

Mainprize Documentary
MediaRelease (Draft)
For Immediate Release
November 17, 2020

e-version

ANNOUNCING the fundraising campaign for the Mainprize Project and official launch of the Mainprize Project website.

On November 17, 2020 the Mainprize Project officially launches their [GoFundMe](#) fundraising campaign. The project's main goal is a feature length documentary. The secondary goal is to establish a bursary named after Dr. William Graham Mainprize offered in perpetuity by each of the three Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions.

Ninety percent of the filming is complete. All financial gifts raised through the campaign will go towards postproduction work and the shooting of a few remaining key interviews.

"The entire project has been warmly supported by a lot of Saskatchewan-born folks and has a large Facebook following," says Producer/Director Jack Hilkewich. "The project would not be where it is today if it wasn't for the generosity of our donors."

In conjunction with the [GoFundMe](#) fundraising campaign, the project's official website launches. You can find it [here](#).

The Documentary Subject: Doctor William Graham Mainprize

The documentary is a 100% donor driven Saskatchewan production profiling Doctor William Graham Mainprize and the harsh prairie weather of the early 19th century. The film is essentially a love letter to the brave people who settled this province. Doctor Mainprize was an extraordinary human being, going to great lengths to carry out his practice, but he didn't do it all alone. He was the leader, but had a lot of people who worked alongside him to make sure he was able to serve the people of his community.

The sometimes harsh conditions made Doc's job a difficult one, and would tax the limited resources he had to work with. The rural transport infrastructure, in those days, was very minimal. When rain or snow occurred, it would make a short trip to a nearby farm to treat an ailing person a journey fraught with perils of a Homeric odyssey.

The documentary examines the life of Dr. Mainprize and the people who lived and worked alongside of him from 1911 to 1976. We interviewed doctors and nurses that worked with him as well as people that owe their lives to "Doc" as they recount their harrowing experiences of medical emergencies. The documentary also explores how the sometimes inhospitable environmental conditions of a young province shaped the lives of these pioneers as they struggled to survive.

The Documentary's Beginnings

Preliminary work on the documentary began in 2011 with one person. Since 2018, 'the Project' has been coordinated by a five-member, volunteer Executive Committee with members from Regina, Bromhead and Brandon, Mb. ([E.C.](#)) All members currently live or are originally from the Midale and surrounding area. The production crew is made up of award-winning film and TV professionals, all from Saskatchewan. ([Crew](#))

Mainprize Park Regional Park (located 16kms southwest of Midale) celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. Jack travelled to the park armed with a camera and a microphone to capture some of the activity and talk to a few people at the event. He was amazed by the amount of people who showed up and expressed to him that it was a great idea to document the park and the memories of Dr. Mainprize.

After that weekend, Jack knew this project needed to have more effort, thought, care and attention given to it in order to do it justice. This was about the man, Dr. Mainprize, who gave so many people a chance at life and asked for so little in return, but it was also about the people who selflessly served alongside of him. This project had to be done right and this is when the Mainprize Documentary Project was born!

Dr. Mainprize 'Doc' – A Brief Biography

Doctor William Graham Mainprize, 'Doc' was a pioneering doctor beginning in the early 1911 with a practice serving Midale and surrounding area for over 50 years.

He was dedicated beyond what his profession called for. Doc would travel many long hours by horse, sleigh, or whatever he needed to see his patients. He would only get paid what the people could afford and that was usually very little and mostly resulted in some form of food.

Doc would get the local people to help him with his duties or travel with him on these long journeys on the open prairie in all kinds of weather. He would also get local people to help build special vehicles that would enable him to go on his house calls in the country.

In 1959, the town of Midale and surrounding area appreciated Doc for his lifetime of unselfish service that they named a park in his honour.

About the Producers

Jack Hilkewich, Producer/Director

Vice-President of Interactive – Partner [Melcher Studios](#), Co-producer and Director on the Mainprize Project. Jack started his film and TV career in 1984 working on films in Toronto. He moved back West to attend film school in Regina. He worked on numerous films and TV shows as well as commercials and corporate videos. He has won some awards and met a lot of great people along the way! Jack attended animation school in early 2000s and worked as an animator for several years. Jack operated a small VFX and animation company and now works mainly in VR and AR for Melcher Studios. Jack was delivered by Doc Mainprize.

Murray Kerr, Producer

Co-producer and Phase Two Coordinator on the Mainprize Project. Murray was born and raised in Midale where he attended school from Kindergarten to Grade Twelve. He moved to Brandon, Manitoba to pursue his post-secondary education. He earned a Marketing Diploma from Assiniboine Community College and an undergraduate degree from Brandon University. "Jack and I made a number of amateur super 8 films together in our teens. I appreciate the opportunity and challenge to work with Jack and Melcher Studios as a volunteer on the project telling the story of a Saskatchewan icon."

Follow Us!

There are two main ways to obtain more information on the Documentary. The newly redesigned [Mainprize Project webpage](#) and our Facebook page, [Mainprize: The Documentary](#) where you can leave your comments, ask questions and share.

To Donate

[Mainprize Project webpage](#)

[GoFundMe](#)

Contact

Contact: [Jack Hilkewich](#) or [Murray Kerr](#) if you wish to ask questions or to arrange an interview time or contribute photos and home movies of the 'old' Mainprize Park.

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