

# Community

## Georgetown resident competes in Mrs. Canada Pageant

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT  
The Herald

As co-owner of a Georgetown video store and avid-movie viewer, Alison Schulze usually watches other attractive and personable women steal the limelight. However, last Saturday, the spotlight was on her when she was chosen Mrs. Congeniality and placed in the top 10 at the Mrs. Canada Pageant staged in Mississauga.

The vivacious Mrs. Schulze of Glen Williams competed against 21 other married women for the title of Mrs. Canada. It was at her husband's urging that she first entertained the notion of entering the competition.

"I think he knew that deep down inside me, there was something that wanted a little bit of glory," said Mrs. Schulze, who's now returned to her job as a dental receptionist in Toronto, after surviving hectic rehearsals and the gruelling pageant schedule.

Her rise to the spotlight began Feb. 19 when she sent a resume and photo of herself to contest officials. She soon received confirmation that she had been accepted as a contestant and the first rehearsals took place Feb. 23. Then, she and her competitors were taught how to walk down a runway and listened to a seminar

about the contest and its expectations.

The next time she met all the competitors was Friday when personal interviews were held with seven judges.

"They tried to get a glimpse of what we're like," said Mrs. Schulze, who was required to answer five minutes worth of questions from each of the seven judges. Then, a prepared one minute speech was presented to each judge.

Mrs. Schulze spoke about how people are sometimes so wrapped up in their own little worlds, they forget to remember and appreciate the ones they love.

That happened to her when she was just a young teenager returning from a lengthy trip to Greece. Mrs. Schulze remembers that her father and boyfriend had met her at the airport and her boyfriend wanted to take her to McDonalds for supper. Though her father was disappointed, he agreed to let the young Alison do what she wanted. When she got home later that evening, she saw the leftovers of a special meal her father had prepared for her on her return.

"I felt so selfish because he had done all this for me and I realized then how much I loved him," remembers Mrs. Schulze, who used this experience to per-

sonalize her speech.

After the speeches, the women ran through the routine of the pageant that was to be held the next day.

It wasn't until after midnight that she and her husband were able to relax in the hotel room pageant officials provided for the contestants and their families.

At 7:00 a.m. the next morning, Mrs. Schulze was getting her make-up and hair done and then the nervousness set in.

"I was scared to death," remembers Mrs. Schulze, who never expected to feel this way. "I'm not shy and have never felt nervous speaking or being in front of people. But when I started walking down the runway I was so nervous, I felt like my lips were trembling off my face."

When they announced her name as one of the top 10 finalists, she said she almost fell over. "My first reaction was to hope I wouldn't make it to the top five because then I'd have had to walk out there again!"

Unfortunately, she didn't advance, but winning the title of

Mrs. Congeniality was more special to her than the Mrs. Canada crown.

"I was very pleased when I got that. If people like you because you're nice and because of who you are, that's special."

Though clearly embarrassed when asked why she thinks she was awarded this honor, Mrs. Schulze admits that she really enjoys meeting new friends, and as a consequence, met and befriended many women there. "That's

how I am."

It was a proud moment for the Schulze family which consists of husband Frank, a police officer in Toronto, and children Scott, 8, and Colleen, 5.

The couple have been married for 11 years and first met through their involvement in air cadets when they were 17 years of age. Mrs. Schulze is now 31.

She credits her husband's love and support for helping her in her time in the limelight.

### Easter Seals campaign nears targeted goal

Mid-way through the Georgetown Rotary club's annual Easter Seals campaign, over half of the \$10,000 target has been reached.

Bud Bishop, the Easter Seals Campaign Chairman for Georgetown Rotary club was pleased to report that \$6,639.27 has been raised and is confident the \$10,000 goal will be reached.

By giving to Easter Seals, people help children in need continue to receive essential equipment and rehabilitative services to help them progress in life.

Mr. Bishop said this is a goal the club and the Society has always been firmly committed to.



Mrs. Alison Schulze

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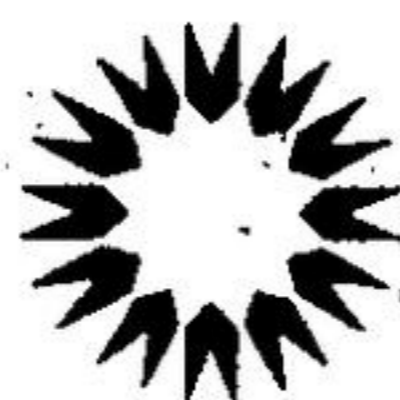
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