

Remembering Conrad Byers Part 4

Continued from page 3

Me: They were under restrictions, so they used cargo ships to take pictures on the sly?

Con: Yes, preparing for the Second World War. They took pictures of the Kipawo unloading cars at the pier, and that rig they had for unloading cars - the crew had invented that lift, the engineer and Captain had drawn plans for that lift. The Germans photographed it, and that's what they used in the invasion of Norway when they were unloading their tanks.

Continuing Onslow's story, Conrad said, "The Parrsboro-Windsor ferry, sort of mid-Bay, blowing its whistle and everything, came over to Onnie's boat, and passed the news that the war was over. The First World War. Onnie said everybody was celebrating, and horns blowing and so on. And the ferry crew from Windsor told them, 'Don't go into Parrsboro before we do because the port's celebrating, you have no place to dock there. You'd better come up to Windsor.' They went up the River to Windsor, tied up at a dock there, and the whole town was out in the streets. He said he never forgot it because the schools were let out, and the waterfront was packed with people. The mayor got up on a soapbox there and talked to the school-kids: 'We want you to remember this day because the war is over, and there will never be another



The Kipawo vehicle lift.
(Photo from public archives, Ottawa House Museum)

war again. That was before my time."

Me: Bruce Graham's book, Diligent River Daughter starts out with that day. Maybe Bruce got it from you and Onnie. A lot of the old stories are told by more than one person.

Con: I had a friend who used to make weirs. He lived in Digby. He married a woman late in life - he was 60 when he married a retired school-teacher from Advocate. He used to come over from Digby and take her over to Advocate and leave her with her relatives. He discovered my shop in Parrsboro. He used to come up and spend an afternoon or a day with me talking. Really nice man.

"He was in the Second World War, North Advocate

campaign, and he was in Intelligence. He told me about a lot of the different battles he was in. Because he was in Intelligence, he always carried a little notebook in his pocket, and he still did when he talked with me. With a small pencil. He could put his hand in his pocket and take notes. He did that in North Africa, and he was always sending Intelligence back for the British, and that was his job. He would talk to prisoners and so on, try to get information. He would come in and look at the photographs on the wall in my shop, and he could tell me what time of day that picture was taken just by the sun angles and so on. He bought a lot of photographs from me. He died a few years ago, and I miss him because he was such an interesting and smart man.

"We were talking about war stories, and he said, 'Do you know, the Second World War really started in Digby.' He said, 'Well, there was a German ship came in just before the war.' The Germans sent out freighters everywhere, to get lumber or whatever it was in all the Canadian ports, and while they were in there, there was always a Nazi aboard, and he took photographs of everything. That's where they got a lot of their reconnaissance, they knew where things were.

"This fellow was talking about just before the war broke out, there was a Ger-

man freighter in Digby at the wharf loading lumber. This is a story told to him by a barber in Digby, who was right on the waterfront. Across the street from his shop, a German freighter was loading lumber. One of the officers came off that ship across the street to get a haircut. He realized when he came in the store, that the barber was Jewish, because of his accent or whatever. Anyway, the German refused to let this guy cut his hair once he found out. He went out and said he wouldn't let a Jew cut his hair. There was a sort of fight over

it, an argument about that. The German left calling him names and so on.

"The next day, this barber was really upset about it. He had a .22 that he kept for shooting rats or something. He came in early one morning to the shop, 7 o'clock or so, and the ship across the street from him was just starting to gear up with its stevedores to load. This guy was out on the bridge. The barber took the .22, opened the door a little bit, and he aimed across at the German and pulled the trigger. He shot him right through his heart,

and he just dropped. They thought he had a heart attack.

"The barber got away and nobody heard the shot. Doctors came and realized he'd been shot. But they didn't know where from or who or what the circumstances were. Of course the barber didn't say anything. It was an unsolved murder. The guy who was telling me the story said, 'Actually,' he said, 'the Second World War started in Digby. That was the first casualty.'

"That's my story and I'm stickin' to it!"

By Sandra Stephenson

I love to shoot this tree along Hwy 2 near the Southampton turnoff in all seasons, even in post blueberry season. The colours change year to year (Lawrence R Nicoll Photo)



Continued from page 4

leveraging our offshore wind resources and the opportunity for export, particularly to Europe. Achieving these goals will require collaboration across all three levels of government. The province will lead the development of strategies and programs to ensure success. We have already introduced several key initiatives, including the community solar program, critical minerals strategy, rebates for larger zero-emission vehicles, legislation to modernize the electricity system, a green hydrogen plan, a green choice program, and offshore wind projects. We will continue to identify and implement additional programs to help us meet our energy and sustainability targets.

10. What existing provincial government program or planned policy is least beneficial to businesses and general population in Cumberland South?

The Liberal platform's plan to introduce a nearly 30-cent per litre carbon tax will be a burden for people in our community. It's unrealistic to impose taxes on gas, farmers, and food distribution while claiming to make life more affordable for Nova Scotians. This policy will negatively impact families, businesses, and our agricultural sector, making life even more challenging for everyday people in the area. The last thing we need is more liberal carbon taxes in our community.

11. Many people are of the opinion the provincial government is directing too much attention to HRM and larger urban areas. What would you do to change the pendulum to place more emphasis on rural Nova Scotia?

For too long, past governments have focused too much on HRM, and now it's time to shift that attention to the untapped potential of rural Nova Scotia. Our regions offer immense opportunities, from abundant energy resources like wind, solar, and geothermal, to the natural beauty that draws tourists. We have so much to offer, and we need representatives who will consistently highlight these opportunities and advocate for the investment and support our rural communities deserve. Our government has already made significant investments in our community, including \$7 million for the new Oxford Community Centre, \$2 million for Oxford Frozen Foods to continue innovating, and \$59 million in public works road projects. I will continue to use my voice to get our region the support we deserve.

12. Normally MLAs are expected to "toe" the party line. If you are elected on November 26 th do you promise to place a higher priority on "constituents wishes / needs" ahead of "party policy" except in "non-confidence" situations? I serve the people who elect me, and my top priority will always be the needs and wishes of my constituents. You can count on me to put your priorities first as my focus will be on representing you and ensuring your voice is heard.

13. If you are elected on November 26 th what actions will you immediately undertake to achieve economic growth and lifestyle enhancements for the constituency of Cumberland South as result of increased emphasis on green energy; tourism development as result of tidal energy and GeoPark assets?

My immediate focus will be on engaging with the stakeholders in our community to understand their ideas and needs. I will take those ideas directly to the decision-makers to ensure that Cumberland South benefits from our green energy, tidal energy, and the potential of our GeoPark assets. By working together with local businesses, environmental groups, and tourism operators, we can develop strategies to drive economic growth and improve our community through these exciting opportunities.

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