

Local woman a model student for Maclean's

LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

Mike Bellinger was caught off guard Tuesday morning when he saw his step-daughter's pretty face staring up at him from the cover of the Maclean's magazine he was about to deliver.

The letter carrier immediately called Brianna Gabet at home to break the good news to her.

"I had no idea until I was getting ready for work in the morning," said Gabet, 21, of Georgetown. "It was exciting. My whole family was excited about it."

Gabet had posed two weeks ago for the potential cover shot, and a full-body shot that appears inside the magazine's University Student Issue.

While she knew there was a good chance she could land the cover, she wasn't expecting to because she had been told by the photographer that he would call her if she did.

She hadn't heard anything, but wasn't too disappointed because she made \$650 for just a few hours work.

That was easy, and much needed money, for the young woman whose regular job this summer as a construction labourer is a lot more physically demanding than modeling.

She's saving her money to pay for her schooling at George Brown College where she's a second-year graphic design student.

The modeling job came out of the blue for Gabet more than a year after she had been approached at The Eaton Centre food court in Toronto by two women with a modeling agency asking to take her photo for a Coca-Cola commercial.

She never heard anything about that job, and forgot about the encounter until she got a call several months later about a Canadian Tire ad.

She couldn't make that audition because she was working, but decided to go into Toronto for the magazine



Brianna Gabet, 21, of Georgetown was surprised this week to find that she made the cover of Maclean's magazine's University Student Issue.

Photo by Ted Brown

shot she received a call on two weeks ago.

She was told to bring school supplies for the shot that appeared inside the magazine, and then a couple of days later was called back with four other "student" models for the potential cover. The shots were taken in a University of Toronto classroom.

Tony Keller, managing editor of special projects at Maclean's, said the fact Gabet doesn't look like a "traditional model" was one of the key rea-

sons she made the cover of the magazine.

"She's a very attractive woman, but she looks like a real person," said Keller.

"It's not exactly what I aspire to be," said Gabet when asked if she will pursue other modeling jobs. "But if I had more opportunities to make money, I wouldn't turn it down."

(Lisa Tallyn can be reached at ltallyn@independentfreepress.com)

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