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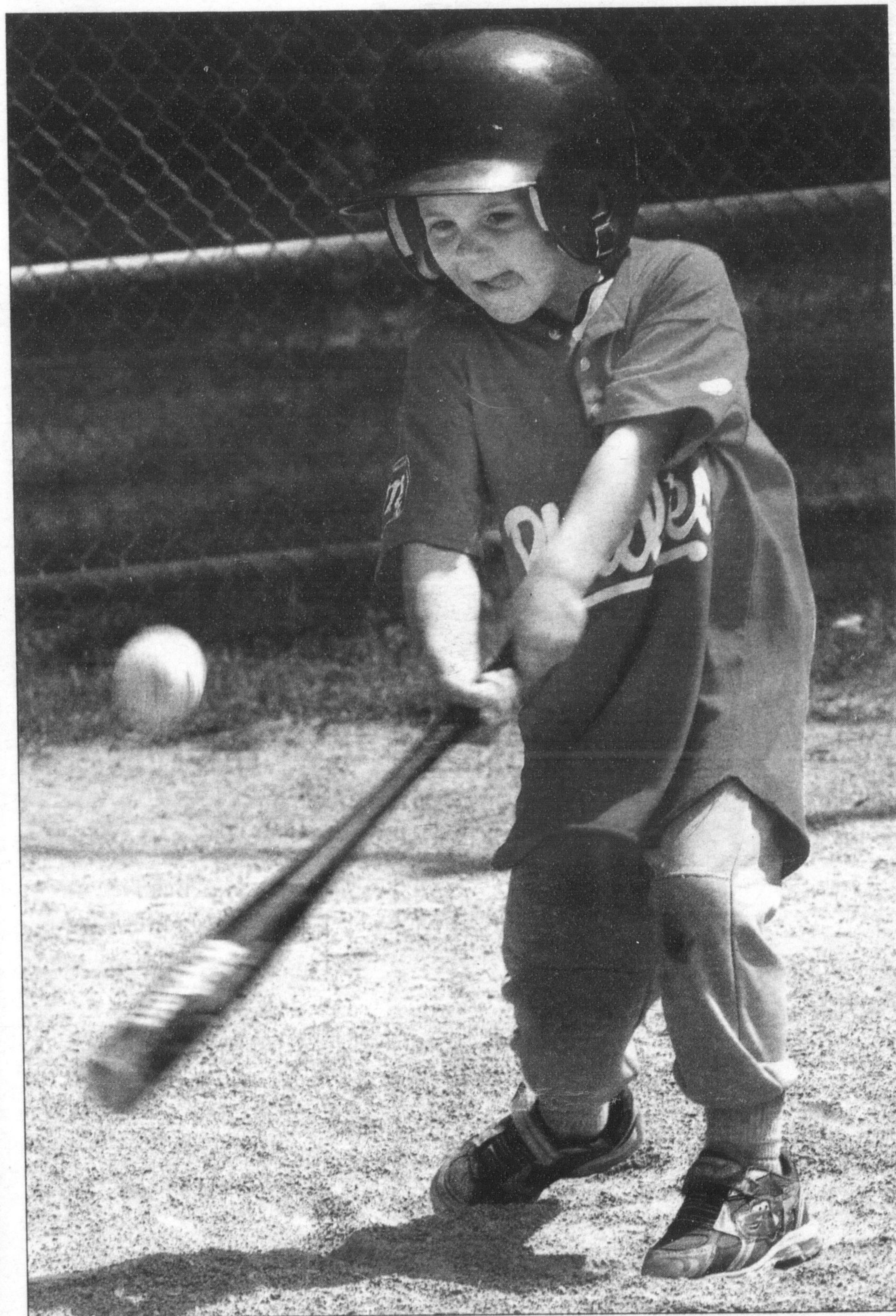
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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

SWEET SWING: Five-year-old Cain Richards of the Phillies bites his tongue as he belts out a hit in the Grasshopper division hitting skills portion of Saturday's Milton Minor Baseball Association Championship Day at Rotary Park. For more photos and results, see page A21.

Halton residents victims of listeria

Two seniors among victims

By Jason Misner
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Two Halton residents — both from Burlington — have been stricken with the same strain of listeria linked to a deadly outbreak of the bacteria that originated at a Toronto meat plant.

Halton Region health inspectors have been asked by the Ontario Ministry of Health to visit area hospitals, long-term care homes, day-care centres and independent stores to ensure that meat products at the source of the outbreak have been pulled from shelves and are not being used by the service industry.

The affected residents include a woman in her 80s and a man in his 60s, said Matt Ruf, Halton Region's manager of food safety. The department would not identify the patients, who are currently under the care of their respective doctors.

Ruf said he didn't know the current condition of the man or woman. He said the patients' doctors ordered lab tests in July, which confirmed the presence of listeria, a potentially-fatal bacteria that can lead to fever, muscle aches, nausea or diarrhea. It is a reportable health disease in Ontario.

Last weekend, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) received lab results from Health Canada that confirmed a link between meat products produced at Maple Leaf Foods' Bartor Road plant in Toronto and an outbreak of listeriosis in four provinces. The plant remains closed and more than 220 ready-to-eat meat products recently shipped from it have

been recalled. The products are packaged under various well-known names such as Hickory Farms, Schneiders and Shopsy's.

The meat recall does not involve Maple Leaf's Burlington pork processing plant.

To date, six Ontario deaths have been directly linked to the outbreak.

Because the onset of symptoms of listeriosis can occur up to 70 days after contaminated food is consumed, the CFIA expects the number of confirmed and suspected cases will continue to increase over the next several weeks.

Listeria can be found in a variety of dairy and meat products, vegetables and fish, soil, water and manure-based fertilizers, and is carried by farm animals. People can also carry it on their hands.

The disease affects primarily older
• see MAPLE LEAF on page A3

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ASK EMILY

Dear Emily,

I love to scratch furniture. My humans do not understand that this is normal behavior for a cat, and that we actually like doing it. It is so satisfying. Can you help me, as the humans get so cross? Thank you. Signed "Yee Leng". Siamese Kitty.

Dear YeeLeng: Firstly, get your humans to have your toenails trimmed when required. Ask them to buy you distractions to scratch, like, cat trees, old sisal carpets, scratching posts or pads with catnip rubbed-in (yummy!) catnip toys, and place them in the areas that you like to frequent. Hope it works Sweetie.

Signed "Emily" Hawkins.

IF ONLY PETS COULD SPEAK.

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