

# A tribute to the late Alex Craig of Midland

Midland residents were saddened to learn of the recent death of Alex John Alexander Craig of Midland.

The Elizabeth Street resident is best known as a former accountant and administrator of St. Andrews Hospital although he served at one time as bookkeeper of Midland Foundry Penetang foundry, Georgian Bay Tourist Company and Glen Mohr Frocks.

His many contributions to Midland and area were numerous and his passing will leave a void in the community.

A tribute to the late Alex Craig was given at his funeral service by Midland resident and lawyer Fred Hacker.

Because of the importance of the tribute it is being republished here at this time.

It took me a very long time to decide how to begin my tribute to Alex Craig. It would be entirely natural for all of us to mourn our individual and collective loss at the passing of

this wonderful man.

But as I think about our Alex Craig, another emotion overtakes the sadness. That emotion is one of good fortune and gratitude that each of us were blessed with the opportunity to know and be touched by this exceptional man.

So this morning my intention is not to mourn the passing of Alex Craig but to celebrate the life of Alex Craig.

Alex Craig was, in simplest terms, a man of virtue, dignity, grace and honour.

Even as a child, I always had the feeling that I was in the presence of a special and unique individual.

Alex Craig was the embodiment of all of those good qualities of Victorian England that our society seems to be losing at its peril.

He was on the one hand, a man of such strength and dignity that at times we stood in awe of him.

He was a man who represented the basic values of our civilization: love, trust

and honour.

He gained the respect of everyone whose life he touched: from hospital staff, to community workers, to neighbours, to friends and of course to family.

Yet he was a man of such warmth and affection that one felt sheltered by his presence.

Despite his remarkable dignity, he was a man who engendered intense affection. He was called "dad" not only by his sons, but also by his daughters-in-law and even by his wife. He was thought of as a "dad" by many of us for whom he filled that role at different times and in different ways.

A recitation of the chronology of events in an individual's life does little to reveal the true quality of the man. It's like reading a menu as compared to savouring the tastes and textures.

What really tells the measure of the man is the quality with which he lives each phase of his life and each hour of

each day.

Alex Craig was a man of exceptional wisdom and insight. But as with everything else in his life, his intellect and his wisdom were understated by him.

He was a man of wit and humour. But while he enjoyed such moments he never tried to impose his humour on anyone else.

He was a man of such dignity and morality that others paled by comparison. But he was understanding and

compassionate in his dealings with others and never self-righteous.

For all the strength, for all the dignity, and for all the depth of character, he was also a very tender and affectionate man. His deep and constant love for Iris, for Neil, for Keith, for Shirley, for Mary Lea and for his grandchildren was always apparent.

Throughout his life his first concern was always for those around

him rather than for himself. Even in the final days of his life, while in great discomfort and pain, his first concern was for the well being of his wife and the effect his suffering was having on her.

Alex Craig spent 85 years on the face of this earth. It was more than we had any right to hope for. And his remarkable strength and lucidity remained with him until the end.

Those of us who are

left behind can best pay tribute to the life of this exceptional man by living our own lives as a mirror of his.

We can conduct ourselves with honour and dignity.

We can show love and affection to our family and friends.

We can be honest, reliable and trustworthy in all that we do.

We can aspire to be the best that we can be.

What a world it would be if there were just a few more Alex Craigs.



## Obituary

### Ethel Kennedy

The late Ethel Kennedy died in Penetanguishene General Hospital on April 23, 1985, following a lengthy illness, at the age of 90 years.

Mrs. Kennedy was born in England and lived in the Penetanguishene area for the last 55 years. She had been a resident

of the Georgian Manor for the last few years.

Her funeral mass was held in St. Ann's Memorial Church, Penetanguishene, on April 25, 1985, with Rev. R. Andrews officiating. Interment will be later this spring in St. Ann's Cemetery, Penetanguishene.

Her nephews Keith,

Mike, Terry, Steve & Nelson Kennedy, and Pat Lonergan were her pallbearers.

Her sister Florence of Toronto survives her.

Her husband Patrick Kennedy, brother Thomas & Fred Howell, and her sisters Kate Lonergan, Nellie Payette & Isabel Burt predeceased her.

## Obituary

### Marcel Robitaille

The late Marcel Robitaille of RR 2, Penetanguishene, died peacefully in Penetanguishene General Hospital on April 29, 1985, at the age of 74 years.

Mr. Robitaille was born in Lafontaine and lived most of his life in the Penetanguishene area.

Mr. Robitaille was the founder of Marcelville Antiques of Penetanguishene, which is now operated by his family.

His funeral mass was held in St. Ann's Memorial Church, Penetanguishene, on May 1, with Rev. R. Jacobsen officiating, assisted by Msgr. A. Belanger. Interment was in St. Ann's Cemetery, Penetanguishene.

Bertrand & Raphael Robitaille, Clinton Cloarec, Remi, Martial & Gabriel Desroches, all nephews, were his pallbearers.

His wife Ethel (Cloarec) Robitaille of RR 2, Penetanguishene, sons Roger of Victoria Harbour and Denis of Penetanguishene, daughters Rosalie (Mrs. Mario Graziani) & Berthe (Mrs. Fab Graziani), both of Penetanguishene, brothers Gerard and Alderic Robitaille of

Lafontaine, and sisters Beatrice (Mrs. Isidore Moreau) of Perkinsfield, Yvonne (Mrs. Lucien Desroches) of Penetanguishene, Valentine (Mrs. Augustin Laurin) of Lafontaine, Soeur Helena Robitaille of Montreal, Soeur Marcella Robitaille of

Cornwall, and Leona (Mrs. Antoine Girouard) of Toronto survive him.

Also survived by 16 grandchildren.

His daughter Marie Kulson, brother Raphael, and sisters Dora Robitaille & Alida Belcourt predeceased him.



## Midland Library News

Did you know that the Midland Public Library is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act? This means that should any generous soul be moved to donate funds to the library that we are able to issue a receipt with our charitable donation number that would qualify as a charitable donation on your income tax form.

The following is a list of new books available at the library as of May 3.

### FICTION

Our Lady Of The Snows by Morley Callaghan, Last Year's Nightingale by Claire Lorrimer, The Double Man by William S. Cohen, Vital Signs by Barbara Wood, The Long Day Wanes by Anthony Burgess, Ship Of Gold by James Leasor.

### NON-FICTION

Staying OK by Amy and Thomas Harris, The Bassett Report: Career Success And Canadian Women by Isabel Bassett, Dear 60 Minutes by Kathleen Fury, Mountbatten: The Official Biography by Philip Ziegler, Once Upon A Time: A True Story by Gloria Vanderbilt, Princess Diana by Trevor Hall.

The films will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the children's library. Admission is free.

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