

## Two fast-fingered teens are top typists

By PAULA CROWELL  
Staff Reporter

They've got 20 of the fastest fingers in Ontario.

Lindsey Hutton and Helen Prodger, Grade 12 students at Markham District High School, are ranked first and third of typing students in their age group in the province — the first time the school has achieved such a standing.

The girls, both 17, have been taking office procedures and typing classes for four years and competed in the York Region championships in April. At that meet, each public high school in the region is represented by two students in each grade. Lindsey placed first in her category with 81 words-per-minute and her teammate Helen tallied 73 words-per-minute for a second-place finish.

Their scores were then submitted to the Ontario judges who chose finalists from 250 participating schools. Lindsey retained her ranking while Helen fell to third place.

Their teacher Bonnie Irwin said the win is the school's most significant ever.

Mrs. Irwin has taught at the school for 18 years, but never has she come across such good typing students.

"Normally the top speed (at MDHS) is in the 60s (words-per-minute), we haven't had a score in the 70s or 80s for quite a few years," she said, adding that their top-notch typing is coupled with a willingness to do any kind of work required of them.

The competition in which the girls chose to compete is called the non-correcting division. This means that while the typist isn't slowed down by corrections, her work must be at a peak of accuracy to score high.

Interestingly, the Markham High pair were two of the few who didn't use electronic typewriters. Both of them find the keys too light to the touch.

The girls aren't interested in using typing to make their careers. Lindsey wants to be an engineer and Helen has her sights set on the diplomatic corps via interpreter/translator training.

But they are quick to add what an advantage it is to be able to type. They're both looking forward to summer jobs in the secretarial field where their skill and accuracy is essential.

They'll receive their trophies from the Ontario Business Education Association at a luncheon at the University of Toronto next Saturday.



Lindsay Hutton, left, took first place in the Ontario typing championships and Helen Prodger took third place. Both girls are from Markham Dis-

trict High School and neither girl plans to make typing a full time career.

— Paula Crowell

## Staff sets example by not smoking

Brother Andre Catholic High School was recently awarded by the Heart and Stroke Foundation for designating the school a smoke-free environment.

The school is the first in York Region to win the award of a plaque and a flag.

"It is a valid educational objective to pursue," commented Principal Blair Day.

He pointed out that before staff members were hired to work at the school, which opened this year, they were informed that it was a "non-smoking building." Mr. Day noted that only one teacher he interviewed smoked.

According to Gail Dunk of the

Heart and Stroke Foundation teacher's provide "valuable role models for students."

"There is nothing worse than a student going to the staff room and being hit by a cloud of smoke," she said.

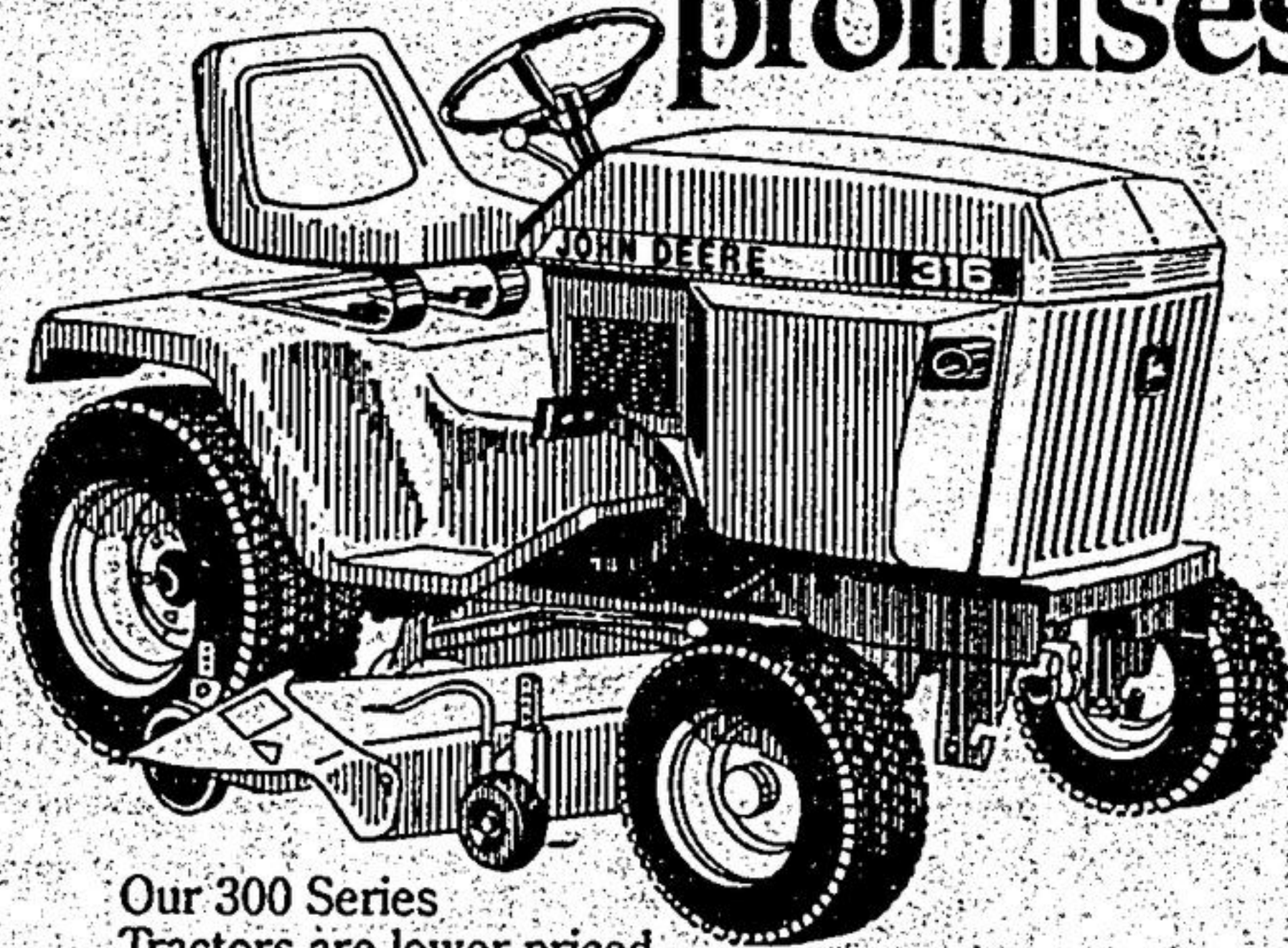
She added that research revealed that children exposed to second-hand smoke have more respiratory problems, and are even more prone to acquire colds.

"Smokers tend to cough more and as a result they spread more germs into the air."

An additional four schools from the Markham area will be presented with the Heart and Stroke Foundation award within the next two weeks.

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