

# HOMECOMING 2013

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Special pullout section

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## Homecoming brings out plenty of walks down memory lane



Both Mary Pearce of Huntsville (in stripes) and Judy McGuigan of Comox, B.C., shed a few tears after running into each other for the first time in more than 25 years at Homecoming 2013 Friday at Memorial Arena. The pair knew each other as teenagers and went on to work together at a local law firm.

Photo by Andrea Lefebvre

By **ANDREA LEFEBVRE**

*Special to the IFP*

Memorial Arena was the centre of Georgetown's social scene for one last time as the old rink played host to Homecoming 2013 this past weekend.

Hundreds of former residents came from across Canada and the United States to join current Georgetonians for a weekend-long celebration of all things Georgetown, which included a wine and cheese, a dance, hikes, historic walks and tours.

"A lot of people planned their vacations around Homecoming," says event chair Anita Bergsma.

Kelli Brooks of Maple Ridge, British Columbia, was one of the attendees who travelled across the country for Homecoming. Although many things have changed since her last visit in 2007, some have remained the same.

"Norval has completely changed and there's a new water tower," Brooks says. "But there's still no place like home."

Phil Hyde of Red Deer, Alberta, has fond memories of his childhood in Georgetown.

"In those days, you walked everywhere," he says. "The town was your playground. It was a good place to grow up."

The main motive behind Homecoming 2013 was to say farewell to the Memorial Arena, which was decommissioned earlier this year and is slated to be torn down. After opening in 1922, the arena became the centre of George-

To view a photo gallery of Homecoming 2013 go to [www.theifp.ca](http://www.theifp.ca) and click on 'Photos'

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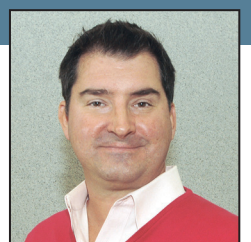
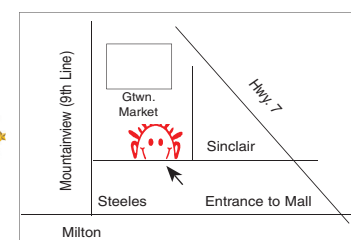
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