

# Kim Muspratt prepares for Olympic Games

By Jane Muller  
Not many 13-year-olds can tell you what they expect to be doing in 1988 but Kim Muspratt has known ever since she was 7.

It was six years ago that Kim acquired her first mount and that is when eventing fever began to mount for this British born equestrian. She graduated from a pony to a 16 and three quarter hand Thoroughbred mare last October. It is this five-year-old mare named Bally-Who which she hopes to ride in the 1988 Olympic Games. She has taken English riding lessons since her "ponyhood" and began instruction under her own coach, Terri Hough last year. Kim explains Terri is on the long list of the International Senior Riding Team with the short list the next step before being part of the Olympic standard team. Kim's training is specific.

She prefers eventing to any other competition and this area requires a heavy-boned horse like her Thoroughbred. The

rough terrain of cross country jumping combined with some ring work makes up this demanding sport called eventing.

"I think it's the best part of riding and really the biggest challenge," Kim said.

She won several first prizes with her pony in hunter class events at such competitions as the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. The Grade 8 student at Holy Rosary is a member of the Esqueping Pony Club near her former and future place of residence. Kim was born in Kent England but remembers nothing of her first home as she moved to Canada with her mother, Maura and father, Colin when she was only nine months old.

After living for five years in Toronto the family, now with four members since the arrival of Victoria, three years younger than Kim, moved to Esqueping.

It didn't take long after this move to rural Milton for Colin Muspratt to take up one of his old hobbies, horses.

## Talk about Teens

"My father started eventing the same time I did," Kim said.

Victoria has her own pony now but she does not have the same interest or aim as her older sister where horses are concerned. The family is currently renting a house in Milton and boarding their horses a fair distance North of here on Guelph Line. The inconvenience of driving before riding will be dispelled with the completion of the log house the Muspratts are having built in familiar Esqueping.

They are counting the days to the July move. Not only is there a new house to look forward to, a large barn with several box stalls and an indoor riding arena will be ready for the two Thoroughbreds and one pony now owned by the Muspratts. The barn

leaves room for additional horses as well. Kim is currently looking forward to trying for the Junior International team which will be the first step to participating in the 1988 Olympics. She admits to experiencing quite a few tumbles in the past due to her own and her mount's inexperience but tumbles are part of the sport.

Maura Muspratt, Kim's mother, is Pony Club District Commissioner, a volunteer position which keeps her busy between driving to and from the boarding farm where the horses are now stabled.

Living in Milton's ur-

ban area on Bell St. temporarily has cramped the family's style, as in addition to their horses they have three dogs who are used to having the run of a country estate.

One of these dogs, the smallest, belongs to Kim. Molloy, a Jack Russell terrier hasn't a trace of an Irish accent in his sharp bark but he was born there. At six weeks of age little Molloy flew back to Canada with the Muspratts after their summer trip to Ireland.

Although Kim expects to train hard and reach her 1988 goal she knows one side of her must stay practical. She would like to be a computer scientist like her father—she knows her hobby takes money to support.

With such an active interest outside of school it may be hard to believe

Kim has time to make outstanding academic achievements as well but the slim 13-year-old does just that.

She excels in public speaking simply because she enjoys it.

"It's just natural I guess," she suggests. "I've been doing better in the last two years."

She recently won the Halton Separate school board public speaking trophy which remains displayed at Holy Rosary School, she took home first place trophy for Public School Board at a regular meeting where a trophy was presented on their behalf.

Kim's speech dealt with the problems of the world and the question will there be a world to share with her children and her children's children. She is a straight forward girl but will blush easily when compliments come her way. She says public speaking is easier in front of a number of people she doesn't know. She is less nervous in this situation.

Kim plans to attend Bishop Macdonell Separate High School at Guelph next year but until then the summer ahead will hold hours of training for both Kim and Bally-Who.

## Between the Willows

### Feet over wheels

By Don Byers  
MAY 9, VANCOUVER: I've been stomping around the streets of this city for several days now. And I still can't get used to the pedestrian prerogative.

At any intersection, unprotected by white lines or warning lights or signs, pedestrians have precedence over vehicles. Exercising reasonable caution, you step off the curb and start across the street, peering nervously over your shoulder, left, then right, at as many as three lanes of traffic bearing down upon you.

"Good grief! I hope I don't get a tourist driver who doesn't know the rules." Luck, so far, has been with me. So has near panic, every trip.

I've hiked or bused my way all over this busy seaport, meeting and chatting with many people about everything from the crazy, crucial housing problem to local political hanky-panky, to the weather, Vancouver's most popular subject of conversation. (Fina's score this time out: sun, six days; rain, two days. Not a record, but close.)

I've met some interesting folks here—and some unusual characters, too. On a bright, sunny morning I sat behind the driver of the bus that was wheeling along Broadway, enroute downtown.

At one stop, the doors opened for an old man, who leaned heavily on two canes.

Slowly and painfully, he struggled up the steps. Grasping a vertical handhold, he dropped his coins into the farebox. The bus was in motion again. The man with the canes turned to face his fellow passengers.

Out of the blue, he shouted at the top of his voice, with unmistakable venom: "I can't sit there!"

I looked at the empty seat across from me, unaware that a sign on the window behind me read: "Reserved for

handicapped and elderly." Again he shouted: "I can't sit there!" And he just about ruptured by left eardrum.

After the third blast, louder than the others, I got the message and quickly moved. With great difficulty he eased himself onto the seat I had vacated. And for the first time looked into my face. I grinned timidly, not knowing what to expect next from this wrinkled mask, molded by long years of suffering. Then he smiled, and in a quiet, friendly voice said, "Thank you, sir. Thank you." Demonstrating with canes and feet, he explained that this was the only seat on the vehicle that would accommodate him.

"I understand," I said.

We both remained silent after that, until he had to face the difficult task of getting off the bus. Before the doors closed behind him, he looked back at me. "Thanks again," he said, and was gone.

Later, as I sat on a bench on the wide sidewalk of Granville, waiting for my luncheon companion, I passed the time watching the people walking by. Most looked like business folk, well-dressed and groomed.

Suddenly, I was aware of a raspy voice in my ear.

"Where's Granville?" it demanded.

I turned to find myself nose-to-nose with the face of a little, old lady. So help me, she was a dead-ringer for the witch in "Snow White."

"You're on it, madam."

"Where's the Bay Store?"

"Just up the road away." And I pointed in that direction.

Off she shuffled in her scruffy sneakers, clutching the handles of a soiled, paper, shopping bag within a bony fist.

Somehow, wherever I go, they find me.



Many interests. Kim Muspratt displays one of her public speaking awards, an area in which she excels. Kim hopes to also reach high levels of achievement with her five-year-old mare Bally-Who. She wants to take the mare with her to the 1988 Olympics.

## He's 'positive' on merger plan

The Halton Land Division Committee is prepared to take a "positive approach" to inclusion into the Halton Planning Department, according to its Chairman Brian Fletcher.

As part of the Hickling-Johnson management report on how to run the regional and municipal more efficiently, one of the recommendations was for an amalgamation of both groups.

The land division committee at first was not very pleased with this idea and it had at the same time been the target of stinging attacks by

regional councillors over some decisions it had made in the past.

Mr. Fletcher agreed his group "had expressed strong opposition on this subject both written and verbal... while the Land Division Committee did not endorse the changes that are to now go into effect, we will nevertheless adopt a positive approach."

He added the committee will "do our best to work with the changes to gain all the benefits that can be secured."

"We will also attempt to minimize any adverse impact that may result."

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**ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN-UP THIS YEAR ON FRIDAY**

North of Main Street — Friday, May 22  
South of Main Street — Friday, May 29

- The collection is for large unwanted items which could not normally be taken on a garbage collection.
- All items must be at curbside at 7:30 a.m. to ensure pick-up. Routes will be travelled ONCE only.
- Please place smaller items in a suitable container.
- Brush and Shrubs should be securely tied in bundles not over 5 feet long and weighing not over 50 pounds.
- OLD CARS — The Town does not remove old vehicles or parts. Please contact a local auto wrecker for disposal.

**PLEASE NOTE: This pick-up only includes the usual urban garbage collection area within the Town of Milton.**

Your co-operation in making this program a success will be appreciated.

Department of Public Works  
Town of Milton

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