## "Girl Next Door"

# Skilled equestrienne

By JIM THOMAS

WHITCHURCH — Has success spoiled Kerrie Gibson?

A graduate of Brankson Hall, one of Toronto's most distinguished private schools; formerly of Rosedale, one of the city's most exclusive neighborhoods; a beautiful home on twenty-five acres in the country; the owner of a lovely show horse called "Weekender"; and private instructions by Canada's foremost equestrian, Tom Gayford—Kerrie has every reason to be walking (or riding) on Cloud Nine.

But quite the contrary. Despite the opportunities and accomplishments, this pretty 18 year old is very much "down to earth" — modest, if anything.

She's our "Girl Next Door".

Her father's association with country life and the family's love of horses, prompted Kerrie's parents to purchase their present property on the Bloomington Road. Kerrie's not sorry, neither is her sister Mindy, 17 nor her brother Jorin, twelve. However, Kerrie doesn't dislike the city either, in fact she's looking forward to enrolling in a fashion design course in New York, maybe next year, maybe next.

Branksom Hall, what's it like?

There's a 'uniform' dress code and the discipline is strict, Kerrie says. Athletic competition is keen with Brankson winning more than its share of championships. Participation is encouraged, both at the elementary and secondary level. Kerrie studied there from Grade 4.

Smoking is 'strictly prohibited'. "You wouldn't dare," she says. The academic standard expected of students is high.

So is the equestrienne standard expected by Tom Gayford. He's not backward in pointing out a rider's mistakes. Kerrie admits, and it's paying off in ribbons and trophies that decorate her room.

Kerrie has no intentions of giving up this recreation when she returns to school in the fall. "I've been at it too long to quit," she says.

The family property is a kind of 'miniature zoo' with all sorts of pets, both inside and out. These include four dogs, a llama, two goats, two cats, exotic pheasants, a rare breed of chickens, hamsters and fish plus horses.

Kerrie admits to a real closeness between herself and sister Mindy. They share many of the same interests.

Sewing's an extra-curricular activity Kerrie enjoys. She makes many of her own clothes. She also paints when time permits.

While school work and riding have kept her busy in recent years, she's enjoyed several trips including holidays in The Bahamas, Jamaica and Florida.

Kerrie admits to having many good friends but none of the male variety she looks on as 'special'. "That's something I haven't thought much about," she says.

Eighteen year old Kerrie Gibson, R.R. 4, Stouffville, is an accomplished equestrienne. Her instructor is the well-known Tom Gayford. A graduate of Branksom Hall, Toronto, Kerrie plans to enrol in a fashion design course this fall.

# Playground program

BALLANTRAE — An estimated 80 children, ranging in age from five to twelve years, are expected to participate in Whitchurch - Stouffville's Summer Playground Program at the Ballantrae Community Centre.

Registrations are being accepted July 3 (today) from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Centre. Parents unable to meet this deadline can drop in later. The Playground opens on Monday July 7 and extends through to Friday, Aug. 29. The hours of operation are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Working mothers may bring their children in fifteen minutes ahead of time if they wish.

"We've had a good response from all the schools, particularly St. Mark's, Orchard Park and Summitview in Stouffville," supervisor Jackie Wedley told The Tribune. Other contacts were made at Ballantrae and Whitchurch - Highlands. Jackie's assistants are - Ruth Stickwood, Angela Baker and Deanne Howard plus two part-time helpers. Staff personnel can be added if the enrollment warrants, Jackie said. The activity is sponsored by the Whitchurch - Stouffville Recreation Committee.

Events are planned in advance. The schedule is flexible, however. Activities can be added as the program advances, the supervisor explained. Inclement weather presents no problem: The Centre is available if needed.

The program will feature a "Safety Week" with a visit from "Sparky" the talking police cruiser; Disney films from the Town library and a "Pet Day" during Animal Week. Sports activities will include - soccer, baseball, football and tennis. In addition, there will be crafts, nature hikes and scavenger hunts.

The registration fee is $15 per child.

# YOUTH

## Ballantrae grads

BALLANTRAE — Grade 8 students of Ballantrae Public School were honored, June 25, at a banquet and awards' ceremony in the Community Centre.

Recipients of diplomas were - Admanda Brass, Jim Bruinse, Sandra Bull, Kathy Clarke, Nancy Coultice, Noel Crisson, Darrin Davidge, Patricia Davidson, Melissa Deavitt, Janice Dicks, Norman Doble, Ralph Dube, Kent Forshaw, Christine Graham, Jeff Hamilton, Penny Holt, Janet Hutson, Derrick Jensen, Trixie Jorns, David Kaczynski, Angela Kontgen, Allison Lowery, David McCracken, Samantha Murfitt, Shannon Murnaghan, Gary Napier, Earl Noseworthy, Brian Perrin, Craig Priest, Craig Pullen, Stephen Robb, Erik Rubbens, John Sansom, Rene Semlacher, Rhonda Shuker, Linda Stafford, Bill Stephenson, John Styles, Kim Sylvester, Jon Tinker, Elaine Tufford, Jackye Veltrie, Michael Von Zuben, Kareen Wade, Mark Walker, Julia Wallace, Cathy Wellington, and Nicole Zwier.


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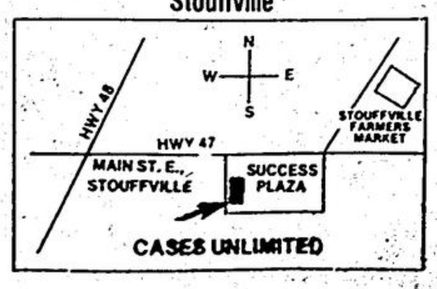
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