cooking utensils in two vans driven by Don Milton and Bruce Lampkin and took off for a field near New Lowell, north of CF Base Borden and east of Creemore. It was a beautiful Sunday, even hot for this year. Close to a hundred riders were on a 40 km competitive trail ride in the area, developing voracious appetites.

The Knights arrived at the scene expecting to have wa-

ter and electricity available, as they had been told. Neither was available. No matter. With the cooperation of OCTRA and an ingenuity they've displayed on other occasions, they soon had a generator pumping out power and water brought in to prepare a roast beef meal with all the trimmings for a 5 p.m. sitting.

Peeling potatoes like robots were Jean Marcoux, Dave Dawkins and Wayne Montgomery while Bruce Lampkin and Don Milton had five 15-pound roasts of beef starting to roast in their portable oven fueled by propane. Vegetables were in pots on portable propane-fueled mini-stoves.

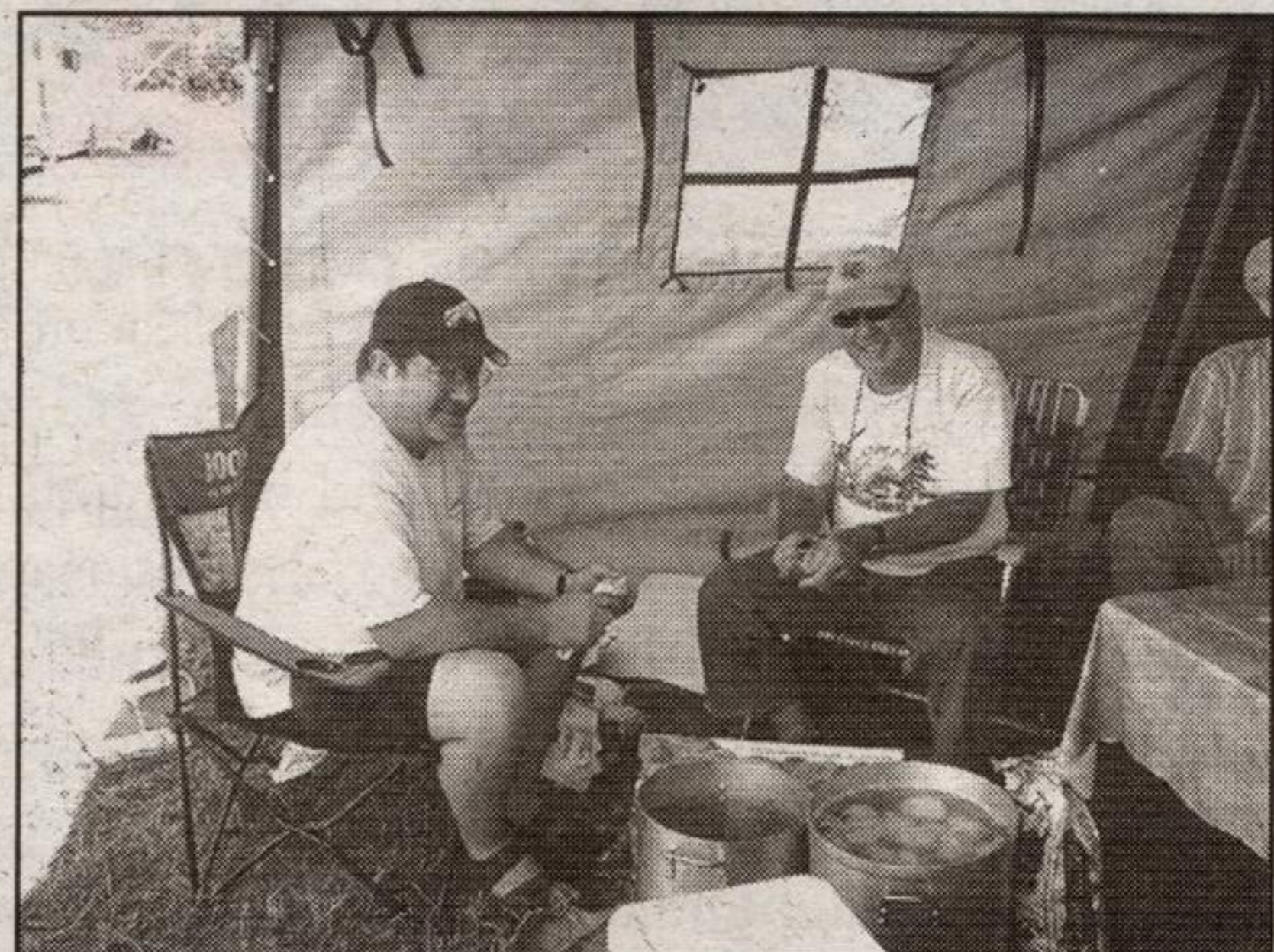
Wayne Montgomery was in charge of making the salad and he recruited this scribbler to assist tearing up the lettuce and introducing the other ingredients of a Caesar Salad into large plastic bags which were shaken and squeezed until the portions were evenly mixed. Viola, the entire meal was all ready by 5 p.m. and set out for the diners who ate buffet style.

The roast beef was delicious, the riders declared and the trimmings were just as good, including the 25 pies which were cut for dessert.

Just a routine meal declared chef Bruce Lampkin.

The Knights had to turn some OCTRA rides down this summer because of vacations for members. It all helps to swell the coffers of the Knights' charitable accounts, most of which go to local charities.

The Knights of Columbus has nearly 1.7 million members across North America and raised \$130 million for charity in 2003 in 15,000 chartered councils. St. Joseph's council has 65 members and is growing. They're part of the Ontario Council which led the way for charitable giving in 2003 with \$9,327,653, almost \$4 million above the State of California.

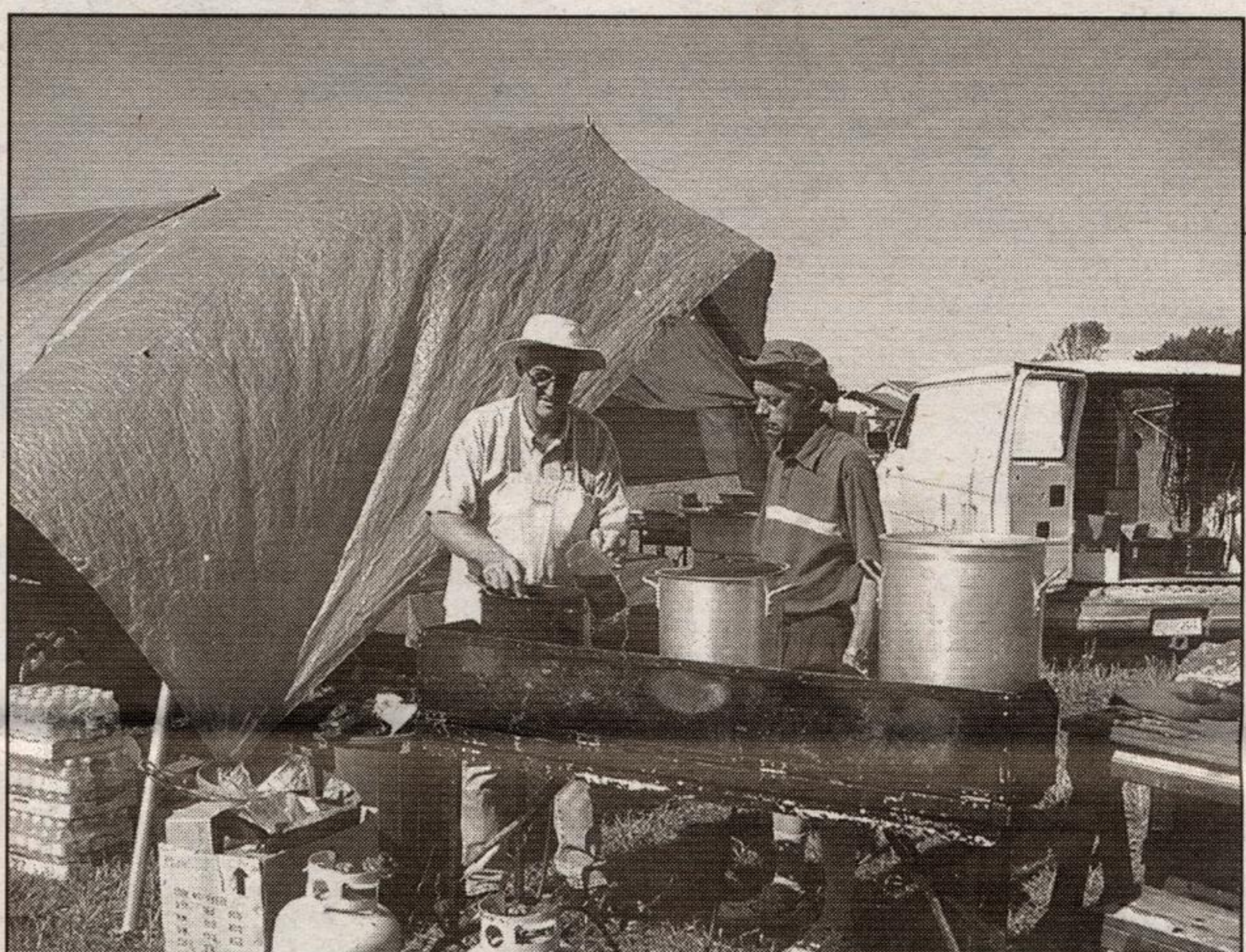


PEELERS: Somebody has to peel the spuds when you're cooking for 100 hungry trail riders and Dave Dawkins left, and Jean Marcoux are up to the job.

Many of the 61 million last year were also recorded hours of service volunteered by the Acton Council.



KEEN BLADES: Knights Dave Dawkins and Bruce Lampkin sharpen their knives as they ready to serve hot roast beef to trail riders at a recent Sunday outing.



STIRRING GRAVY: Bruce Lampkin and Wayne Montgomery put the finishing touches on a hot roast beef meal swerved to trail riders.

Province's GTA plans have dire consequences for Town

Area residents interested in what the province expects us to look like in 30 years might want to attend a Sept. 9 meeting with Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister David Caplan at the region building in Burlington on September 9 at 6 p.m.

Mayor Rick Bonnette told council the province's new Places to Grow policy outlines their plans for the

Greater Toronto Area from Niagara to Oshawa and north to Kitchener-Waterloo over the next 30 years.

The plan calls for increased population in the GTA to 4 million people by that time, he said. Among the highlights he pointed to in the document was a proposal to expand Georgetown to Milton.

It also appears to throw away the Town's plan for

industrial development along Steeles Avenue.

"We're a child of the province and they set the growth so our planners must prepare for it," he warned.

Caplan has been invited to answer questions and talk about the government's plans for the area, he said, so the public is invited to attend the meeting as well as local politicians.

Halton Hills planner Bruce MacLean said staff is examining the document along with a number of other new policy papers which will support it.

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