

Creative promotions can allow everyone to play along



SCANNING FOR LIFE FORMS: In character as Deanna Troi, Amanda Bloss uses a tricorder from her Rockwood home.

BY KAREN WETMORE
The Rockwood Miller

Imagine Emily Dickinson reciting poems or handing out flyers at a book promotion. Or Counsellor Deanna Troi from *The Next Generation* escorting the guest speaker to the podium at a banker's convention.

Amanda Bloss can "do" these characters and many others. In fact, she says if she knows enough about a person, she could play just about anyone.

"If I had enough description and the right period dress, I could even be your great-great-great-grandmother at a family reunion," she says.

The 31-year-old Rockwood woman is expanding her acting abilities into creative promotions. She will portray a fictional or historical character to add something different to a store opening, open house, convention, children's party or any other type of event.

Bloss, who has a drama degree from the University of Guelph, has performed on stage with the Guelph Little Theatre and has had

principal roles in two films to date. She's also appeared as an extra on TV's *E.N.G.* and current feature film *It Takes Two*.

Describing the winter as a "quiet time" for actors looking for work, Bloss decided to give creative promotions a try. She says she first played Deanna Troi as a store-window mannequin two years ago at Halloween. Since then, the avid Star Trek fan has performed as Jadzia Dax and Major Kira, from *Deep Space Nine*. But if she could pick a favourite, it would have to be Rogue, a female super hero out of the X-Men series.

"Being a cartoon character, anything goes," she says.

Bloss hopes to create a list of characters she knows well enough to be able to do them at short notice. She would like to be able to become Rita Hayworth, Audrey Hepburn, "in her *Breakfast at Tiffany's* look," one of the singing Andrews sisters and even Marilyn Monroe. She says it doesn't matter she isn't an exact look-alike to any of her characters.

"If I dress like her, walk like her

and talk like her, I can be her," she says.

Bloss sees herself as performing a service no one else in the area does. And she sees it as a lot of fun for herself and her audience.

"It's a form of play I think adults don't do enough of," she says. "And for them to be silly at Halloween and no other time of year is kind of sad."

Always staying in character is the most important rule Bloss has to follow to make her role believable. She judges her own performance through the spectators' reactions.

"To see that nod from someone, or that smile, or that Vulcan salute means a lot. I know I've done a good job then."

To inquire about Bloss performing at your event, call 856-4527.

Teacher enjoys learning

ERAMOSA P.S. NEWS

BY JENNIFER KUPFERSCHMIDT & KARA DERMA

This week we decided to interview Eramosa Public School's Ms. Rumley, the Grade 5-6 teacher.

Q: What is the hardest thing about teaching the higher grades?

A: *There are so many! The most difficult thing is different personalities and I want to help each student recognize their own potential.*

Q: What do you enjoy the most?

A: *I enjoy learning something new every day.*

Q: When did you first start teaching?

A: *I think it was 1979.*

Q: How many other schools have you taught at?

A: *10.*

Q: What makes Eramosa Public School different from all the others?

A: *The kids are really good-natured. The teachers are supportive and it's a beautiful environment to work in!*

Thank you for letting us interview you Ms. Rumley. Until next week, this is Jennifer and Kara for Eramosa Public School.

Classes for the 'birds'

WELLINGTON HALL ACADEMY

BY SARAH GREEN, GRADE 4

The primary classes have been learning about birds that live here in the winter months. We had a guest speaker from The Wild Birds Nature Store come to the school. She showed us many types of bird houses and bird feeders. She also told us which types of food each bird likes best.

In art classes we have been making wooden bird feeders. When we are finished we will fill them with bird food and hang them outside. We look forward to seeing many kinds of birds.

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HOMEPLAN OF THE WEEK!

A compact family home

This stylish design provides evidence that good things come in small packages! At only 36'-0" wide by 55'-0" deep, this home will fit on a variety of building lots. Low square footage reduces building costs, while an efficient design provides many of the features found in larger homes.

A bay window in the foyer is an attractive design feature which offers plenty of natural light for arriving guests. The entrance hall, den and living room all feature vaulted ceilings, creating a spacious as well as a stylish atmosphere. Decorative columns frame the entrance to the dining room, which also boasts a fashionable coffered ceiling. The kitchen has an efficient working layout complete with ample cupboard and counter space, a pantry, and an open counter and break fast bar to service the nook.

Two secondary bedrooms share a three piece bath. The master, like those in larger homes, features a walk-in closet and a three piece ensuite with a swirl tub.

Plans for U-933 may be obtained for \$444 for a package of five complete sets of working prints and \$39 for each additional set of the same plan. Allow \$15 extra to cover the cost of postage and handling (add 7% GST to plan total plus postage and handling.) Make cheques, money orders, Visa or MasterCard authorizations payable to Acton Tanner Home Plan of Week, P.O. Box 150, Acton, ON, L7J 2M3.

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