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# Community Focus

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## Girls model for 'Princess Fergie'

By MAXINE SHARE

When the lights came on, two beautiful girls walked confidently down the fashion runway in the ballroom of Toronto's Royal York Hotel last Friday.

But the exquisite Elvira Vali designer dresses they modelled were no match for their wide, dazzling smiles.

How could they be? As an audience of socialites and dignitaries looked on, eight-year-old Kelly Lumsden of Markham and Stouffville's Brooke Maddock, 6, participated in a show case of Canadian fashion. The guests of honor were the Duke and Duchess of York.

Brooke was "only a little bit nervous." An hour before the show began, she sat cross-legged on the floor of an expansive dressing room as she waited to be preened for her part. "These are Royal people," she declared, scratching under one of the many pink sponge rollers in her hair. "They are kind of somebody."

And she knew exactly who. "Prince Andrew and Princess Fergie," of course.

Kelly Lumsden's mother Suzanne says "we only had a few weeks notice that we'd be participating in the show." But it came as no surprise to her that Kelly was chosen by the Elen Henderson Modelling Agency to be in the fashion show. In her three year career, the youngster has acted in a Colgate toothpaste commercial, been featured in her agency's Yellow Pages ad, worked with top model Monika Schnarre, and modelled at Yorkdale, Holt Renfrew, Simpsons, the Bay, and Markville shopping mall. "She just loves it," says her mom. "It's nice," concedes Kelly, as the reporter strains to hear her tiny, airy voice.

Kelly leans limp in the crook of her mother's arm. It is an hour before showtime and she's listening to Suzanne read her a book. "No, I'm not nervous," she says. "Not just a bit?" "No," she whispers, "I'm not." And when you're modelling for



Kelly Lumsden of Markham (centre) and Stouffville's Brooke Maddock (right) join a friend backstage before modelling these iridescent pewter taffeta dresses designed by Elen Henderson. The fashion show was held in honor of the Duke and Duchess of York on Friday. The dresses are accented with gold lame thread and chantilly lace and retail for about \$200.

such ordinary people, why should you be.

Kelly says when the Duke and Duchess aren't working, "they just stay inside the palace and walk around... and Sarah sometimes wears pants."

Suzanne says her daughter "is a very quiet and shy girl, but she's different when she's modelling. She's very gifted on the runway."

At last year's Festival of Fashion, "there were thousands of people looking on, and I thought, 'How is she ever going to walk down that runway?'"

"Well, I ran down to watch her. She had a great smile and great

audience contact and I wondered how she could do that."

Last Halloween, Kelly dressed up as Cinderella. "She loves to dress up," says her mother. "She wears my shoes around, and tries on different outfits of mine and pretends they fit."

And she's in her glory when modelling bridal fashions. "She loves fantasy gowns, ones with sequins and stars. One time, she had

to carry a wand and she thought that was wonderful," says Suzanne.

The day started early for the young models. Although the fashion show didn't start until 4 p.m., they had to be at the hotel by 10:45 a.m. The first rehearsal came at 11 a.m., followed by a dress rehearsal at 11:45 a.m. Then came the dainty salmon and cheese sandwiches, fruit and juices to help the models get through the long afternoon. Brooke and Kelly colored pictures while they waited for top make-up artists to paint their faces, and for celebrated hairstylist Denis Bouchard to style their long, freshly curled tresses.

Kelly says she enjoys modelling because she likes to dress up, likes learning the different choreography routines for each fashion show, and likes watching the adult models getting ready. But Brooke, less reticent, enjoys modelling for another reason. "You get a lot of time off school," says the bubbly Grade 1 student.

When all 13 fashion collections had been modelled, the designers themselves walked down the runway for the benefit of the royal couple. A model accompanied each designer, and Kelly was selected to walk arm-in-arm with Elen Henderson. In addition to running a successful children's modeling agency, Mrs. Henderson is also one of Canada's foremost children's clothing designers, and Kelly modelled one of her creations that afternoon. Kelly looked like a princess herself as she walked, head held high, to the end of the platform. The audience was captivated by her serene demeanor, her sophisticated charm, and her beauty. They applauded long and loud.

When the show was over and invited guests retired to hold court with the Duke and Duchess,



Kelly Lumsden is pretty as a princess in this blue and white silk organza dress appliqued with pearls and sequins. The dress was designed by Elvira Vali for Petite Originals and retails for \$600.

Brooke and Kelly went backstage and changed quickly in anticipation of meeting the Andrew and Sarah. "When everyone was in the reception room, Sarah came over immediately when she saw the children," says Suzanne. "She spent some time talking to all of them, and it was just a delight."

Was Kelly excited? "She's done so many things with so many important people," her mother sighs, "things just don't faze her any more."

## You don't have the whole story

If you received Community Focus on its own today, you only have part of Stouffville's story. Community Focus is also included in the weekly Tribune which is filled with news, sports and feature stories on people in your community.

This week you missed a story on a mini-tornado that ripped through an Uxbridge subdivision and levelled a newly-built house to the tune of \$55,000. You also missed Denise McDonald's dramatic account of how five Whitchurch-Stouffville residents helped save two drowning children at Sibbald Point Provincial Park, plus an advance story about all that's on tap this

weekend as White Rose Crafts and Nursery Sales Limited hosts its annual Festival of Roses at its Sandoon Farm near Goodwood.

Other features include a look at the equestrian pursuits of some dedicated area horse enthusiasts, plus an editorial page column taking an inside look at reporter Chris Garbutt's experiences covering a serious Main St. accident that sent two children and himself to hospital.

To receive a copy of the award-winning Stouffville Tribune including our outstanding Community Focus section call 640-2100.

## Calling Junior citizens

Know an outstanding young person?

Nominations are now being accepted for Junior Citizen of the Year. The nominee must be a resident of Ontario, between the ages of six and 18. Ingenious, resourceful people are good candidates, as are groups which have contributed significantly to the community.

Application forms are available from the Economist and Sun office at 9 Heritage Rd. from news editor Jo Ann Stevenson.

Nominations must be placed by Canadian citizens.

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