

Warkworth's Perfect Pie contest is 33 years old

INDEPENDENT

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Pastry perfection to be revealed on Nov. 3

WARKWORTH -- If you want to know what perfection looks -- and tastes -- like, drop around to the Warkworth Town Hall Centre for the Arts Nov. 3, when the 33rd annual Perfect Pie contest is held.

Or you can try yourself to achieve perfection, pie-wise, by submitting an entry. Registration takes place from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Here's what you need to know: all pies must have a pastry crust, no crumb tops, and only one pie per category.

The judges base their decisions on general appearance, crust and filling.

Prizes will be awarded in numerous categories: fruit, apple, pumpkin, filled, savoury meringue topped, maple syrup, pecan, men's open, junior apple (12 years and under), youth (ages 13 to 18) any kind, seniors (65 and over) any kind. The trophy for best pie local ingredients (bison, cheese, pork, beef, fruit, or maple syrup) is awarded in memory of multiple champion Norma McCleary.

The winning pie in each category is eligible for the overall Perfect Pie award.

There is also a category for pies of any

kind made by members of Warkworth Chapter No. 279 Order of the Eastern Star, the event's sponsor.

Doors open to the public at 1:30 p.m. The price of admission gets you a piece of your favourite pie and a beverage, along with live entertainment.

You can also take part in a pie auction.



There's no fee to enter a pie in the competition.

All proceeds will be divided between the Worthy Matron's project (the Kidney Foundation of Canada) and other projects supported by the chapter.

For more information, call 905-352-2377 or 705-924-2066.

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What's On

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Warkworth-area Halloween event shares scares and sweets

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NORTHUMBERLAND -- An ominous orange glow will welcome anyone who drives along County Road 29 this weekend.

As drivers get closer to the glow, along the roadside dotted with headstones, screams of terror will be heard from behind the hedges and deep within the walls of an old farmhouse built more than 200 years ago.

But not to worry -- the screams, gasps and family fun will all be part of the fourth annual Burnley Halloween Meet and Greet organized by Joseph Hoare.

"When I first moved here from Toronto, I bought candy and carved up some pumpkins and waited on Halloween for the kids to come, but no kids came," said Mr. Hoare, who hosts the event at his home in northern Alnwick/Haldimand Township.

Mr. Hoare asked his neighbours about the absence of kids, and they said the houses in the area are too far apart so kids usually get dropped off in more residential areas. It was then Mr. Hoare was determined to make Halloween a special time in the Burnley community.

Although he has spent the last 20 years battling colon cancer, Mr. Hoare continues to volunteer at



KAREN LONGWELL / NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS

ALNWICK/HALDIMAND TOWNSHIP -- Joseph Hoare will hold a Halloween charity event at his home on County Road 29 on Oct. 27.

Toronto's SickKids hospital. He said it was there he remembered how Halloween was always special for kids.

"Next to Christmas, Halloween is the one day kids look forward to most," he said. "My way of giving back is through kids."

He took it upon himself to create the family-fun event, which runs the last Saturday before Halloween -- this year Oct. 27. Mr. Hoare said what drew 44 families in its first year now averages more than 100 families who visit his three-acre property.

"It started as an event where families in the community could get to know each other," he said. "That's what it's all about. It brings the community together."

Mr. Hoare has planned a fortune teller, three campfires, a canteen for food, a kid-friendly haunted house, as well as an adult version. He has spent thousands of dollars on gathering everything needed for the scary night, including animatronics -- lifelike puppets or mannequins, which move on their own by use of electricity.

Mr. Hoare was even able to secure a 'Zombie Swing Girl,' one of eight sold in Canada.

"When the kids see her and she starts to move, they start freaking out," he said with a grin.

Donations will be accepted and all money will be donated to the Northumberland Community Counselling Centre. Mr. Hoare also mentors a foster teen, as well as volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and said the donation is one way he can give back to kids in need.

The event runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 27 at 11852 County Rd. 29. For more information, e-mail joseph@royalservice.ca.