

# Lifestyles

## Petite beauty hopes for big career in music



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton native Tara Sales hopes that an upcoming appearance at the Miss Toronto Universe 2001 Pageant is her springboard to big things in the entertainment industry — and possibly a career in music.

By CLAUDIA D'SOUZA

Special to the Champion

She may be small in stature but Milton's Tara Sales has her set her sights on becoming a giant in the Canadian music industry.

Ms Sales, 23, a contestant in the upcoming Miss Toronto Universe 2001 Pageant, hopes the stepping stone will help kick-start her promising musical career.

The bubbly beauty was born and raised in Milton until she was 12 before relocating to the Muskoka area with her family. In Muskoka, the singer met a well-known music producer through her dad.

They began working on a CD of pop/dance-style music in the same vein as Madonna's current high energy hit 'Music.' Both Polydor and BMG have shown interest in their work and she hopes a recording contract isn't far behind.

Two years ago, Ms Sales returned to Milton to study hotel and restaurant management at Humber College while pursuing her first love, the performing arts at Toronto's prestigious Randolph Dance Academy. Learning practical theory in

singing, dance and piano confirmed her desire to pursue her childhood dream of becoming a rich and famous singer.

"My family thought I was crazy, but I always knew what I wanted," she said with confidence. "Once I get my singing career off the ground, I'd really like to open a hotel in Muskoka, or maybe Florida."

### Many entered, few picked

Chosen alongside 19 other contestants out of a field of 400 applicants, she views her entry into the Miss Toronto competition as a wonderful career opportunity.

"I needed a new venture," she declared. "When I saw an ad for contestants I thought 'what do I have to lose?' If you're chosen as Miss Toronto, you move on to the next level, the Miss Ontario contest, and then Miss Canada, and finally, Miss Universe."

She said the competition concentrates on personality, career goals and intelligence with a lesser emphasis on the bathing suit parade.

"I think pageants are trying to get away from that type of fluffy image," she says.

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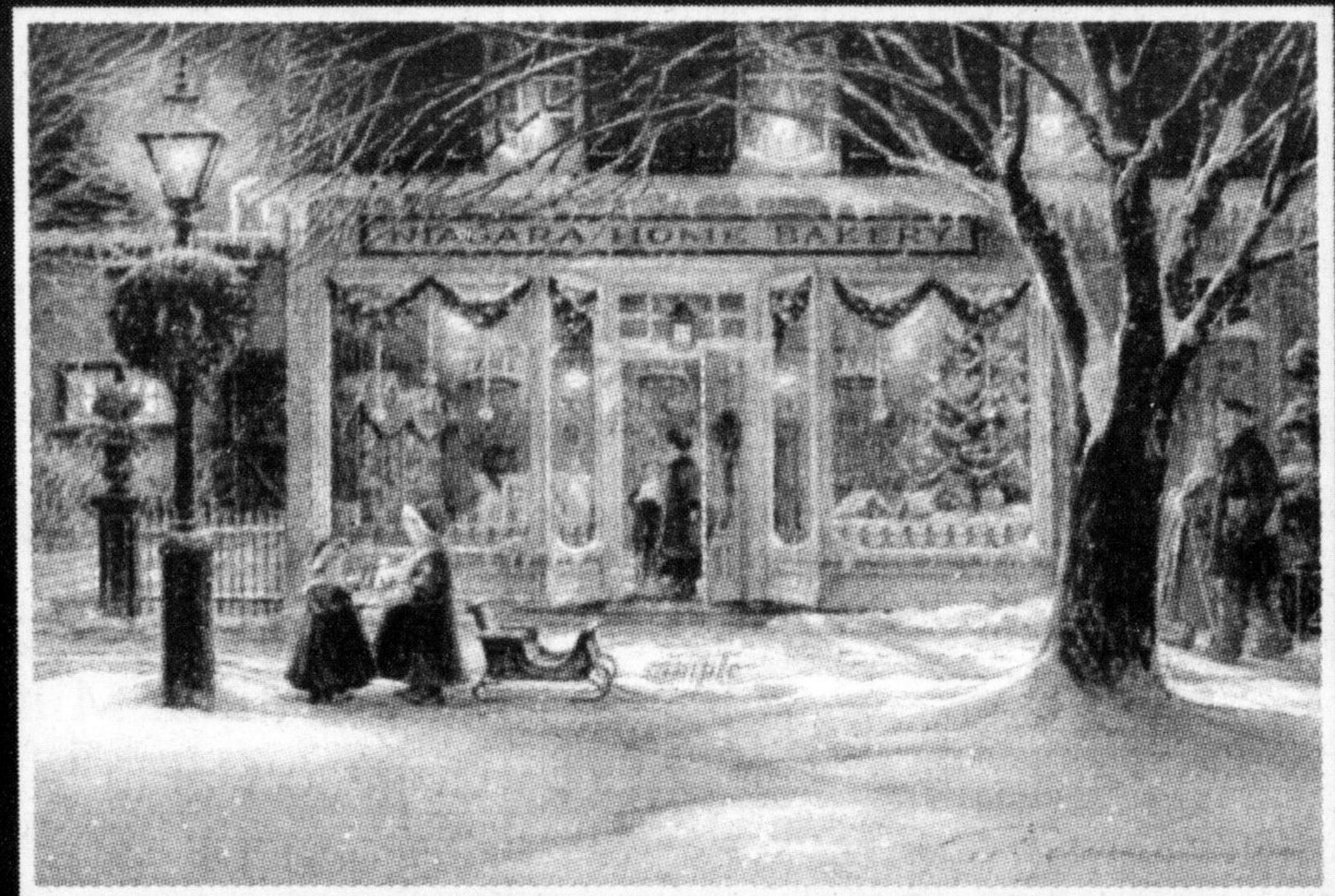
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