



Mini Irish town of Youghal takes up about 1/4 acre of space in front of the Allen's house. It includes homes, churches, hotels, pubs, a betting office and a bakery, among other things. It draws about 2,000 visitors a year.

Retirement Hobby Becomes Local Tourist Attraction

Jim Allen's efforts to construct a miniature version of his Irish hometown of Youghal, have been a giant labor of love. It's also becoming a popular tourist attraction.

For the past 4 1/2 years, the 71-year-old Terrace, British Columbia man's keen memory has helped him design 22 replica buildings. His skills as a retired plasterer and painter have helped Allen do a beautiful job constructing the mini landmarks.

They're solidly constructed with wooden frames, plaster walls, wooden shingles, and glass windows. Some of the structures are inlaid with real stones.

Irish visitors have declared the model village to be an accurate depiction of the historic community, and locals have dubbed Allen, "Mayor of Tiny Town."

Most of the little buildings' roofs are around five to six feet high. The town takes up about a 1/4 acre of space. He still has about half an acre available for new projects.

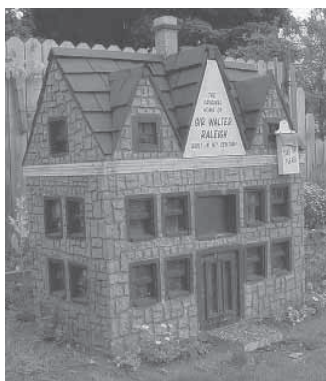
The mini town includes: homes, churches, hotels, pubs, a betting office, a bakery, a YMCA, a cobbler, a bank, a post office, a gas station, a 12th century lighthouse tower (complete with revolving light), a river, a pond/harbor with fishing boats, and a realistic miniature mountain.

Since there are always new projects to do, Allen works on the village most every day. He's currently completing a butcher shop and a gazebo/bandstand.

To add authenticity and interest to his creations, Allen included details such as a neatly stacked pile of fire wood behind one home and an itty-bitty pair of shoes in the cobbler's window.

Displayed in his front yard, the model village draws some 2,000 visitors per year from all over the world (validated by signatures in the guest book he keeps in a Plexiglas stand by the front gate).

All of this attention inspired Allen to include a donation box to raise money for chil-



The building roofs are around 6 ft. high. Allen, a retired plasterer and painter, is known as "Mayor of Tiny Town."



dren with cancer. It features the photos of two local children who are currently battling the disease.

After spending the first 21 years of his life in Youghal, Allen immigrated to Terrace shortly after marrying his wife, Josephine, from a nearby town. The couple has lived in Terrace all 49 years since, and although they've returned to visit the modern Irish city four times, they prefer their Canadian home.

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Icelandic Horses Small But Growing

With an average height of 12.3 to 13.1 hands at the withers, Icelandic horses are small compared to most horse breeds. They look like playful little ponies but breeder Phil Pretty says looks can be deceiving. "Get on one, and it doesn't feel small," he says. "In Iceland, they are traditionally a man's horse and ridden like motorcycles...all out."

Pretty is co-owner with his wife Robyn Hood of Icelandic Horse Farm. At 29 years in business, the Vernon, B.C. enterprise is one of the oldest and largest breeders of Icelandics in North America. Pretty is also president of the North American Icelandic Horse Breeders Association (NAIHBA).

First imported to North America in any numbers in the 1970's, there are now estimated to be nearly 30 serious breeders in the U.S. and Canada.

Icelandics can cover 817 ft. in 20 sec. at their 'flying' pace. Pretty explains that the horses are trained to start out at a fast gait and then slow down at the rider's direction, not start slow as with most breeds.

The flying pace is a racing gait akin to a sprint. Here, the horse moves both feet on the same side together, most commonly seen in sulky or harness racing in North America. Pretty says the pace is so smooth and so fast that flying is the only way to describe it. Not every Icelandic can do the flying pace.

The best Icelandics have five gaits. While the pace is impressive, it is the fourth gait called the tölt that has made the Icelandic horse famous. This pace which varies from gentle and regal to equal in speed to a full

gallop is known for its smoothness. In fact, demonstrations of the tölt are often done with the rider holding a full glass of beer in one hand, the reins in the other and riding without spilling a drop.

Other gaits include the walk, the trot and the canter or gallop. Only the best of the breed are able to manage all five gaits.

The breed is also colorful, with more than 40 different colors with about 100 variations.

Pretty says people interested in buying an Icelandic need to get to know the breed and try as many horses as possible before buying.

"We try to discourage impulse buyers," he says. "We like to see people visit lots of different breeders and ride lots of animals."

Pretty counsels buyers to always get a bill of sale and make sure it references that registrations will be provided. If possible, he adds, get a copy of the animal's registration papers at the time of sale.

Pretty points out that perhaps because they haven't been threatened by predators for more than 1,000 years, they are unusually steady and easy to train.

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John Deere Mobile Grill

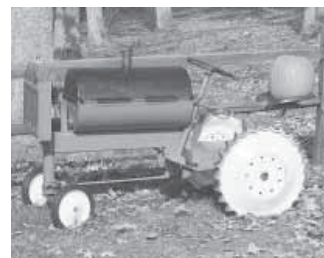
Barbequing for a group requires a big grill, but that same grill can be a bear to move around when you make it out of a 30-in. long, 16-in. dia. steel pipe.

"It was great for groups, but it took two men to pick it up to move it," explains Deland Cooper. "And my wife didn't want something ugly sitting around the back yard, especially when we only used it a couple times a year."

So Cooper took a couple drive sprockets from a Deere 550 dozer and used them as rear wheels on a mini tractor frame that he built around the grill.

A piece of 2 by 6-in. steel tubing became a main frame for the tractor and a support for the grill, which sits where the engine would have been. Scraps of tubing were used to frame the driver platform and provide an axle mounting for the rear wheels.

Cooper raided an old Deere riding lawn mower for a steering wheel and steering gear. The mower's running boards were mounted to the sides of the platform and an old metal seat was salvaged from a horse-drawn Deere



Cooper took his huge home-built grill and built a mini tractor frame around it so he could roll it around.

sickle mower. A short piece of pipe welded to the top of the grill cover and topped with a rain cap looks like an exhaust pipe. Pieces of copper sheeting and pipe framed by steel tubing became a radiator.

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