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Family fair offers fun and food

The annual Family Fun Fair at Georgetown Christian Church had something for everyone this past Friday and Saturday. (Left) Kosi Baker, 9, from Georgetown (right) and Edward Devries, 7, also from Georgetown fight it out on the Gladiator Combat. (Below) Connor James, 2, found the food more to his liking. Proceeds from the event go to the William Osler Health Centre's Georgetown campus.

Photos by Trish Wilkinson

Poor weather puts crops in peril

The cool, wet weather over the past few months that has left many people feeling shortchanged this summer, has also taken its toll on local crops.

Farmer Bill Allison, who grows 1,200 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat in Halton Hills, said it all started with a delay in planting due to the late spring.

And since then, the weather has not been co-operating.

"Both corn and soybeans need a certain amount of heat units to mature," said Allison. To date, he said there haven't been enough of those much-needed warm, sunny days.

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture

and Food (OMAF) corn specialist Greg Stewart said with the delay in planting, farmers needed above average temperatures to get the crops matured at the normal time.

"Unfortunately we got below average temperatures," he said.

With corn crops so far behind now, some two or three weeks, "there's some corn that's at real

risk," he said. While Allison believes his corn crop will still yield something, he said without the sun and warmth "it will be a lesser value."

But despite the growing conditions so far Allison remains optimistic.

"We still have the potential to

mature the crop," he said, "as long as there is enough heat between now and the end of September."

"A beautiful September could turn a lot of this around," agreed Stewart.

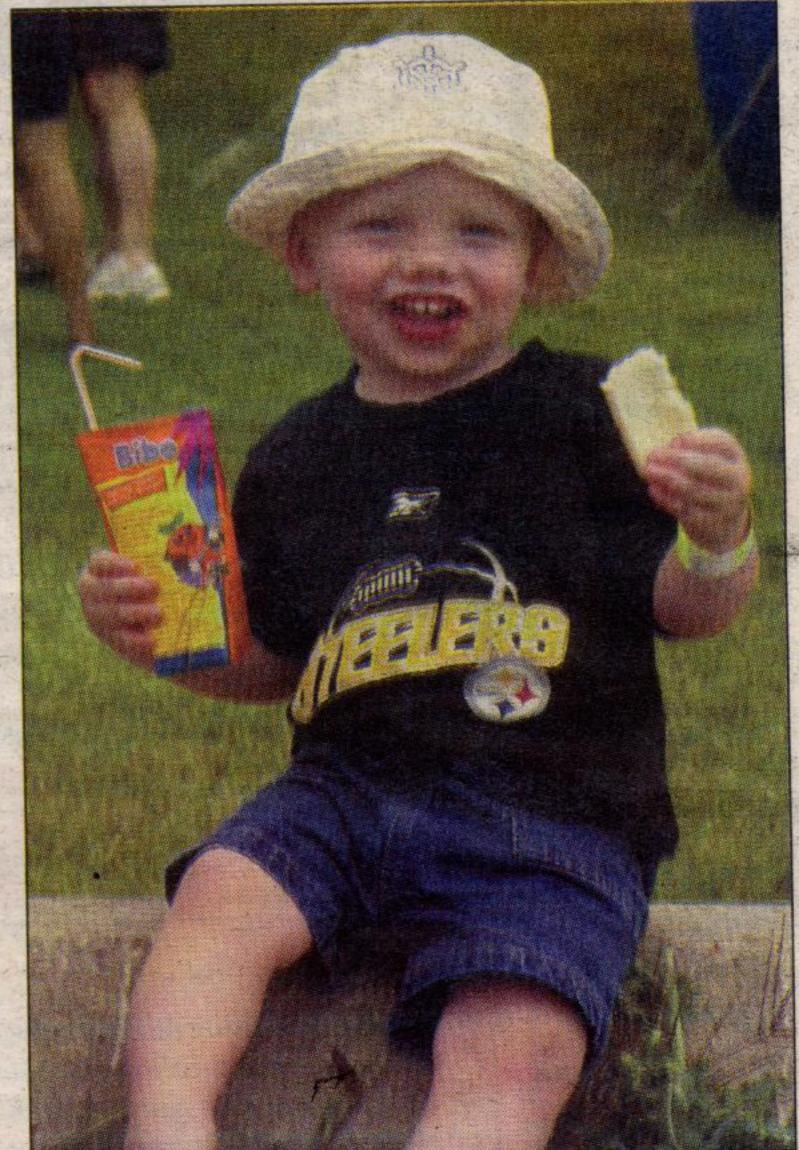
So far however, the weather this summer has not been kind to the soybean crops.

"It's a crop that doesn't like cool nights," said Stewart— something we have had a lot of this summer.

As a result," growers are looking at their soybeans and are surprised by how poorly podded they are," said Stewart.

Allison said unless the weather

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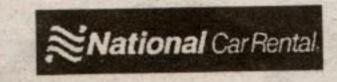




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