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COMMUNITY theifp.ca

Celebration of life taking place this Sunday for Mark Coates

By Kathryn Boyle kboyle@theifp.ca

This Sunday, May 7, a rare celebration of life will take place for a rare Georgetown man.

Starting at 12 p.m., the Glen Williams ball diamond will welcome family, friends and everyone else to celebrate the life of Mark Coates, who passed away on April 20.

The event will feature drum circles, henna tattoos, food, conversation and an indigenous earth ceremony.

According to his wife Rosemary, the ball park was his favourite place.

This is an opportunity to invite and incorporate some indigenous aspects to not only a single life lived, but to many lives who have passed through and who are in the Glen to recognize the importance of our earth, Rose-

To do that, we invited First Nations elders to guide us through or along an acknowledgment ceremony on the banks of the beautiful

Mark was well known in the community through a number of accomplishments. In the 1990s, Mark and Rosemary started AIRCON: a service and supply company for Canadian charter airlines.

In 2004, the Coates family opened and operated Sports Unlimited Georgetown on Guelph St., opening two more locations in Erin and the Mold-Masters SportsPlex. In his professional career, Mark hired over 50 young people and provided many their first jobs.

According to Rosemary, sports was a passion for Mark. When he first arrived in Georgetown in the 1980s, he was quick to join Halton Hills men's fast pitch, where he played for the Reds. He also joined the SOBs slo pitch in the GSL, the Beavers oldtimers hockey team in the 1990s and even arranged two slo-pitch teams to participate in the Blue Jays Round the Clock tournament.



A celebration of life for Mark Coates will be taking place this Sunday, May 7 at the Glen Williams ball park. Above, Mark stands with his Submitted photo wife, Rosemary.

He funneled his love for sports into his children, coaching son Brendan in baseball and daughter Tasha in soccer.

Sports was not his only passion. Mark also loved to compose music and to invent things. Some of his inventions include the Pet Bomb, a lasagna cutter, Socross, Earthight Globes, and smoke screen, to name a few.

He really had an impact on a lot of people, Rosemary said. His kindness and his personal excellence made a difference in people s lives.

Rosemary invites everyone in the community to celebrate Mark's life this Sunday, May 7, at the Glen Williams ball park, starting at 12

All are welcome to come out and share a memory, or catch up with old friends, she

Life is too short, visit with your friends.







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