

Milton Means Business

Shutterbug captures images of people and pets

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**
The Champion

Photographer Grant Rushton had no idea a photo he took of his brother-in-law would all-too-soon become an image permanently ingrained in many minds.

"I was doing a (family wedding), and my brother-in-law was setting up the location studio," Mr. Rushton recalled. "I asked him to sit in and I took a couple of shots. They were casual — he was relaxed, and he looked like his everyday self."

The negatives for these 'practice' shots were filed away with those of the wedding pictures and forgotten.

A few years later, Mr. Rushton's brother-in-law was diagnosed with terminal cancer. He died at the age of 40.

It was then that Mr. Rushton remembered the photos he had taken and knew he needed to find them. He did, and one of the photos was used as a portrait at the funeral and for the newspaper obituary.

"There were lots of positive comments," he said of the portrait.

Incidents like this constantly remind Mr. Rushton of the importance of his job, as he takes photos

that are often around long after loved ones.

Mr. Rushton is no newcomer to the photography business. In 1991, he started Grant Rushton Photography. But when he moved to town eight months ago, the business changed names and became Front Porch Photography, which is run out of his home.

"Everyone in my neighbourhood has a front porch," Mr. Rushton said, explaining the name change. "It signifies a simpler time."

Mr. Rushton specializes in portraits — of people and pets — and takes pictures in his at-home studio as well as going out on location.

As a stay-at-home dad of three kids aged 7, 10 and 13, Mr. Rushton said he appreciates the flexibility his business offers.

"It's nice to have a business where I can work around them."

There's nothing like a photo shoot to make people feel special, he said, remembering when his grandmother came to visit from Nova Scotia. Mr. Rushton had purchased a new lens and wanted to try it out by taking a picture of the elderly woman.

With the help of Mr. Rushton's parents, his grandma was soon sitting pretty with her hair and make-up done and new clothes put on.

"It was a warm, natural photo,"

Mr. Rushton said of the result.

After his grandmother died, Mr. Rushton made copies of the portrait for all nine of his grandma's children.

The idea of photographing pets first came at a fair when Mr. Rushton saw a booth set up with large pet photos on display.

It's a whole new ball game working with furry critters who can't understand directions, Mr. Rushton said. But he prides himself on his ingenuity to bring the best out of every animal. "You definitely have to use tricks," he said.

Although he said he does lots of dogs and cats, Mr. Rushton also gets the occasional unique job.

He recalled the time a girl and her family brought a much-loved hamster for a photo session. They brought the hamster's prized possession — a pint-sized race car — and watched Mr. Rushton work his magic. "We popped the hamster down (into the car) and for a split second he was holding the wheel, so I snapped the picture."

Mission accomplished, as usual. For more information on Front Porch Photography, visit www.frontporchphoto.ca or call (905) 693-9331.

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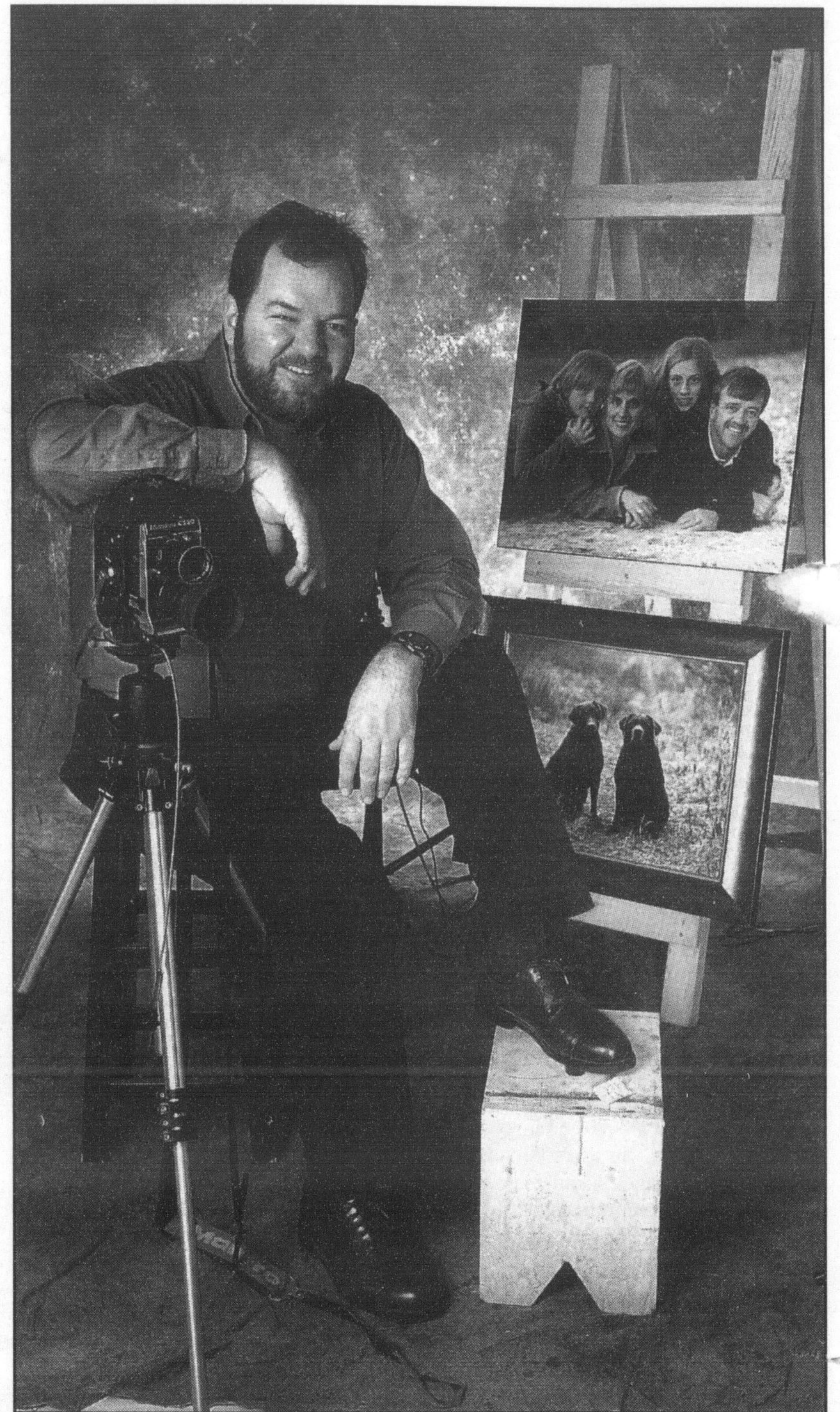


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE
Grant Rushton shows off some of his handiwork through Front Porch Photography.

Milton-based cosmetic and laser centre offers new IPL treatment

If trying to push back the hands of time seems like a full-time job, a new treatment offered in Milton might be just the thing.

Recently, Images International Cosmetic and Laser Centre, at 13 Charles St., began offering IPL (Intensive Pulsed Light) laser treatment.

IPL treatment is ideal for sun damaged skin that has resulted in brown spots and wrinkles, said Images president Robert Harris. It also works on spider veins.

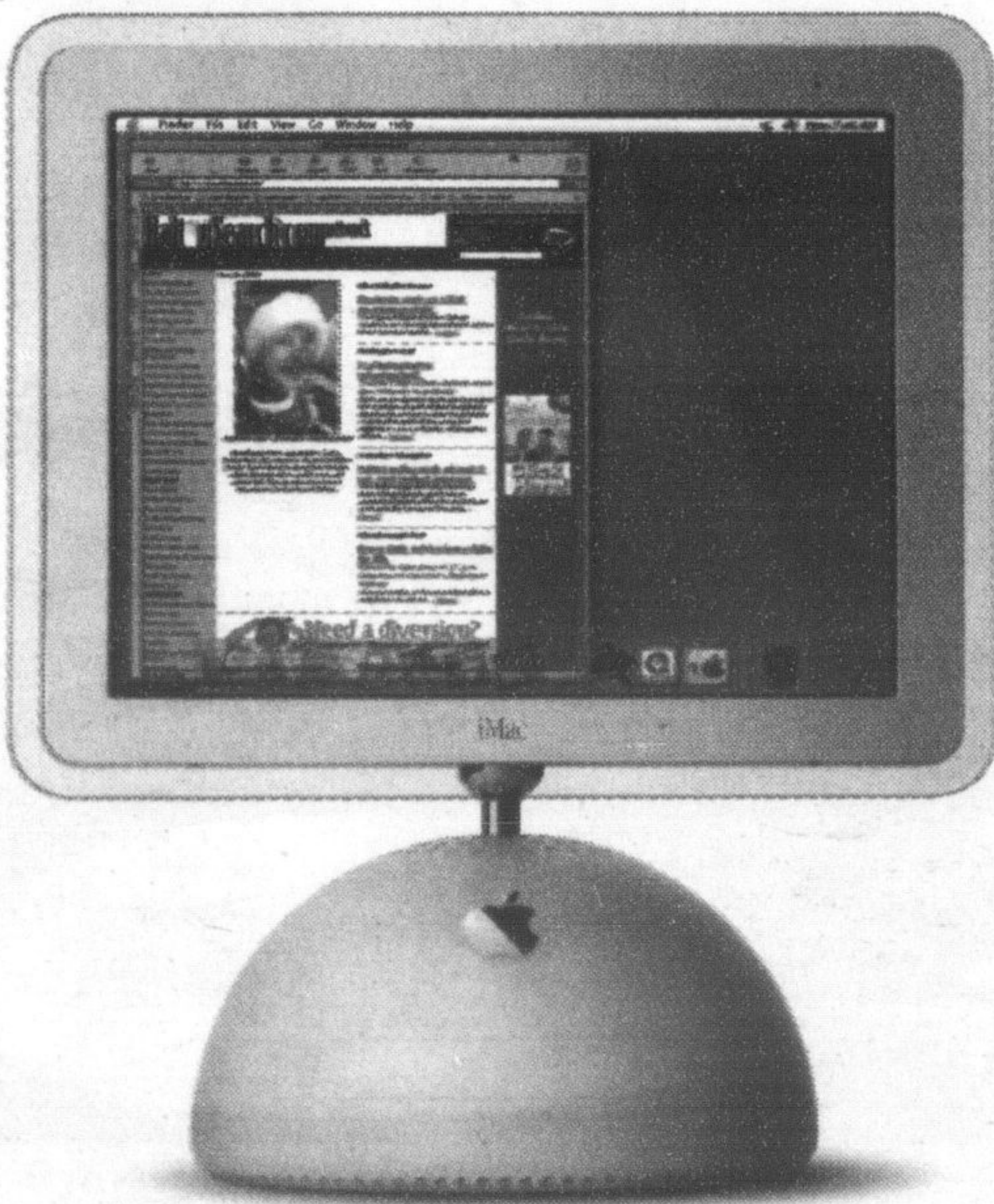
Once women move into their forties and fifties, Mr. Harris said skin isn't as elastic and doesn't rejuvenate the way it previously did. That's when they often find

themselves looking at IPL treatment, he said.

Technical director Judith Finn said IPL is also the first treatment that can get rid of permanent splotches from rosacea. "There's never been anything that can treat it till IPL," Ms Finn said.

Mr. Harris said IPL is less drastic than a face-lift to achieve a younger looking face.

"Plastic surgery is radical, whereas what we do is superficial," he said, adding he decided to open an Images centre in Milton because of the town's burgeoning population. "It's gone from a sleepy farming town to a dynamic suburban town."



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