

The Independent & Free Press

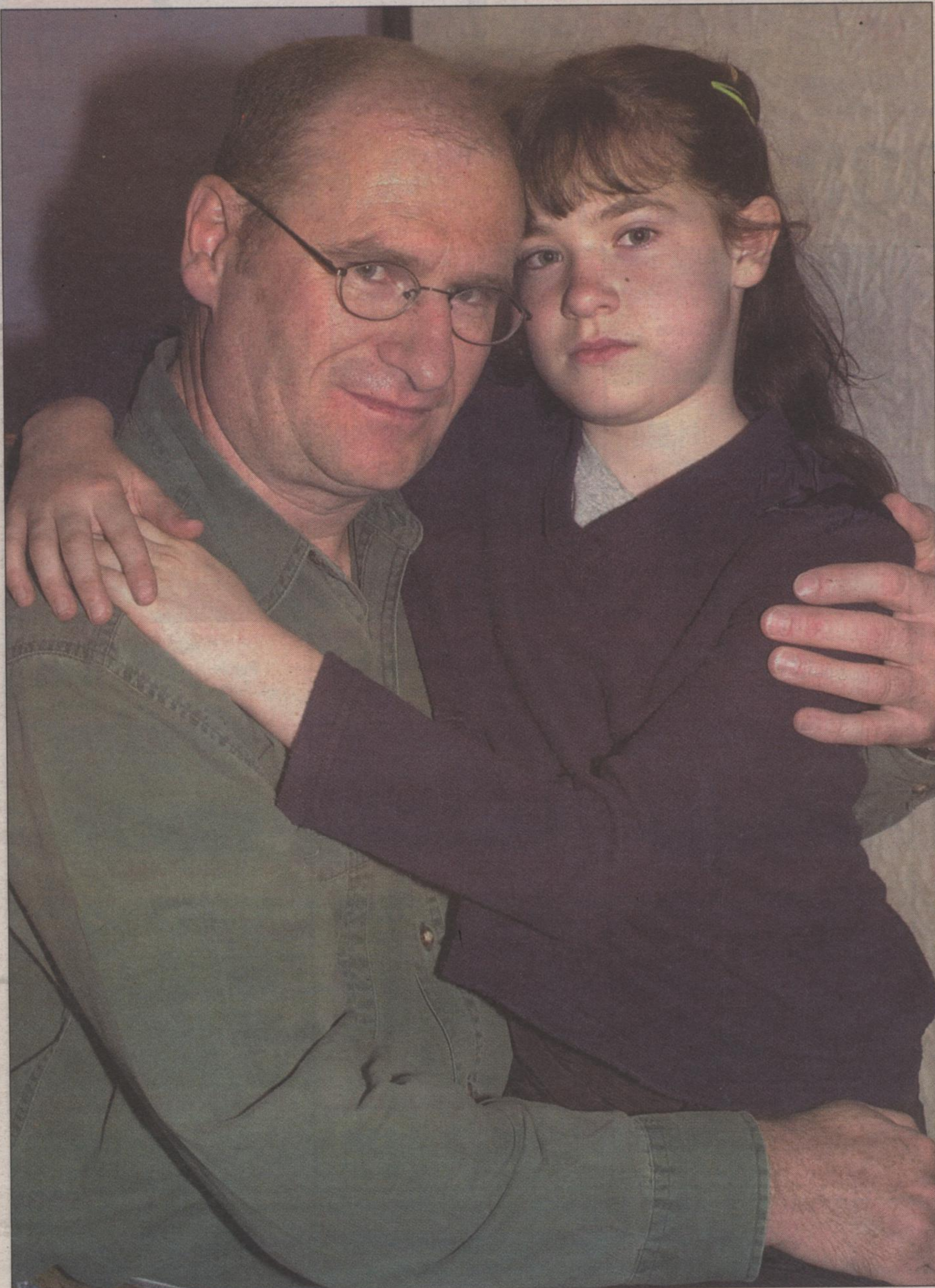
Wednesday, May 23, 2001 40 Pages Vol. 124 No. 7

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Bruce Davitt, of Acton, embraces his 11-year-old daughter Betsy Monday after he brought the youngster home from Michigan. Davitt and his ex-wife Bonnie Murray, have been locked in a nearly year-long battle for custody of Betsy after Murray got a Michigan court last year to grant her temporary custody despite a 1997 Ontario court order that gave Davitt custody. Using the Hague Convention treaty on international child abduction, Davitt was able to regain custody.

Photo by Ted Brown

But custody battle isn't over Acton dad returns from U.S. with youngest daughter

Bruce Davitt couldn't be happier now that his youngest daughter Betsy is finally home.

Davitt, of Acton, drove to Michigan Sunday, along with his other daughter Katie, 19, to pick up the 11-year-old girl from her mother. Betsy didn't return to Acton as expected from her summer vacation with her mother last August.

The Acton man has been fighting for months to bring Betsy home after his ex-wife Bonnie Murray, without his knowledge, went to a Michigan court and was granted temporary custody of Betsy despite a 1997 Ontario court order that gave him custody.

With the help of a Detroit lawyer, Davitt fought the issue in a U.S. court citing articles of the Hague Convention treaty on international child abduction to bring Betsy home. The judge's ruling went in his favour earlier this year but Murray filed an appeal.

Davitt got word last week that a U.S. district court judge upheld the ruling and ordered Betsy returned to him.

Davitt, 50, said he retrieved Betsy from her mother without incident and they headed back home.

However, his legal battle with his ex-wife is not over.

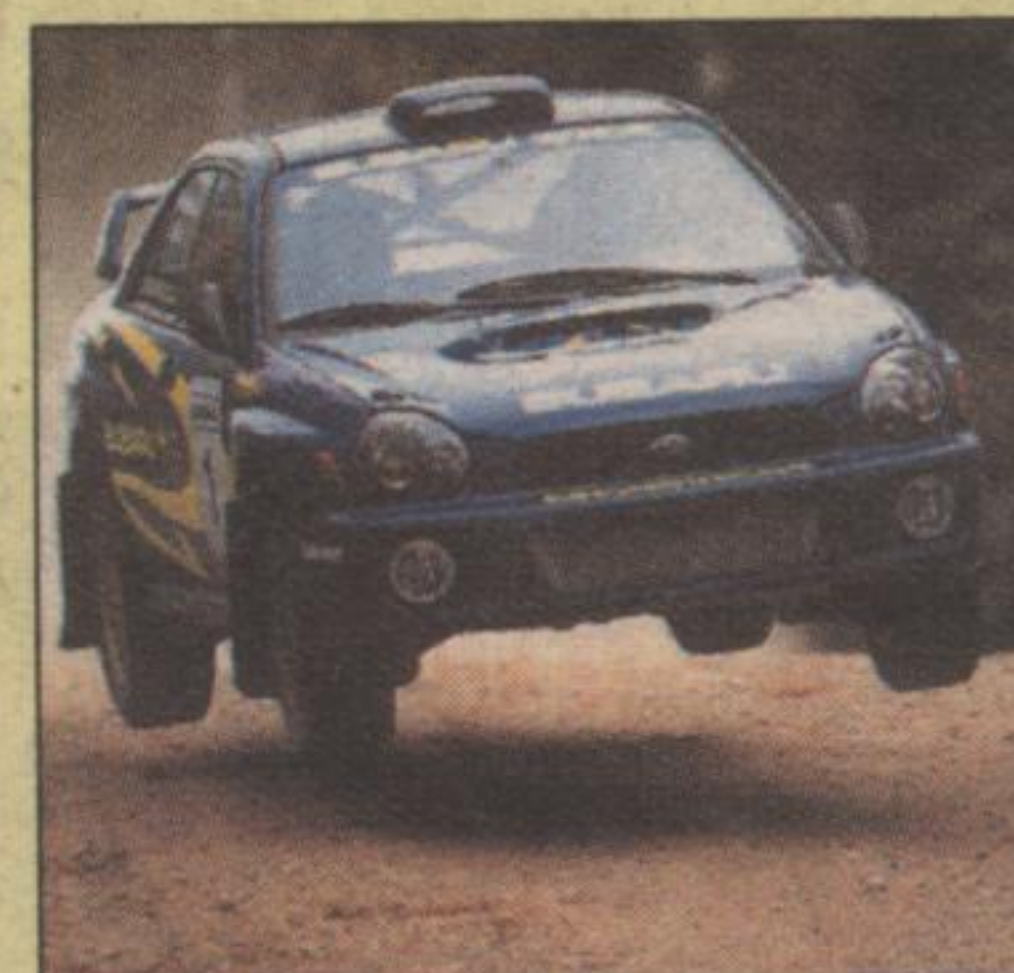
He said Murray plans to go through an Ontario court to get custody of her daughter and the first court appearance on the matter is set for today (Wednesday) in Milton.

Betsy, who Davitt said was doing "okay" and had been catching up with friends, was to go back to Robert Little School yesterday (Tuesday). He plans to set up counseling sessions for the two of them in the near future.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer

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