

A surprising find in 'God's country'

"Cannae nay stay a few ma ares so that yar cousin can meet ya?" said the grey-haired octogenarian as tears rolled down her cheeks.

I sadly explained to her that wifey and I were scheduled to return to the English city of York and that we didn't have any "ares" (hours) to spare.

"Remember, I didn't even know you existed four ares ago," I said.

On a recent trip to northern England wifey and I decided to spend one day in Scotland to visit my deceased father's birthplace—a tiny town called Lesmahagow.

He always complained how flat Ontario was in relation to his homeland and said I should someday see "God's country".

So, armed with his Second World War service record, birth certificate, the fact he sang in the male chorus and the slim hope we might find someone who knew something about him, we travelled to the sleepy village of 4,000.

Our first stop was the library, which was the only building on the main street that looked like it had been built later than 1811.

The kindly librarian Marilyn (are there any other kinds of librarians?) recognized the address on my dad's birth certificate since it was where the library now stood.

She made phone calls to the butcher ("he owns three buildings on this street"), the town archivist ("but he's working at the castle today") and the choirmaster who rushed right over, pictures and records in hand. Unfortunately, his records were spotty when it came to the late 1940s when my father was a member of the group.

Marilyn then sent us next door to the resource centre where three gents readily recalled my grandfather.

They didn't remember my father, but did

THIS
'N
THAT



John McGhie

have vivid memories of Joe— my dad's brother. I can't say I recall my dad ever talking about his brother or, if he did, I never paid much attention.

"Joe died," said one of men, "but his wife Craigie is still alive."

Two phone calls and an hour later I was in Aunt Craigie's house looking at snapshots of my mother, brother and I... and getting a family history lesson.

"Joe died in a motorcycle accident when he was 39," said Craigie (I was five at the time). "And our son was clyde Johnny after your father who was clyde Johnny and you're clyde Johnny too."

Clyde is Scottish for called. It's the accent that throws you.

As we began to leave I took in the surreal scene—a photo taken of my family 33 years ago sat on the dining room table in the house of an 80-year-old stranger who lives in the Scottish lowlands. My aunt's house.

Apologizing again that time didn't permit us to stay and meet her son— my cousin— when he got home from work, I slowly pulled the car away from Aunt Craigie's picturesque home with the final words of this true Scot ringing in my ears.

"Come back soon, Johnny and we'll get drunk together!"



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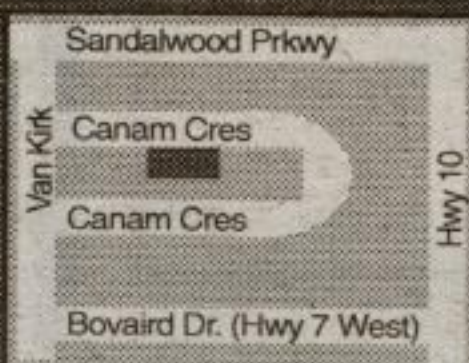


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CORRECTION NOTICE

Parts of the following section were missing from the Georgetown Fall Fair Book. The Independent and Free Press apologizes for any inconvenience.

CHILDREN'S PRIZE LIST

PLEASE NOTE ENTRY DATE: WEDNESDAY SEPT. 4

Convenor: Elizabeth Taylor 877-4726

Rules & Regulations: All entries to be taken to the Exhibit Hall in the Fairgrounds ON WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4 ONLY, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. NO ENTRIES ACCEPTED AFTER 7:00 p.m. JUDGING BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

PRIZE MONEY: (For all age groups) 1st - \$1.00, 2nd - \$.75, 3rd - \$.50 unless otherwise stated.

PRE-JUNIOR DIVISION - 3 to 5 yrs. of age

1. Something made from paper.
 2. Decorated Wooden spoon.
 3. Best picture coloured from a colouring book.
 4. Dress up your favourite stuffed toy.
 5. Decorate a paper or styrofoam cup.
 6. A collection to be mounted on cardboard or in a container no larger than 12" x 12".
 7. Decorated and/or painted rock door stop.
 8. Decorated flower pot, turned upside down or rightside up.
 9. Any craft not listed.
 10. A piece of artwork, no larger than 18" x 24", any media.
 11. Printing: print your first & last name.
- #### JUNIOR DIVISION - 6 to 8 yrs. of age
12. Printing: any poem (4 lines only)
 13. A bedroom door sign.
 14. An article made from wood, paper, felt or plastic.
 15. Article of sewing.
 16. Creative calendar page to include month page.
 17. Animal, creature or person made from burs, teasels or pine cones.
 18. An article made from 250 ml milk carton.
 19. An article made from popsicle sticks or toothpicks, securely mounted or in a container.
 20. A piece of artwork, no larger than 18" x 24", any media.
 21. 3 pieces of squares and/or cookies you have baked.
 22. Any craft not listed.

RUTH-ANN KIPFER MEMORIAL CLASS

Rules: Open to children 6 - 8 years of age. Each entry must consist of at least 4 out of the 5 following categories & these articles cannot be entered in any other class. Must be displayed on a tray or in a box.

1. Baking: 3 pieces of squares or cookies
 2. 1 article of sewing, crocheting, or knitting
 3. Drawing or painting - any media
 4. Flower arrangement or collection of 3 different vegetables
 5. Any craft not listed.
- Prize Money: 1st - \$25.00; 2nd - \$15.00; 3rd - \$10.00; 4th - \$5.00, generously donated in memory of Ruth-Ann Kipfer.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION 9 - 11 YEARS OLD

23. Writing: any poem (8 lines only)
24. A completed article of sewing
25. Homemade stuffed animal.
26. Article made from ceramics.
27. A Christmas decoration - any material or media.
28. An article made from paper mache.

29. An article made from wood.
30. An article made from felt.
31. A piece of artwork, no larger than 18" x 24", any media.
32. Completed article of cross stitch, crewel or embroidery.
33. 3 pieces of squares and/or cookies you have baked.
34. Something useful from something useless, no larger than 12" x 12" x 12"
35. Any craft not listed.

RUTH-ANN KIPFER MEMORIAL CLASS

Rules: Open to children 9 - 11 years of age. Each entry must consist of at least 4 out of the 5 following categories & these articles cannot be entered in any other class. Must be displayed on a tray or in a box.

1. Baking: 3 pieces of squares or cookies
2. 1 article of sewing, crocheting, or knitting
3. Drawing or painting - any media
4. Flower arrangement or collection of 3 different vegetables
5. Any craft not listed.

Prize Money: 1st - \$25.00; 2nd - \$15.00; 3rd - \$10.00; 4th - \$5.00, generously donated in memory of Ruth-Ann Kipfer.

OPEN DIVISION 3 - 11 YEARS OLD

36. Biggest and Best Maple Leaf (pressed and mounted)
37. An arrangement using weeds and or wildflowers.
38. Decorated grapevine wreath.
39. Article of plastic canvas
40. 4 snapshots, any theme - titled and mounted.
41. Drawing - open theme - any media.
42. Halloween mask - any media.
43. Creative article made from pom-poms.
44. A refrigerator door magnet.
45. A "Rock Star" - use your imagination creating something mainly from a rock.
46. Any craft not listed.
47. Handmade jewellery - any media (mounted, bagged, or boxed).
48. Picture "What I Want to be When I Grow Up" - no larger than 12" x 14", any medium. All entries will receive a prize, donated by Human Resources Development Canada. Winning posters to be displayed by them and returned at a later date.
49. Handwoven Article made either on or off a loom, 1st - \$5., 2nd - \$3., 3rd - \$2., prize money donated by The Heritage Handweavers & Spinners.

DIRECTORS' SPECIAL: Best entry chosen by the directors of the Children's section to receive a rosette.

JUDGE'S SPECIAL: Best entry chosen by the judge of the Children's section to receive a rosette.

Georgetown Fall Fair Books are available at The Independent office in the Georgetown Marketplace Mall.