



Claremont's own supermodel Susie Pekkinen, pictured here with pet raccoon Rascal, has chalked up an impressive list of pageant titles this year. An upcoming challenge for the recently-crowned Miss All Canadian Modelling Queen 1986 is next month's Canadian Sunburst final, which she qualified for with a preliminary win at Markville Mall earlier this year. — Chris Shanahan

## 1986 Modelling Queen Susie Pekkinen's a new supermodel

By CHRIS SHANAHAN  
Staff Reporter

Scarborough has Monika Schnarre and now a small north Pickering community boasts its own teenage supermodel — Susie Pekkinen.

The 15-year-old Claremont girl recently bested more than 30 contestants to claim the title of Miss All Canadian Modelling Queen 1986 at a pageant held at the Airport Hilton.

In the teen division (age 13 to 18) of the same contest, she won the casual wear competition and was first runner-up in both Miss All-Canadian Queen and photogenic classes.

In a span of a couple months, Miss Pekkinen also captured the Markham/Unionville preliminaries of the Canadian Sunburst pageant, was a top qualifier in a Can-Am contest and was judged Claremont's 1986 Snow Queen.

And like Miss Schnarre (a Woburn Collegiate Institute student and the reigning super teen model of the world), Miss Pekkinen's hoping her contest success will lead to bigger and better things.

Admitting "I like cameras," the Toronto modelling course graduate is actively pursuing photo and television assignments without the help of a professional agency.

But her early success hasn't sent the poised and practical teenager dreaming of fame and fortune as a high-fashion model.

"If an opportunity comes up I'll go for it," says the Uxbridge-Pickering Townline resident, whose mother Susan is a native of Trinidad and father Hannu is Finnish. "It's just for fun. I really enjoy it but I really couldn't see myself (as a full-time model)."

Adds Miss Pekkinen: "Once you get to the top it's hard to stay there. And after they start looking for a new face and they kind of push you aside, what are you going to fall back on?"

A student entering Grade 11 at Pickering High School, she's interested in science and hopes to one day earn a post-secondary degree leading to a career.

The modelling queen is now combining a busy pageant schedule — including her entry next month in a Miss Trinidad and Tobago contest — with a summer job at Whitevale Golf Course. And she's a big Caribana fan who'll join the rest of her family at Toronto's annual Caribbean celebration Aug. 2.

Miss Pekkinen's scheduled to compete in the Sunburst finals at the Cara Inn July 12 and 13 and possibly venture to the United States for a Can-Am International showdown.



### Graduate

Pamela Catherine Burns of Senator Reesor's Dr. in Markham recently graduated from McMaster University with a bachelor of commerce degree. Miss Burns is employed by Hallmark Cards and is a graduate of Markham District High School.

### CORRECTION

Please note that the Wallpaper Centre ad which appeared in Wednesday's paper should have read 1.95 under GREAT Values and not 49¢ as indicated. We apologize for the inconvenience.

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