

Erin heads to Big Apple after winning dance title

She's going to be a part of it, in New York, New York. Milton's Erin Crisci, a grade 10 student at Bishop Reding, will represent Canada at a major dance competition in New York City this July.

The 16-year-old claimed the Miss Dance of Canada title recently at Hamilton's Mohawk College by winning the Maple Leaf Dance Masters of America competition.

Erin emerged the winner after a grueling set of tests, including a solo dance, audition dances demonstrating mastery of dance forms including ballet, jazz, tap and afro-jazz, and an interview and modeling segment.

The win comes with a \$600 scholarship, numerous mementos and most importantly, a nine-day, expenses-paid trip to New York City to compete in the Dance Masters of America final.

In New York, contestants will be kept busy with banquets, interviews and practice sessions, said Ann Crisci, Erin's mother.



Erin Crisci

Halton Highway 407 shortcut will come with price of a toll

By BRAD REAUME

The Champion

Provincial Transport Minister Al Palladini says Highway 407 West will proceed once land buyouts have been settled, according to Halton regional Chair Joyce Savoline.

But, as expected, drivers will have to pay to take the shortcut meant to alleviate congestion across Halton between Burlington east to Peel.

Ms Savoline said the transport minister told her the project is a go though the ministry is withholding a formal announcement until the land purchases are completed.

Ms Savoline said she was told the highway would be opened in 1998. While the ministry is cleaning up its administrative loose ends, work continues on bridges and other projects associated with the it.

The section of roadway through Burlington and Oakville was originally to be the final connection of Highway 403 between the Hamilton cutoff on the QEW and Highway 401 near Pearson Airport — which drivers could take free of charge.

However, financial pressures forced the government to consider adding the project onto the western end of Highway 407 instead, which is Ontario's first major toll highway. Its original western end was Highway 403, with a section through eastern Milton connecting it to Highway 401. The expected announcement will have the new highway continue to the point in Burlington near Brant Street where the QEW and Highway 403 split.



"We understand the financial necessity for toll roads. There's an understanding that it must be a consideration."

— Joyce Savoline

Highway 407 West will run northeast through Burlington and Oakville and then swing north just inside the Milton boundary with Mississauga to connect with Highway 401.

"The speed of construction hinges on the ease with which they (the province) acquire necessary lands," said Ms Savoline, who called the highway Halton's missing link. However, she added, "I am a bit concerned the province would proceed to the length they have without a financial commitment to the full project."

Ms Savoline said the amount of maintenance necessary on the Halton stretch of the QEW is "phenomenal" and suggested once congestion on that highway is relieved maintenance work could commence.

She said she is confident there will be a formal announcement on the Highway 407 project by late spring.

"We understand the financial necessity for toll roads," she said. "There's an understanding that it must be a consideration."

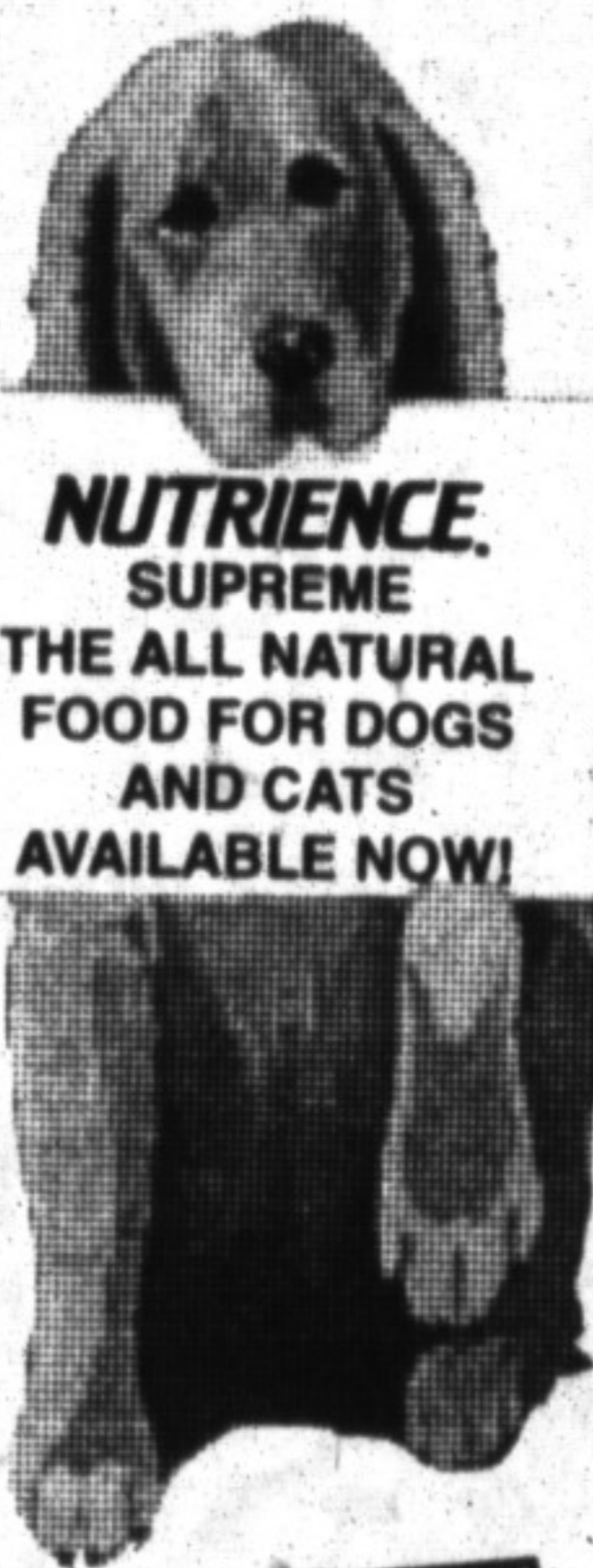
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