



Guide to the Outdoors

Julie Pomeroy

RIVERFEST Celebration this Saturday, May 24 in Norval. It's a perfect event for families. Enjoy the natural beauty on the banks of the Credit River, pancake breakfast, barbecue, some great live music, activities and displays including the Paddle to the Sea Miniature Boat Race. **Huge Eureka TENT SALE** this weekend at Canoe Country. Eureka Sales Representative, Mellissa Trudel with be here on Sunday from 1:30 to 3:00 to answer any questions you may have. Eureka Tents are good quality, dependable in all kinds of weather and the warranty is excellent. Repairs are done at their distribution centre in Burlington. No wondering how you're going to get that zipper or tear repaired. The service is excellent. Coupon for one **FREE** night in a provincial park with each tent purchase on Sunday.



Winston Churchill Blvd. 1 blk. N. of #7 in Norval
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Sketches celebrates third printing

In 1974, Halton Hills resident John McDonald was approached by then-Georgetown Independent editor Hartley Coles to write a weekly local historical column to appear in both *The Independent* and the *Acton Free Press*.

Coles had heard McDonald had a 'collection' of old bits and pieces of history in his home located in the old settlement called Dolly Varden, near Limehouse.

"I think Hartley was a bit surprised when he dropped by," grins McDonald. "At that time, my 'collection' filled a five-drawer filing cabinet."

McDonald accepted Coles' invitation to contribute to the newspaper and called his weekly column Halton Sketches—the beginning of a two-year writing stint with the two local newspapers.

"By 1976, the Dills family (owners of the two newspapers) asked me if I'd be interested in assembling a collection of the articles in a book form," said McDonald recently. "I never dreamed of printing a book, but decided to give it a try, since there was lots of interest."

The original press run of Halton Sketches was 2,000, the book sold for \$4.95, and was an overnight success.

"I never thought it would go any further," said McDonald, "But Norman Holt (of Oxbow Books on Main St. Georgetown) kept asking me when there would be another printing. I kept putting

Norm off by saying I'd do it at the 20th anniversary of the release of the original book."

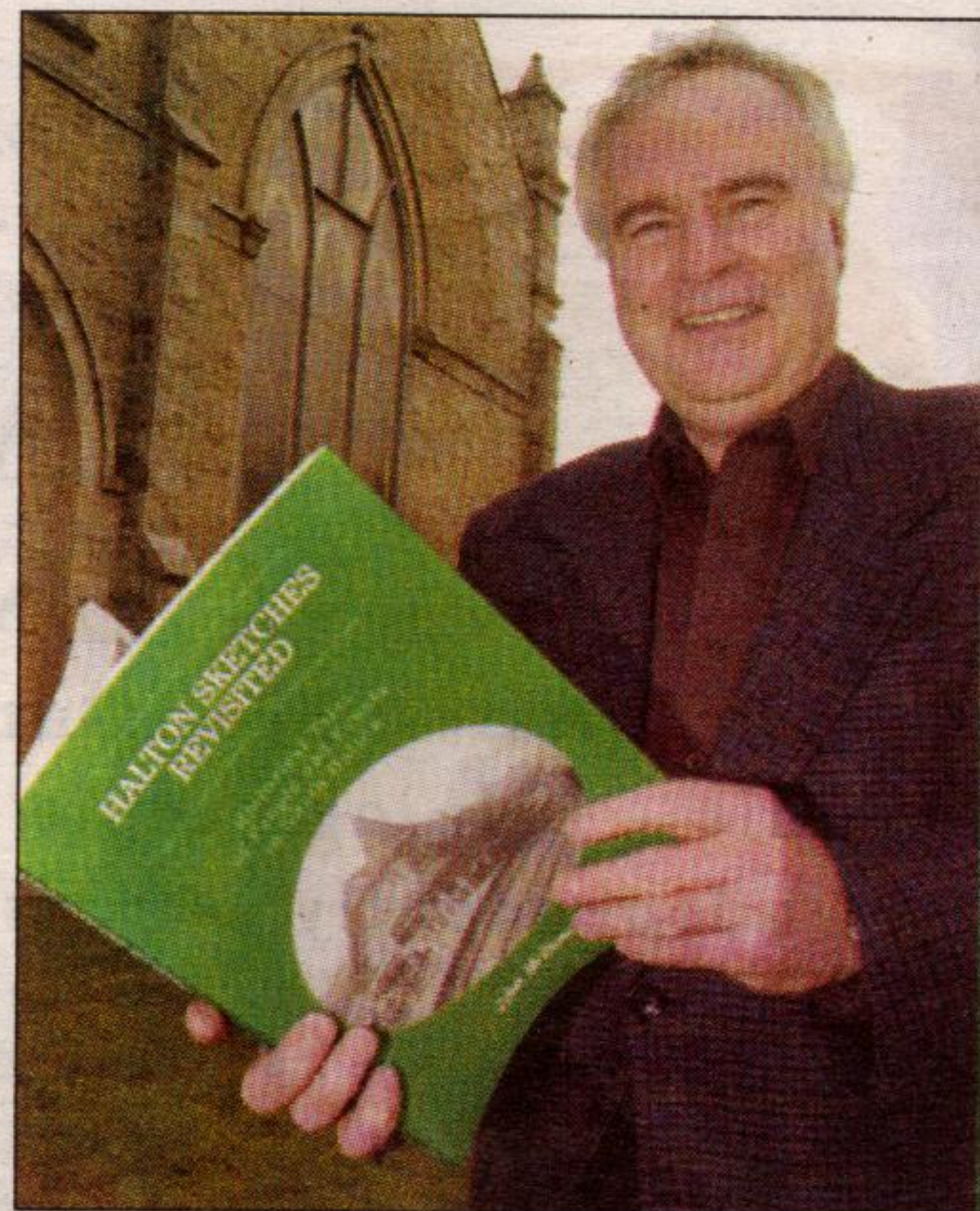
Good to his word, McDonald started reassembling and updating the original in 1994, and after talking to Moulin Publishing, the book was released in September of 1996, under the name of Halton Sketches Revisited.

In keeping the history of it alive, it was launched at the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre, 20 years after the original was launched, in the same location, when it was Georgetown Library, (formerly the historic Congregational Church.)

Since that time, the book has been reprinted a second time in 1998 due to popular demand, and has once again come off the press with a third printing—an unprecedented accomplishment for a book of its type.

"Boston Mills Press is now publishing Halton Sketches Revisited," says McDonald, "Since the Dills family retired from publishing, and Moulin Publishing (later taken over by Stoddard Publishing) is no more," says McDonald, "It seems Halton Sketches has outlived three publishing companies."

The book now sells for \$24.95, and is available at local bookstores. McDonald will be on hand at Coles Books in the Georgetown Market Place, tomorrow

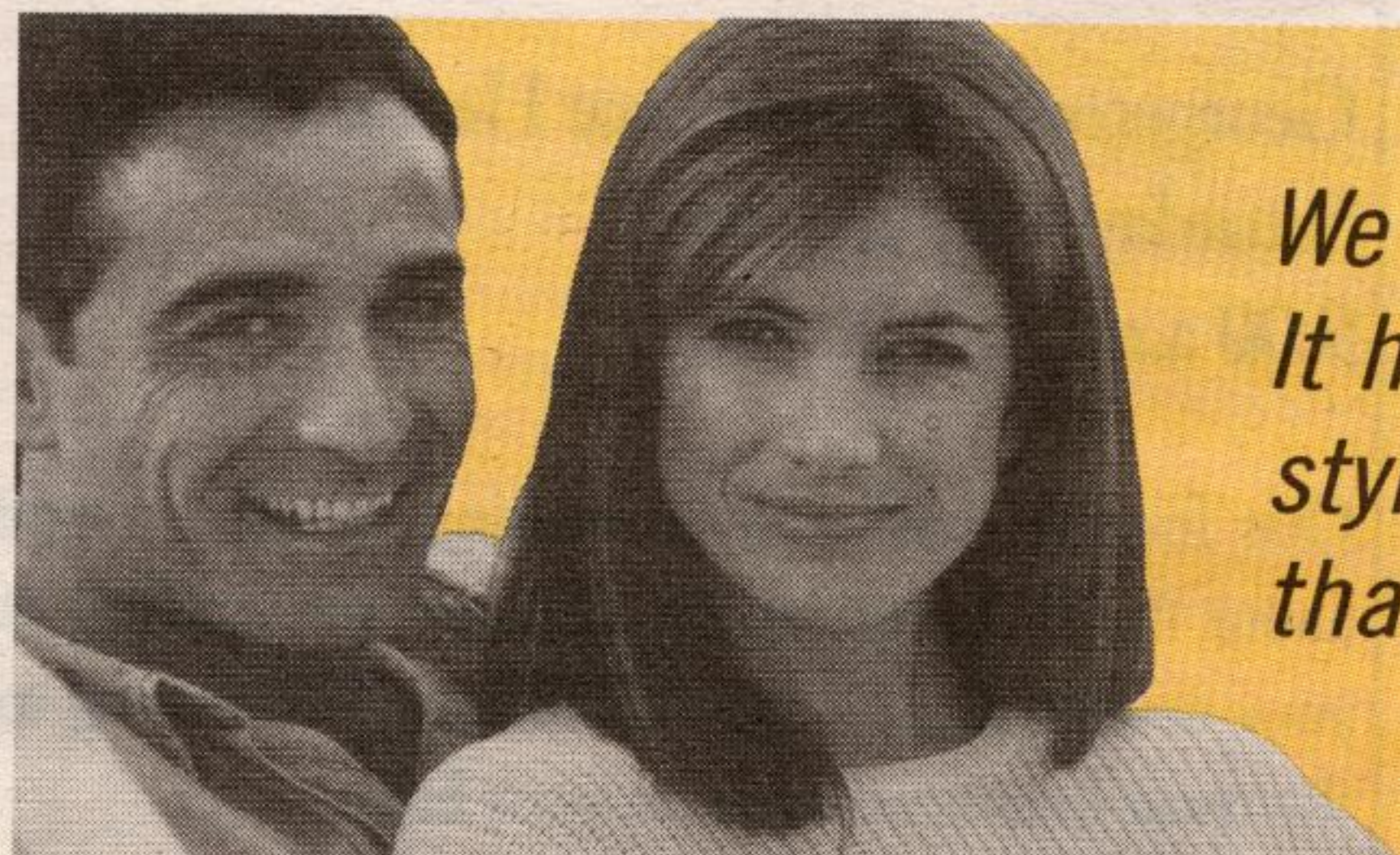


Local historian John McDonald displays the third printing of his book, *Halton Sketches Revisited*, in front of the historic Congregational Church which is now the Gallery of Halton Hills Cultural Centre. Photo by Ted Brown

(Saturday) at 11 a.m. to meet with people who are interested in the collection of local history, as well as sign copies.

"I just can't believe it's lasted this long," says McDonald, "I was a just a kid living in Dolly Varden in those days, who enjoyed recording the stories told at the kitchen tables of old local residents—and it's still of interest."

—By Ted Brown, staff writer



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