

Experience of improv amazing, say students

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dents to step out and try something new. "The experience of being on stage and hearing the audience laugh because of something you've created is incredibly (self-affirming)," she said.

What she's found most rewarding has been watching her team progress, Ms Graham said.

"At the exhibition round, they were green and nervous. By the time they were at the February zone competition, they'd come so far," she said. "It was neat to hear the parents say, 'Have they ever improved!'"

In this case it's true — those who can't, teach. Although a huge fan of improv, Ms Graham said she isn't very good at it, and is "fascinated" by those of her students with a knack for it.

Although some of the students on the team are true drama enthusiasts, others wouldn't set foot on stage to act in a play, Ms Graham said, explaining the most important quality is to be a quick thinker, rather than an expert actor.

How does someone gauge whether he'd be good at improv?

"You need to be a physical performer, and willing to let yourself go," Ms Graham said.

There's also the necessity of being a team player and not needing to shine in the spotlight.

"For one scene, you might only be a table. It depends on what's needed."

With no hesitation, Ms Graham said she'll be coaching another team next year.

"A lot of kids will continue on (next

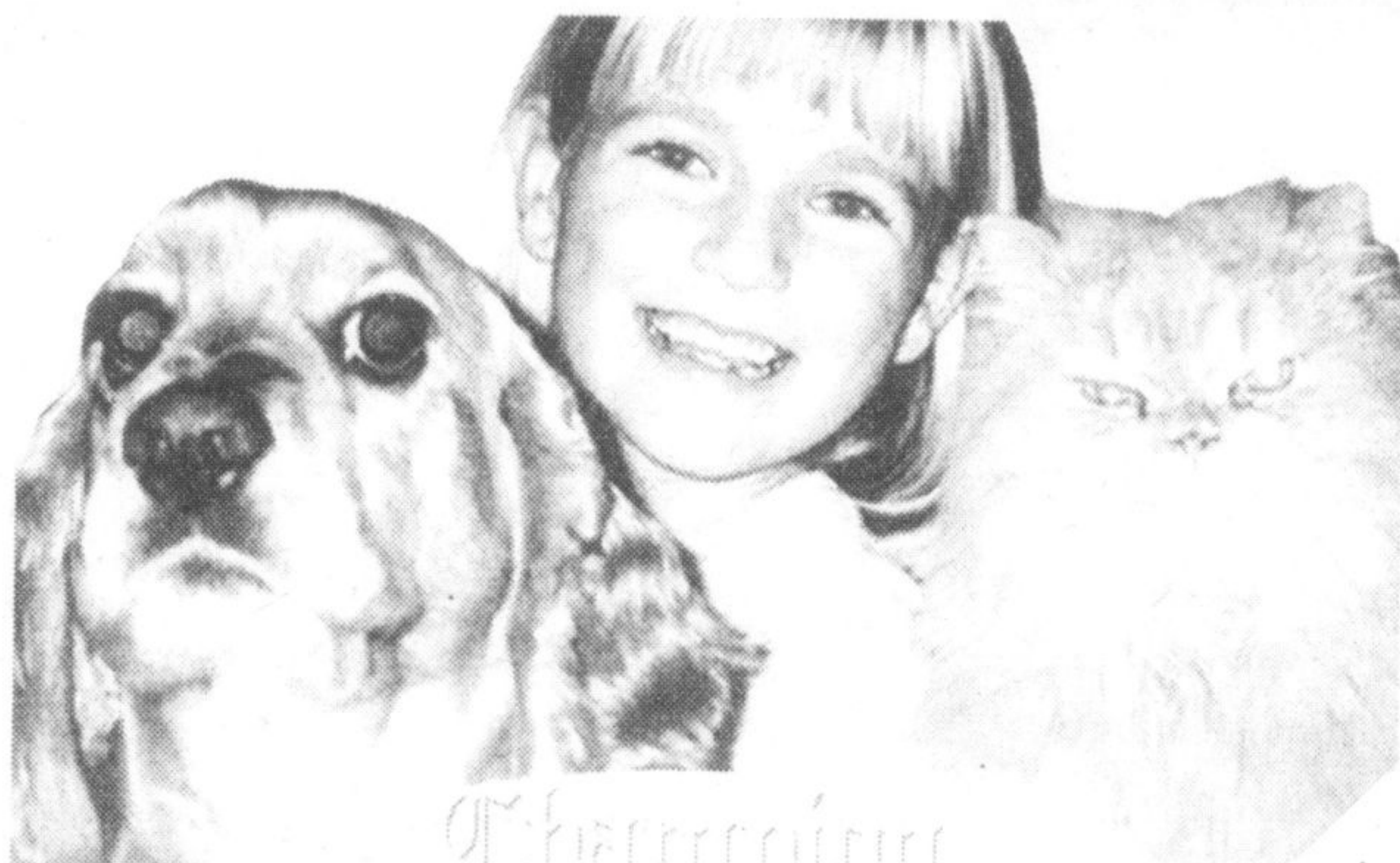
year)," she said. "They're strong kids who got a taste, and they don't want to look back."

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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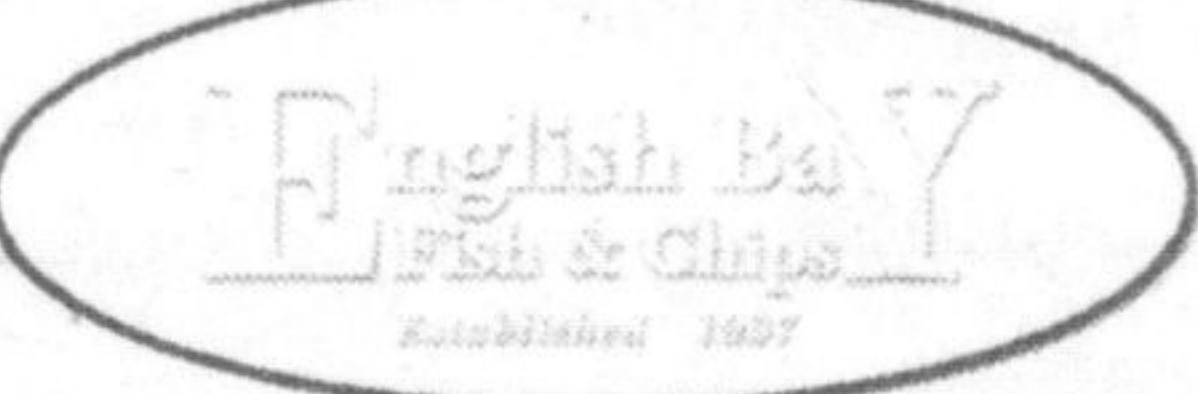
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