

'Supermodel' Kelly Collins ready to take on the world

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By KAREN BRIDSON

Collins

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In less than a year, Mississauga's Kelly Collins has gone from novice model in her high school fashion show to representing Canada at the upcoming Ford Super Model of the World Competition.

Collins, 18, was named Super Model of Canada Sunday at the Ford Modeling Competition held at the Yorkdale Shopping Centre. Collins was named Toronto's representative at the nation-wide competition in September.

In the Super Model of the World Competition, which will be held in late July or early August, Collins will be competing against models from around the world for the title of Super Model of the World.

The winner of this international competition will be signed to a lucrative modeling contract with the Ford Modeling Agency. Monika Schnarre and the currently-reigning Super Model of the World, Tricia Helfer, are among the Canadian models that have previously won this competition.

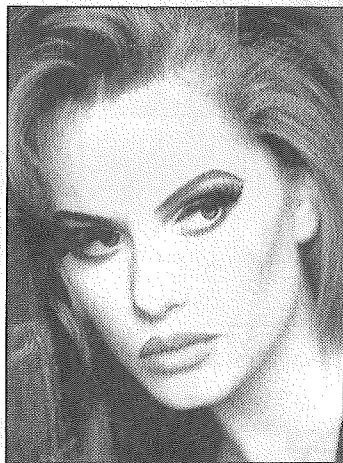
At Sunday's event, Collins was also presented the Evian Health Award, given to the most active and physically-fit contestant. It entitles her to spend three days at the Evian Les Bains Health Spa in Paris.

Collins, a Sheridan Homelands resident, says she will be building up her portfolio from now until the competition, possibly working in Australia for a month.

Esmee Van Der Oye, Collins' booking agent at the Mannequin Modeling Agency, says Collins has a good chance of becoming Super Model of the World. "She's a top contender. She really stood apart in the competition. Kelly's looks are very different. She's classical, unusual and sophisticated," says Van Der Oye.

The Canadian competition, which began Thursday and climaxed

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KELLY COLLINS

City model on fast track to fame

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with a fashion show gala event Sunday, focused on the personality and appearance of each model, says Van Der Oye.

Although there is no money involved in winning Super Model of Canada, Collins says the exposure from the contest will be great for her career.

Collins began modeling last spring when she was discovered in a charity fashion show at Erindale Secondary School. From there, Collins took a crash course in modeling at Carolyn's, a local agency, and then joined the Mannequin Agency. Since then, she has travelled to New York to build her portfolio, and has done some runway and magazine work.

Collins, who graduated from Erindale in January, says she is

going to concentrate on her career as a model for now, but that eventually she would like to finish university. "I want to give modeling a full shot. I want to be successful and go as far with it as I can. And, after it's over, I'll go back to school."

Collins, who has played on national volleyball teams, says she would eventually like to pursue a career in physical education.

Collins says her friends and family are very excited for her and have been incredibly supportive.

On the first day of her reign as Super Model of Canada, Collins appeared on TV's *Dini Petty Show*, *The Shirley Show*, *Canada AM* and on CHUM FM radio.

"There's a lot of hype right now because I just won it," says Collins. "But I'd rather have things move too fast than too slow."

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