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First Mrs. Mississauga puts home, family first

By KATHLEEN BYRNE

Special to *The Mississauga News*
Standing at the front door of her home with her arm around her daughter, an elegantly dressed Kristin Courtney jokes, "Karla always finds me like this."

"Like this" refers to the earrings, creamy lace dress and matching stockings and pumps she has donned in anticipation of an interview with the local paper.

It's not her normal attire for a weekday afternoon, she insists, but somehow it doesn't seem all that out of place for the recent winner of the first ever Mrs. Mississauga Pageant.

"I felt terrific, honored," the 29-year-old mother of two said of her recent win.

Courtney said she was surprised by the outcome of the pageant, especially as she hadn't been too sure she would enter. Her hesitation was caused by her belief that beauty pageants sometimes directed the "wrong kind" of attention at the winner.

"I wasn't going to enter to show off my body but rather my personality and my integrity," she said.

The victory comes at a particularly busy time in Courtney's life. Her commercial and residential cleaning company, Courtney Cleaning Care, has taken off in the past year, she said, and she now has three people in her employ.

In addition, she has the care of her home, her husband and her two children, as well as the occasional modelling job.

"I'm used to rushing around," she said. "My adrenaline is always going."

Still, Courtney said her outside activities do not detract from what is most important to her. "My home is a priority," she said, as are her children and husband.

Along with hubby David and daughters, Karla, 7, and Melody, 3, Courtney also does a great deal of volunteer work, including singing at



Photo by Tony Mihok

A radiant Mrs. Mississauga, Kristin Courtney, waves to onlookers in the 17th annual Bread and Honey Festival parade while her 3-year-old daughter Melody applauds.

Salvation Army missions. But despite her busy schedule, she still finds time to pursue favorite pastimes such as gardening, sewing, and reading.

"I like to read facts," she said. "Current issues, helpful hints, things that are character-building. When you read, you are feeding yourself."

Typical reading material includes the newspaper, and the Bible, which she said always offers something appropriate to her life.

Religion plays a big part in the Courtneys' lives. For the past two years Courtney has taught Sunday school at the Korean Church, where she and her husband are also youth leaders.

"(My faith) is not only a comfort but a strength," she said.

Courtney was born in Toronto,

where she attended Bala Avenue Junior High School. She and David, her husband of eight years, moved to Mississauga two years ago.

Despite an upcoming trip to Mexico in November — one of the many prizes she won in the pageant — Courtney said she and her husband have no plans for any major changes to their lifestyle.

She speculated her cleaning business may come to demand more of her time in the future, and should more modelling opportunities come her way as a result of her win, she said she would be happy to take them on.

But for the time being she expects things to go on pretty much as they have been, which she said will suit her and her family just fine.