



**Off to Britain**

David Jacob, President of Village Lanes Travel, discusses a trip to Britain with Glenna Collins after the latter won a draw for a trip for two to Britain. The contest was co-sponsored by British Airways and Village Lanes Travel. — Sjoerd Witteveen

**'Light Up A Match' — Program a bright spot for the Big Sisters**

For Milliken teen Jana Jaros, her friendship was sealed with Big Sister Beverley Dornbush when she smuggled a bucket of fried chicken into a local movie cinema.

Her and her younger sister Andrea both have two special friends they can look up to. Jana and Andrea each have a York Region Big Sister.

The York Region Association is currently wrapping up its April 'Light Up a Match' campaign, a program aimed at forming new Big-Little Sister relationships.

Thornhill's Gayle Ferguson is teamed with Andrea, 12, and Beverley Dornbush is matched with Jana, 13.

"The time we spend together varies — it depends when McDonald's is open," said Ms. Ferguson with a laugh. She and Andrea have been friends for almost a year.

The idea of a Big Sister relationship is to provide an outlet for girls outside the home. Andrea and Jana live with their mother Feir.

"You do develop yourself and you do broaden your horizons," said Ms. Ferguson. Her and Mrs. Dornbush agree that the relationship between the two pairs have seen different interests and tastes come together to find common ones.

For all four involved it was a learning experience.

"The thing about having a Big Sister is that they (her daughters) have someone outside the family to talk to. It's a confidential relationship," said Mrs. Jaros.

She explained one of the golden rules of the Big Sister concept saying confidentiality is a major part of making the relationship work. If Jana spends an evening out with Beverley, the things they talk about remain between them. Mrs. Jaros is not to ask what they talked about.

And she admits that since the two have had a Big Sister, she has seen improvement in both girls' personal outlooks.

"I've seen a change — they know there's another adult out there," Mrs. Jaros noted. "Though it doesn't replace their father it does release some of the tension around here."

Though the girls will eventually outgrow the need for the special kind of support and friendship a Big Sister offers, all four are content with the set up as it is.

"It's not parenting it's just friendship," said Ms. Ferguson.

**Shoppers Drug Mart offers free streetproofing kits**

To combat the difficulty in locating missing children, Shoppers Drug Mart has joined other agencies with its own child identification program.

Beginning this week in Markham and across Canada, Shoppers Drug Mart stores will be giving identification kits to its customers.

Included in the kits are small ink strips for fingerprint identification. With these, parents have a permanent and easily identifiable record. Space is also provided in the booklet for pertinent information on each child.

"There's definitely a need for something like this," said Russell Cohen of the Markville Shopping Centre store. "Our aim is to reach those people who have yet to do it for their children."

He said the identification kits are similar to those used in other programs and will be given free of charge to customers. Shoppers Drug Mart will absorb the cost.

At Mr. Cohen's store there are approximately 1,500 kits available. He will continue the program until all are used.

"We'll evaluate the program as it goes on, but from the reaction to others I'm sure it will be a success," he noted.

**Postnatal classes offered in Milliken Mills school**

Postnatal classes for parents and their infants (up to six months old) will be offered in the Milliken Mills area beginning May 7.

The classes will consist of six Wednesday afternoon sessions between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Classes will be held at St. Benedict's Separate School, 50 Aldergrove Drive, Milliken Mills.

The sessions will provide health teaching on such topics as family adjustment, infant care and feeding, normal growth and development, infant safety, community resources and maternal health and fitness.

Meeting as a group will provide opportunities for new parents to discuss and share their postnatal experiences, as well as encouraging them to develop an informal support system among themselves.

The classes will be offered by the Community Health Nurses of The Regional Municipality of York, Health and Social Services Branch. There is no fee for the classes. Interested mothers are requested to register in advance for the classes by calling the York Region Health Unit at 884-1133 or 881-4240.

**Economist & Sun / The Tribune**



Present

**Why My Mom's The Greatest! Essay Contest**

Hurry Kids! Only 2 days left to tell us why your Mom's the greatest in 200 words or less. We must receive your essay by 5 p.m. Friday, April 25th. Be sure to include your age.

**AGE CATEGORIES:** 7 yrs. & under  
8-12 yrs.

**PRIZES:** \$50 Markville Gift Certificate plus dinner for 2 at the Carpenter Arms Restaurant for winner in each category. Four \$25 Markville Gift Certificates for the 2 runners up in each category.

(ALL 6 ESSAYS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKENDER MAY 3rd)

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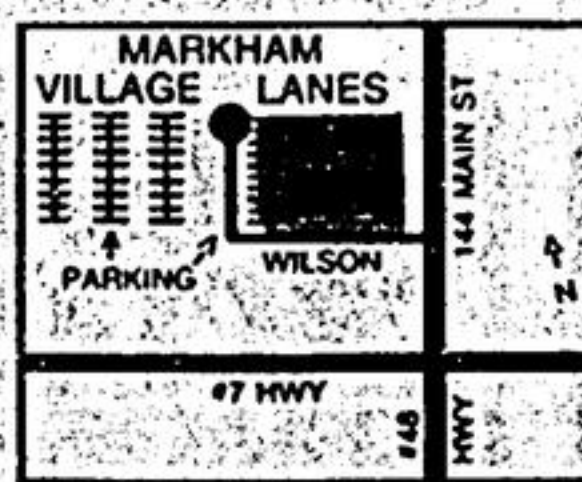


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