

# Dundas Princess Suzanne Rose

Suzanne Rose of Mountain started off her speech at this year's Dundas County Dairy Princess contest with a poem that expressed her feelings about life on the farm in Dundas County. This poem won the hearts of the judges, and Suzanne was crowned Dundas County Dairy Princess for 1983-1984.

The poem, a work of Suzanne's own creation, reads as follows:

"There is nowhere I would rather be than living on a farm, Life is full and fresh and clean, and no one does me harm. The work is hard, I will admit, and that you can be sure, Planting, haying, weeding, and spreading the manure! City folks, they like their style, of working nine to five, But 'till they've lived right on a farm they've never been alive. There's one thing I'm not ashamed to say without too much alarm, Dundas County's the place to be, especially on a farm!

Her studies in London may seem to present a conflict with her duties as Dairy Princess this year. But Suzanne knew she had strong reasons for entering the contest.

It was a "fast decision to go for it", Suzanne said. But it was an unshakeable decision.

She said that when she was shopping for food in London, she would overhear people complaining about the prices of foodstuffs such as cheese, milk and bread.

"But they don't seem to understand the hard work that goes into producing the food," she said.

Apart from serving as an education link, Suzanne had another reason for entering the competition -- she wanted to keep the honor in the family, so to speak. She said her mother, Estella, was the first dairy princess in Dundas County. Estella received the crown in 1957.



Dundas Dairy Princess Suzanne Rose and her friend Clara the Cow have been busy travelling the county to tell public school children all about the dairy industry. They visited 11 public schools in Dundas County.

Clara tells the children about her friend Daisy who believes that young boys and girls don't know anything about milk. The young listeners try to prove her wrong and pay close attention as Suzanne explains where milk comes from and the importance of drinking milk. Suzanne made up a song about the dairy industry and she teaches that to the children as well.

Suzanne enjoys working with the younger public school children, but finds the questions she is asked are sometimes a little unusual. One youngster asked why the milkman comes to their farm and takes home some of their milk for his coffee. The 21-year-old princess had to explain that he was just testing the milk, not putting it in his pocket.

Though some times were amusing, Suzanne can recall a few times when things "got a bit tense". While away at school in Western Ontario she had to fly home occasionally for weekend events requiring her presence. One particular weekend she had to attend a Holstein banquet in Ottawa. Her plane was due at 4:30pm, but because of bad weather she was still in Montreal at 6:45pm. By 7:15pm she was on her way home; the banquet had started at 7pm. She raced home, pressed her dress and was at the banquet by 8:15. It wasn't quite the way she had planned.

Being a dairy princess has "changed my outlook" on farming, Suzanne Rose said. Going away to school, she said, had a lot to do with the change as well. When she was young she was "not too thrilled" about living on a farm "way out in the boonies".

Seeing only the disadvantages she complained that her friends could walk to each others' houses and see movies whenever they wanted, but living in the countryside meant that she couldn't.

Now Suzanne appreciates what the country has to offer and after talking to many people in the dairy industry has learned that there's a lot more to dairy than she thought.

Suzanne is the daughter of Ed and Estella Rose, living one mile east of Mountain. They have a 70-head farm of Ayrshire and Holstein, 28 milking. Being a princess doesn't mean much on their farm where Suzanne pitches in with milking and other daily chores.

Suzanne said that she enjoys being a county dairy princess, but being the Ontario Dairy Princess would be "a thrill". To prepare for the fall competition Suzanne has taken a speech course, received tips from the present Ontario Dairy Princess and will be attending a workshop at Kemptville College in July.

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## Suzanne Rose does Dundas proud

MOUNTAIN — It's a long road for any contestant to make it to the finals of the Ontario Dairy Princess Competition in Toronto.

For Suzanne Rose of Mountain, the road included a detour to Kingston and the World Bellyflop championships.

That's where the county's 22-year-old dairy princess of 1983 expected to be as a spectator after failing to advance through last Wednesday's preliminary round of the Ontario Dairy Princess Competition at the CNE.

In fact, Rose was already in Kingston preparing to watch some of the finer performances of Kamikaze diving when her sister phoned to tell her that she had been advanced to the semi-finals on the basis of points.

Rose went on to become one of the competition's five finalists, the first woman from Dundas County to ever advance that far in the 29-year history of the event.

"My first reaction when I got the call from my sister was that I didn't want to go back," admitted Rose. "I was disappointed with the preliminaries because I thought I would have done better. It was a long way to go back if I was going to be disappointed again in the semi-finals."

She did go back, however, partly because of the responsibility she felt to the county she was representing and partly because of the enthusiasm of her relatives who, by Wednesday's finals, had swelled her cheering section to 35 people.

"I knew no one from Dundas



This purebred Holstein calf was one of many prizes captured by Suzanne Rose, one of five finalists in last Wednesday's Ontario Dairy Princess competition.

had made it to the finals and well," said Rose. "I wasn't nervous in the semi-finals because I knew I was going to be there."

finals because I had been out once and now I was back in again."

There was also one more element to the topsy-turvy week that added to Rose's cool under pressure. After giving up hope on being accepted in the limited-enrolment classes of teacher's college in London, Ont., she learned the morning of the semi-finals that she had been accepted.

"When the judges asked me if I really wanted to be the Ontario Dairy Princess, I had so much going through my mind," she said. "It wasn't that I didn't want to do it, there are just so many other forces pulling at me. I would love the glory and all, but there is so much work involved and teacher's college had been my goal for years."

"As it turned out, I think in my own mind I'm happier than the winner is."

Still, the excitement was there as Rose, one of 10 contestants in the semi-finals, was chosen as one of the five finalists after answering judges' questions and giving an impromptu two-minute speech on the dairy industry.

When she was picked her father, Edward Rose, cried. Her mother, Estella Rose, who had been at the same competition 27 years earlier as the county's first representative, was also there.

"They were celebrating and having champagne and I was trying to prepare for the finals," laughed Rose.

On Wednesday night, the CNE's Agricultural Day, Rose

and the other finalists were brought into the stadium in a horse drawn carriage under the hue of blue floodlights before an audience that included Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food Dennis Timbrell and Olympic gold medalist Gaetan Boucher.

"I didn't really realize where I was until I was in that carriage," she said, "and then I started to worry that maybe I might become the Ontario Dairy Princess. I had prepared as a dairy princess for a year, but I had been preparing for teacher's college for a lot longer."

"I think what made me the happiest was the way the judges made me feel better, saying I would make a good teacher. I think they knew what I really wanted to do."

Mary Atkinson of Northumberland County was chosen as the 1984 Ontario Princess and the ambassador for the province's dairy industry during her 12-month reign. During her reign she will be an employee of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board.

For her effort, Rose received prizes including jewellery, cash and a Holstein calf.

"I went to the competition knowing I had done a good job in the county," said Rose, "so what happened in Toronto was just a nice extra touch."

"It was a funny week. I was in the preliminaries and then I was out, and then I was in teacher's college and then I was in the finals. I've got a lot more pages to fill in my scrap book now."

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