



Champion COMMUNITY Page

Big Brothers duo make a perfect match

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
The Champion

For Milton resident Kim Wilson, getting a Big Brother for her eight-year-old son was one of the best things she could have done.

At first, however, she hesitated about putting her son Tyler on the Big Brother's waiting list.

"I thought maybe I was setting Tyler up for a heartbreak," said the single mother of three young children.

Ms Wilson said she hoped getting a Big Brother for Tyler would fill a gap. And it has. Tyler has found a male figure he can look up to in Big Brother Steve Roy.

In a letter to Big Brothers of Halton, Ms Wilson wrote: "Tyler has one of the best Big Brothers I could have ever hoped for. Tomorrow (February 3) they have been together for a year and my son looks up to and admires Steve with everything he has. So do I."

"I don't think I could ever repay him for the love and joy he has brought into Tyler's life. All I could ever hope is that my children grow up to be just like the wonderful person Steve is."

Youngest Big Brother

Mr. Roy, 22, is one of the youngest Big Brothers in the Halton organization. But caseworker Susan Smith said she didn't hesitate about choosing him for the program.

She said he participates in all the activities, is available when needed and he regularly sees his Little Brother.

"He is really good for Tyler," she said.

Mr. Roy, who is in his last semester in the justice services program at Sheridan College, said he got involved with Big Brothers because he wanted to improve the life of a child.

Mr. Roy said he had an excellent childhood and great parents. His love of children makes being a Big Brother easy, he said.

Before becoming a Big Brother, Mr. Roy was interviewed by a caseworker and criminal and reference checks were completed.

Caseworkers at the organization try to match the personality of the Big Brother to the personality of the little brother. Mr. Roy had three little boys to choose from, but choose Tyler because he said they enjoyed the same things.

Both sports fanatics

Both Mr. Roy and Tyler love sports and play on hockey and baseball leagues.

When they meet, they usually play sports including downhill skiing, road hockey and even mini-golf. Thanks to Big Brothers, they have also attended professional sports games.

Mr. Roy also tries to see Tyler play.

"You can see (Tyler's) face light up when he notices Steve in the stands," Ms Wilson said.

A Big Brother is asked to give a minimum of six hours a month with his Little Brother, but Mr. Roy usually gives more.

Tyler, who is a grade 3 student at St. Peter's School, has had a sleepover at Mr. Roy's house and has even gone over for Sunday dinner.

"I am always looking forward to it," Mr. Roy said. "It's fun. It's fun for me and it's fun for him, too."

A Big Brother only has to commit himself to his Little Brother for a year. But Ms Smith said if the pair last that long, they usual-



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Big Brother Steve Roy and Little Brother Tyler enjoy many sports together including hockey, baseball, soccer and football.

ly last longer.

"We have Little Brothers who have become Big Brothers, who still see their Big Brothers," Ms Smith said. "Their Big Brothers are in their sixties and they still have a friendship."

Mr. Roy said he expects his and Tyler's friendship to last a long time. He has a number of commitments, but always has time for Tyler.

"Tyler's not a problem," he once told Ms Wilson when she questioned how much free time he has.

Lots on the go

In addition to going to school, Mr. Roy works two part-time jobs. He is a chairlift attendant at Glen Eden Ski Area and works as a youth counsellor at a detention centre for young offenders. He's also hoping to start volunteering, he said.

In addition to visiting with Tyler, Mr. Roy will also talk to him on the phone.

"Anytime Tyler has a bad day, the first thing he wants to do is to call Steve," Ms Wilson said.

She said after a five-minute phone call, Tyler feels much better.

But Big Brothers have done more for Tyler than provide him with a best friend, Ms Wilson said.

It has also sent him and his sister Megan to Disney World, as part of the 'Dreams Take Flight' program.

Dream come true

In addition to paying for the trip, the organization gave Tyler and his sister each a bag of goodies including sunscreen, a hat, a t-shirt, CDs, books, a backpack, a camera, \$25 U.S. in spending money and more.

"I bought a yo-yo," Tyler said.

Big Brothers has also sponsored Tyler to play hockey, something Ms Wilson said she wouldn't have been able to afford on her own.

Ms Wilson said she can't say enough about Big Brothers or about Mr. Roy.

"He has become part of the family. He is everything to Tyler."

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COGECO 14 Programming Schedule — March 14th, 2000 - March 20th, 2000

Tuesday, March 14th		Wednesday, March 15th		Thursday, March 16th		Sunday, March 19th		Monday, March 20th	
10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Encore	10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Encore	10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Encore	4pm, 5pm, 6pm	Plugged In! Week In Review	10am, 11am, Noon	Plugged In! Encore
5:30, 6:30, 7:30pm	Plugged In!	5:30, 6:30, 7:30pm	Plugged In!	5:30, 6:30, 7:30pm	Plugged In!	4:30pm	The Local Scene	5:30, 6:30, 7:30pm	Plugged In!
6:00pm	Seniors Showcase	6:00pm	Cable in the Classroom	6:00pm	The Local Scene	5:30pm	Seniors Showcase	6:00pm	Living on the Edge
7:00pm	The Issue Is...	7:00pm	Swap Talk - Live!	7:00pm	The Issue is..			7:00pm	Money Week
8:00pm	2000 Hockey Heritage Awards	8:00pm	Cogeco Sports: The Beaumont Cup, Toronto Maple Leafs Alumni Vs. Georgetown '67 Bantams	8:00pm	Cable In The Classroom			8:00pm	SportsZONE Live

Feature this week: 2000 Hockey Heritage Awards! - Tuesday, March 14th, 8pm.