

Perseverance pays off for new Milton author

Local man pens book about his long-time struggles with honesty

By Jeremy Grimaldi
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Have you ever wanted to tell someone the truth, but decided it would be much easier to fib, avoid the issue or to tell a bold-faced lie instead?

Well, Milton resident Steve Liddell discovered his habit of doing this was ruining his “business ventures, relationships and friendships,” not to mention his life, and unwittingly decided to do something about it.

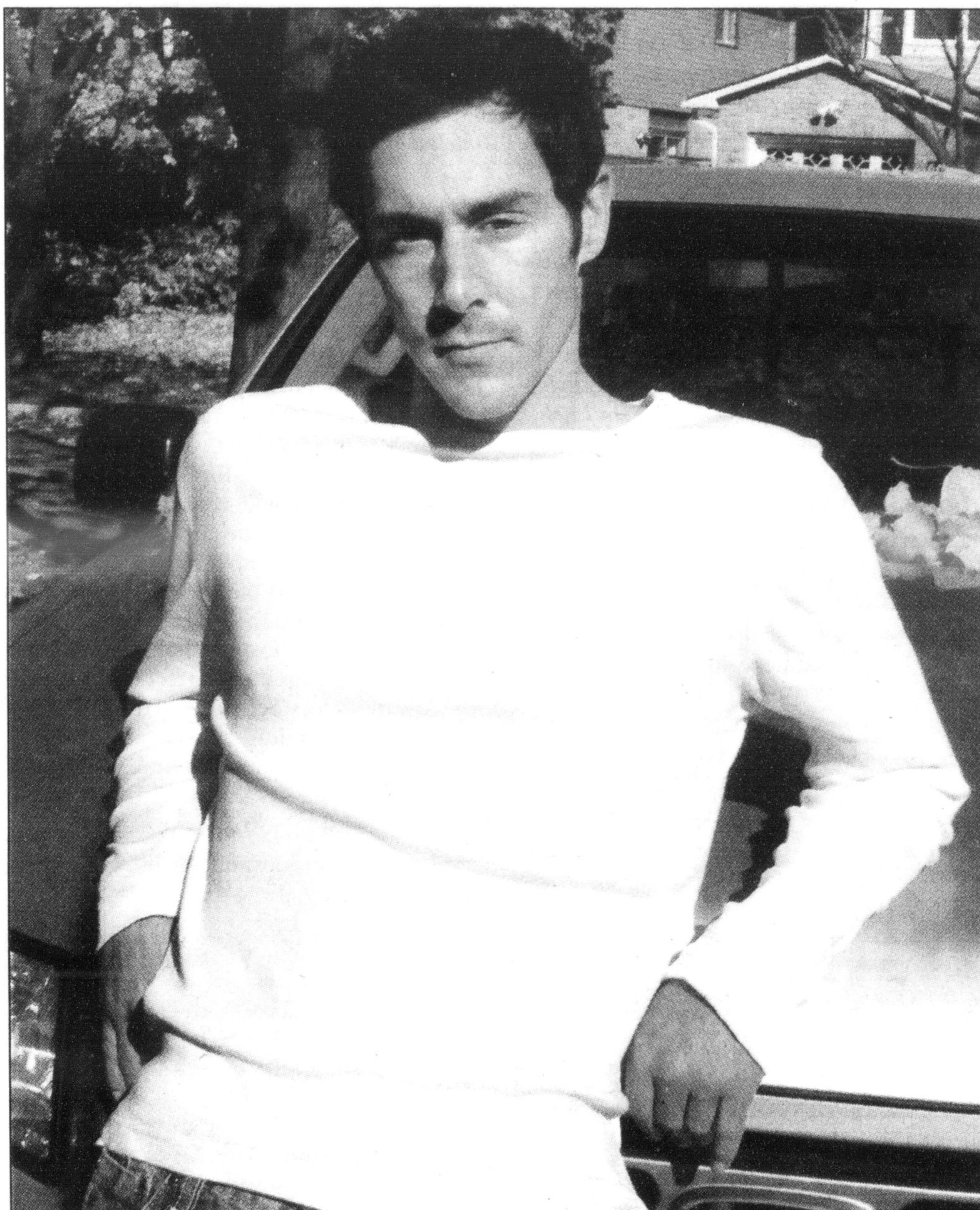
One night when he couldn't get back to sleep after his daughter woke him up, Liddell began writing. After continuing this on a number of sleepless nights he slowly became conscious of the fact that at the root of all his life's ills was his failure to be honest — not only with the world — but also with himself.

Writing therapeutic

Soon these diary entries, which initially began as an exercise to write down his innermost thoughts, slowly turned into its own animal, or beast, depending on how you look at it.

“I always knew that I wasn't being honest with myself or other people, but when I started writing about it I realized how important this was. Soon what I was writing became so in-depth it turned into a book called honest Lee,” said the 36-year-old father of two.

Now, four years after spending countless hours and suffering numerous headaches trying to get his book published, then finally spending about \$10,000 to publish it himself, Liddell has sold about 1,000 copies and has officially broken even.



HONEST AUTHOR: Steve Liddell recently wrote a book about his troubles with lying entitled honest Lee.

This came after being rejected in some of the “harsh terms imaginable” including the words of one publishing agent who told him in a letter that the book was a “waste of

a tree.”

He later managed to get a book deal and has been selling his book nationwide at Indigo, Chapters and Coles bookstores

across the country.

As a direct result of the book, he said he has now turned his woodworking career into more of a part-time gig, and has re-focused his attention on the notoriously risky life of house-flipping.

On top of this, Liddell has come good on many of his book's musings — by being honest with all his friends — most of which have subsequently stopped speaking with him.

For Liddell this was a monumental change.

“I have been very shy and very reserved for my whole life. I always knew there was a lot more inside of me than what came out.

“I had no outlet, but eventually it came to me — I found it through writing.”

Book “raw and unpolished”

Liddell said because he had no prior experience, the book is very “raw and unpolished,” something he believes the reader will appreciate.

“The book follows my journey as I become more open with others and brutally harsh on myself.”

Before writing the book Liddell said he had an “epiphany” of sorts that helped him on his journey.

While driving home one day he witnessed a car accident on Hwy. 427.

“I saw someone die,” he said. “That made me start wondering about his life.

“I wondered what his day was like? I wondered if he hated his day and then died at the end of it?”

He said it was that event which made him realize he didn't want to reach the end of his life without being himself.

He added: “I wanted people to know who I was. Before then I had never shown it. I wanted to be someone with a purpose, a reason.”

But when it came to sharing his journey with the world, it proved a difficult venture, as publishers and bookstores weren't initially very helpful.

So Liddell used his imagination. Soon he

• see BOOK on page B2

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