

Country girl Donna has won her stripes in the business world

By JIM THOMAS

It's another world. High above the concrete jungle of downtown Toronto, overlooking The Skydome and Lake Ontario is an office 'complex' on the 25th floor of The Sun Life Centre.

Seated behind a massive desk, a computer at her left hand and a telephone at her right is Donna (Ratcliff) Milligan, Manager of Investment Funds Marketing with the high-profile firm of Nesbitt, Thomson, Deacon Inc., 150 King Street West.

When it comes to fulfilling the cliché of 'small town girl makes good', Donna is the ultimate. Even more exacting would be the descriptive 'country girl makes good'. For Donna's roots go deep in Whitchurch-Stouffville soil; several generations deep.

She's the daughter of Don and Pauline Ratcliff, Stouffville, R.R. 4.

On the surface, at least, there was nothing different about Donna. She graduated through the elementary system of Hillcrest and Melville Public Schools and Stouffville High. However,

anyone remotely acquainted with the operation known as Ratcliff Lumber should have visualized great things for this neat, trim teenage girl with an aptitude for figures and finance.

But who was to know? For Donna admits not even she, as a student in Grade 13, had any idea she'd travel so far.

Following graduation, she enrolled in John Brown University, Arkansas, obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree. Then she returned home, fully intending to go back. But for Donna, this wasn't to be. She obtained a position with Royal Trust, a level of responsibility that provided her a wide overview of business and finance.

Donna's abilities didn't go unnoticed. She was approached by the Nesbitt, Thomson, Deacon firm and joined the staff over four years ago.

She calls it 'fun'. While the involvements of high finance boggles the mind of this layman, Donna takes everything in stride. With company branches all across Canada, she keeps 450 salespeople at her fingertips.

"It's a high energy, fast paced life," she admits. Only an individual possessing Donna's energy could stand the pace. She works between 12 and 14 hours a day.

Despite the intricacies of the business world, Donna's quick to give credit where credit is due to her parents.

With business acumen so much a part of her growing up, it was only natural some knowledge would rub off. Donna, it seems, obtained her fair share.

"I had a capitalistic upbringing," she says with a smile.

As strange as it may seem, the adjustment from rural to city life wasn't difficult for Donna.

"I found it no problem," she explains. "I love it."

She walks to and from work every day.

Donna resents the descriptive 'concrete jungle'. What she sees from the 25th floor of her 'ivory tower' is Toronto Island and the Lake.

"To me, it's beautiful," she says.

The cars below look like dinky toys and the people like ants. It's truly another world.

While far removed from her rural roots, home is where her heart is.

"I visit my parents as often as possible; which isn't often enough," she admits. "We enjoy a great family life." Donna's still a part of Youth Time Radio, directed by her dad.

Donna and David, her husband, met through The People's Church where they still attend. David was a member of the King James Version Quartet. Donna sang in a ladies trio.

"We met through music," she says.

David's position is a high pressure, Donna explains. To get away from it all they relax at a cottage on Lake Rosseau in The Muskokas.

"It doesn't have a telephone, not even a radio," Donna notes. Her seclusion ended, Donna's anxious to get back into the swing of things.

The world of business is a busy world. Donna (Ratcliff) Milligan looks forward to each day. Her face mirrors enthusiasm and excitement.

"I love it," she concludes.



Donna (Ratcliff) Milligan, a graduate of Stouffville Dist. Secondary School literally sits on top of the world. Her office is located on the 25th floor of The Sun Life Tour, King Street West, Toronto.

She's the Manager of Investment Funds Marketing, Nesbitt, Thompson, Deacon Inc. Donna is the daughter of Don and Pauline Ratcliff, R.R. 4, Stouffville. —Jim Thomas

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ADVERTISING CORRECTION

Eaton's Home Fashion Sale insert appearing in the Markham, Economist-Stouffville Tribune, Wednesday, July 27, 1988.

Page 31 - Item "D" Daybed ensemble incorrectly described. The cushions are sold separately.

Due to supplier delivery problems the following item(s) will not be available for immediate delivery. However, orders will be accepted for delivery by the date shown.

Page 6 - Item A - 7 pc. Dining suites. Available - October 15.

Incidentally, the errors listed above have appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.

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