

Hundreds jam arena for variety show Charmaine Bigelow is Miss Acton Fair



BREAKING OUT INTO SOBS OF HAPPINESS IS 18-year-old Charmaine Bigelow as her name is announced as the winner of the Miss Acton Fall Fair Friday in the community centre.

Charmaine Bigelow crowned Miss Acton

The past few days have been very hectic for 18-year-old Charmaine Bigelow. On Monday, she started Seneca College, and Friday evening was crowned Miss Acton Fall Fair 1976!

It was her second time in the fair contest, and this proved to be her lucky time around. Amidst applause and cheering from the hundreds jammed into the arena, and with tears streaming down her face, Charmaine received her crown, robe, and 14 red roses from last year's winner Jill Pardy.

With the apprehension of starting into college, especially two weeks late, and the contest, when her name was announced it was as if the emotional dam had broken, and she found her tears had gotten the best of her. She was very happy, she said.

She entered the contest on the prompting of her family, friends and boyfriend, never expecting to win.

meant a lot to me to have Lorella as a runner-up," Charmaine admitted. Susan Thibodeau was first runner-up. The three girls enjoyed each others' company throughout an action packed two days.

Was Lorella disappointed at not being named Miss Acton, after coming so close for two years in a row? "No," she says. She was hesitant about entering this year because "people would think I was really out to win." Actually, she says, it is fun, and good experience. She wasn't necessarily there to win. She did not feel anger, disappointment or any negative emotions when she didn't reach the top spot. She was pleased to be named second runner-up for the second year in a row. "I think the judges made a really good decision on the winner," Lorella says. "There was no other person they could choose really, but Charmaine."

the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Bigelow of Acton Family Billiards, and has a brother 16 and sister 15.

Lorella is in her first year of Sheridan College Business Administration program. She also is 18 years old, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Giuseppe DePieri, 83 Roseford Terrace. She has a brother, 14, and a sister 10.

Susan is a former Acton high school student. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Thibodeau, R.R. 2, Rockwood. Unfortunately, Susan was unavailable for comment on her reactions to the contest.

Charmaine was pleased that the runners-up got prizes this year, instead of everything going to the winner only. The girls would all like to thank everyone who donated the lovely gifts and who organized the contest. A complete list of Charmaine's prizes will, space permitting, be in next week's Free Press.

The rain outside didn't dampen the spirits of fair goers Friday evening who were on hand for the crowning of Charmaine Bigelow as Miss Acton Fall Fair 1976.

Last year's winner, Jill Pardy, crowned Charmaine at the conclusion of a variety show, of which the contest was a part. The Seneca College student was one of 13 contestants.

Charmaine, Lorella DePieri, Laura Milburne, Susan Schupp and Susan Thibodeau, the five finalists, vied for the top position. Each girl was asked to give an impromptu skit. Master of ceremonies for the evening Vince Mountford acted as an unsatisfied customer attempting to return goods to a store. Each finalist was to play the part of the salesperson, who did not want the goods returned. While one girl was on stage, the others were sequestered outside the arena in a trailer.

Chosen as Charmaine's runners-up were Susan Thibodeau and Lorella DePieri.

Other contestants were Karen Cole, Debbie Glendenning, Margie Glendenning, Sandy Kingsbury, Penny Kirton, Jennifer Lister, Debbie Tuffin and Kathy Upton.



CONTESTANTS FOR THE Miss Acton Fall Fair 1976 title line up in street clothes at the beginning of the contest. Left to right, Charmaine Bigelow (the winner), Karen Cole, Lorella DePieri, (second runner-up), Debbie Glendenning, Margie Glendenning, Sandy Kingsbury, Penny Kirton, Jennifer Lister, Laura Milburne, (one of five finalists), Susan Schupp (one of five finalists), Susan Thibodeau, (first runner-up), Debbie Tuffin and Cathy Upton.



FIVE FINALISTS nervously held hands as the final announcement was about to be made as to who would be the Miss Acton Fall Fair 1976. Charmaine Bigelow was crowned by Miss Acton 1975 Jill Pardy. Left to right Lorella DePieri, Charmaine Bigelow, Susan Thibodeau, Susan Schupp and Laura Milburne.



SPECIAL FLOAT in the Acton Fall Fair parade carried Miss Acton Fall Fair 1976 Charmaine Bigelow and princesses to the fair grounds Saturday.

No rivalry
Charmaine enjoyed this year's contest much more than last year, although she could not fully explain why. All the contestants, she said, were rooting for each other, and there was no rivalry among the 13 girls. By the end of the evening, everyone was friends, something which helped ease the tension of the evening a great deal.

She was especially pleased to have as her second runner-up Lorella DePieri, who held the same position last year. The two girls got to be good friends during the course of the weekend. "It really

Busy weekend
All the contestants were invited to a wine and cheese party after the contest Friday evening. The next day, Saturday, saw the three girls walking around the fair, getting to know people, making draws, announcing winners and just having a good time. Saturday evening, they were guests of honor at the annual Fall Fair dance. Sunday saw more draws and more meeting people.

Among many duties Charmaine has ahead of her for the next year as Miss Acton Fall Fair 1976 will be the annual Beardmore Co. Christmas party, and the competing in the Miss CNE Sweetheart of the Fairs 1977 in Toronto next August.

The girls all agreed Maggie Hall, organizer of the Acton contest, "did a terrific job". Mrs. Hall said "It was fun this year. The committee members co-operated to make it a good contest."

Charmaine started Monday in her first year of a dental assistant course at Seneca college. The second year is a preventative dental assistant course and the last six months comprise mainly dental hygienist work. She is

did Ann Smith's kitten in a basket. The photo of two boys playing in the snow by Sheila Smith brought back fond memories, as well as showing good photographic ability.

Another barn and fence scene won first in the black and white section of the contest. Mr. Forster felt the mood of the scene was well captured by David Dunn and awarded the photo top prize, winning \$5.

Ann Vos won two second prizes in this category. Children on playground equipment and youngsters counting cups were well appreciated by the judge. David Dunn also won a second for his photo of the long winding sidewalk from Robert Little school to River St. captured at night after a rain. They will receive \$2.50 for each prize taken.

One dollar awards go out to Vaughan Cole, J.C. Smith, Audrey Dunn, Gary Bowers, Peter Kuechler, Murray Smith, Sheila Smith, David Dunn, Wes Brown, Ann Smith and Ann Vos.

Photo contest

The Acton Free Press Photo contest had many entries this year. The judge Richard Forster, a professional photographer had a hard time picking the winners and found it necessary to break the photos into two categories, black and white and color.

Murray Smith won first prize of \$5 in the color division with his photograph of a farm. The blue sky contrasting against the dark barn and colorful fields made it easy for judge Richard Forster to choose a winner.

Second prize winners in the color category received \$2.50 each for their efforts. Joan Morris, picture of youngsters in a rubber raft, drew a good response from the judge, as



LORELLA DEPIERI was the second runner-up in the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest.

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SUSAN THIBODEAU was the first runner-up in the Miss Acton Fall Fair contest.

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MISS ACTON FALL FAIR Contestants received free Hawaiian dance lessons from Ohulani (out of picture) during Friday evening's variety show, in which the Miss Acton contest was a part. Laura Milburne and Lorella DePieri had fun learning the steps. Both went on to be in the five finalists, with Miss DePieri taking second runner-up in the contest.



TENSION MOUNTED before the choosing of the five finalists in the Miss Acton Fall Fair 1976 contest in the arena Friday evening. Susan Thibodeau and Susan Schupp watch the variety show with tense looks on their faces. Miss Thibodeau was chosen first runner-up. Miss Schupp was among the five finalists.

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