

Kym Williamson

Milton model invades Japanese fashion world

Paris used to be the throbbing heart of the world's fashion industry and the dream of every model was to work there.

Things have changed today, according to Milton resident and professional model Kym Williamson. Now, she says, the eyes of the fashion world are focussed on Japan, and that's where she's going to seek fame and fortune.

Even though she hasn't yet turned 20 years old, Kym has been building a career for herself as a much in demand model on the Toronto scene. Her sights however, are aimed on goals beyond the local confines.

"Paris used to be the place to go for models," she said in a recent interview, taking time from the hectic preparation for her departure this Friday, "but Paris is passe now and Japan is the place."

"I don't know why that is, I'm just going to go with the flow," she said, "I'll go wherever the money is and Japan is where the money is now."

Originally, Kym had been slated to make the pilgrimage to Japan earlier this year, but a change of agencies scuttled those plans.

She explained that agency handling her affairs at that time simply wasn't marketing her properly, "so I switched but I had to leave the trip there."

Her new agency, managed by women, has been much better in promoting her talents, she said, and it was those efforts that lead to her current travel plans.

"She started to bring clients in from Paris and Japan, someone saw me and said I want that person," she said, adding that two other girls from agency will be among the several travelling to Osaka for the two month contract.

The hardest part of making the preparations, she said, is buying the 24 pair of shoes and three pair of boots she has been told will be required for her various assignments.

"The shoes aren't too bad, but do you know how expensive boots are right now?"

Despite this investment, Kym admits she expects the tour will be a profitable venture because her arrival has been timed for the peak of the Japanese fashion season.

"Most girls can expect to make \$15,000 in two months in Japan, but I'm arriving at the height of the season, so I should be able to make at least \$25,000," she said.

"I know I couldn't make that much in Toronto even if I worked my butt off," she added.

The average wage for a competent Toronto model, she said, ranges between \$50 and \$100 an hour, depending on experience and other requirements.

Kym said the average age for a model in Toronto is 24, but the most famous and successful models are usually over 30.

"I'm not sure what's going to come after this," she said. "I'm sure that I can hold till I'm 30 to become really well known, but we'll see what happens when I get back from Japan."

"I don't know what I'll be doing 10 years from now, but it certainly won't be a nine to five kind of job," she added.

Even now she is giving some thought to future occupations and making occasional tries for movie parts.

"I've tried out for a few, I've done some commercials and some interviewing, but right now the modelling has just overwhelmed the desire to do anything else," she said.

Not many graduates of her MDHS class have found careers in such a field and Kym admits that her occupation has caused some small problems.

"Without all this make up I'm just another girl on the street," she said. "I don't want people to think that I'm untouchable. I'm just another person."

When Kym first started working she felt a touch of pride seeing herself displayed in so many ways, but that has slowly worn off.

"Now I look at the pictures and they don't look like, they don't feel like me. I think the thrill of it has worn off already. It's not drudgery, but it just isn't as glamorous as it used to be," she said.



A 27-year-old Milton woman has lived through this crash to tell the tale. Heidi Putzner was on her way to her family's home on Sixth Line when the 1980 Rabbit she was driving was struck by a CP train at a railway crossing.

Woman injured

A young Milton native is recovering in Milton District Hospital following her close brush with death in a train-car accident at a Sixth Line crossing in Milton Thursday morning. Heidi Putzner, 27, of Toronto was only a few hundred feet from her parents' home and family greenhouse business where she worked when the accident occurred shortly before 9 a.m. Miss Putzner apparently braked at the crossing and slid on the rain slicked road into the path of the east-bound CP train. The crossing has neither barriers nor warning lights, but does have a warning sign. Halton Regional Police said the car, a 1980 Volkswagen Rabbit, was hurled 36 metres.

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Correction Notice

In the Super Save advertisement on page C12 of last week's Champion, we made a typographical error and transposed the prices of two items — the cooked ham and the rump roast.

The Champion apologizes for any inconvenience and embarrassment this may have caused.

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KYM WILLIAMSON

CORRECTION

In last week's Woolco Catalogue ad, there was an error in the following item:

76937 Defender was 54.91 ea.

This should have read: was 56.91

FASHION 82' How much do you save by Sewing it? 75%

ROBEWEAR FLEECE
135 cm/54"
Soft Robewear Fleece in a blend of Acetate/Nylon and the 'in' colours.
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FABRICLAND SUPER SPECIAL 17.98 m

EUROPEAN IMPORT CHALLIS PRINTS
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