

RODEO QUEEN: Brooke McArthur, 15 of Eden Mills earned the title of Ontario High School Rodeo Queen at a provincial competition in Barrie earlier this year. – Submitted photo

Emily Rose (left) and Olivia Belbin raised \$25 for good causes with their lemonade stand – featuring homemade cookies – last Saturday in Acton. The girls donated money raised to St. Joseph's Church and to Rotary Cheshire Homes. Submitted photo



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## Brooke McArthur of Eden Mills is crowned High School Rodeo Queen

BY MAGGIE PETRUSHEVSKY The New Tanner

An Eden Mills girl was crowned Miss Ontario Rodeo Queen at the Ontario High School Rodeo finals in Barrie in June.

About four years ago Guelph school student Brooke McArthur, 15, began taking riding lessons at the Circle P ranch north of Acton and competing in barrel racing at local rodeos. She competes as a junior in regular rodeos.

In the high school rodeo in Barrie she competed in barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying and break away roping.

Brooke's mother, Shelly McArthur said the high school rodeo season this year begins in late August in Simcoe, and ends in mid-June. During that time Brooke will attend eight to 10 rodeos around Ontario and down into Michigan, too.

The provincial title qualified her to participate in the International High School Rodeo finals July 16 to 25 in Gillette, Wyoming with 1,594 other students from 39 States, several Canadian provinces and even Australia.

Ontario sent a team of 21 kids and Brooke competed only in the Queen events. She did qualify for goat tying deciding against competing because she was too busy with her other events.

Queens rode, did modelling, gave a speech, were interviewed by six judges, sold draw tickets, and helped out with a rodeo for special kids. She also had to have pictures done and sign autographs for kids, especially the special kids, who were involved in their own rodeo at the same location. While she did well, she did not place in any of the events.

"She did the regular beauty queen competition events," her mother said. On top of the poise and experience she gained, she has made friends in different parts of the world.

Her friend Tamaran Gray of Hillsburgh, however, placed 21st in field of approximately 180 kids, in barrel racing. Another friend and team member, Luke Drennon, was in the top 20 in steer wrestling.

Brooke keeps her quarter horse at the Gray farm near Hillsburgh.

