

Feminist supports Miss Acton competition

BY FRANCES NIBLOCK
Linda Robson, a former Miss Acton Fall Fair, is trying to change the image of this year's 29-year-old competition, slated for Friday, Sept. 18.

"A lot of people see the Miss Acton competition as sort of hokey when actually it is really quite an exciting year for the winner. They get to travel, win prizes, and represent the town at the annual CNE Ambassador of the Fair Competition," Robson explained last Wednesday.

"We are not a beauty contest and we don't have a bathing suit or talent competition. The winner is judged on personality, poise and appearance, but it's not how they look, but how they present themselves that decides the winner. That's the clincher. You could have the most beautiful girl in the world and not win if someone else had a better personality."

Entrants must be single females, 16-years-of-age or older who live in Acton, Rockwood, Eden Mills, Limehouse or Ballinafad areas and/or attend Acton High School. Robson, Miss Acton 1984, says the winner must have certain traits.

"She must know herself and be able to handle pressure and think quickly on her feet. During our judge's interview a scenario

will be put to the competitors and they will have to react. The winners are usually tactful, persuasive and assertive but not aggressive," Robson said.

Robson dismissed suggestions that beauty competitions and personality contests for women are demeaning.

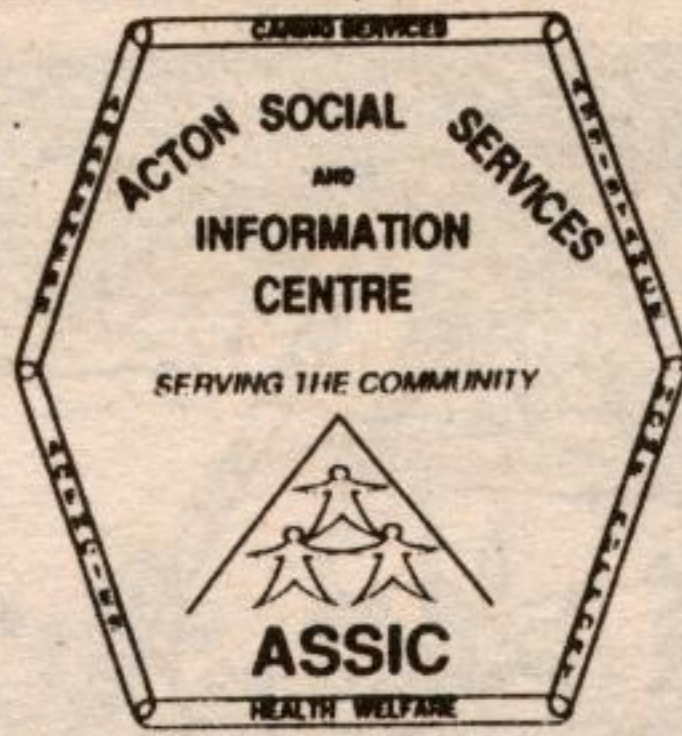
"I am very much a feminist and I take great offense to women being manipulated. That's why I try to emphasize that this is in no way based on beauty. I have nothing but positive things to say about it. I am much more confident and self-assured for having been in the competition," Robson explained.

In past years there have usually been seven or eight entrants but Robson hopes that increased sponsorship this year will entice more competitors.

"We have \$1,500 in total prizes for the winner and runners-up and gifts for all contestants. This year the merchants and local businesses are totally supportive and are more than a little willing to donate great prizes."

Interested entrants can call Robson at 853-1591 or enter by attending the informal dress rehearsal on Thursday, Sept. 17 at the Acton Community Centre.

This year's winner will be announced at the Acton arena on Friday evening, Sept. 18.



At Acton Social Services and Information Centre our Christmas Needs Co-ordination program assists about 40-50 families in Acton each year. During the Christmas season, we receive donated clothing, toys and money. The toys and clothes are collected and then divided up amongst families who could not afford to buy Christmas presents for their children. Donated money is used to purchase blankets, comforters, children's pajamas and winter sweaters.

We always stress to those who are unsure of what to give for Christmas to purchase warm children's clothing. These are items that some families can not afford to buy but are in need of during the winter months.

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people in Acton who devote much of their time during the Christmas season knitting items like sweaters, hats, mittens, scarves, baby blankets, and little girls dresses. Without them we could not possibly assist all the families we do. Their kind help is greatly needed and appreciated every year.

The Christmas Needs Co-ordination Program is about people

helping people. It is about people giving and others receiving in order to make Christmas a warm and joyous occasion for all. ASSIC thanks all those kind people in our community who donate to the Christmas program each year, and remind everyone that Christmas is just around the corner and only 17 weeks away!

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