

# Show featuring local Parkinson's victim to air

By IRENE GENTLE  
The Champion

Lynda McKenzie was hoping for a miracle when she underwent a controversial surgery to minimize the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease last December. She didn't find one.

Instead, she has been showered with a series of small blessings. "Everyone thought that this was going to be miraculous," she said of the U.S. operation that transplanted brain cells from aborted fetuses into that of 40 Parkinson's sufferers. "It hasn't been the giant one that would cure Parkinson's."

But a CBC-TV The Nature of Things documentary called Parkinson's: Lynda's Story is one of the blessings that came out of the surgery.

It is set to air Monday, Oct. 25 at 9 p.m.

An advanced fundraising screening is being held tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in CBC's Glenn Gould Studio, 250 Front St. W., in Toronto.

Tickets cost \$75. The Nature of Things host David Suzuki and Ms McKenzie will both be in attendance.

The documentary attempts to show the true face of the incurable disease that struck Ms McKenzie in her mid-thirties.

Parkinson's is a degenerative neurological disorder which kills brain cells that produce dopamine, a chemical that aids movement. Symptoms range from excessively-rapid movements to almost complete immobility.

To ease the symptoms, Ms McKenzie has been forced to down 25 pills a day. Even so, she could rely on about a half hour of good time a day before the operation. That has been extended only slightly so far.

When taken off medication, Ms McKenzie can expect a complete shut down of motor activity.

The documentary, said Ms McKenzie, is to help people get the straight goods on Parkinson's.

"The general public should know what it is like," she said. "I don't think they have any comprehension."

The Nature of Things crew shot 45 hours of tape in order to make the show.

That has been clawed back to about 45 minutes in the final cut. And some of the messier details have been left out.

**"I know that it doesn't show Parkinson's as bad as I have experienced it. But it does show it enough to really shock people."**

LYNDA MCKENZIE



Despite that, the ordinary viewer will likely see the documentary as a no-holds barred look at Parkinson's.

Only its sufferers know that the reality is even more brutal.

"I know that it doesn't show Parkinson's as bad as I have experienced it," said Ms McKenzie. "But it does show it enough to really shock people."

And it shows it at just the right time, she added.

That's because the disease has achieved a higher profile since Canadian actor Michael J. Fox, 37, revealed he has been struggling with it for years.

And that is a mixed blessing, figured Ms McKenzie.

"It's a real shame that in order to get a disease noticed someone famous has to talk about it," she said.

But the new interest could not have come at a better time for the documentary.

Especially since it was meant to air in March.

A CBC technician's strike pushed that back to October.

"I'm so excited," said Ms McKenzie. "Things just have a way of working out."

She will attend the advanced screening, willingly allowing a roomful of people entry into her personal battle with the disease.

"It's odd. You are letting them into your most private moment," she said. "But it had come to the time that someone had to do it."

It has been less than a year since Ms McKenzie had her surgery and the best results are supposed to come after the 12 month mark.

But there have been subtle improvements. In other words, no miracles. At least not yet. At least not for her.

But there are those small blessings.

"It has made a lot of things easier for me," said Ms McKenzie. "It is just a step on the way."

For tickets to the advance benefit screening, call the Glenn Gould Studio box office at (416) 205-5555 or the Parkinson's Foundation at (416) 227-9700, or toll free at 1-800-565-3000.



thermoshell

## Duct Cleaning

Special

**\$199.95\***

(regular \$259.95)

Get your Heating Ducts Cleaned By the Professionals at Thermoshell

**\*Call for details!  
\* Oil Furnaces Only**



(905) 878-6380 • 1-800-465-6071

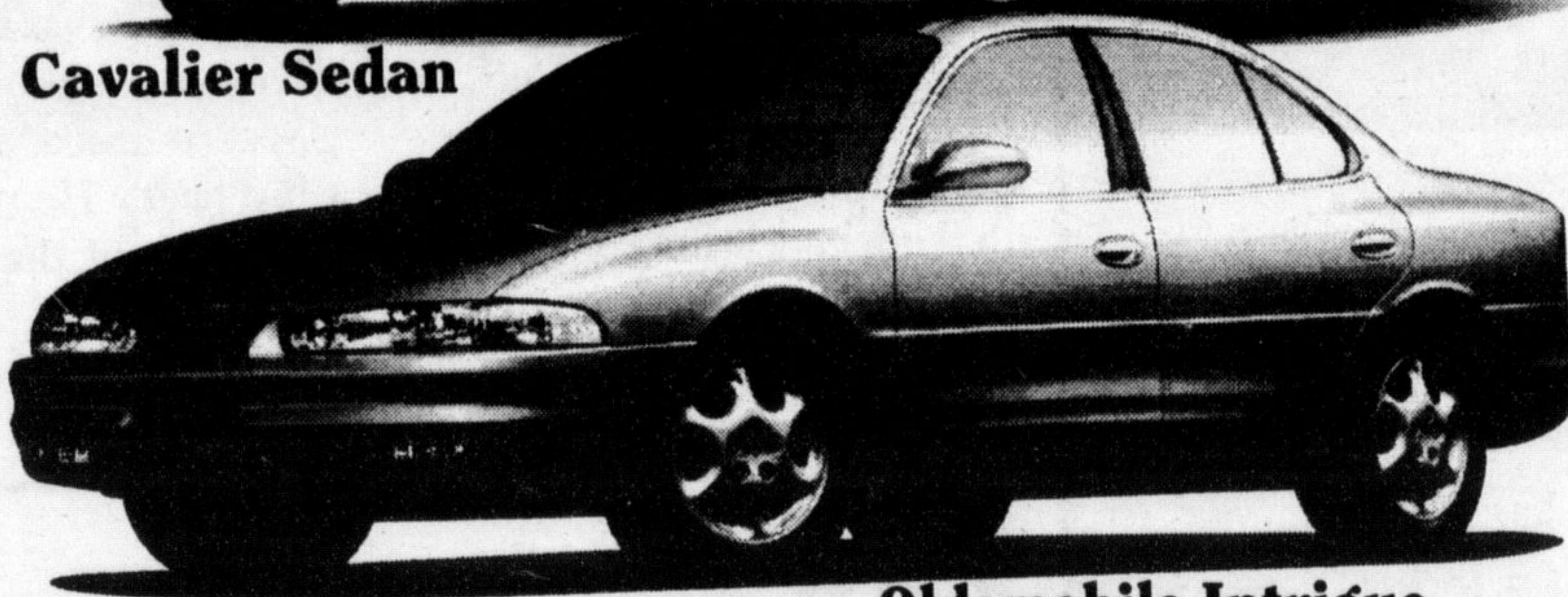
**1999  
MODEL  
YEAR  
END  
SALE**

## RICHARDSON CHEVROLET-OLDSMOBILE

Cavalier Z24  
Coupe



Cavalier Sedan



Oldsmobile Intrigue

**Purchase Finance  
Up to 60 Months O.A.C.**

**1.9%**

**Purchase Finance  
Up to 48 Months O.A.C.**

**1.9%**



\* O.A.C. See sales rep for details  
**Value Pricing**  
The affordable way to buy a car or truck.

SALES HOURS	SERVICE HOURS
Mon.-Thurs. .... 8am-9pm	Mon.-Fri ..... 8am-5pm
Friday ..... 8am-6pm	Tues ..... 8am-8pm
Saturday ..... 9am-5pm	Saturday ..... 9am-2pm

**RICHARDSON  
CHEVROLET-OLDSMOBILE** **878-2393**  
HWY. 25 S. AT DERRY RD., MILTON

