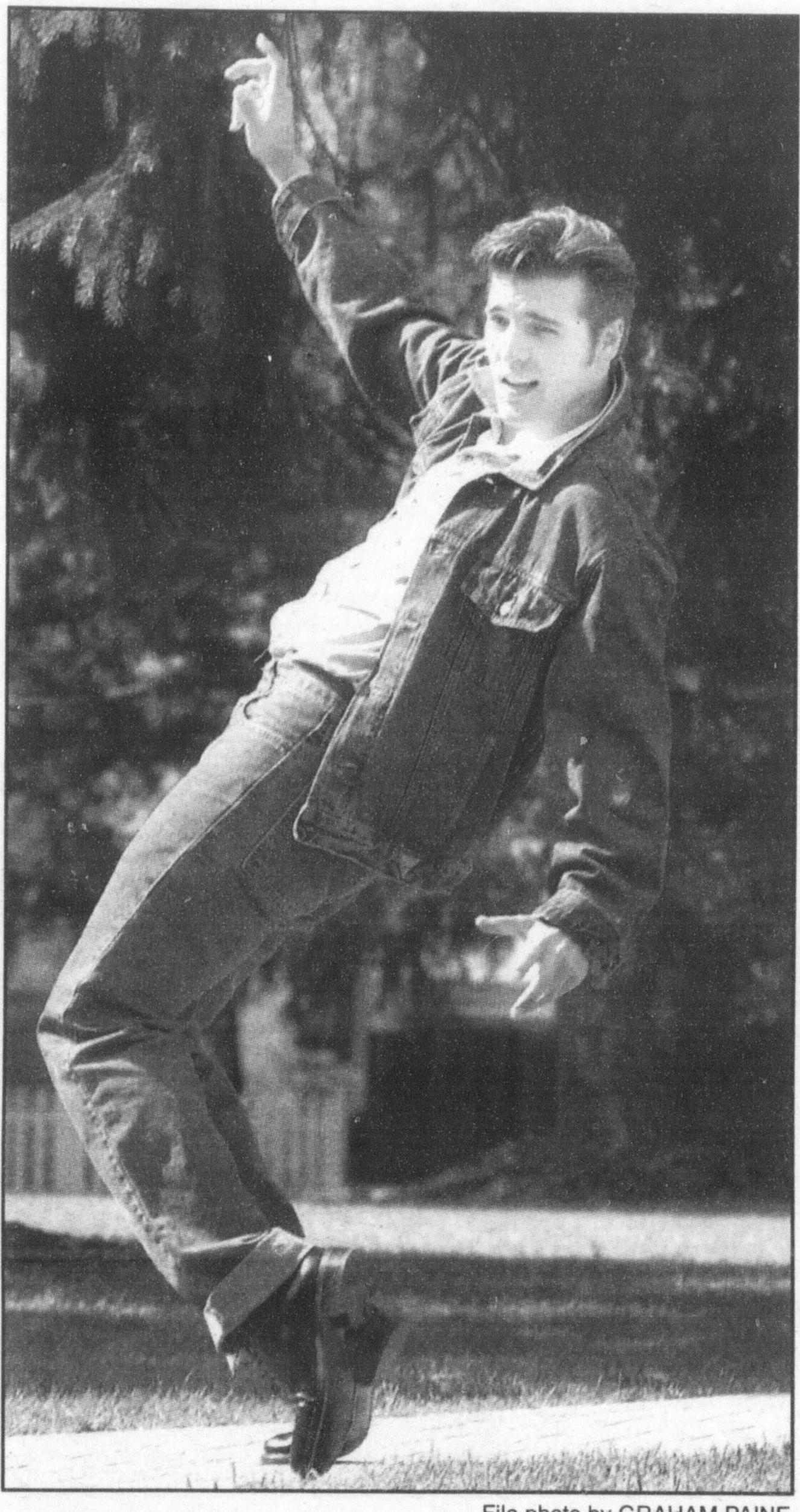
rtertainment



Elvis tribute artist to perform 'hard-hitting' concert tomorrow evening during arts festival



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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Miltonian Stephen Kabakos is eagerly awaiting tomorrow evening's performance at Arts Milton's Festival of the Arts at the fairgrounds.

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By STEPHANIE THIESSEN

The Champion

Ivis "sightings" might not be all that rare according to the tabloids, at least — but how many people actually have the chance to hear the 'King of Rock 'n' Roll' sing?

Tomorrow night, all of Milton will have an opportunity to see one of the best Elvis tribute artists perform at 8:30 at Arts Milton's Festival of the Arts at the Milton Fair Grounds.

In fact, concert-goers might find it hard to tell Stephen Kabakos - Milton's own Elvis — apart from the real crooner. Mr. Kabakos was, after all, crowned the grand champion in Memphis, Tennessee, at the 2001 Images of the King World Competition.

Mr. Kabakos said this is the first time he'll be performing in Milton with the full TVB Ensemble — the band and singers who accompany him.

"This is a Milton first — having the

Hit comedy The Red Green Show will be

at the White Rock Ostrich Farm Monday to

film a segment that will air during the tele-

Farm owners Don and Deborah

Simmonds have agreed to let the show use

their Fourth Line property to film a portion

The Red Green Show, produced by S &

S Productions in association with CBC

Television, airs on Friday nights at 7 p.m.

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vision series' 15th and final season.

of an episode.

Red Green taping locally

opportunity to bring this particular show," said Mr. Kabakos, who's been performing as Elvis since 1996.

The concert — which will be opened by Campbellville band L.T.D. (Lifetime Drive) - will include Elvis's songs, and costumes, from the 1950s to the '70s. It'll be a one-and-a-half hour show of hard-hitting music, Mr. Kabakos said.

Tickets cost \$25 and will be available at the park tomorrow.

"Our show is different in the sense that we pay particular attention to the original arrangements of the songs," Mr. Kabakos said, adding other tribute artists and their bands tend to take liberties with the origi-

What sets his performances apart from others is Mr. Kabakos' meticulous attention to detail, he said. None of the little nuances - like the way Mr. Presley fiddled with his ring - are left out, he said. Similarly, nothing's added that shouldn't be. "If Elvis didn't do it, I don't," he said simply.

Mr. Kabakos said he hopes the public is looking forward to tomorrow's show as much as he is.

and has a strong Canadian following.

Set at fictional 'Possum Lodge', cast

members include the co-creator, writer and

star Steve Smith (Red Green), as well as

Jeff Lumby (Winston Rothschild III),

Patrick McKenna (Harold Green), and

Paul Gross (Kevin Black) and many others

who have kept the light-hearted comedy in

It's unknown how long the taping will

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last. The set will be closed to visitors.

"I haven't had an opportunity for a long time to get out there and perform for the masses," he said, adding he always enjoys performing in his hometown, and is particularly excited about supporting Arts

Lately, Mr. Kabakos has been busy performing shows at theatres across southern Ontario. Always in favour of improvement, he said he's been re-working the show to make it even better.

"Change is good," he said.

Milton.

Next, Mr. Kabakos hopes to bring the show into casinos as well as larger Toronto venues. For more information on Stephen Kabakos, visit his Web site at www.tvbproductions.com.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.



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