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The Observer

WEEKEND EDITION



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■ **FIERY FACES FUNDRAISER:** All donations, corporate sponsorships go to school charity



Cheryl Veary is raising money for the Alexander Mackenzie Literacy and Breakfast Program with her fourth annual Fiery Faces fundraiser. Hundreds of carved pumpkins will be at her Brigden Side Road home until Oct. 31. All donations and corporate sponsorships go to support the school charity. See complete coverage on A3.

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■ **FUNDRAISER:** Fiery Faces supports breakfast program

Lighting up Halloween

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The Observer

Fiery Faces is back for a fourth year, and organizer Cheryl Veary aims to scare up \$2,000 for breakfast and literacy programs at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School. The Sarnia woman lights up her property at 6113 Brigden Side Road annually with dozens of carved pumpkins to raise money for needy charities.

 **WATCH THE VIDEO**
www.theobserver.ca

Last year, the event features 200 pumpkins and raised \$1,400 for the Alexander Mackenzie school breakfast program.

By Thursday she'd already surpassed that figure after carving just 30 pumpkins.

She started carving early Wednesday and, with help from friends, family and the Rotary Club of Sarnia Lambton After Hours, hopes to have 300 jack-o-lanterns glowing Halloween night.

"It's going to be lots to do," she said. "Lots of fun."

Joeleen MacDonald, a teacher at Mackenzie, said the money goes a long way in helping students. About 125 use the breakfast program each morning.

"All the kids there have to write the literacy test, and need extra help to get there," she said.

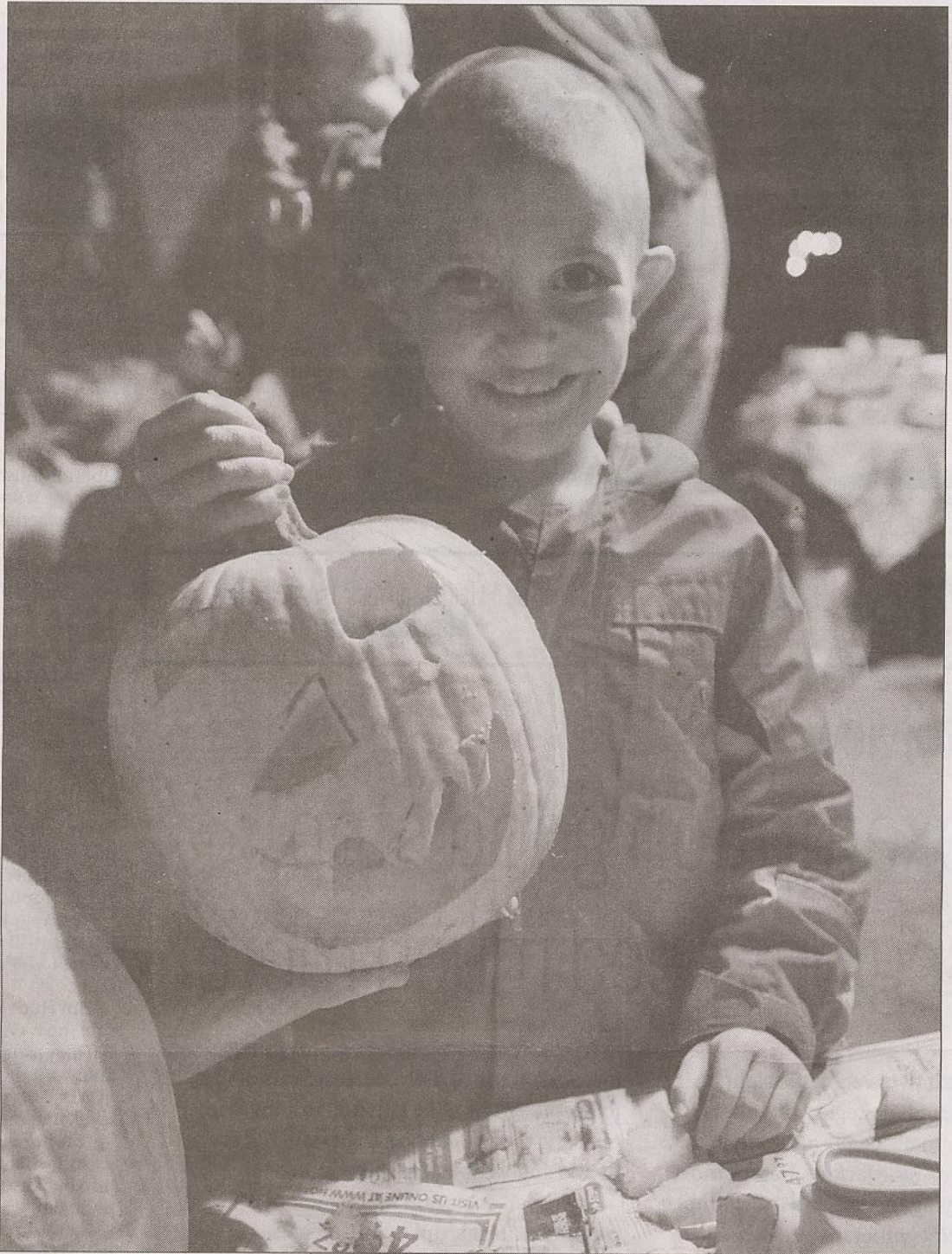
Pumpkin carving competitions at Alexander Mackenzie, Lambton College and other schools are expected to bolster the display, Veary said. She uses incandescent bulbs to light the jack-o-lanterns, and many of them feature corporate logos, part of Veary's \$20 sponsorship system.

"That's one of the major ways we make funds, and often times businesses give more than \$20, which is wonderful," she said.

A family fun day takes place Saturday at DeGroot's Nurseries, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"It'll be face painting, pumpkin carving, stilt walking, mini-putt, traditional treats, a little barbecue," she said. Cookie and cupcake decorating is also planned.

"I've always liked Halloween ...



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Six-year-old Cody Felker holds up a jack-o-lantern he carved with his grandfather, John Harwood, for the fourth annual Fiery Faces fundraiser.

You can just let loose your imagination," she said.

A second Fiery Faces fundraiser in Ottawa is being held this year, with proceeds

supporting the Make A Wish Foundation.

For more information, visit

www.cherylsaddedtouches.com.

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