

Homeowner defends newly-built garage

While some area residents have labeled the newly constructed garage on Joycelyn Cr. a "monstrosity" that has lowered property values, the garage owner doesn't see it that way.

Peter Payne doesn't believe the gambrel-roofed garage he built at 75 Joycelyn Cr. will bring down property values or is out of scale for the neighbourhood even though one neighbour called it "way oversized" and another one said it was "totally disproportionate to the rest of the street."

"I deliberately picked that building to make it as low as possible," said Payne on Monday. He plans to park his vehicles in the garage, and the upstairs loft will house his model railway.

He said he could have actually put up a full two-storey structure but felt the gambrel-style roof "softened the whole thing."

Payne said he was unavailable to provide comments for a story that appeared in *The Independent & Free Press* last Wednesday because he was out of town. Repeated calls and messages left last week by this newspaper were not returned and a woman who answered the phone declined comment.

Commenting on a remark made by one rear neighbour who said he "now has a huge window looking into the rear of my yard," Payne said the window is actually 4.5 sq. ft. of glass.

He said the rear window is located in the stairwell of the garage, and, "it's practically impossible for me to see out the back window."

Payne said the structure sat for a week and a-half at its full height before any neighbours complained.

He also said the adjacent neighbours were informed by the previous owner of their home that Payne was building a two-storey garage.

Payne said since the story on the garage appeared in the newspaper last week there has been increased traffic on the street from people taking a look at the garage, and he is concerned for the safety of the children who live in the area.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Peter Payne, says his barn-like garage on Joycelyn Cres. is not a "monstrosity" as some neighbours claim.

Missing girl found

Continued from pg. 1

"It was luck of the draw, no big deal," said Carman, business development manager for a division of Magna International. "It could have been anybody who found her."

They settled Kate into the seat of a neighbour's van and waited for police and ambulance to arrive.

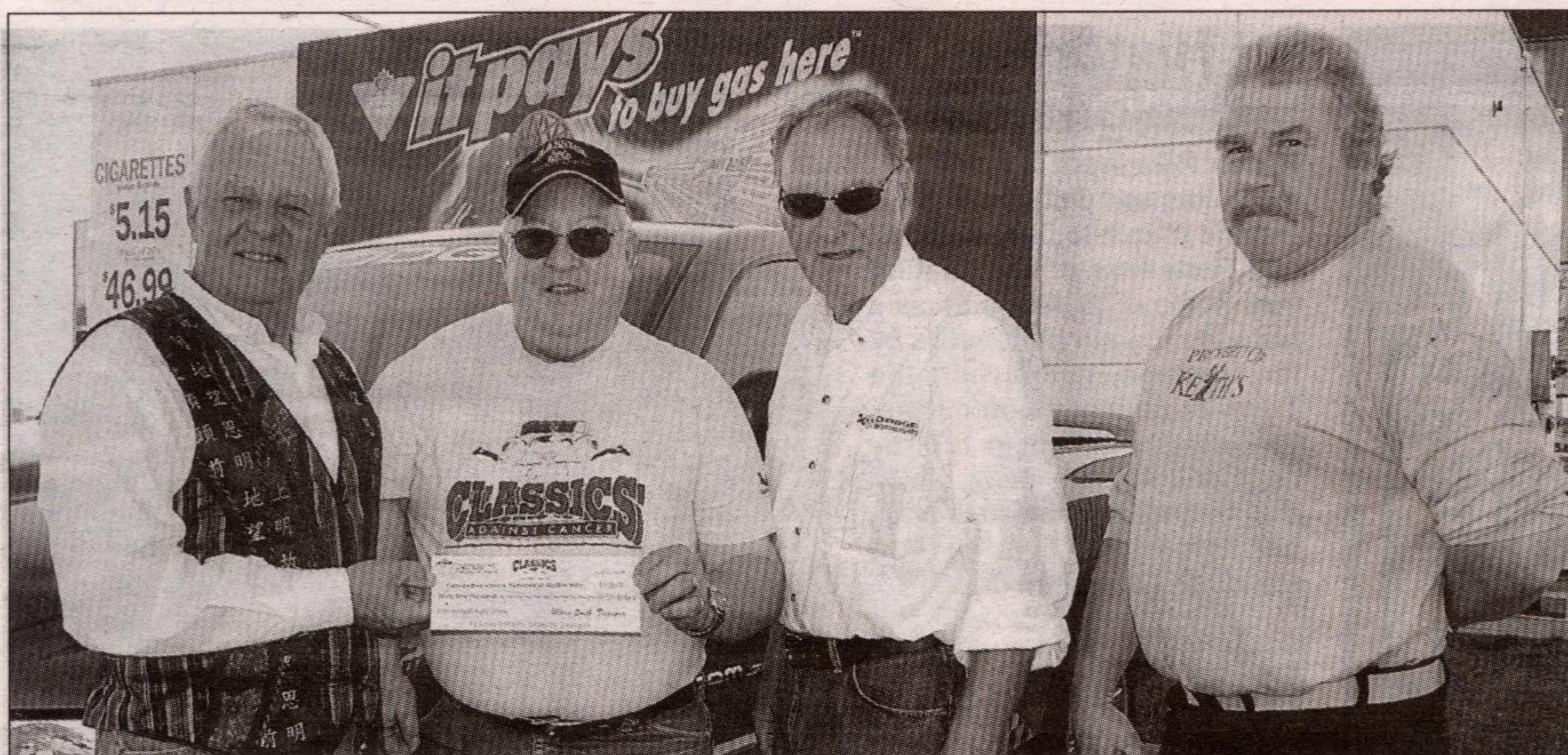
The little girl was reunited with her ecstatic parents before being taken to Milton District Hospital for a checkup. She was released later that morning.

Sgt. Jeff Corey of Halton Regional Police called the search effort a "tremendous response."

Kate's father Bruce Flanagan was also impressed and grateful for the way the community and emergency services came together to find his daughter.

"Kate was truly an innocent lamb found in the wilderness," said Flanagan in a statement.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer with files from Torstar News Service



Classics show nets \$31,000 for CAS-HH

Once again the Classics Against Cancer organizers gathered to present Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CAS-HH) with a cheque for \$31,000 following the 17th annual Fathers' Day car show at Cedarvale Park. On hand for the presentation were from left) Art Howell of CAS-HH, former Classics chair Moe Lamothe and incoming co-chairs Dan Wagstaffe and Al Goldfinch. Photo by Ted Brown

Author chronicles life with an Alzheimer's patient

A trip to Florida in 1995 was just the beginning of a much longer journey for Marian Ritchie of Georgetown and her late husband Edwin.

"Where am I? What's happening, Why am I so cold?" were the frantic questions Ritchie faced from her husband in the middle of the night in a Cincinnati hotel room on that trip.

That was the start of the couple's five-year turbulent journey through Alzheimer's, a disease that seemed to come on for her husband "literally overnight."

Ritchie describes in poignant detail their lives together in the midst of the disease in her book, *The Long Way Home - A Journey Through Alzheimer's*.

The book, published by Epic Press, has been endorsed by the Alzheimer Society of Toronto and earlier this year Ritchie was a speaker at the 17th Annual Alzheimer Symposium in Toronto.

Ritchie, who has always enjoyed writing, said the book evolved out of notes she took while her husband was ill to keep track of his progress and regression.

She decided to write the book after finding only medical and clinical books on Alzheimer's while searching for information.

"I felt that I was the only person in the whole world going through this," said Ritchie, who hopes her book will help others who are experiencing what she did feel less alone.

"I didn't want others to go through it the way I did," she said.

Often focusing on the humorous, rather than the medical or clinical aspects of the disease Ritchie set out to create a book that would appeal to the average reader.

"I determined to hold nothing back in my attempt to help others face that same journey," she said.

Ritchie documents the different stages of the disease and how it affected her husband.

She said as a result of the Alzheimer's their house became strange and unfamiliar to Edwin.

"Eventually he came to be living in a different location almost daily," she wrote in the book.

For her husband their home at times became a rented house, a luxury hotel, boarding school, hospital, dentist's office and nursing home.

"My role constantly changed as well, covering the gamut from gardener, to cook, nurse, doctor, driver, caretaker, the boy, school mistress and even Sally Ann," she wrote.

Ritchie wrote about the frustration she felt with her husband at times, for example when he would ask the same question over and over.

"At times like that I would remind myself constantly, that he wasn't responsible."

Ritchie said one of the last things to go with Alzheimer's patients is their social skills, which they learned in childhood.

"I'm very happy for you" was one of her husband's most frequently used expressions when he had Alzheimer's.

"It worked very well for him and people would think he was sincere until the day someone told him their mother had just died.

You can imagine their shock when my husband replied, 'I'm very happy for you.'"

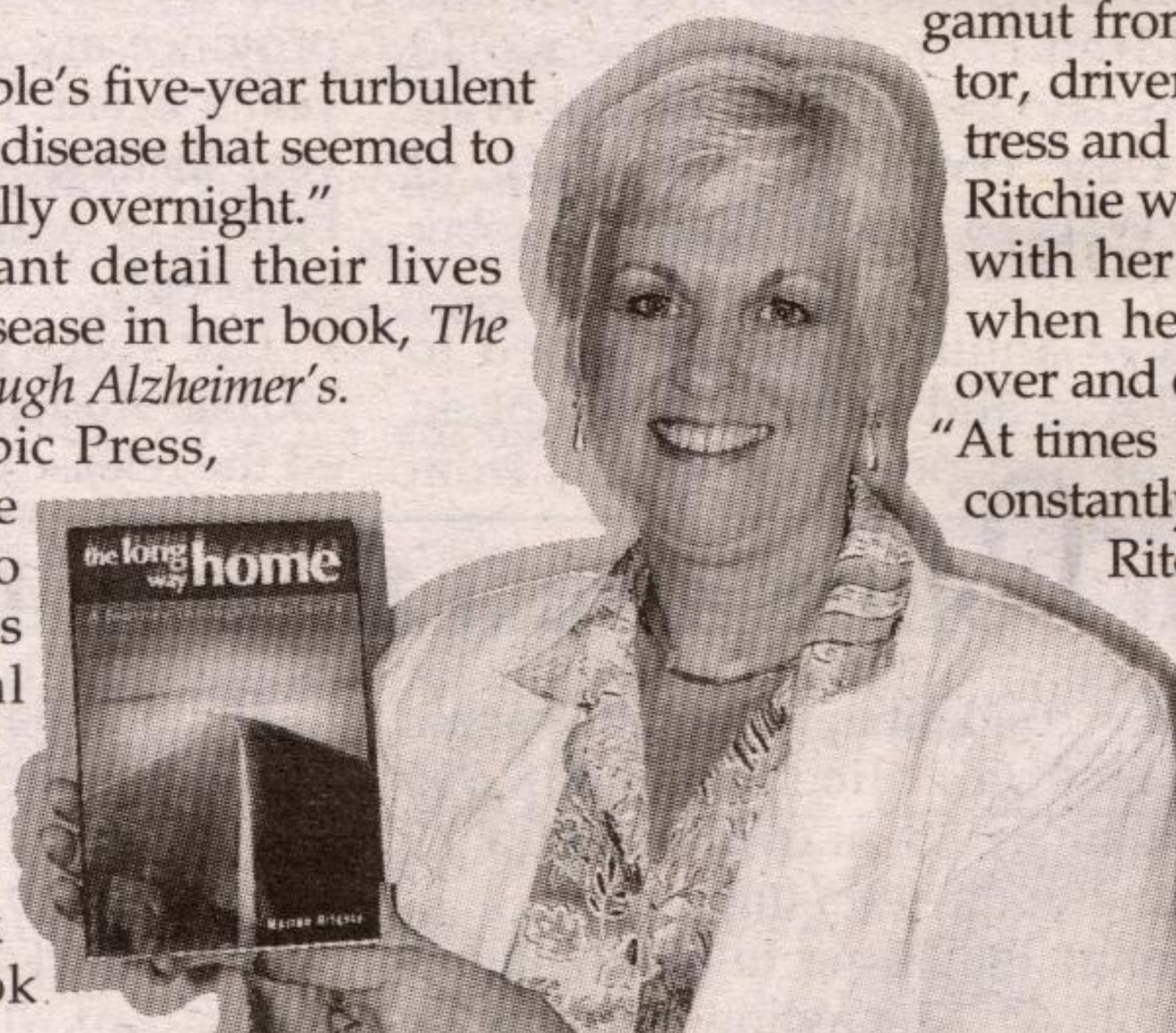
She said she didn't know whether to laugh or cry, which was often the case throughout her husband's five-year struggle with the disease.

She writes about how difficult it was to finally put her husband in a nursing home after years of caring for him at home, even when he no longer knew her.

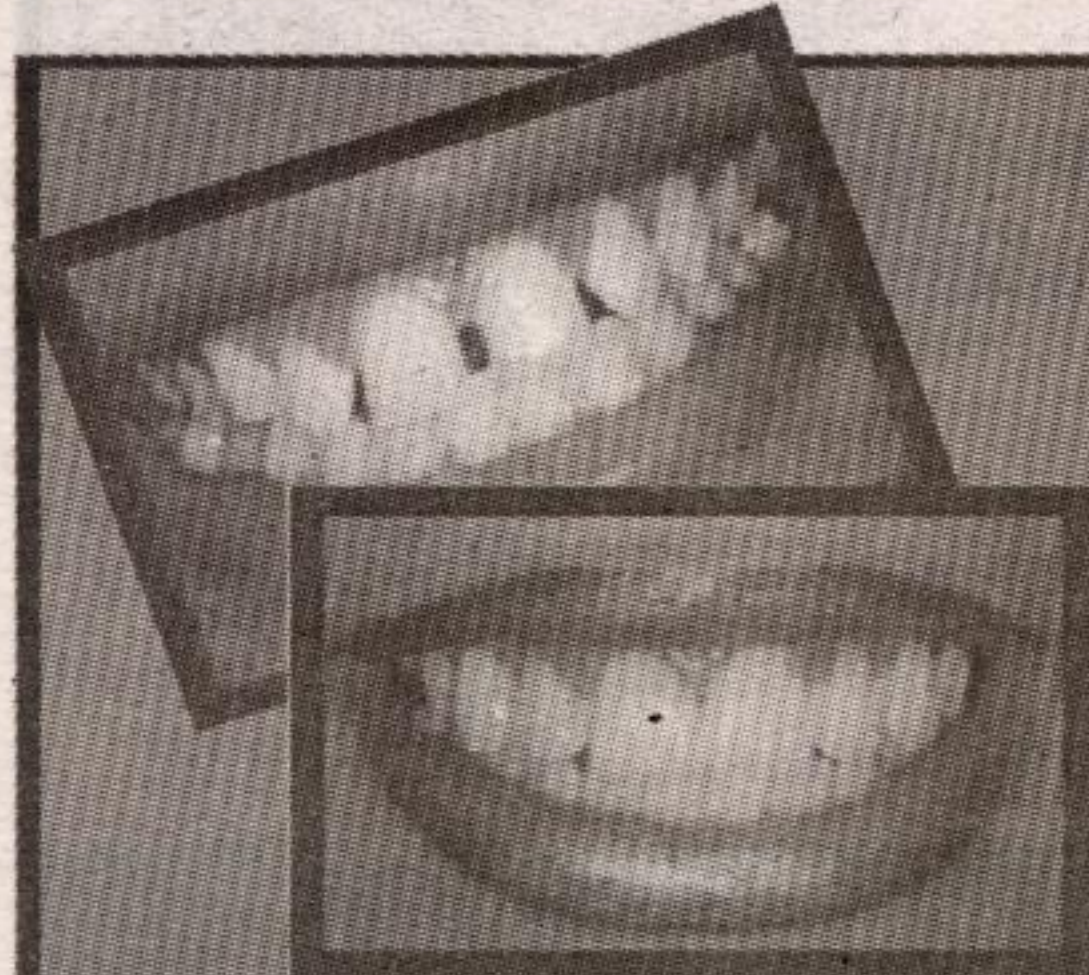
In her book Ritchie stresses how important it is for caregivers to be informed and join a support group.

The book which sells for \$19.95 is available locally at The Book Affair and Georgetown Hospital gift shop, through Ritchie at 905-702-9364, marianritchie@sympatico.ca, as well as Barnes and Noble, and www.essence-bookstore.com.

—By Lisa Tallyn, staff writer



Author Marian Ritchie shows off her book, *The Long Way Home—A Journey Through Alzheimer's*. Photo by Ted Brown



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