

Jun. 9, 2004. 01:00 AM

Princess Anne charms young monarchists

Royal institution gets wide approval 'It's who we are, it's who we want to be'

ANDREW MILLS
STAFF REPORTER

GTA COLUMNISTS

- > [Jim Coyle](#)
- > [Rosie Dimanno](#)
- > [Joe Fiorito](#)
- > [Christopher Hume](#)
- > [Royson James](#)

They stood in polished shoes and pressed suits, 30 young monarchists waiting nervously for Princess Anne to swoop through during her day-long visit to Toronto yesterday.

"I just don't want her to look me in the eye and ask a question," said Andrea Bago, 24. Her legs visibly shook as she waited with others at the King Edward Hotel.

These 18- to 30-year-olds, members of the Monarchist League of Canada, are concerned about the future of the monarchy's connection to Canada. They belong to the young cohort that makes up 80 per cent of the league's new members.

"To properly function, we need to recognize how the constitutional structure is arranged and that the monarchy fits into it," said Cyril Bagin, 27.

And to the 41 per cent of Canadians who believe it is time to abolish the monarchy, according to a 2002 poll conducted by Ekos, they have a decisive message: "This country is under the monarchy. It's our tradition, it's who we are, it's who we want to be," said Tanya Granic, 24.

According to John Aimers, Dominion chairman of the Monarchist League, which helped arrange the Princess' itinerary, the league's young members "see the monarchy, not sentimentally as their parents might have seen it, but much more as a symbol of Canadian identity.

"And really as something that differentiates us from the United States."

Earlier yesterday morning, at the Port of Toronto, Princess Anne charmed a group of volunteers at the Mission to Seafarers, for which she is patron.

"I was very impressed and I thought that she was a delight to talk to," Betty Butler said. "Oh yes, and she has a wonderful figure."

The Princess wore a beige wraparound jacket and matching skirt and brown gloves. When she was standing in the sunlight, she sported a pair of wraparound Oakley sunglasses.

After a reception for the Save the Children's Fund, Princess Anne met with the young monarchists. She chatted about topics ranging from student politics to the Internet to the European Union.

Later yesterday afternoon, on behalf of Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, Princess Anne presented an award to Stephen Lewis for his work as the United Nations' special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Princess Anne last visited Canada late last summer.

> [Pay less than \\$3 per week for 7 day home delivery.](#)

[FAQs](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Webmaster](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [My Subscription](#)

[Home](#) | [GTA](#) | [Business](#) | [Waymoresports](#) | [A&E](#) | [Life](#)

Legal Notice: Copyright Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. All rights reserved. Distribution, transmission or republication of any material from www.thestar.com is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Toronto Star Newspapers Limited. For information please contact us using our [webmaster form](#). www.thestar.com online since 1996.