

Eskrick showed passion for architecture in drawings

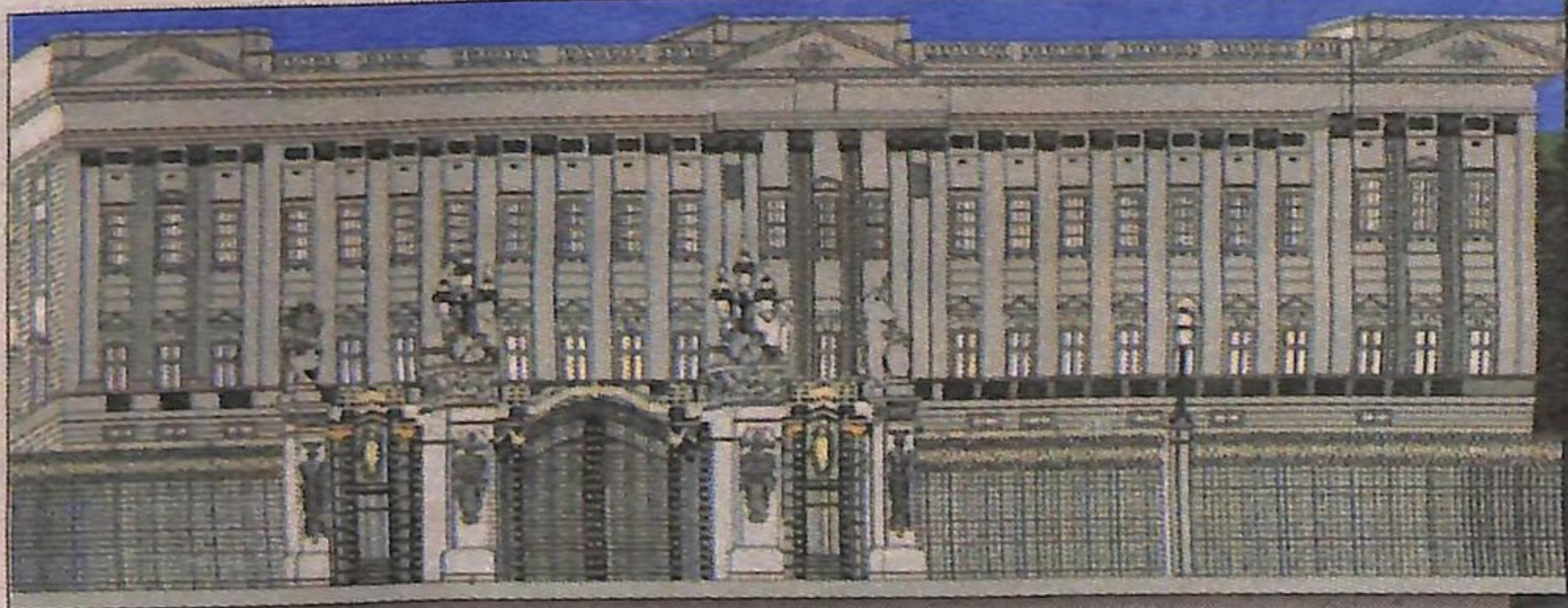
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Though both his life and activities were limited in his later years, he had a great appreciation for arts, culture and could frequently be seen riding in his wheelchair at Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band Saturday Night Parades, fall fairs, car shows and other community events. He also enjoyed the Kincardine boardwalk, rock gardens and other places that gave him the accessibility to see the beauty of the community, MacLeod said.

But if it was poor weather outside, or he was ill, Eskrick would turn his attention to drawing on his computer with the limited mobility he did have. MacLeod said he had excelled at art in school, and also did well at free-hand computer art of his other interests like cars, nature and space.

Proud of his Bruce County roots, the history and the local architecture, he took to drawing these buildings, the ones he was fond of in the area and other international landmarks, like an extensive piece on Buckingham Palace. MacLeod said he had planned on showing the extensive collection of his work, dozens of pieces totalling hundreds of hours, at Kincardine's Victoria Park Gallery. But an illness



The late Darren Eskrick is seen working on an art piece on his computer prior to his passing in October 2013. Eskrick spent hours on each creation while living a life with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Above: Eskrick's rendition of Buckingham Palace shows how much detail he was able to put into the works of art he created. Left: A Queen St. home, right Kincardine's The Bargain Shop. (SUBMITTED)



in 2011 and his recovery time in Toronto prevented that from happening, she said.

Eskrick returned home in May 2012 and continued adding more pictures to his collection while dealing with more weakness and "loss of musculature" in his drawing hand," she said. MacLeod said they began preparing to present all of the local business owners with copies of his work, but passed after only being able to deliver to former Stedman's owner Gary Lambert.

"It was my sad honour to fulfil this wish for Darren," said MacLeod, urging people to study his work if they come upon it around town. "Perhaps it will inspire you to know what can come from fortitude and opti-

mism, when faced with challenges."

Eskrick is survived by his parents, Ken and Lynda, and brother Dwayne of RR5 Kincardine, his sister Chantell of Oakwood.

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Kincardine rughooker sends project to 2015 Pan Am Games and donates others to those less fortunate around the world

Alanna Rice
Kincardine News

Rug hooking is still alive and well in Kincardine.

Margaret Humphrey recently received notice about her rug hooking piece created for the 2015 Pan Am Games.

The project, which includes the CN tower, a running shoe, a 3D shoelace and the Canadian Maple Leaf, took Humphrey about three weeks to finish.

"Rug hooking is not done fast," she said.

The pattern was designed by Jayne Nevins, a past president of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild, of which Humphrey is a member.

Humphrey said her project, along with 41 others of various designs done by others, will be sent to the games and each of the 41 countries that have athletes registered will take one home.

She even used reversed stitches in her project, which is for more experienced rug hookers.

"That's much harder to do," she said.

But Humphrey isn't new to

the craft.

In 1967 she signed up for a rug hooking class at the community centre in Deep River, where one teacher helped about 35 people in the class learn the craft.

"I felt bad," she said. "It took her [the teacher] almost two hours to get around to everyone," adding, "She was a fantastic teacher."

Her and four others decided they would obtain their certification to become qualified teachers, which Humphrey did. She can now teach in Canada and the United States.

Humphrey was a RN for 40 years, retiring in 1991, and often worked long hours. She always tried to make time for her rug hooking when she could.

After living in six different communities in Ontario, Humphrey brought the craft with her.

"Every place I've lived, I've taught," she said, adding she's taught in community centres, libraries and even her own home and backyard.

Since living in Kincardine for the last 18 years, Hum-

phrey has continued her numerous projects.

On Aug. 21, rug hookers from around Ontario will be gathering at Victoria Park from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. to show their projects, share secrets and sell their work.

"They do some gorgeous work," she said. "Anyone who wants to come and watch us work is welcome."

For her projects, Humphrey uses only pure wool fabric which is then cut into desired widths.

Over the years she's created about 500 projects, many showcased at her house or given as gifts to her friends and family.

"I work on it while I can," she said.

She also hand-dyes all her material using stainless steel pots on her stove.

While some might think rug hooking is dying out, Humphrey said there are about 1,000 guild members of different branches in the province.

"There's branches all over Ontario," she said.

She continues the craft for the social aspect and getting

together with others which is like "renewing old friendships."

In addition to rug hooking, Humphrey also knits Izzy Dolls for Doctors Without Borders who give the dolls to children in third-world countries.

"I keep myself busy," she said.

This year she made 50 dolls so far.

She also makes pneumonia vests for children in Africa while she's also a member of the Sunset Quilters and makes dresses for girls in Haiti.

"When I can do it, as long as I can do it, I should do it," Humphrey said. "It's my way of giving back to the world."

After teaching for many years, she said the best way to find out if you're interested in rug hooking is to watch others and try a small project yourself.

"Some people take to it like a duck to water," she joked.

Humphrey has one of her projects on display at the Kincardine municipal building, a gift she donated to the town in 1991.



Margaret Humphrey of Kincardine has created a rug hooking piece to be sent to the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto. She presents the finished work on Aug. 7, 2013 at her home which is full of her work, including the two pieces on the wall. (ALANNA RICE/KINCARDINE NEWS)