

At Elgin Park

# Uxbridge Fair on Sept. 6, 7

Uxbridge Agricultural Society presents its 1986 Class 'B' fair at Elgin Park on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 6 and 7.

New events planned for the 122nd edition are a team bale rolling competition (Sept. 6 at 2 p.m.), as well as an expanded pet show (11 a.m.), an antique display and a doll and teddy bear contest (Sept. 7 at 1 p.m.).

Other regular attractions include Saturday's English Horse Show and Prince Philip Games (10 a.m.); 4-H Dairy Show (11:30

a.m.); Sheep Show (12 noon); Youth Horse Show and Dairy Cattle Show (1 p.m.); and Kiddies Tractor Pull (2 p.m.).

Sunday's agenda features a Morgan Horse Show (10 a.m.); Heavy Horse Show (12 noon); Beef Show (1 p.m.); Horse Pull (1:30 p.m.); and Kiddies Tractor Races (2 p.m.).

There'll be a full midway plus probably one of the best attended events in recent fair history—the Demolition Derby.

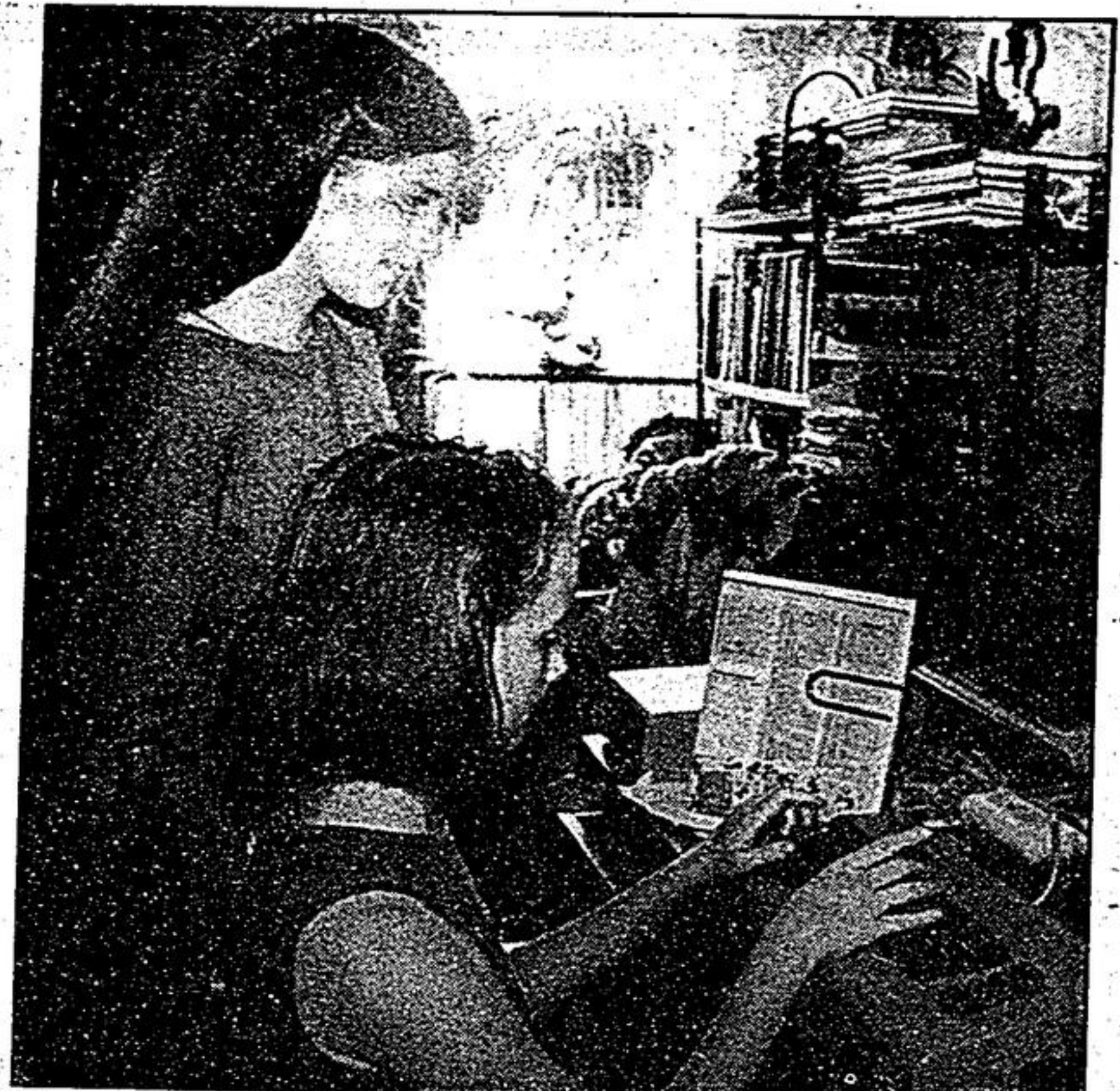
Uxbridge and District Lions Club is the new sponsor of this

mayhem on wheels, scheduled for the Saturday at 8 p.m. The rain date is Sunday at 7 p.m.

Aside from the main demo challenge, a Powder Puff competition is planned for lady drivers.

For information on rules or registration contact director Ian Ball at 852-6040 or fair secretary/treasurer Marlene Pollard at 852-7647. Entry forms must be submitted by Sept. 1.

The 1985-86 president of Uxbridge Fair Board is Keith Bacon, R.R. 3, Uxbridge.



Fourteen-year-old Heidi Priestnitz of Unionville (left) and sister Melanie work together on their home computer. Last September, Heidi, who has been home-taught, attended school for the first time. The Unionville High School student says she's now hooked on school. — Sjoerd Witteveen

## Home-taught

# Heidi's now hooked on Unionville High

By PAUL PIVATO

Looking at her, you would never guess the 14-year-old Unionville girl has something in common with General Douglas MacArthur and Alexander Graham Bell.

But like the famed American general and the inventor of the telephone, Heidi Priestnitz was home-taught.

Last September, when she entered Grade 9 at Unionville High School, Heidi went to school for the first time.

"Grade 9 was Day One," she says, laughing. "I didn't know simple things."

She had to ask friends, for instance, what an open book test meant.

And she was so befuddled by the time restrictions placed on English tests that she would stay up late at night with an alarm clock practicing how to write a test within a certain time limit.

Before going to school, Heidi would learn at home. She was one of an estimated 1,000 Canadians whose education is nurtured in the home.

Her parents, says the articulate teenager, didn't want her to go to school.

"I don't have a particular beef with the school system," says mother Wendy, founder and national co-ordinator of the Canadian Alliance of Home Schoolers. "But home schooling gives the child a broader education, a broader view of the world."

"I wanted her to become more self-reliant, to think for herself," says the former teacher.

And, according to Heidi, home learning has given her those qualities.

"The kids at school didn't have enough confidence," she says. "Most of them would never do anything on their own; they would wait for a teacher or an adult to tell them what to do."

When Heidi first started lugging textbooks through the brightly-colored halls of Unionville High, she made a point of not telling her teachers that she had never been to school.

"My drama teacher heard there was a student in the class who had never been to school," recalls Heidi. "So he was looking for a misfit. He didn't think it was me because I was too well socialized."

While at school, Heidi organized a peace club but was disappointed by the lack of student involvement.

"There's a lot of apathy," says Heidi. "Most students care more about the upcoming dance and who's going out with who than what's going on in the world."

From her home, Heidi also edits and publishes a children's newsletter called Kids Stuff on the family's home computer.

But, admits Heidi, she has to fight to use the computer. Her 12-year-old sister, Melanie, has never gone to school and does much of her home learning on the computer.

Heidi says she's excited about the upcoming year. "I'm counting the days," she says.

But her mother doubts her enthusiasm will last.

In fact, says Wendy Priestnitz, she'll probably be a drop-out.

"She'll want to go further and faster than the school system will allow," she says.

Heidi, though, thinks she's hooked.

"I don't think I can live without school now," she says.

## Winners

Students are shopping for clothes and buying their school supplies readying themselves to get back to school. Some are going to enjoy at least a few more days of leisure activity as winners of The Weekender Back to School Draw.

First prize, four tickets to Canada's Wonderland Park, goes to Barb Hough, 21 Rouge St. Markham.

Second prize, 2 tickets to the park, goes to Derek Stronitharm, 65 Larkin Ave. Markham. Third prize, also two tickets, goes to Edward Redshaw, 36 Ewen Dr. in Uxbridge.

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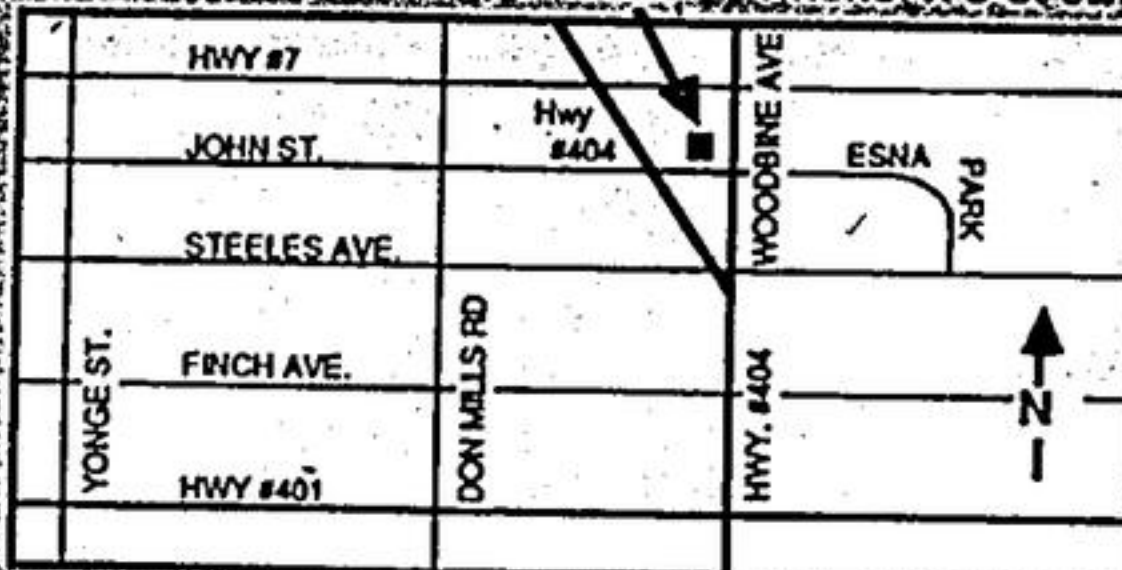
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