

**"Girl Next Door"**

**Teen mermaid**



Fifteen-year-old Laura Campbell, Vanzant Court, Stouffville, holds a bronze certificate in swimming and is working for her leaders' badge this summer. Next year, she hopes to join the lifeguard staff at the Town Pool.

—Jim Thomas

By Jim Thomas  
STOUFFVILLE — Mermaids are for real. Fifteen-year-old Laura Campbell, Vanzant Court, Stouffville, feels as much at home in the water as out. Her parents, Jim and Heather Campbell have both a backyard pool and a summer cottage on Lake Nipissing near North Bay. Laura enjoys both. She's our "Girl Next Door."

Love of the water has enabled Laura to obtain her bronze certificate in swimming. She hopes to acquire her leaders this summer. With this creditation, she'll have an opportunity to serve as a lifeguard at the Stouffville Pool, possibly in '86.

Laura will enter Grade 11 at Stouffville High in September. English is her favorite subject and Jim Rehill her favorite teacher. She's been an active participant in both volleyball and basketball. She also played softball here through several seasons.

Since April, Laura's worked part-time on the staff of the Old Country Inn at Unionville.

In September, she and her father will travel to Seattle, Washington, to attend a wedding of her uncle. Laura's a bridesmaid. She's looking forward to the trip: A family vacation to Canada's West Coast, both by plane and car, remains a memorable holiday.

Laura praises the 'closeness' of her parents. She has a younger brother, Jamie, thirteen.

Sometime soon, Laura hopes be part of an exchange program to Paris, France. Although she can speak the language fairly well now, she feels a live-in arrangement will make her completely fluent.

**Editor's Mail**

**Must face facts**

Dear Editor:

With regard to the reader who feels pro-choice people are 'intellectually bankrupt', I wish to point out that it is the intelligence of our society that has preserved our democratic rights and freedoms; rights and freedoms that allow each of us to manage his/her own personal affairs.

Surely, we are not deemed more intelligent by encouraging back-alley butchers to perform operations that could be better dealt with in a well-equipped institution.

Make no mistake, if the Markham-Stouffville

Hospital refuses abortion requests, unwanted pregnancies will not stop.

So why not face facts that are not unique to this time in man's history and deal with this situation in a mature manner.

Let's stop allowing the church to pump up our emotions and dictate its medieval ways of controlling society.

Sincerely,  
Ed Hakonson,  
R.R. 4, Stouffville

**A talented artist**

The unexpected passing of Mrs. Vera Whetter, July 3 at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, saddened many people.

Vera was a very talented person. She was a skilled artist and many of her paintings are displayed in homes around the country and overseas. Her own home is a gallery of these fine works.

In later years, her interests turned to the making of patchwork quilts. Many of these are also in use over a wide area.

On Oct. 24, 1953, Vera married John Whetter, then co-editor and publisher of the Markham Economist and Sun. They continued to reside in Markham until 1971 when they took up residence in Schreiber, Ont. They remained there five years, then moved to Bracebridge.

Besides her husband, she is survived by two sons, Richard of Toronto; Vernon of Kenora and one daughter, Lynn in Bracebridge, also four grandchildren, Michelle, Lisa, Cassie and Rebecca.

Vera is the daughter of Mrs. Caroline Moment and the late Thos. Moment of Markham. A brother John also lives in Markham.

Service was held from the Dixon-Garland Funeral Home, Markham, July 5, conducted by Marion Graviss, former pastor of Bracebridge Free Methodist Church, with interment, Elmwood Cemetery, Markham. Pallbearers were Bill White, Les Hobbs, Moore Terhune, Ed Fisher, Malcolm Whetter and Allan Holman.



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