

# TV commercial is just beginning for Kelly



Kelly MacDonald (left) and little brother Scott are hoping to get into showbiz, with Kelly having just finished shooting her first commercial.

by Pam Douglas  
Kelly MacDonald has been modelling for seven years and has shot her first commercial last week at a wage of \$41.81 an hour or \$334.50 for an eight hour day. Not a bad income for an eight-year-old.

The commercial for Erin Mills community took two days to film, but Kelly didn't "work" for her money: "It was fun," the blonde-haired, blue-eyed little girl smiles.

She's always wanted to do a commercial, she says, and this one only served to reinforce her enthusiasm. Her part asked her to jog, skip, play, run through a sprinkler, eat spare ribs at the barbecue, and, her favorite part, swim, at various places in Erin Mills.

Her "co-stars" in the commercial consisted of two other children, two teenagers, two "grandparents," two "parents," and two "neighbors."

Kelly modelled clothes for Woolco and Towers brochures and was included in a photo layout of children's fashions in Canadian Weekly Magazine in her earlier "career." At the ripe old age of five she entered The Jennifer Walmsley Modelling

School where she learned social manners and graces, personal grooming, photography, photo make-up, pivots and turns, posture and walking, ramp work and mannequin. She also studied commercial work.

Her mother Sandy and dad Mike signed Kelly with her present agent, Trainco, a company in Toronto, because they thought there would be more work and more money in television.

"But we're not really in it for the money," says Sandy.

The family has to pay \$200 to ACTRA as dues to the actor's union for Kelly's first commercial. They will have to pay the union \$150 for the next five commercials she makes and, if all six are within a two-year time period, Kelly automatically becomes a member and no longer has to pay.

Kelly auditioned for her part on June 15 with 75-100 other eight-year-olds. At her audition she had to stand in front of a camera and answer questions about her playing abilities: Can she swim, ride a bike, dance, rollerskate? She found out within four days that she had the part.

Her baby brother, four-year-old Scott, is also getting into the act. He has auditioned for a part in a Snack 'n Cake commercial. His agent is Trainco, too. He's excited about his first audition and the possibility of being on television.

Kelly is a Brownie in the first pack (her mom's the "Tawny Owl"), she figure skates and enjoys playing baseball, although her parents prevented her from playing two weeks before the commercial was shot in case something happened. She's going into Grade four in the fall at Robert Little School, and art is her favorite subject.

She doesn't talk about her modelling or new career in commercials with her friends at school, and no one treats her differently now that she's going to be a "star". She's just an average little girl, says her mother.

She would like to make commercials full time when she gets out of school because it's "fun." The money she makes goes "straight into the bank, but she says, "If I get enough money I'm going to buy a new house for my mom."

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## Via derails train service to Acton — for now

### 'Ex.' bandshell site for Halton Hills Day

If you've ever had an urge to stand up for Halton Hills, the Canadian National Exhibition is offering a prime opportunity Aug. 16, when visitors to the Ex will be enjoying "Halton Hills Day".

Backed by a heritage grant from Ontario's ministry of housing and municipal affairs, the town recreation department is looking for local residents who can perform

or demonstrate their arts and crafts skills at special marquees and at the Ex Bandshell itself.

If you are interested, call the rec office at 877-5185.

The bicentennial project is featuring a different Ontario municipality each day at the two-week long exhibition. A represent-

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### But mayor says they will fight to regain it

Disappointment was the unanimous response of Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller and a committee of three which met with Via Rail officials with a request to have passenger trains stop once more in Acton.

Ray Borden, vice president of the Great Lakes Region of Via Rail and his deputy Dave Sherlock, met with the mayor, Councillor Rick Bonnette, Chamber of Commerce president Steve Dawkins and Town clerk Ken Richardson last week. But, according to the local committee, they trotted out the same old arguments everyone had heard before discouraging reintroduction of train service.

Mr. Borden argued that most Via trains only had two cars and they were 85-90 per cent of capacity and they would have to add a third car if they stopped at Acton. They claimed the system is short of equipment and must borrow from the Windsor area now to keep the trains running.

But their most ridiculous argument, said the mayor, was that Acton and district people already had good train service. All they had to do was travel to Guelph and board the train there.

If they were going to Toronto that meant they would have to backtrack another 15 miles at considerable expense, noted Bonnette. "A backward step if I ever saw one."

"It's a shame we are so close to Metro Toronto and still have no train service although the rails go through the heart of Acton."

It would take time to develop the passenger service, acknowledged the mayor, but the trend is to public transit and it should be a matter of record for them that most people in Acton could walk to the train. And then there's the large area around Acton which would use Via Rail service especially to downtown Toronto which only takes 50-55 minutes.

GO buses run frequently but it takes an hour and 25 minutes to go to York Mills by bus and then a further 25 minutes to get downtown. Elderly people who travel to Toronto for medical service, for instance, are often confused by the changes and the time it takes to get downtown. A train would take them right to the heart of the city, a service which Acton had for over a century.

The committee noted there are 10 Via Rail trains going through Acton each day, five each way.

Via officials said stopping in Acton would mean five minutes off the schedule, a disruption.

But they fail to realize the riders are here and efforts by Town officials to improve facilities are hampered by the reluctance of Via to cooperate, the committee says. Their only extra expense is to stop the train, the mayor maintained.

"We were disappointed," the mayor said, "but we are not satisfied with the answers they gave and we are going to continue pressing for Via service. It's only right. Via is supposed to provide service—and they aren't."

The local committee was buoyed by the victory St. Mary's won in their fight to keep rail passenger service although the residents there do not have the access to downtown Toronto Acton has but they can't help but wonder why Cambridge, for instance, which requested service has so far failed.

Roads are clogged with traffic and rocketing gasoline prices will soon persuade commuters the advantages of using the train, they noted.

"The big bureaucrats are still stepping on little Acton," the committee agreed, "and efforts to improve facilities and business is hurt by it."

### Young Acton man killed on cycle

An Acton resident who had just turned 21 years old, was killed last Thursday when his motorcycle went out of control on 17 Sideroad.

The tragedy occurred when Mark Bannon, 171 Longfield Road, was headed down a steep hill approaching the 6th Line. His

motorcycle fishtailed and struck a guardrail post. The young man was thrown off, striking another post, receiving fatal injuries.

No other persons were involved.

Funeral service was held from the Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton on Tuesday.



Archie Harkins at his Rockwood home.

## Archie back on his feet

Archie Harkins, who had no legs, and it seemed no chance of getting any, has finally found help.

Last month the Free Press featured story by Mark Holmes, on Archie, a double amputee who had faced the seemingly insurmountable task of fighting both government and organizational bureaucracy.

Harkins, who is also a senior citizen and war veteran, had all but given up hope of ever finding help. After the story was published the situation took a turn for the better.

First, a neighbor, who had read the story, came up to Mr. Harkins' apartment and presented him with \$100 to help him out.

Within a week the Lions club, who had previously donated a wheelchair, approached Mr. Harkins to see if they could help out.

Next the Royal Canadian Legion went into action, buying Archie hand controls for his car so he could drive again.

Then the Ontario March of Dimes got involved and are subsidizing Archie for the cost of his new prosthesis which the Blue

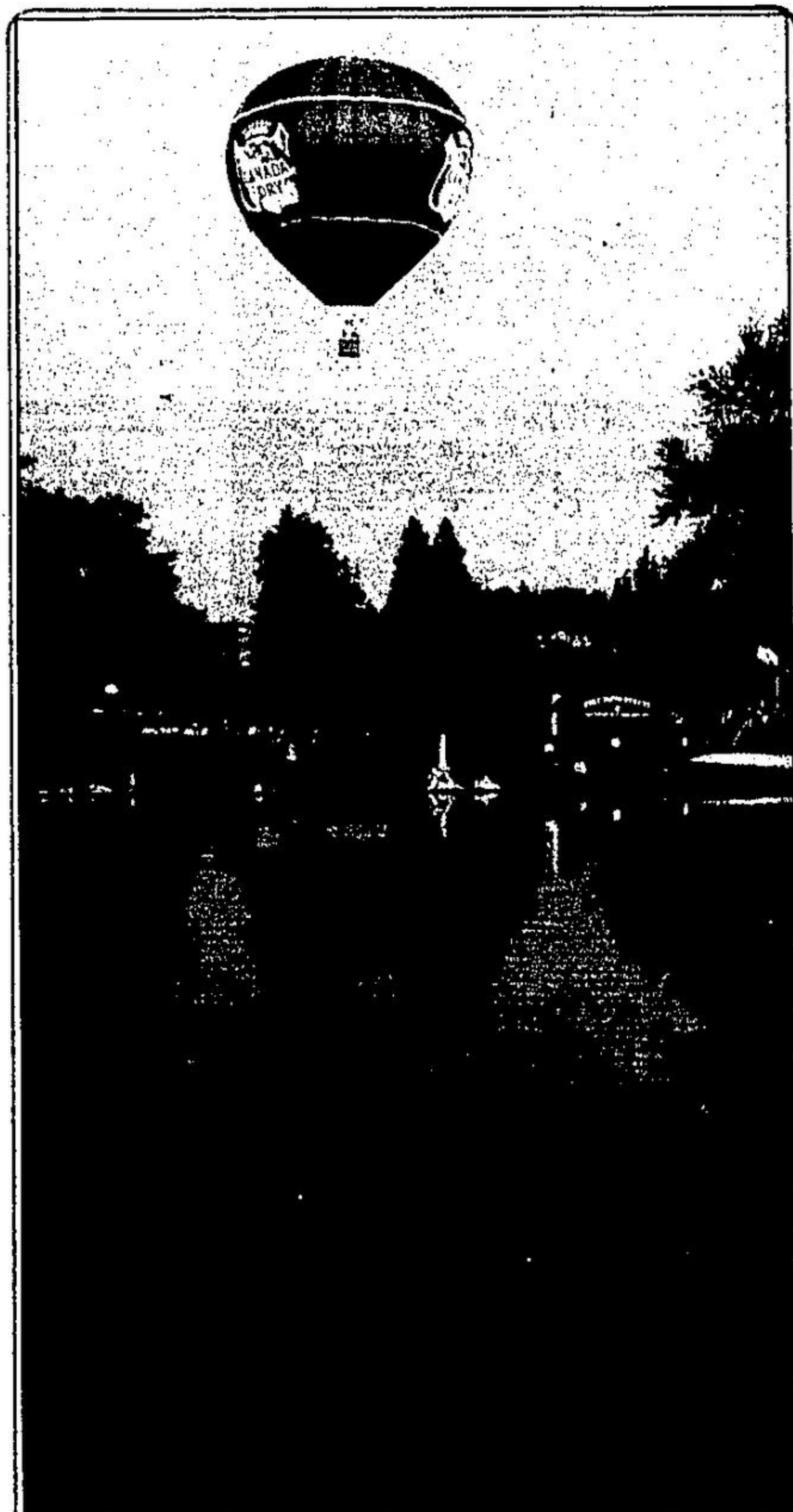
Cross doesn't cover. And finally, to round things out, the Lionettes donated \$500 to Archie for costs such as socks to cover his stumps and other expenses.

Archie said he'll be going to the doctors this week to be fitted with a new pair of permanent legs.

"The first leg should be ready in a few days," said Archie, "and within a couple of weeks I'll have two new legs."

"I think it's just great," he added. "When you think there's nothing left that can help, all of the sudden everyone is trying to help."

Archie also commented that he is grateful to all the people who helped and he believes in the good that can be found in people.



Balloon floats over lake and lands in the park.

### Fireworks, big balloon thrill large crowds

Thousands of people enjoyed the annual fireworks display at Prospect Park Monday evening. Crowds lined the banks of Fairy Lake and almost filled the park as Acton Firefighters presented the display.

Donation to purchase the fireworks was slow in arriving this year so the firefighters collected donations from the crowds to help defray expenses.

Appreciative applause from the crowds greeted extra special examples of pyrotechnics. Earlier the park was a scene of a balloon landing which thrilled hundreds more.

A giant balloon huffing and puffing like a mediaeval dragon appeared over Fairy Lake and gradually descended until it

skimmed the water. There were four people in the basket, spectators were alarmed that the balloon was in trouble and the basket occupants would be unceremoniously dunked in the middle of the lake.

But the balloon master, Al Russell, was just giving spectators a thrill.

Bearing the name of a well known soft drink firm, the giant balloon skimmed the lake over to the Legion hall, hop scotched over the trees bordering the park and descended on the soccer field. The balloon and its occupants were soon surrounded by spectators.

After a brief stop they took off again and sailed over Acton towards the east, talking to people below on the streets.