

Halton 4-H Achievers

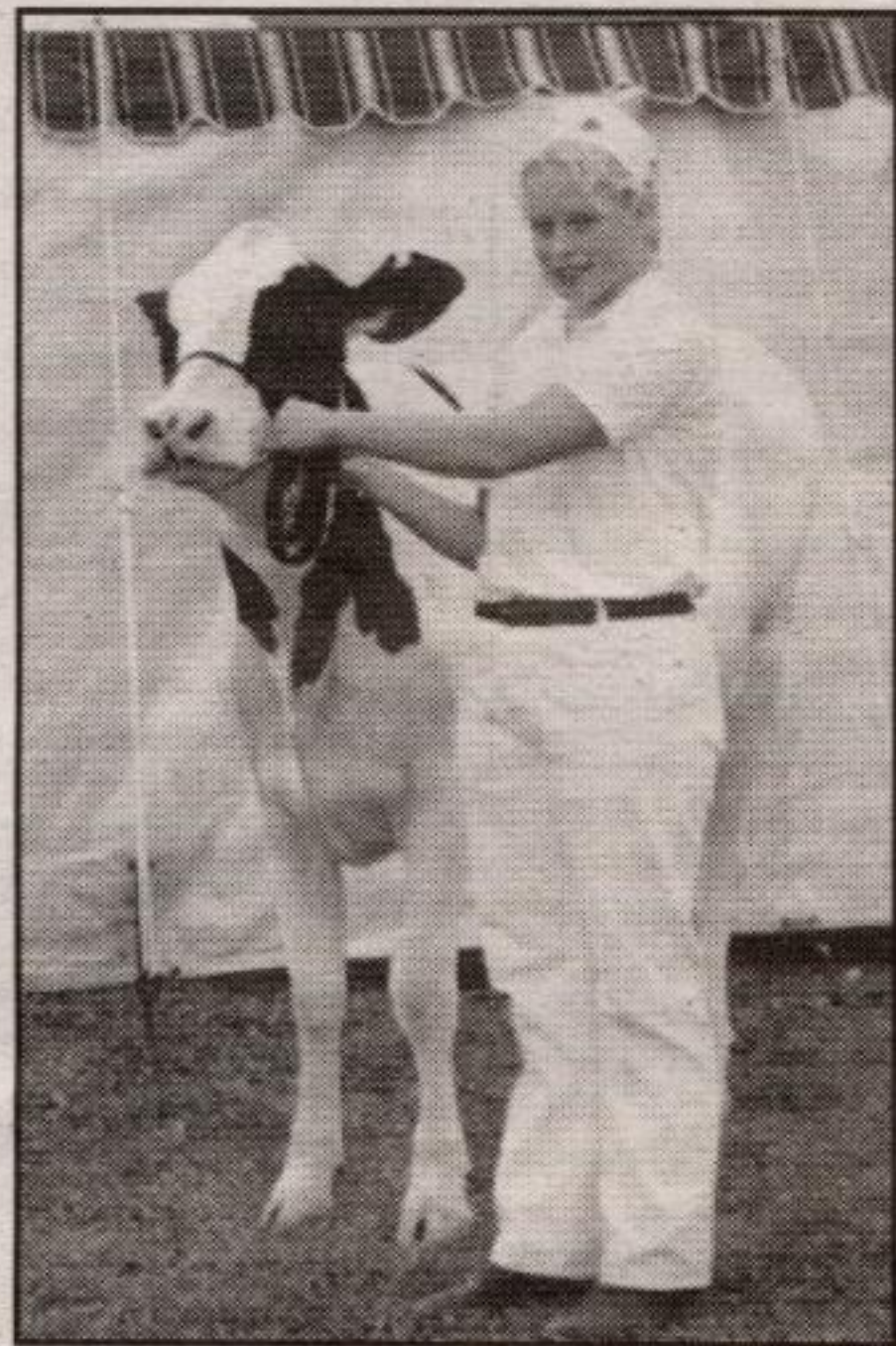


**Milton Fall Fair
September 22**



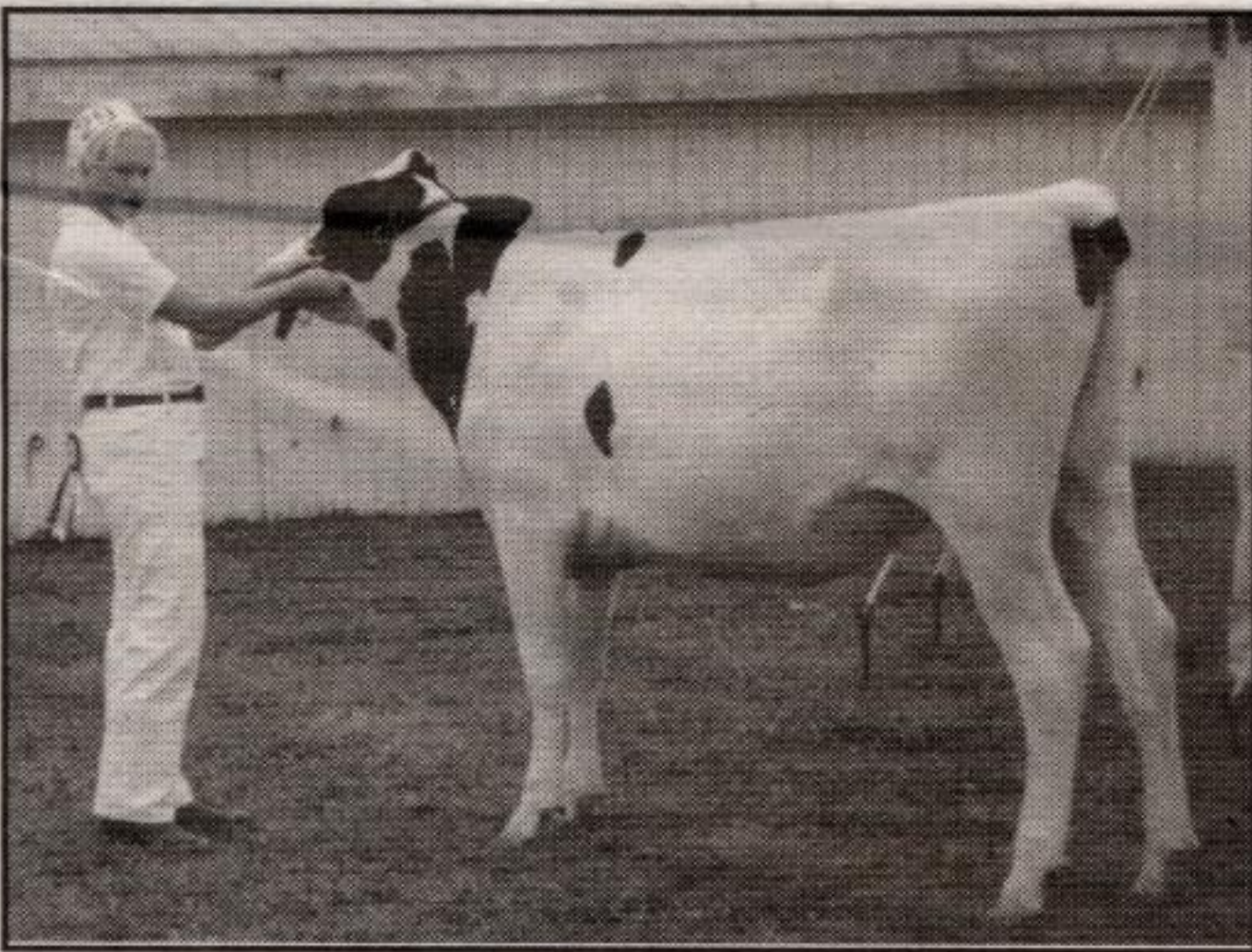
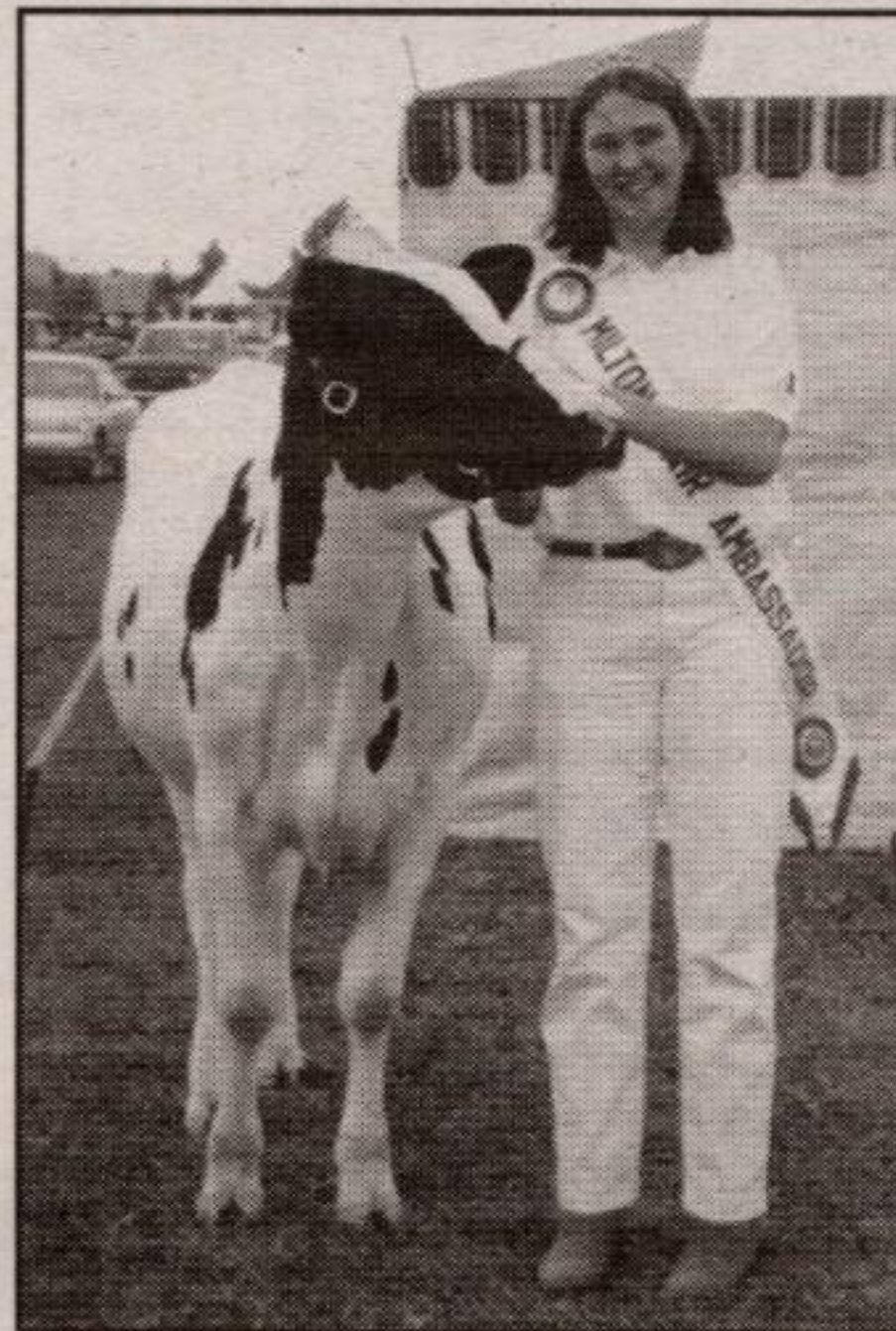
Showmanship Contestants

- Scott Martin (sheep),
- Laura Hamilton (Beef),
- Jodey Nurse (Dairy),
- Christy Nurse (Dairy)
- Will Stull (Sheep) and
- Niomi Lutes (Rabbit)

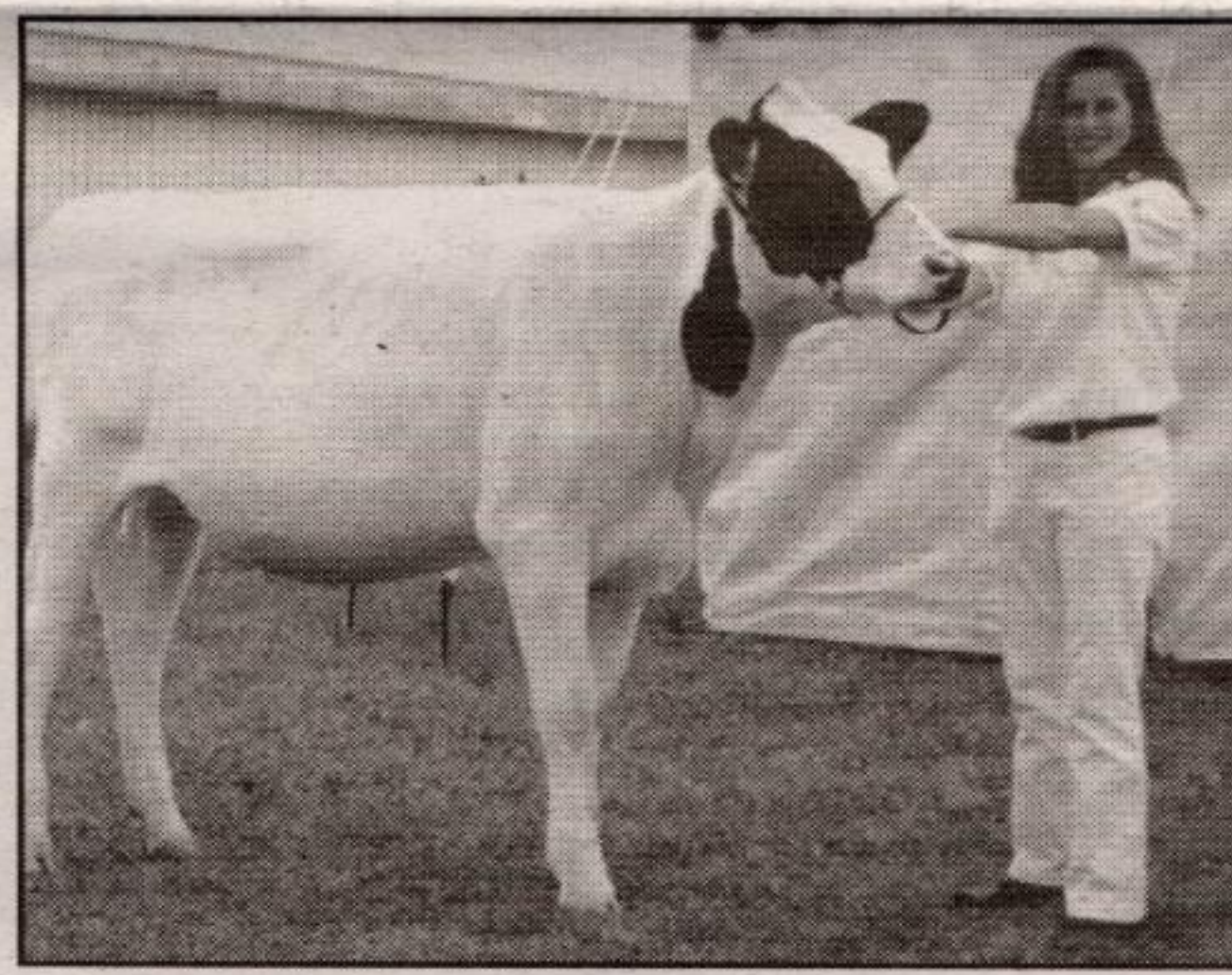


Christy Nurse
Reserve
Champion
Showmanship,
Dairy Reserve
Champion

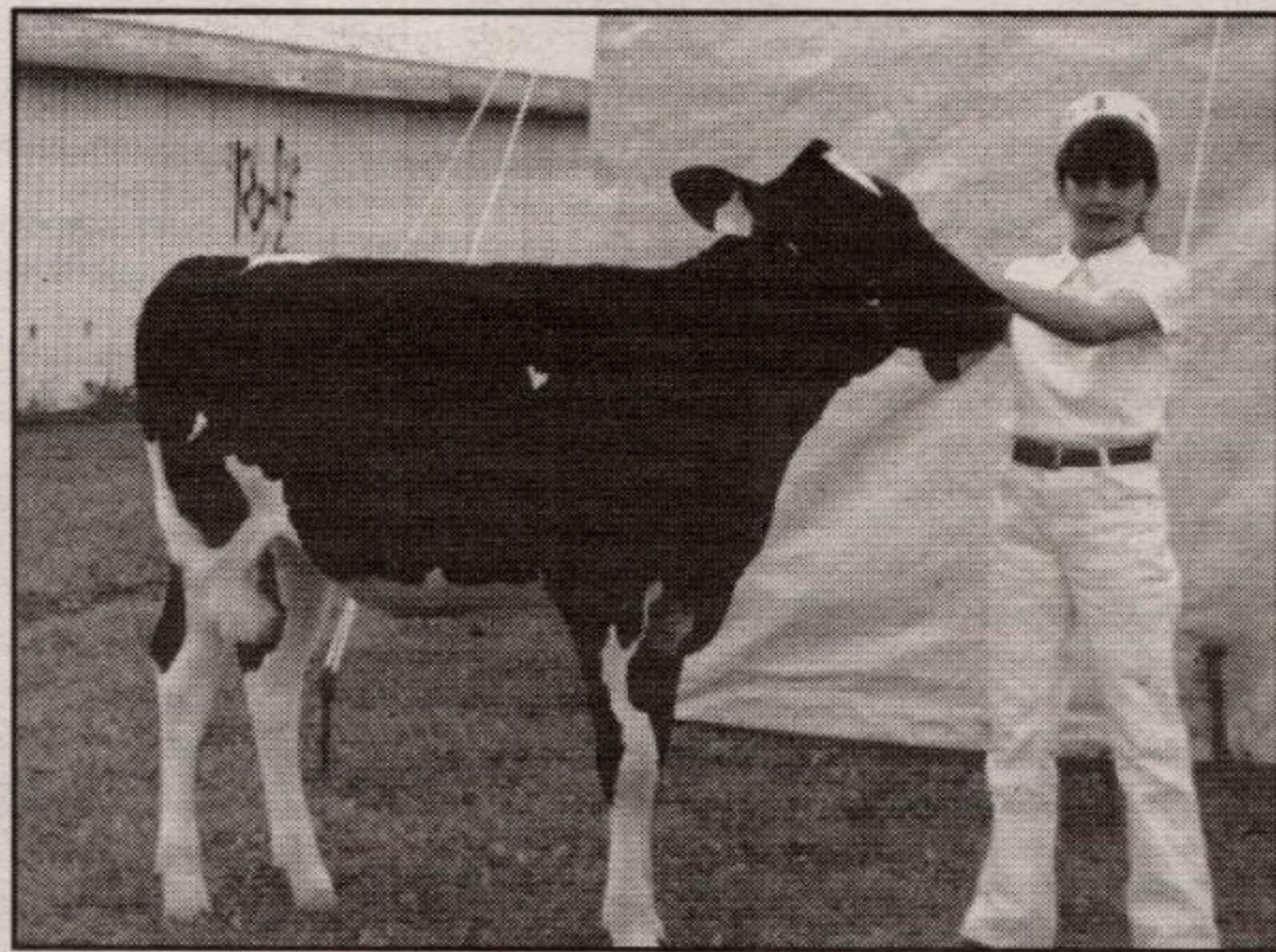
Amy Winter
2001 Fall Fair
Ambassador
and 4-H member
with calf.



Jodey Nurse
Champion Showmanship and Reserve Conformation



Kristen Dolson
Champion Conformation



Kelly Laidlaw
Top First Year 4-H Member

COMMUNITY CORNERSTONE

NICKY PEARSON

by Donna Danielli

Nicky Pearson has dedicated many hours of volunteer time at Track 2000, a BMX Bike Racing facility in Milton, but it is her latest project that lies closest to her heart.

Last June, Ms. Pearson began the first ever Riders Ready Program, a BMX training program for children with alternative needs.

"I didn't realize the implications of what we started," she says. "I hoped for three to five kids the first season, and we ended up with 15."

In fact, there was a waiting list for this program geared for children with learning disabilities, special needs or lower income. After spending 120 hours drafting her initial proposal, Ms. Pearson was able to secure a grant from the Trillium Foundation of Ontario to purchase 12 bicycles, 12 helmets, race jerseys, trophies and a secured storage area for all the bikes and gear, all purchased at local stores which have been incredibly supportive of the Riders Ready Program.

"Next year, we can apply for more," says Ms. Pearson. "And we're especially grateful to Spokes N Slopes, Oakville Cyclepath and Up Your Bike for all the help they've been."

While she hopes to receive funding to allow another 12 children to join the program next year, Ms. Pearson is keeping a careful eye on planning for the future.

"If we could find an indoor facility to use, then we could service a 100 of these kids, not just 15."

Ms. Pearson also recently stepped up her fundraising efforts to allow her to buy an airline ticket so she could fly to Calgary for a meeting with the Canadian BMX Association. She will be speaking to



Nicky Pearson

other communities who hope to host their own Riders Ready Programs.

"It's important that programs like this get picked up across the country and become part of events like the Special Olympics. These kids have never been accepted by their peers and now they have self-esteem and confidence. These kids are earning respect, they are proud of their trophies no matter what placing."

Beginning in May, next year's program will run on Sundays from 10 to 12 p.m. and all riders will be encouraged to take part in the races that run every Sunday beginning at 1:30 p.m. As well, each Riders Ready participant will be invited to compete in the Ontario Provincial Series in 2002. They will ride in a Riders Ready Open and will receive custom number plates at the end of the series.

"I am learning from these special children," Ms. Pearson said quietly. "I'm learning patience, understanding and respect and I realize the courage it has taken for some of them to come this far. To see the kids overcome challenges and to know that I had a hand in it, has made it all worthwhile."

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