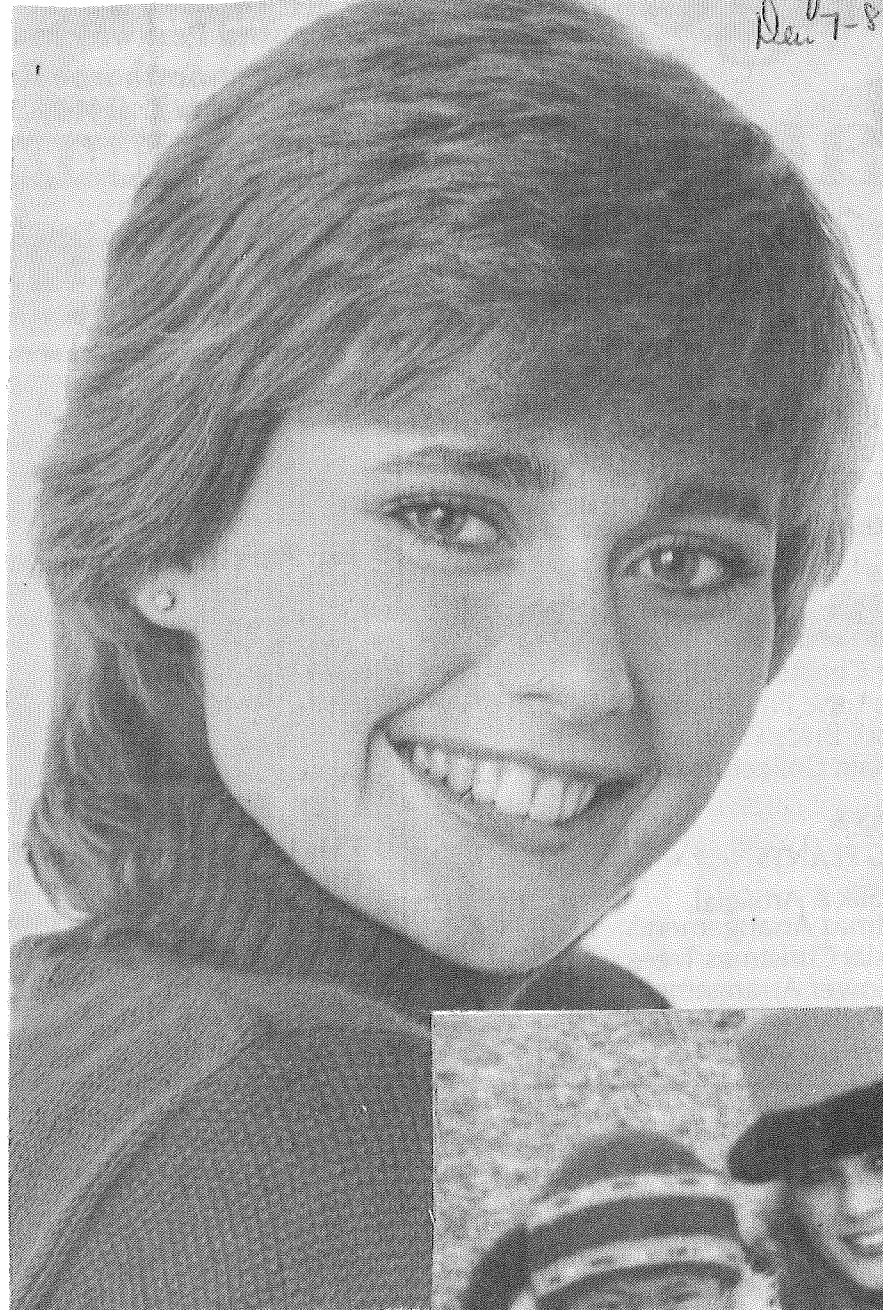


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Model hits big time in New York

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OVER



Mississauga model Andrea Ross travelled to Grise Fjord to model fur coats for the *American Town and Country* magazine. Here she takes time out from the session to pose with a young Inuit boy who also appeared in the magazine.

By DAVID ROSS
Community Editor

When members of America's upper crust picked up their November issues of *Town and Country* magazine, the face that smiled out at them from the cover belonged to a 22-year-old Mississauga girl.

Decked out in a luxurious white mink coat with an arctic fox collar, she is referred to on the cover simply as "Canadian beauty: Andrea Ross."

A graduate of Gordon Graydon Secondary School, and now a resident of New York City, Andrea was an unusual choice for the cover of *Town and Country*.

"It's a very high society magazine," she said on a recent weekend visit to the south Mississauga home of her parents Ralph and Margaret Ross. "It's about rich people."

Ordinarily, she said, the magazine features high society people on the cover. This particular issue, though, was devoted to Canada. And although most of the stories and pictures in the magazine concerned, predictably enough, Canada's rich and powerful, Andrea was featured in a fur fashion pictorial which employed Canada's north and west as a backdrop.

That assignment took her to Vancouver, Calgary, Banff, Yellowknife and finally to Grise Fjord, a high-Arctic community in the Northwest Territories that is home to some 99 Inuit. In Grise Fjord, Andrea was photographed riding a dogsled, and standing beside an igloo with an Inuit father and son.

EXCITED

Andrea is understandably excited about the cover and photo spread in *Town and Country*, but it is by no means her first cover.

In fact, her parents have one section of a wall in their family room covered in magazine covers, all featuring their daughter.

Included in the collection is the first cover she ever did, the November 1978 issue of *Canadian Secretary*. Also up on the wall are several covers from the Italian magazine *Bella* — she has worked in Europe a couple of times, once for a summer when she was 15, and for two years a couple of years later — and *Redbook*. Margaret is particularly proud of the *Redbook* cover. She said the magazine test marketed that issue with two different models, to see which the public preferred. Andrea was the winner.

"She has good teeth and that's what they wanted — the people who hired her — a beautiful smile," said her mother. "They told her it was a very natural smile, and that's why they wanted her."

The collection on the wall is far from complete. Getting hold of all the covers Andrea does would be a little tricky.

"A lot of work, Andrea never sees," Margaret explained. "She did 20 covers in

two days for a Japanese magazine, but never saw any."

HOCKEY

Andrea's rise to prominence in the field of modelling began when she was 10 years old. She was watching a hockey practice when she was spotted by Judy Welch, owner of the Judy Welch Agency in Toronto, who asked her to become a model. Andrea sent in pictures, and Welch put her through the school. Shortly after that, Andrea grew to five feet, six inches, and was deemed too tall for a model of her age. Four years later, though, the Judy Welch Agency called her back.

Her first big job resulted in exposure across the country as the face on the Bright Side Shampoo bottle. The shampoo was marketed with her picture on it for five years.

When she was 15, Eileen Ford, owner of the Ford Agency in New York City, invited her to go there to work. Her parents wouldn't let her go.

"She had to stay home and learn values before she could go," her mother said.

While her career was on hold, she was extremely active in sports at Gordon Graydon, and even served as president of the Girls' Athletic Association one year.

"Eileen kept in contact," her mother said. "She sent Christmas cards and presents every year. When Andrea was 18, Eileen sent her a return ticket."

The Rosses were assured their daughter would stay at Ford's New York home, and would be subject to strict rules

of behavior. With those assurances, they allowed her to go.

For her part, Andrea said her decision to go into modelling wasn't the result of a burning desire to get in front of the camera.

COULDN'T DECIDE

"I couldn't decide what I wanted to do in university," she said, "and Eileen Ford encouraged me to model."

Now, though, she thoroughly enjoys her work doing catalogues, covers, posters and advertisements.

"I love it," she said. "It's wonderful."

Early this year, Andrea signed on with the Wilhelmina Agency in New York City, and her mother says she's starting to get into television commercial work, "but she has to get rid of her 'out'. The way she pronounces it, you know she's Canadian."

Although Andrea is fitting in well in New York — next summer she'll marry a man she met there — she hasn't forgotten her old home, and she visits as frequently as her busy schedule permits.

Nor have her parents become so wrapped up in her career that they've lost sight of her other achievements. That's demonstrated by another picture that hangs in the family room, if anything even more prominently displayed than the magazine covers. It shows a 10-year-old Andrea, not dressed fashionably in her mother's clothes, as one might expect of a future model, but in the uniform of the girls' lacrosse team on which she played defence.