

'Year like no other' a fashion education

By STEPHANIE INNES
Staff Reporter

Jacqueline Pillon has just one more week to enjoy what she calls her "year like no other."

Last October, Pillon, then 22, was crowned Miss Mississauga for 1989/90. This Oct. 6 at Eaton Sheridan Place, she will hand over the title to one of 12 potential successors.

"I'm going to miss it a little. I feel like I'm going back to being nobody," says Pillon, who is a fourth-year anthropology major at the University of Toronto's Erindale campus.

Pillon says her year in the local limelight has helped her with respect to a career choice.

"I would like to go into the performing arts field or public relations," she says. "I have learned so much in the past year, and I have definitely built confidence."

Among memorable experiences for Pillon this year was meeting soap opera stars from *The Young and the Restless* and local sports celebrities including players for the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Toronto Argonauts.

She says the Miss Canada pageant was "packed with emotions and definitely a fulfilling experience."

"I made a lot of good friends at Miss Canada, friends who I will keep up with. It was great when Robin (Miss Niagara Robin Lee Ouzinoff) won the Miss Canada crown, because we had become really close during that week. I was very happy for her," says Pillon.

She admits that winning Miss Mississauga was her most exciting moment last year.

"The best was when they announced my name and my father jumped up with his arms in the air," she says.

Pillon takes criticism of beauty pageants in stride.

"I'm a very independent person with a strong personality, and people with preconceived notions about the contest might change their minds after talking to me. Some people don't, but most people I know are very proud of me," says Pillon who this year is using her public relations skills on Erindale's student council in her role as director of sponsorship and promotions.

She says endurance is the most important thing she looks for in clothes. Her favorite clothing articles are her cowboy boots and the purple beaded gown she will wear to this year's Miss Mississauga pageant.

On her long, dark-brown hair that reaches just below her waist, Pillon uses Paul Mitchell or Joico shampoo and conditioner. She avoids using mousse, hair sprays and gel.

For make-up, Pillon is adamant that the products she uses are not tested on animals.

Pillon says she has not eaten red meat in five years and tries to stay away from junk food.

A former rower for the University of Toronto Blues, Pillon says she now stays in shape through weight training at Erindale's athletic centre.



Staff photo by Chris Horobin

Miss Mississauga Jacqueline Pillon, 23, will be giving up her crown Saturday Oct. 6 when the Miss Mississauga 1990 pageant is held at Eaton Sheridan Place. The contest's divisions include talent, interview, swimsuit and a fashion show, which will be held at the mall on Friday Oct. 5.

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