



The Tributary

An End of An Era:

Harry Hill 1913-2005

On April 9th, Bear River lost one of its most interesting and remarkable citizens, Harry Albert Hill.

Harry was almost 92 when he died and he lived all those years in the village. It was an era that encompassed unbelievable changes. There was no one in the town that didn't know who Harry was. He was, to say the least, pretty colorful! Harry was one of 16 Hill children, and after leaving school at the age of 19, he worked with the J.H. Cunningham Stave Mill in town for 26 years in all departments. Harry then worked with his father as a stone mason, the post office as a cleaner/maintenance worker and then in 1956 was hired as the caretaker for Mount Hope Cemetery. This was a job he took seriously and the beauty of the cemetery was a tribute to his dedication and pride. "I worked at the Mount Hope Cemetery for 39 years, which I did with great pride and honor" wrote Harry. "The cemetery was kept in good shape at all times and many a photograph was taken of me and the grounds by people from all over the world. It became a tourist attraction also." Harry was very fond of fine clothes and made frequent sojourns to Halifax to find new finery, riding the now defunct Dayliner. Many will remember how Harry would walk up and down the aisle of the train shaking hands with all on board with the refrain, "Harry Hill, Bear River!" The two names became synonymous to many people. Others remember



how Harry would come downtown after supper every evening for his dish of chocolate ice cream and a good conversation at the Packet.

Harry was a mainstay at Cherry Carnival. Who can forget how he directed the parade as it turned up the Upper River Road from Main Street, dressed in his most dazzling outfit? Harry loved Cherry Carnival. Harry loved life. Harry didn't leave the Mount Hope position until well into his 80's. He said that he was getting too old to both 'chase women' and work, so one of them had to go. Harry was definitely a ladies man and even in his final summer enjoyed meeting the women tourists and posing with them for photographs.

Harry made a great contribution to the village in his off hours too; keeping the skating rink at the fire hall, and the girl's softball team. And in his spare time, he showed his skills as a champion pool player, sang in the church choir, and shared his memories of life in the village with all who cared to listen, and there were many. It's hard to imagine life in the village without seeing Harry walking through town in his wonderful colors. But in Harry's own words: "I was brought up to respect God, and I look on life on this planet as four seasons, and when the Lord wants you, you have nothing to say about it or complain about it. In essence you can talk and complain all you want of the weather and death; it is the only thing you can be sure of."

So long Harry; we will all miss you.

Pat on the Back

This month's pat on the back goes to those tireless women who keep the Health Clinic open come rain or shine. Shirley Robar, Shirley Isles, Judy Isles and Sheila Justason somehow manage to "woman" the clinic five days a week, so that we don't lose this valuable service in our village. They sure could use a little help, and they certainly deserve a huge pat on the back: Thanks Ladies, from all of us.

The Bear River **Legion Ladies Auxiliary card parties**, are Tuesdays, upstairs starting at 7pm.

The Bear River **Legion Ladies' Auxiliary weekday coffee get-togethers** 9 to 11 am.

Bear River Fire Department all you can eat breakfasts, the first Saturday of the month, 7-10 am.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly, meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30 at the New Horizons. Everyone is welcome.

The **Amnesty International** meeting is the second Tues. of the month in the United Church Vestry, 7pm

Bear River Economic Development Society - first Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm at the Legion.

Bear River Board of Trade - second Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm at the second floor of Windmill.

Oakdene's CAP site - The CAP site is open regular hours once again; 8:30 to 12:30 Monday to Saturday.

Don't forget the ever popular annual SPRING Fling held at the Legion, April 30th. Call Glendean Parker to reserve a table.



The Bear River Board of Trade

A meeting was held April 14th of the Bear River Board of Trade. The brochure for the village is in the works and any business who would like to participate in this should contact Andrew Riddle, 467-0500. Deadline is the end of April. A proposal for funding for the development is in the works and will be presented to Annapolis and Digby Municipal Councils in the very near future. The Board of Trade will be holding a plant sale and spring extravaganza on May 22 starting at one o'clock either at the waterfront or in the Green Lantern Building. This will be a great opportunity to get fabulous plants and fun yard sale stuff and meet all sorts of people you haven't seen in a dog's age. All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of the Bear River Waterfront Park. Anyone with plants or other items to donate, or would just like to help out, please call Jane Kingston at 467-0145. Pick up can be arranged.

Jimmy McAlpine discussed the possibility of an increased police presence in the village in regards to speeders and four-wheelers. A request has been put forward to the RCMP. A "community day" is being organized for May 7th at Oakdene Center for anyone interested from the community to participate in the preparation of the Tourism Development Workbook. Letters will be sent to the various organizations to ask for representatives for their valuable input.

Remember, Board of Trade meetings are the second Thursday of each month on the second floor of the windmill.

The Bear River Historical Society thanks the following sponsors for the month:

Bear River Legion and BRL Ladies Auxiliary
Teresa's Hairstyling
Cherry Brook Grocery
Viking Leather
Bear River Board of Trade
Bear River Fire Dept and
BRFD Ladies Auxiliary
Flight of Fancy
New Horizons
Oakdene Centre

Design by: Diana Wade

The Tributary is presented by the Bear River Historical Society, with the generous support of our sponsors. The deadline for news is the 10th of each month. Submissions may be made to Evelyn Henshaw, **467-3996** or Heather Charlton, **467-3269**.

Social News

Sympathy is extended to the family of Harry Hill who passed away recently. Welcome back to the village, Charles and Marge Couper who spent the winter in Arizona, where it was abnormally rainy. They are glad to be home. Carolyn and Robert Wagner celebrate their wedding anniversary on April 16. Has it really been 39 years already?

Happy birthday to Tom Wallace April 22, Sonny Raymond, Apr. 10 and twins Jenna Melanson and Melanie Meuse who turned 25 on April 12. Also birthday wishes to Rose Meuse, April 17 and Diane Jotterand, April 11.

Linda Mae Findlay and Lauren Shishkov motored to Wolfville during March break where they had lunch with Audrey Aldershaw, wife of Dr. Mike Corbett, at the Blomidon Inn. On the way back, they visited with Nancy Snider, Lauren's mother, who is now living in Coldbrook.

The annual meeting of the Oakdene Center was held in April and the new Executive is: Linda Mae Findlay, chairperson, Oakie Peck, vice-chair, Cathy Banks, secretary and Beth Earle,

treasurer. Everyone in the community is invited to attend the monthly meetings, for just \$5.00 a year, you can become a member!

The Annual General Meeting of the Bear River Historical Society will be held May 16 at 7:30 at the Museum. Come and find out about all the exciting new projects that are planned for the year.

The Peace Garden is looking forward to a really big growing season this year! Get involved at the May 2nd, 7:30 p.m. meeting at the home of Wylie and Carol White, 99 Upper River Road. Call 467-0985 for details.

There will be a very special art event at the studio of Sharon Trueman in late May. Watch for posters!

A special fundraiser for MS is being supported by Linda Dunn of Bear River who suffers from the disease, and her family; husband Ray, eldest daughter Tracy, brother David Somers and his fiancé Kim Wilson, and Linda's sister Pamela Shepard will be making a five kilometre walk to raise funds for the MS Society Chapter.



History Repeats itself?

The announcement was made recently that the Scotia Prince would not be sailing between Yarmouth and Portland this summer. In The Bear River Courier of April 7/1949, the following item appeared:

Nova Scotia is not going to lose its traditional Yarmouth-Boston direct steamship connection with Boston after all.

On Monday night, Hon. Harold Connolly rose in his place in the House of Assembly, and informed the Speaker he had an important announcement to make. He then read a telegram from Pres. Alton B. Sharp of Eastern Steamship Lines to the effect that the company has reconsidered its former decision to suspend the Yarmouth service which will begin on June 17 and continue through Sept. 18 as usual serving Nova Scotia's tourist season. The same conditions of operation apply this year as previously. The minister's



"Princess Helene" in Digby Gut, circa 1950, courtesy Gerald Chute

announcement was greeted with rounds of applause and many expressions of relief for the threatened sale of Eastern ships and the cutting of the sea link with Boston had been giving members from all over the province the utmost concern.

reprinted from Water under the Bridge.



Artist's conception of original Princess of Acadia, courtesy Norma Fraser

