



Payne, John Francis

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of, John Francis Payne; peacefully with his family by his side on Tuesday, October 27th at the young age of 69, in Sacred Heart Community Health Center.

John was born in Kingston, Ontario to John (Jack) and Marie (McCann) Payne. After traveling in his younger years, John ended up in Cape Breton working with M. Sullivan and Sons, and eventually Municipal Ready Mix. John took a lot of pride in his work as superintendent and was able to form many lifelong friendships. He was a great storyteller and jokester, honing these crafts on the neighborhood parties, his children's activities and camping trips with the Boy Scouts.

In 2001, shortly after John and his family moved out west, he suffered a major industrial accident. Surviving a serious brain injury, he credited his faith, positive attitude, and supportive family and friends for his recovery. John volunteered with numerous non-profit organizations, including teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) to others, in turn taking the time to learn his students' languages as well.

It is no surprise that John returned to Cape Breton to spend his retirement days near Chéticamp. John was content in living a simple life and couldn't imagine being anywhere else. He often referred to it as "God's Country". Some of his favourite pastimes included playing cards with his close friends, fixing up his property in La Prairie, or walking his dog on the beach.

John Payne had a genuine smile that was infectious to all he met, and his kindness was felt by all that knew him. He loved to meet new people and share stories and hear theirs and would always leave having made another friend. He was a loving father, a general handyman who could fix anything with a roll of "duct tape", and was known for his generosity and big heart. He would give anything that was asked of him and all he would ask in return was to pass on that same kindness.

John is survived by his children, Matthew (Josee Jean) Calgary, Alberta; Celena (Jonathan Bjorklund) Morinville, Alberta; and Lisa (Chuck Reimer) Bradford, Ontario; and, his beloved four-

legged loyal companion, Hogan. He was the proud Papa to grandsons Benjamin Bjorklund, Noah Bjorklund and Theo Reimer and newly born granddaughter Lucy Reimer, whose meeting brought joy to John in his final days. John will be dearly missed by brothers Dennis (Susan Stewart), David (late Gail Gibson), Michael (late Dianne Warren), Peter (Darlene Demarsh) and sisters Theresa Payne and Susan (John Masswohl). Also left to mourn John's passing is his former spouse, Albertine Payne (LeFort) and numerous beloved nieces and nephews. John greatly enjoyed staying in touch with his extended family, forging firm and lasting friendships with his Gourdier, Halligan, Hogan, Jackson, Lefort, Lemieux, McCann, McNamee and Payne aunts, uncles and cousins from far and wide. He was grateful for the awesome friendship and support of his life-long buddies Frank Murphy and Francis Corrigan, along with Eugene McGillivray, Ralph Timmons, Louis Burke and their families. John also appreciated the friendly neighbours in La Prairie.

Besides his parents, John was preceded by his younger brother Charles at infancy and a very dear sister-in-law Dianne (Michael). His other former canine side-kick, Mac, has also been patiently waiting for him in paradise.

At John's request, cremation has taken place with his ashes to rest in a family plot at the St. Mary's Cemetery in Kingston, Ontario. A celebration of life will be planned for St. Michael's Church in East Margaree for the summer of 2021. Announcement to follow at that time.

The family would like to thank all of the staff at Sacred Heart Hospital in Chéticamp including Dr. Paul Sonier, Dr. Ritter, Moira Chiasson, Noella LeFort, Vicky Chiasson and all the nurses and staff who became his friends along the way. We would like to express our thanks to Aunt Theresa for being there for Dad; helping him the last months your love and kindness will always be remembered.

John always believed in being kind to one another, and we can carry on his legacy with this simple act. In lieu of donations, John's family asks that you do something wonderful for your community, a friend, a family member, or simply a stranger. A Celebration of Life will be held in East Margaree sometime in 2021; also in Kingston, Ontario where he will be buried. Further information at a later date. Funeral Arrangements are under the Care of Sunset Funeral Co-operative, Margaree Valley. Online condolences: www.sunsetfuneralco-op.com

"The Payne is gone!"