

School boards slam test results

From page 1

those discrepancies.

SchoolWorks! has been ranking low-performing schools the past six years and although he hasn't seen much educational reform come about as a result of the rank, Lapierre remains confident it will happen.

"We're noticing a trend. The same schools are occupying the same bottom positions," he said, adding the group will also be ranking low-performing schools according to last year's EQAO test results.

"Parents have to use those results as an impetus for change because it's definitely needed."

York Catholic District School Board spokesperson Chris Cable said the board is anticipating the release of 2000-2001 EQAO test scores next month and to analyze results from two years ago is not productive.

"To look back is counterproductive," she said, explaining the rank is outdated because the schools may have improved in last year's EQAO tests.

She added province-wide board results released last month reveal both the region's school boards are tops in the province.

York Region District School Board spokesperson Ross Virgo said it is important to remember meeting provincial levels translates to a B-average.

Virgo objects to the

SchoolWorks! website referring to students who perform under provincial levels as "failing."

"The government's standards are equivalent to a B-average and so it may not be accurate for the website to suggest they're failing when there's no interpretative data," he said. "As we have expressed in the past, EQAO data is one single snapshot in the life of a classroom ... and cannot accurately be used to determine the potential of students to succeed."

"EQAO data is one single snapshot in the life of a classroom ... and cannot accurately be used to determine the potential of students to succeed."

- Ross Virgo, York Region District School Board spokesperson

Of the York Region schools on the list, 10, including Keswick's Jersey Public School and St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School in Woodbridge, had both Grade 3 and 6 students performing below provincial levels in reading, writing and math.

Former St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School council chairperson Maggie Liambas is unfazed about the results and rank.

"(EQAO) test results don't

hold a heavy weight with me," said the mother of three. "They are not a true resemblance of what children can do."

Brian Smockum, principal of Jersey Public School, said the school has implemented remedial programs in the past two years and is hoping test results to be released next month will show an overall improvement.

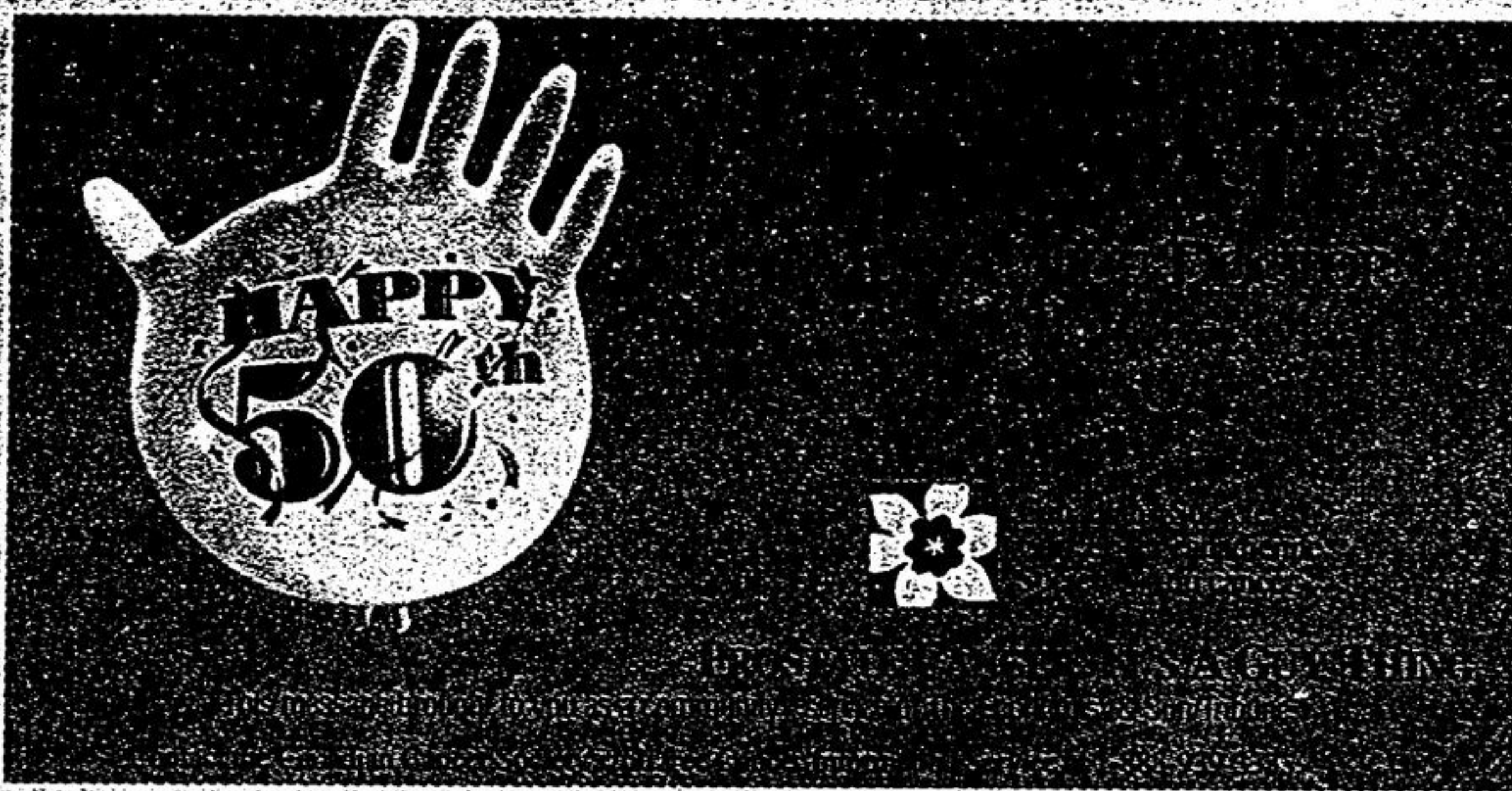
"(EQAO) test results helps us focus where we should put our limited resources," he said.

"Some of our students are coming to school without decent shelter or proper nutrition," said Smockum, explaining why students at Jersey may be performing below their abilities. "We have to address their basic needs and numeration and literacy skills on top of that."

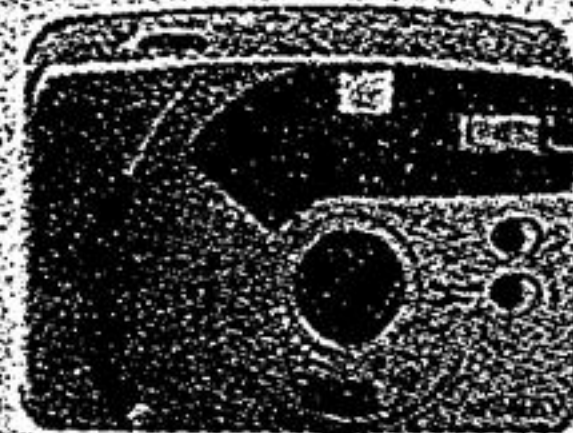
"Our programs are starting to pay off but it's never ending," he added, explaining the school's improvement plan emphasized literacy programs. "We understand that we have a long-term challenge."

The remaining schools that were below the standards in all subjects were four Georgina schools: Black River Public School, Morning Glory P.S., W.J. Watson P.S. and Deer Park P.S., as well as Prince Charles P.S. in Newmarket, Holy Spirit Catholic School in Aurora, Divine Mercy C.S. in Maple and Park Avenue P.S. in Holland Landing.

For a complete list of schools, visit www.schoolrate.net



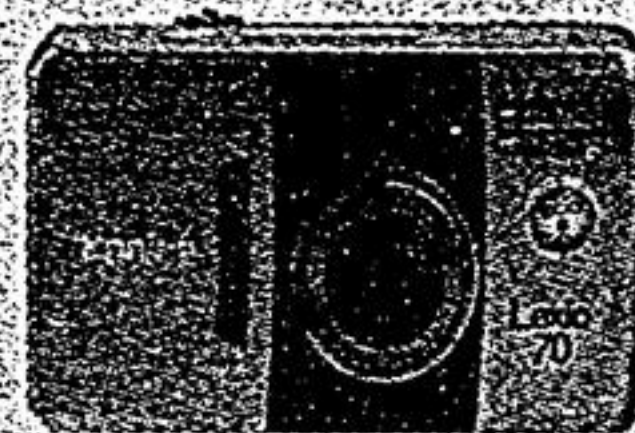
Your Holiday Memories Start Here!



Nikon AF 240 KIT

- 35mm Auto Focus Camera
- Auto Flash - Auto Load
- Big Finder
- Case, Batteries and Film Included

SAVE \$10
\$69.99



Konica LEXIO 70 QD KIT

- WIDE 28-70mm Zoom Lens
- Date Imprint Feature
- Full-Featured COMPACT Auto Focus Camera
- Case & Batteries Included

SAVE \$20
\$199.99



MINOLTA MAXUUM ST51 KIT

- 28-90mm Zoom Lens
- Full Automatic "Point & Shoot" SLR
- Built-In Flash

SAVE \$30
\$399.99

FREE

5-YEAR WARRANTY, FILM & PROCESSING

with all 35mm/APS Lens-Shutter Cameras purchased until Dec. 31, 2001. Full details in stores.



Japan Camera

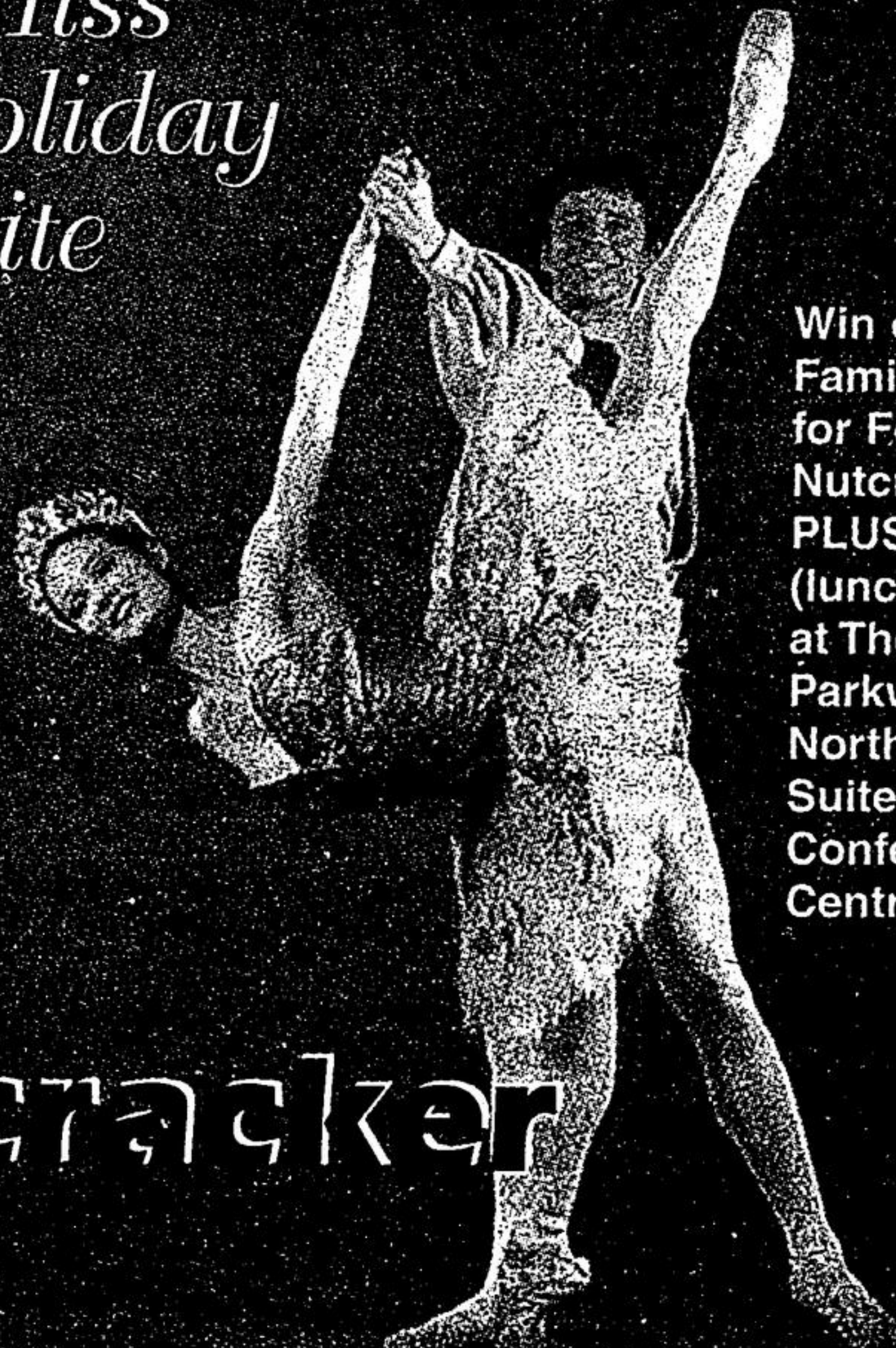
MARKVILLE SHOPPING CENTRE
5000 Hwy. #7 East Markham
905-513-7222

PLUS STORES ACROSS THE CITY

PICK-UP OUR HOLIDAY FLYER and SEE OUR MANY PHOTOGRAPHY SPECIALS
Not all products may be in all stores.

Don't Miss This Holiday Favourite

The Nutcracker



Win our Holiday Family Package for Four to The Nutcracker PLUS...pre-show (lunch or dinner) at The Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel, Suites and Conference Centre.

Enter to win four tickets to either the Sunday, December 30, 2001 - 7:30 p.m. or Monday, December 31, 2001 - 2:30 p.m. performance.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone (day): _____ (evening): _____

Please send me a copy of The Markham Theatre Season Brochure Check Here
Contest is open to all Canadian Residents. One entry per family. No reproductions will be accepted. Prizes must be accepted as awarded. Winners will be notified by phone. Contest closes December 19, 2001. Please drop off or mail ballots to: Markham Economist & Sun, 9 Heritage Road, Markham, ON, L3P 1M3. Ballots become the property of the Markham Economist & Sun, Markham Theatre and The Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites - Richmond Hill. Two prizes to be awarded.

MARKHAM ECONOMIST & SUN

Markham Theatre

Parkway

Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation

team905 Good Health Means Good Business.

Many thanks to the following businesses, organizations and individuals who have signed on for Team 905:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armadale Co. Ltd. Arlene Gonzales Agency Ltd. (The Co-operators) Associated Tube Industries Boorne Canadian Graphics Inc. Braised Bull Restaurant Bridle Trail Pharmacy Bridon Motors Canadian Shunt Industries Ltd. Coopervision Canada Corp. CorporateMarkham.com Inc. Creative Outdoor Advertising Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall Bill Crothers Dale's Pharmacy Don Valley North Lexus Toyota Easyrip Graphics Ellesmere Fabricators Fairwood Farms Ltd. Firefly Books Ltd. Frankie Tomato's Full Circle Graphics Inc. RSA Group Greenbelt Volkswagen Grey Power Insurance Brokers Ltd. Holmes, The Finishing House Home Relief Health Services Ltd. Howard Johnson Hotel Investment Planning Counsel (Durham & York Region) LCBO (Unionville) DeGrice Real Estate Services Inc. Denmark Communications Ltd. Markham Board of Trade Markham District Veterans Association Markham Economic & Sun Markham Theatre Markham Theatre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayfair Racquet & Fitness Clubs Miller Paving Ltd. Miller Waste Ltd. Maynew & Associates Monopoly Commercial Realty Ltd. Multiservice Electric Ltd. Northern Technologies Corp. Nitco Inc. Scotiabank Markham - Stouffville Branches Scotiabank Group Shopper's Drug Mart, Cachet Centre, 16th Avenue & Woodbine Shopper's Drug Mart, Hwy 7 & Calsworthy Shopper's Drug Mart, Hwy 7 & Kennedy Shopper's Drug Mart, Hwy 7 & Warden Shopper's Drug Mart, Hwy 7 & Wooten Way Shopper's Drug Mart, Markville Mall Shopper's Drug Mart, Stouffville Shopper's Drug Mart Inc. John D. Simmons QC Sims Canada Ltd. Sitco Precision Machining Sharon Smith SRD Steel Rule Dies Ltd. Symtech Canada Ltd. Tam Kal Ltd. Thomas & Pelman Toronto Airways Ltd. Transitway of Canada Ltd. Wellington Veterinary Clinic Williams & Partners Interiors Wilson & Partners Interiors |
|--|---|