

Berry Good Weekend

STORY AND PHOTO BY RON PRESTON
STAR COUNTY REPORTER
LASALLE

The music may be great and the carnival rides provide a rush, but it's still the strawberries that draw crowds to the annual LaSalle Strawberry Festival.

Thousands of people wandered through Gil Maure Park for the three-day event, now in its 11th year.

David and Carolyn General of Cambridge Bay, Northwest Territories, grew up in the Windsor area and were back for a visit and decided to take in the strawberry festival for the first time.

"We came down just for the strawberries," Carolyn joked. "Actually, we went berry picking yesterday, just trying to take in the good weather... It's still hovering around zero at home and the snow won't melt until the end of June."

The Generals, with their three children, Dustin, 6, Ashley, 4, and Malanie, 2, were enjoying their berries and ice cream, and rated them "very good."

Randy Robinson and Dave Malott, both of Windsor, agreed that the strawberries were the main reason they come every year. "You can go anywhere all year round for the music", Robinson said, "but strawberries are a seasonal thing."

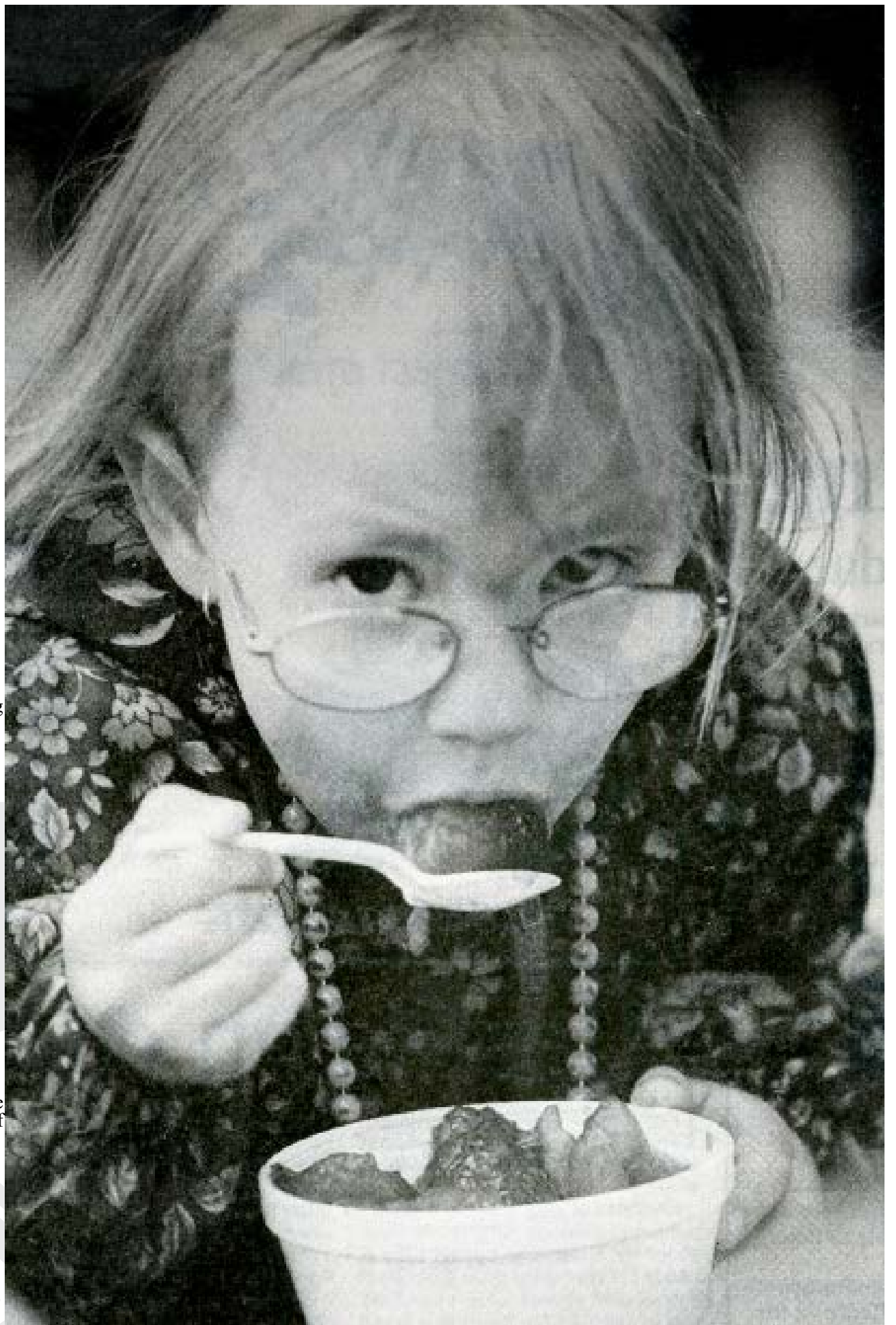
The musical portion of the weekend kicked off Friday night with Gary Lewis and the Playboys playing their hits from the '60s.

On Saturday it was Prairie Oyster, five-time winners of Juno Awards for Country Group of the Year.

They preformed an afternoon and evening show with the local band, Lynne and the Rebels, as the opening act.

It was Susan Oman's first visit to the festival and she came to see Prairie Oyster perform Saturday afternoon.

"I took my daughter around to the rest of the things," she said, motioning to midway attractions, but this is definitely the attraction for me."



Ashley General, 4, of Cambridge Bay, N.W.T., enjoyed her first LaSalle Strawberry Festival on the weekend. Thousands of people turned out for the 11th annual festival.