

STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Dr. Melissa Snider-Adler (left) and Dr. Iris Greenwald expect to open their new clinic, which caters to female patients, next month.

Clinics focus on women's health

Thousands without family doctors

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Writer

Thirty thousand York Region women don't have a family doctor.

And many who do travel outside the region to receive medical attention.

Three local doctors hope to dramatically change that problem by opening women-only clinics.

Dr. Melissa Snider-Adler and Dr. Iris Greenwald will take female patients at their new Richmond Hill clinic April 4.

"We've always wanted to open a clinic that services women," Dr. Snider-Adler explained.

Equipped with a whole slew of professionals including a dietitian and a cardiologist, Ms. Snider-Adler describes the centre as a one-stop shop for women's health.

It will include care for osteoporosis, menopause and pre-natal and post-natal care as well as advice on family planning.

Although general practitioners can perform services to be offered at the clinic, they are often too busy, Dr. Snider-Adler said.

"The more women I speak to especially in that menopausal stage, they don't feel that they get enough time with their family doctor because the doctor doesn't have the time or resources to deal with it," Dr. Snider-Adler said, adding the clinic hopes to cover every aspect of women's health issues.

Waiting lists for simple procedures such as a pap smear are as long as six

months in York Region and with the new clinic opening, patients will be able to see a doctor within a few weeks, Dr. Snider-Adler explained.

A post-natal group for new mothers will also be run out of the clinic, a service that is not readily available in York Region.

Richmond Hill isn't the only place in York Region getting a clinic specifically aimed at curbing the lack of medical services for women.

Local physician Peter Hirsch who has been practising for 35 years is opening a women's clinic in Newmarket.

The Newmarket clinic will be smaller than its Richmond Hill counterpart, with Dr. Hirsch as the sole physician.

ENORMOUS

Designed specifically to offer contraceptive advice, gynecology assessments, pap smears, follow-up menopausal support, infertility treatment and prenatal care to those in the first and second trimester, Dr. Hirsch hopes to help women who don't have family doctors.

"There is an enormous amount of women out there and I mean enormous without family doctors in these areas," Dr. Hirsch said.

At the Well Women Clinic, patients can make an appointment without referrals, which can save months of waiting.

Dr. Hirsch was initially planning to retire, but patients were upset about his potential departure.

Dr. Hirsch plans to continue working until a replacement has been arranged.

Appointments for the Richmond Hill clinic locat-

ed at 13291 Yonge St. can be made by calling 905-773-4444. The Newmarket clinic, located at 712 Davis Dr., will be open April 5 and will be accepting calls for appointments as of March 21 at 905-853-2844.

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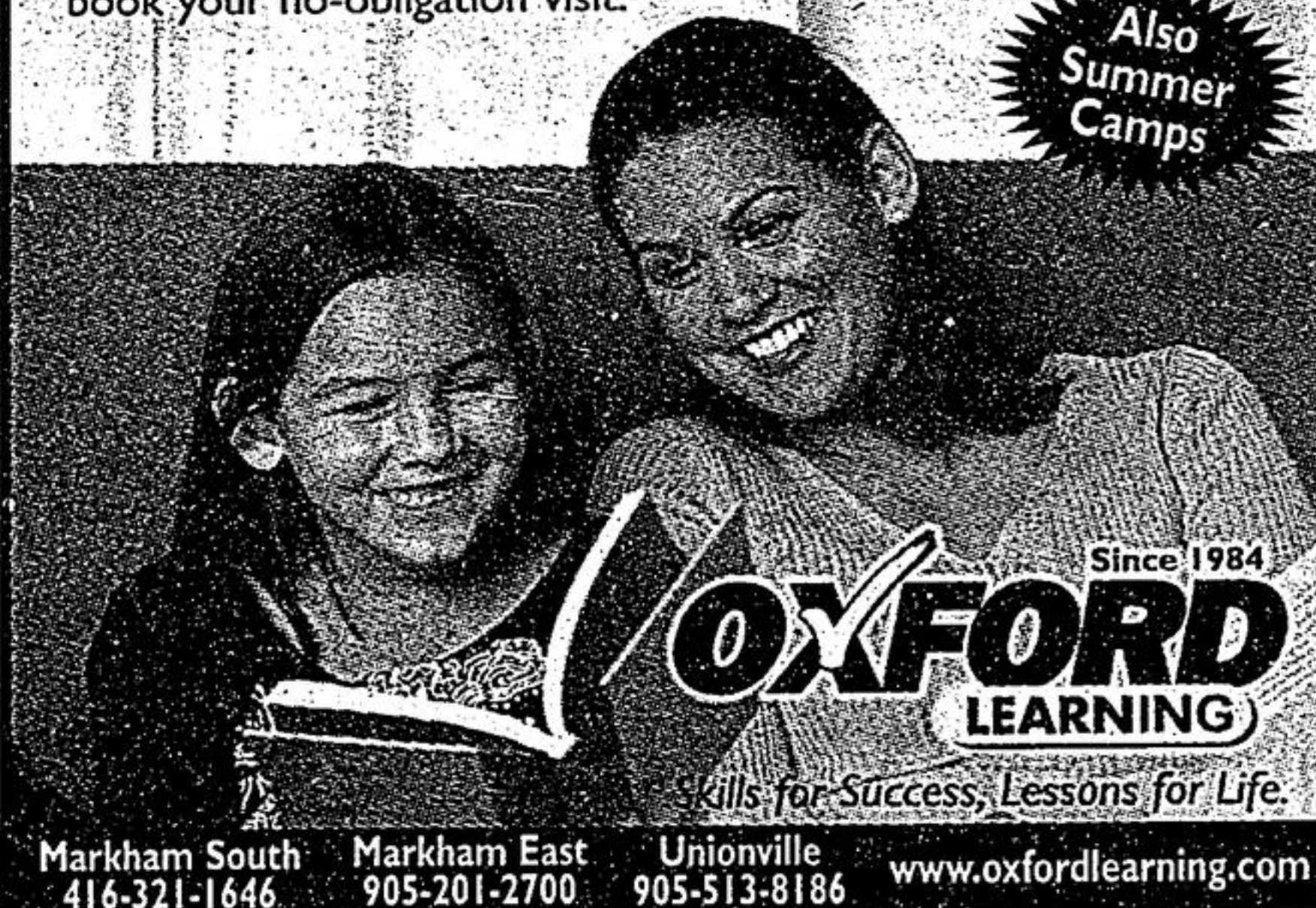
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