

Trisha Romance, Home Again

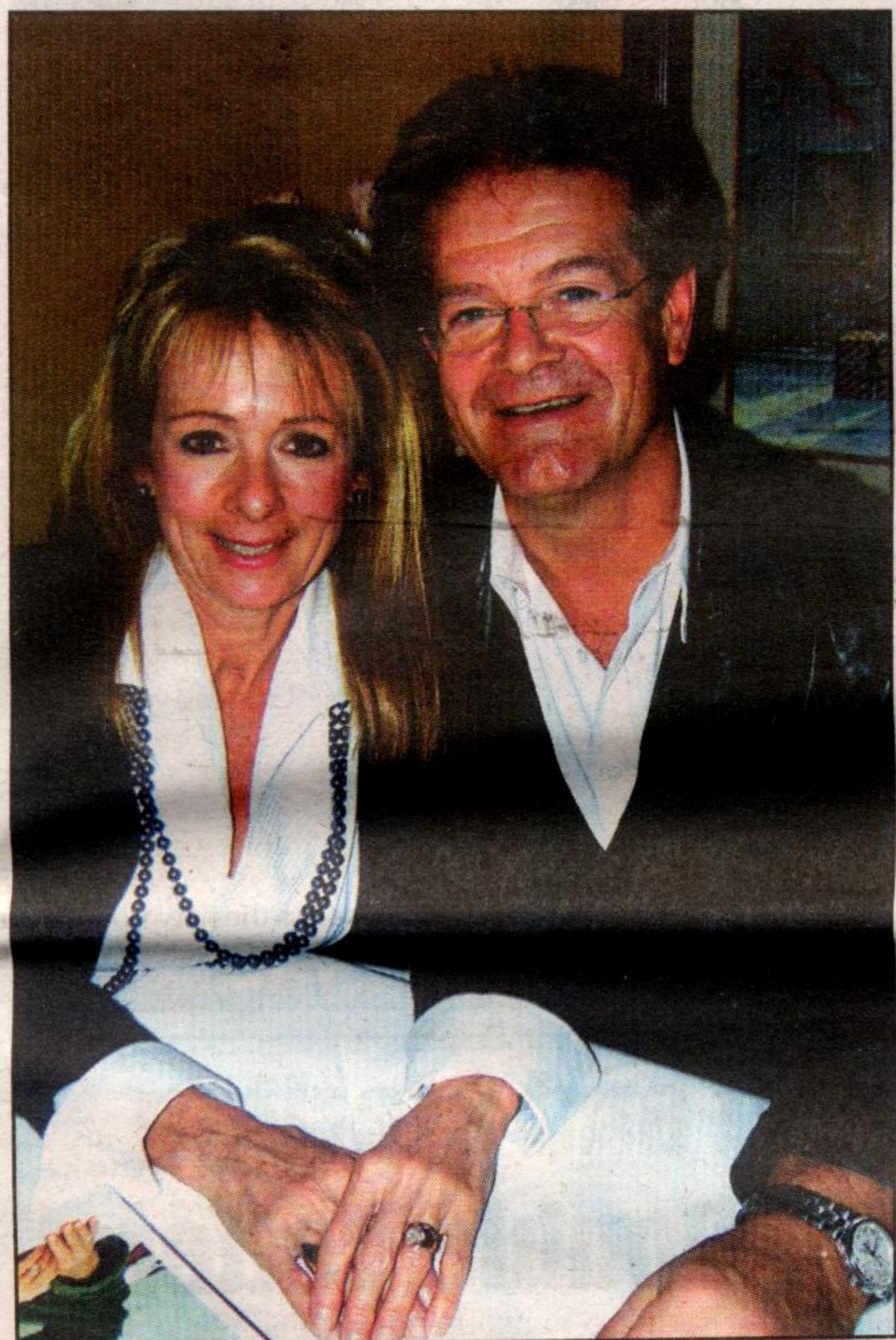
BY ANN KORNUA

Trisha Romance came home to Milton on Sunday when she made a personal appearance at the Harrop Gallery. This was a stop on her tour to promote her new work including a new print, *A Generous Heart*, which captures all the warmth and magic that Romance paintings are renowned for.

This was a chance for fans to meet one of Ontario's most famous artists. Trisha started her career at the Harrop Gallery and making a stop there was "like coming home".

Trisha is currently on her 2005 Fall tour promoting her newest paintings and talking about her children's book, a project Trisha has been dreaming of doing since her early beginnings as a painter. "I have created my first children's book. I wrote it in my heart 25 years ago, but I never had the chance to write it down," Trisha explained. "I completed 28 paintings for the book and I feel there is a message in this story that I want children everywhere to hear." When Trisha moved to Canada from Western New York in 1969, she attended Sheridan College in Oakville where she received a degree in design and illustration. Trisha started out in book illustration and today she feels as if she has come full circle with her work. "I am now returning to things that I feel and that I really want to say. Writing a children's book is something I really wanted to do and it was a huge project for me this year," Trisha said.

"Every time I come back to the Harrop Gallery, it's just amazing because this is where it all started," Trisha said. "When I was living in the farmhouse in Hornby, my husband stopped by this wonderful restaurant and saw bare walls. He asked Hedi if she would like some artwork and in a week, all of them were gone. I have a warm relationship with everyone who works here and it feels like home to me because it is home."



Trisha Romance and her Husband Garry Peterson at the Harrop Gallery last Sunday, November 13th.

Trisha says one of the best parts of going on tour is meeting old friends and new faces. "Today I met some amazing new people I have never met before which was interesting for me," Trisha commented. "It tells me that there are a bunch of new collectors out there which is so wonderful for me as an artist to discover. It is truly amazing that people are looking forward to new pieces. That I can create things from my heart and that so many people appreciate them."

Today, Trisha lives in Niagara on the Lake with her husband and family, but she never forgets the warmth and wonder of the community where her early beginnings took place. "When I first moved to Halton, I was a young mother and we had so many great memories of this area, never to be forgotten," Trisha reflected. "I

would have to say I credit God and I have to thank him for what I create. I also have to credit my husband for believing in what I can do. Every artist needs a promoter, and he has been there for me since day one. Of course, there are people like Hedi, people in this area who opened their hearts. She was the first to take a chance on me. That was so great, and I am forever grateful for her."

Trisha spoke warmly of her fans for all the joy and support over the years. "I am so indebted to them for all the joy they bring me from their cards, letters, prayers for my health issues and supporting me in so many ways and everything I have gone through. I feel their support and I feel like they are there and I am so grateful for them," Trisha said.



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9:00 - Question/answer period,

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