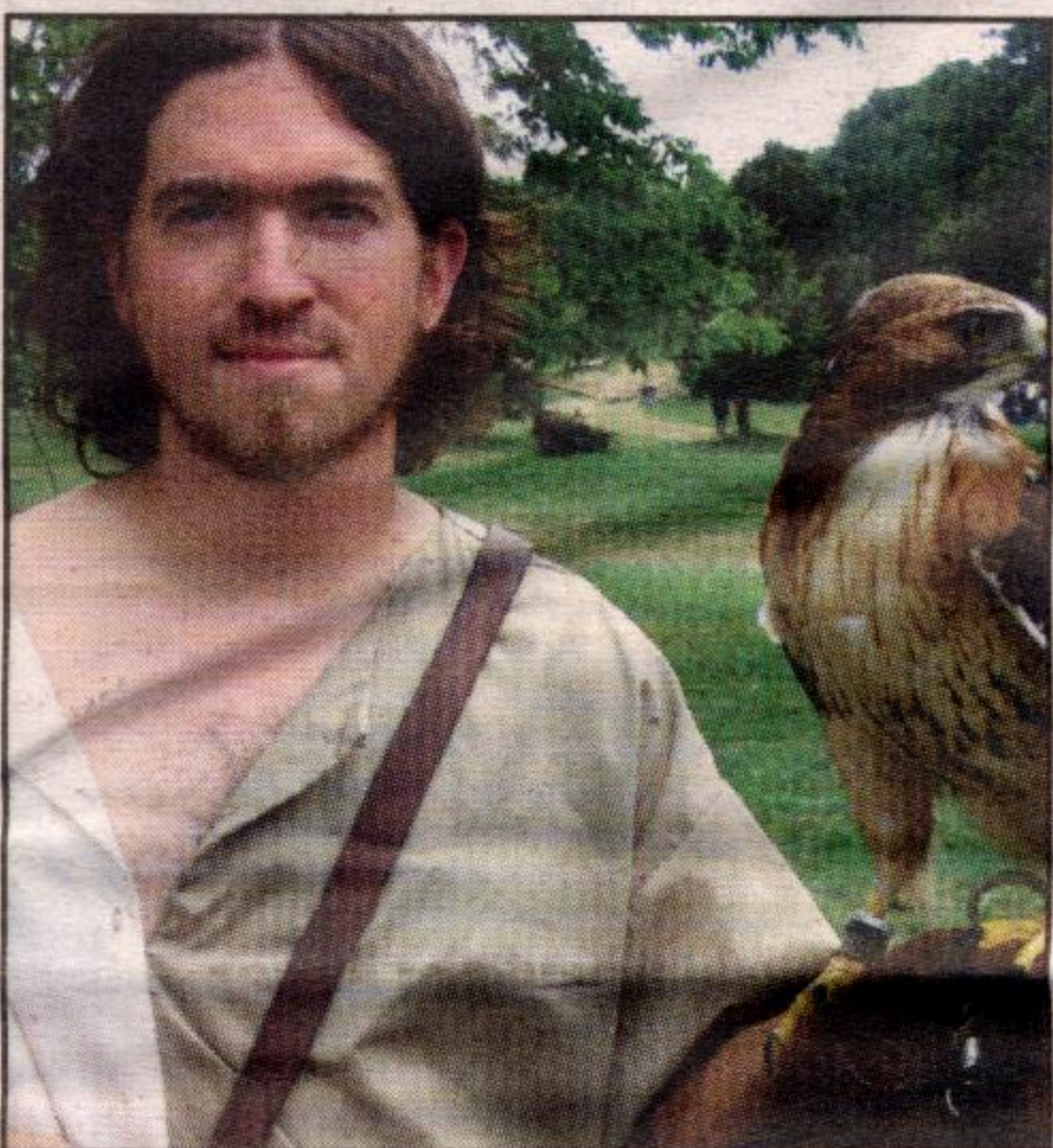


# A rebirth of an old tradition

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DONNA DANIELLI

If the closure last year of the popular Renaissance Festival in Milton left you wondering where to find a steady supply of old world crafts, stage shows, visiting royalty and bawdy humour, then look no further than the new Royal Abingdon Faire at the Royal Botanical Gardens.

This Renaissance Faire, which began last weekend, runs every weekend through to Labour Day. "Really, what's more fun than a Renaissance Faire?" asked Meg Irmisch, of the hilarious Celtic comedy troupe "The Tartan Terrors". She pointed out the many attractions available at the Faire, from the costumed actors, to the games of chance and the wide variety of shows available on four separate stages throughout the day. Fellow "Tartan Terror" and sister in law Ellen Irmisch echoed this sentiment, saying, "It's a lot of fun. There are a lot of things to see entertainment wise." For Brookville's Seth Ferguson, also a member of the popular entertainment group, being able to perform close to home was an added bonus. "It's always nice to do a Faire close to home and to see the local people and the local artists as well," he explained "It's also great because the Faire is such a big hit for the family. It's something for families to do and it allows



Eric Cleland takes a stroll around Abingdon Village with his friend Sadie, the Red Tailed Hawk on the opening weekend of the Ontario Renaissance Faire.

people to check out the Botanical Gardens as well."

Set in the 1524, the Royal Abingdon features a visit from Henry VIII and wife Catherine of Aragon to a small English village. Anne Boleyn lurks in the court and intrigue abounds. Innocent bystanders are often drawn into the drama as characters interact freely with visitors. (On a personal note: beware the courtier who is ducking the attentions of a marriage minded miss, he may convince you to play act as his wife to throw her off of his trail. Go along with it and you may have some explaining to do to your own husband!!)

Fans of magic, music, children's theatre, human chess matches, Shakespeare and more will thoroughly enjoy this experience that opened its doors for the first time this summer. For more information, you can check out the website at [www.ontariorenaissancefaire.ca](http://www.ontariorenaissancefaire.ca). And you can find out more about the Lowville based comedy troupe, "The Tartan Terrors" on their website at [www.tartanerrors.com](http://www.tartanerrors.com).



Visiting royalty Henry VIII (Andrew Rodwell) and Catherine of Aragon (Melanie Kastner) cause a stir as they visit the Royal Abingdon Faire, held at the Royal Botanical Gardens.

# Antique Tractor and Toy Show at Country Heritage Park

PHOTOS BY ANN KORNUTA

This past weekend, Country Heritage Park's sixth annual All Colour Antique Tractor and Toy Show delighted fans from across Southern Ontario. This year marked a special occasion with tractor pulls on the Friday night, extending the event to three days. Attractions included a toy show and sale, antique tractor pulls, a collectables auction, machinery demos, vintage car display and the tractor parade.



Roy Hamilton, 21 year old Guelph resident is "Pulling the Boat" to be this year's winner in the lawn tractor pull event.



Brad Thompson and his Awesome Toy kick up the dirt as the crowd cheers him on.



Going out for a tractor ride. Pictured here from left are Milton residents Kevin McLean, René Doucette, Evan Placido, and Jordan Petrie and his father Joel Petrie from Erin.



Stewart Mitchell from Bracebridge puts the final additions on his machine.

## halton happenings

Please note: Halton Happenings is a free editorial service to non-profit groups, churches, schools, and charities. Other events may be inserted at the discretion of the Editor. Deadline for submission is Tuesday at noon prior to insertion on Friday. Please restrict information supplied to include the date, time, venue, organization and contact details for your event. The Halton Compass reserves the right to edit each submission for brevity. Inclusion is at the discretion of the publisher and is dependent on space. To submit an event for Halton Happenings call 905-854-3333 or email [info@haltoncompass.com](mailto:info@haltoncompass.com)

•Come and join us to celebrate 25 years of service with Mayor Gord Krantz and family. Rattlesnake Point Golf Club, September 24, 6pm. Tickets \$125 each pp. This event is proudly hosted by the Milton Chamber of Commerce. Purchase tickets at the Chamber - 251 Main St. E Suite 104 or call 905 878 0581 for more information. The net proceeds of this event will be directed to the Chamber Legacy Fund in the name of Gordon Krantz to improve and maintain community landmarks.

**July 29**  
•Join us for Poetry Night in the Espresso Yourself Cafe, 220 Main Street, Milton at 7:00 pm on Open mic [www.federationofpoets.com/halton.htm](http://www.federationofpoets.com/halton.htm)

•Strawberry Social - Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton 4:30-6:30pm. Salad buffet & strawberry dessert. Adults \$10, 6 & under \$3. Takeouts avail. Tickets call 519-853-0318, 519-853-1195 or church office 519-853-2360.

**July 30 and 31**  
•Country Heritage Park presents Discover Heritage Crafts. Here you will see demonstrations of the many various crafts that were prevalent in rural life over 100 years ago. This includes dollhouses, quilts, hand crafted toys, and much more. Event takes place from 12 noon until 5pm. For more information call (905) 878-8151.

**August 3 - August 29**  
•Shades of Summer Art Show and Sale, in the Gallery of The Halton Hills Cultural Centre, 9 Church Street, Georgetown. For more information about Gallery hours, please call 905 877-7915, ext. 2517

**August 4**  
•Connie Melnik, Stephanie Schirm and Debbie Thompson Wilson have created an exhibition called 'Sacred Space'. August 4 - 26th. Opening Reception, 7-9 pm at Studio 404, 404 York Rd. Guelph. Call 519-824-7628 or email [cnmelnik@yahoo.com](mailto:cnmelnik@yahoo.com).

•Junior Conservationist Program: Life of a Dead Tree The Conservation Club meets Thursdays from 10 am until noon at Island Lake Conservation Area. These interactive nature programs are geared to ages 6-12 but all are welcome. Contact Lindsay at (905) 670-1615

**August 6**  
•Children's Program: Wetland Adventures. Designed for children ages 6-12, we encourage adults and families to attend as well. Place: Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville. Time: 10am-12pm. Contact Lindsay at (905) 670-1615

**August 6 and 7**  
•Country Heritage Park presents Heavy Horse Field Days. This features horse drawn wagon rides, plowing, making hay, and cutting grain. Also there will be stoking, threshing, farrier, and harness demos. Event takes place from 12 noon until 5pm. For more information call (905) 878-8151.

**August 7**  
•Acton Leathertown Festival, from 11am to 5pm, downtown Acton. Lots of entertainment and fun for all the family, including performances by Alysha Brooke, Jennalynn Flesch, L.T.D., Doug Barr and Princess Karma. Lots to do in the Kids' Zone. New this year: Acton Idol Final and Leathertown Ambassador. For more information visit [www.downtownacton.ca](http://www.downtownacton.ca) or call 519-853-9555.

**August 10**  
•The Acton/Georgetown La Leche League meeting - 7:30 pm at the Ontario Early Years Centre, 96 Guelph Street, Georgetown. Trained leaders offer support, info and encouragement to mothers who want to breastfeed their babies. Call Sarah at (519) 940-9532.

**August 8-12**  
•Vacation Bible School - 9 to Noon at St. Andrews United Church, 89 Mountainview Rd S. Children ages 4-10 join us on a Safari theme VBS week. Call the church office to Pre-register at 905-877-4482

## from the bookshelf

A REVIEW BY DIANE DINEEN

### At Risk

Stella Rimington, Alfred A. Knopf, 2005, 367 pages, hardcover

It's a timely topic, acts of terrorism done by someone who is native to a country, who knows it well and who blends into the population. The author has good reason to know how this might come about and how investigators might find the perpetrators; she is the retired head of MI5, Britain's Security Service.

Rimington worked in counter-subversion, counter-espionage and counter-terrorism prior to assuming the position of Director General.

In the story MI5 agents learn that an "invisible" may be entering England to perform an act of terrorism on an unknown target. MI5, MI6 and local police officers scramble to discover the intended target, the timing for the action, and the identity of the suspect, all before the attack

can take place.

Events are fast paced and the locale is very well described. The reader is given an insight into intelligence techniques as well as a sense that competition between intelligence agencies is not unusual. Methods used by the terrorists and possible motivations are also explored. The emphasis is on the investigation and there is significantly less violence than one might encounter in a "shoot-em-up, blow-em-up" novel produced in the United States.

Rimington acknowledges that this novel reflects some events in her career. As a result readers may find this novel an interesting and unusual way to learn more about terrorism, about possible reasons for some terrorist attacks and about those who are determined to prevent such attacks.