



## John Joseph Fahy

November 6, 2023

On November 6, 2023, John Fahy, 80, of Toronto, Ontario, passed away peacefully at Kensington Gardens Hospice. On that evening, the clouds lifted, and the Celtic stars ushered him to heaven.

John was the youngest of three children born to Gerald and Mary Fahy on May 13, 1943, in Paisley, Scotland. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Luton, England to follow the work. He was raised there in Luton, England, and the whole family worked at various times at Vauxhall Motors. At the age of 17, John even started a 5-year apprenticeship at Vauxhall and would often refer to the family unit as a “true blue Vauxhall Family”. The times were the early 1950’s and England was rebuilding after a very impactful World War. It was also the place that gave all 3 children the drive they needed to look beyond the shores of England.

Before he even thought of working at Vauxhall though or branching out into the world, John found football (soccer to us North Americans) and his skill did not go unnoticed. At the age of 13 a scout from Luton Town Club approached his parents and asked if John would be interested in playing. John then moved on to Letchworth Town and then Bedford Town. It was here, in 1964, that John contributed to one of the biggest upsets in FA Cup history to that date. Bedford was in the Southern League, and they were scheduled to play Newcastle United of the Second Division in the 4th round. The Bedford team were massive underdogs, but they went on to win 2 – 1 and John headed in one of the goals and assisted on the other. The Newcastle fans were so upset

that the Bedford team had to get a police escort back to the train. John became an instant celebrity in his hometown.

Two weeks after the win over Newcastle United John was signed professionally to play for Oxford United between 1964 and 1966, making a total of 23 league appearances and scoring 14 goals. In 1967, he played in the Southern Football league again with Margate. The following season he played in South Africa's National Football League with the Germiston Callies Football Club for four seasons. John decided to move to Canada with his family and played for the Toronto Metros in the NASL. It was with this team that John had the honour of playing against the great Pele during an exhibition match with Santos of Brazil in 1972 at Varsity Stadium. In 1973, John joined Toronto Hungaria where he finished as the league's top goal scorer. John finished his soccer career in 1975 playing for Toronto Italia.

Later in life, John was a huge fan of the Tottenham Hotspurs but was so elated when Luton Town Football Club was elevated to the Premier League in the 2022-2023 season.

John was also successful in his post soccer career where he joined the work world in Canada. John carved a high-profile career in sales and marketing for such organizations as United Foods, Cara Retail, Metro Toronto News and Warner Publishing Services. During that time he was the point person for various celebrities promoting their books, which included Sophia Loren and Dorothy Stratton. John saw an opportunity to relocate to Australia to work with his brother Gerry and sister-in-law Mary to build the McDonald's brand down under. From 1986 to 1999, John and his wife Lynda were franchises licensees for McDonalds in Mayfield, Australia. John's claim to fame was co-inventing the McOz, loaded with beetroot and onions, and is celebrated every Australia Day.

After his foray into McDonald's, John decided that public service was his

calling and served on Newcastle, NSW, City Council. During his tenure he was Chairman of the Sports Advisory Panel and served as Deputy Mayor for a period of time.

John is predeceased by his beloved older sister Cathy O'Flynn (nee Fahy) and his brother and mentor Gerry Fahy (Mary). John is survived by many loving members of his immediate and extended family. There is his eldest son, Jason; daughter Sally; and, youngest son James (Kayla). His greatest legacy is his granddaughter Rowan who lives in Australia and John was so proud to meet her and spend time with her. He also leaves behind his adored nieces and nephew, Erin, Patrick and Donna. John will be deeply missed by his close friend Kate and his ex-wives, Angela (Muckleston) and Lynda (Herlihy). Leaving to mourn John will also be many lifelong friends across the globe, extended family members and countless other people who meant the world to John. There are too many to name here but they should all know that they meant the world to him.

We would like to thank the cancer centres at both Sunnybrook Hospital (Odette Centre) and Princess Margaret Hospital and the many doctors, nurses and technicians who helped John along his medical journey. We would also like to thank the tremendous staff at Kensington Gardens Hospice for comforting John on his final journey with dignity. Please honour John's memory by donating to either the Sunnybrook Foundation or the Kensington Gardens Hospice.

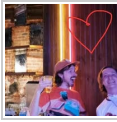
# Tribute Wall

JT

“ *Very sorry to read this, I wrote John's page on the Margate FC History website - <http://www.margatefootballclubhistory.com/johnfahy.shtml> - and exchanged emails with him where he was really helpful with the details of his football career. He certainly had an amazing season with Margate. Condolences to his family.*

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**Jeff Trice** - November 20, 2023 at 06:03 AM



*Thanks heaps Jeff! He was very proud of his time at Margate and we've been SO grateful for your amazing archive over the years as we've looked at the photos and read stories of his exploits. Without your hard work that stuff disappears. I'm still hunting for the holy grail of footage of him playing, imagine finding the Newcastle giant-slaying out there somewhere!*

*Thanks again for the message.*

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**James Fahy** - November 26, 2023 at 11:40 PM

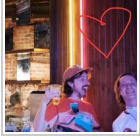
MJ

*Hi James, I think we exchanged e-mails some time ago. I was unaware John had passed away until today. A group of us are updating the Margate FC history website where his details will be updated.*

*John lived in Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate just a few houses down from my childhood home.*

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**Mr Jeremy Jacobs** - February 22, 2024 at 07:44 AM



“ 4 files added to the album *Pictures of John*



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**James Fahy** - November 10, 2023 at 05:38 AM

MF

“ I first met John and his first wife Angela in England in 1966. Little did I know then, I'd marry his older brother Gerry a year later and be welcomed into, become part of the Fahy clan. Several years later John, his second wife Lynda, along with their infant son James, aged only 3 months, joined Gerry and I in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. John became a Franchise owner of McDonalds after purchasing one of our Restaurants, (Mayfield), in late 80's. John, his older sister Cathy O'Flynn and Gerry were very close siblings. They shared a number of similar traits; one very important one, a 'Glass Half Full', outlook on life. Although, unlike my dearest Gerry, I confess, I sometimes thought of John as a bit of a 'likeable rogue'! I'm happy to share another endearing similarity, their uncanny ability to stay grounded, 'weigh things up' and see things 'as they are'. We shared many, happy times with John and Lynda whilst they lived in Newcastle and I was shocked when John told me they were returning to Canada. I must now, come to grips with 'the end of any era'. I've lost my connection with the FAHY CLAN, with a sad farewell to the loss of the last brother, John Joseph Fahy.  
VALE DEAREST JOHN

Mary Fahy - South Australia

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Mary Fahy - November 09, 2023 at 07:14 PM

RD

“ I met John when we both started work at Vauxhall Motors. We were first office boys and then Apprentices. We both played football, (Soccer), for Letchworth. After he left for Bedford I only saw him occasionally. Our careers took us in different direction, mine to America and his to Canada and Australia. I was fortunate to be in touch with when he was hospitalized and we were able to have a talk about our past friendship. My condolences go out to his family and friends. John was one of the good ones.  
Richard Day

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Richard Day - November 09, 2023 at 03:19 PM