

Profile This Week

Meet Ed Cavanaugh

Where does one begin when one is featuring such a well known person as Ed Cavanaugh for this week's Profile. I suppose it's only fitting to a man such as Ed, to start at the beginning - in 1895 - in North Bay. That's when and where this historic figure head of Terrace Bay was born and raised. Ed didn't elaborate on his childhood - maybe due to his loss of memory or maybe because it was what he would class as a normal growing up period where nothing eventful happened. One thing that is on the records however, is that he married his childhood sweetheart and sand-box companion, Norma, on November 11, 1919.

Over his many years of residency in North Bay, Ed was noted as being not only a well known organizer in various sports such as hockey and baseball, but he was also recognized for his war efforts in 1943 as Chairman of the H.M.C.S. North Bay Comforts' Fund Committee where he furthered interest among the North Bay citizens about the ship bearing the name "Gateway to the North" and it was due to his enthusiasm and enterprise that his town earned the reputation of being the city to take the keenest interest in an 'adopted ship.' Although Ed did not actively serve in the second World War, he and many others like him assisted the war effort in many unaccountable ways.

Ed was also known around the North Bay area as the Railway Mail Clerk; a job that he held from North Bay for over thirty years. His regular run was from North Bay to Fort William and while passing over the Aguasabon bridge during his run, he often wished that the Aguasabon area was his home - not only because of its rugged beauty and

charm but also because it was a fact that this area would be indeed, a fisherman's paradise.

Shortly after that wish, Ed and his family moved to the Fort William area for a brief time. Brief because Ed had heard that Kimberly-Clark was planning a pulp mill and town site exactly where the good fishing was. Besides ... he was tired of the rail-roading life and wanted to settle down with his

the town Terrace Bay, the first post office was opened on January 17th, 1947 in the area of the present Moose Hall. At that time the only other buildings on the town-site were those of the hospital, the police station, the bank and the Hudson's Bay store. Basements were soon laid and house construction immediately followed. In the early parts of January, work commenced on the mill

Bay. Not only did those include the Hydro Commission, the Knights of Columbus, the Kiwanis Club, the Legion and member of Council plus the Reeveship for 6 years - but he also served his civic duties on the High School Board, the Board of Health, the Public School Board, the Recreation Board and every committee and club in between. That's why it's very easy for the early



Ed (left) stands with "female" companion during a Kiwanis Tea and Bake Sale which was being held at the old Hotel Terrace.

family in an area that he dearly loved. So, it was then that he decided to apply for the position of Postmaster in what was then known as 'Black Siding.'

He was appointed Postmaster in August of 1946 and he then made his trek to the area in September to pick a site for a temporary post office building. The site, then a railway stop-over, was dismal and barren ... but with great growth potential (as history has revealed). After the Post Office department officially named

and shortly after that, construction began on the Aguasabon dam. The town was starting to take shape and people were ready to call Terrace Bay "home."

Ed recalls everyone thinking, working, and acting as one huge family.

From there different organizations were formed, associations such as hockey and recreation were established. The first school was opened in a private home with Clarence Smith as the principal, complete with approximately a dozen students. Church was being held in what was then the recreation hall (which also housed the Saturday night movies). Shortly after all this was readied, Dr. Shaunessy, Terrace Bay's first dentist moved in his practice.

Ed, Norma, and their family were instrumental in all phases of the building and of the maturing of the town of Terrace Bay. Ed was an active member on the Improvement District Board of Terrace Bay as a trustee from 1955-58 and was also Reeve when it was moved from an Improvement District to a township.

Since his move to "Black Siding" in 1946, Ed can honestly say that he has been a part of almost every Board, committee and organization that was ever established in Terrace

settlers of Terrace Bay to place Ed Cavanaugh as part of the town's history.

Ed was also the person responsible for having the new hospital named as the McCausland Hospital. "It was to honour a great man - Dr. Mike", said Ed. "He deserved that honour. He did a lot for the people and the town, and it was a great way for all of us to express our gratitude to him."

Ed is not only noted as being a great organizer, a post master (for which he served for a total of 48 years), family man, etc., etc., but he is also a well known and published author and poet. In the next few weeks, the "NEWS" will be publishing a few of Ed's poems, and it is our hope that you the reader, will enjoy them as we did.

The "NEWS" chose to run Ed Cavanaugh as this week's Profile, not only to pay tribute to an outstanding "Town Father", but also because Remembrance Day is fast approaching - and Ed is the last surviving resident of Terrace Bay who actively served during World War I.

It was difficult for Ed to remember back to his war days. Difficult due to the fact that he cares not to remember the pain ... the suffering ... the death ... and the tragedy that those years held for him.

"I was about 18 years



From his residence in the Chronic Care ward at McCausland Hospital, Ed was able to share with us, his memories of days gone by.

old - just a kid, when I fought in that war. Those are days that I want to forget. I lost quite a few friends, some of them close friends." Ed remembers the death quite clearly - just as if it were yesterday. "It was after the Armistice was announced (it was announced before the actual stopping of the war). We

in various hospitals overseas and also when he was sent home to Toronto. One vivid memory that haunts Ed, is the picture of the many children running alongside of them during their many months over there. "They liked us. We used to carry candy in our pockets and give it to the children as they ran beside us. They

was the end of all wars.

They were all wrong. Just look back at all the wars, the suffering and the deaths that have hit not only us at home, but everywhere in the world. And we're still hearing of war. **When will it all stop?**

I wish that I could answer that question for you Ed, but I can't. Nobody can. But we all



Helen Brooks, Mrs. Vezina, Ed and Norma Cavanaugh and Alma Marcella are seen here at the 1967 Centennial Luncheon.

were advancing shortly before the ceasefire. It was then that we came across the entire Winnipeg Battalion lying dead before us in Belgium. They were dead from

looked forward to receiving that special treat."

When asked for his overall recollections of his war years, Ed says this: "I desperately try to forget them but I

share your views and thoughts on that subject.

I thank you Ed, for sharing with us your memories, your words of wisdom and your past



This photo was taken around 1909 when Ed was about 15 years of age. The team he played on was called "The Rink Rats". Which one is you Ed?

the mustard gas used by the enemy."

Ed was stationed in England, France and Belgium during the war. He was also injured and spent over nine months

can't. I guess we'll never rid ourselves of the memories.

They said that the first World War was the end of all wars. They said that World War II

years of caring and sharing. It has shown in you ... the town of Terrace Bay ... and it's people.

God Bless you Ed - may you live on to tell others.



Here's Ed standing outside the first Post Office at "Black Siding". This was just a temporary building and was located in the old south camp.