



Gordon McCully
Debert

Gordon McCully was born in Debert on June 8, 1920 but his career choice took him around the country.

Gordon is the son of Everett and Mae (Withrow) McCully. His early education came out of the East Mines School. In 1940, at the age of 20, Gordon joined the RCAF and was shipped overseas in 1941 where he served as a wireless air gunner on Halifax bombers. He was a Warrant Officer 1 by war's end in 1945. He left the RCAF after the war, married Phyllis in 1947 and then rejoined

the Air Force in 1949, staying with it until he retired in 1969. He served in the supply section of the force, working in places like Moncton, N.B., Ottawa, Goose Bay and Chatham, N.B. He had attained the rank of WO1 by retirement.

"It was a very interesting life," said Phyllis. "If you were posted some place you knew you were going to be there for four years so there was no sense growling about. We made the best of we were sent and I liked every place we were at," she said.



Helen Slack
Truro

Helen Slack "never heard tell of a storm closing day

when I went to school."

Helen was born Aug. 10, 1921 on Folly Mountain where her sister-in-law still lives in the original family home. She was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Rogers) Patriquin.

"We walked a couple of miles or so to get to school," Helen recalled. "Maybe on some of the bad days dad would drive us but he would have to go through the fields with the horse."

Helen finished her schooling in East Mountain and married Osborne Slack in 1939. After the war they moved to Wawa, Ont. where

Osborne worked above ground for 11 years in mining. The family then moved to Oshawa, staying in Ontario for a total of 60 years. They had four children: David, Oshawa; Linda (Poce), Kingston, Ont.; Patsy (Matheson), Bible Hill and Barbara, Valley.

It was at the urging of her two daughters in Nova Scotia that Helen returned to the province three years ago. She said she's glad to be back with her friends and family and still enjoys getting out to card parties and the odd Bingo game.

Orland Roblee
Belmont

Orland Roblee's family roots have been traced back to the 15th century.

Orland said his family trees shows a former colonel in France moved to Holland and then came to Nova Scotia from there.

Born in Truro April 21, 1921 to parents Pearly and

Lucy (Cox) Roblee, Orland grew up in Belmont where, he said, he spent most of his life.

He was called into the army in 1942 but health issues kept him from passing the physical. He did return to Halifax where he spent about 15 months manning anti-aircraft guns as part of the Home Guard protecting Halifax.

Orland said he also worked on farms around Onslow-Belmont area and then settled down to marry Myrtle Armsworthy. They had our children - Carol, Arlene, Barbara and James.

Orland worked for Richie Barnhill at his mill for about 30 years, doing a variety of jobs like yarding and operating drainage equipment.

Aubrey Rushton
Folly Lake

Like many from his generation, Aubrey Rushton made some of his living working with wood.

Aubrey, who was born March 9, 1920 in Lornevale to parents Arthur and Mabel (Hanson) Rushton. Lornevale, Aubrey explained "is on the side of the mountain near Londonderry."

The family moved a bit when he was younger,

spending time in Londonderry and Westchester. "I helped on the farm and went to school," he said. At 20 years of age he joined the Army and served four years overseas. He married Evelyn Rushton before the war and they eventually had five children: Wayne, Lyle, Jean, Valerie and Gary, who died in infancy. Aubrey didn't see Evelyn and one of his children until the war was over.

Overseas Aubrey was in

the transportation division of the forestry corp, driving trucks, officers and "sometimes ambulances."

After coming home from overseas, Aubrey said he tried contract lumber cutting but when he tired of that, he went to Ontario where he worked in the mines. He also worked in construction and as a commissioner in Debert. They bought a place on Folly Lake where Aubrey says he really enjoys living.



Neil and Louise
St. Clair

Lower Economy

Lower Economy residents Neil and Louise St. Clair are glad they moved to Nova Scotia.

"We have a great life here," Neil said.

Neil was born on March 23, 1918 in Orleans, New York, the son of Ernest Edward and Donna Pauline (Crandall) St. Clair. Louise

was born in Buffalo, New York on Sept. 7, 1918, a daughter of Garfield and Margaret Harrison.

The couple moved to Nova Scotia after their four children, Neil Jr., Lee, Linden and Margaret, were grown. Neil said Louise knew some people from the area and they decided to move here "a long time ago. This is home."

On May 16 of this year, the couple celebrated their 71st anniversary.

Lillian Doyle
Parrsboro

When Lillian Doyle wanted to further her education, she did what students of the day did - hoped on the boat in Parrsboro and travelled across to Wolfville where she attended Horton Academy.

Lillian was born in Five Islands on Sept. 8, 1909, the daughter of Lorne and Elizabeth (Fillmore) Pugsley. She completed her grade school education in Five

Islands then went on to the academy, explained her daughter, Barbara Miller of Moncton, N.B.

After she finished at Horton Academy, Lillian moved to Boston where she started to train in nursing but she ended up marrying Robert Doyle there. Robert was also from Five Islands but was living in Boston at the time.

Barbara and her brother were born in Boston but the

family moved back to Five Islands in 1932 because of lack of work. They still had the family farm to return so they went into dairy farming until the late 60s or early 70s.

Lillian lived in the farm house until she was 98 or 99, Barbara said. And she made her last trip, which they made every winter, when she was 95. She now lives at the seniors complex in Parrsboro.

Elroy Hanes
Debert

Born in Truro on April 15, 1921, Elroy Hanes was in the trucking business for more than 50 years.

Elroy said he had a couple of trucks of his own before enlisting in the services in 1943. After serving in hospitals in the province and then

a year on a hospital ship transporting wounded soldiers home at the end of the war, Elroy returned to the area and got back into trucking.

In August of 1942 Elroy and Estella (MacLean) were married. After he came home in 1946, they worked together in the trucking, with

Estella keeping the books, Elroy said. She passed away in 1999.

After selling the trucking business in 1980, Elroy got into recycling in Hilden. Problems with land zoning and property use closed the business and he eventually moved to Debert where "life is good in a lot of ways."

Helen MacLachlan
Great Village

Before Helen MacLachlan was 10 years of age, she and her family moved from Brackley Point Road on Prince Edward Island to Great Village.

Helen was born on the Spud Island on May 14, 1919, a daughter of Stanley and Vinnie Prowse. She received her early education in Great Village and then went on to

Montreal where she trained to be a nurse.

"I stayed there for seven years and then came back in 1944 and married Muir MacLachlan," she said.

For 50 years, Muir ran MacLachlan's General Store in Great Village and after their three children grew up a bit, Helen helped out more in the store. Their children ate Sandra, who lives in Middle Musquodoboit; Jane, Truro, and son Robin, who

also resides in Truro.

"Great Village was certainly a wonderful place to raise a family. It was always a very busy and active community back then," Helen said.

The store closed in 1981, giving Muir a welcome break from being there 24 hours a day. The couple travelled a little bit and did a little gardening to relax. Helen said she's still getting out and about and is able to walk to church on Sunday mornings.

Muriel Spencer
Great Village

When Muriel Spencer and her husband Ralph of Great Village were raising their kids, they spent a lot of time on the ball field.

Muriel was born in East Village, Colchester County on April 26, 1921 to parents Olie and Elsie Robinson.

After she married Ralph,

who was a local carpenter and also spent considerable time working in the woods, Muriel stayed home and raised the couple's eight children: Lyle, Great Village, Dennis, London, Ont.; Wayne, Great Village; Darrell, Dartmouth; Elmer, Bedford; Randy, Great Village and Lynn, Great Village.

Lynn recalled that her

mother was always baking, knitting or cleaning and enjoyed going for Sunday drives on the back roads of the county. "And dad was right into baseball so was spent a lot of time at the ball field.

"Mom likes to do word search puzzles and still likes to get out for drives," Lynn said.

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Message from Rev. George H. MacLean
Former Minister, Glenholme, Nova Scotia



It's always an occasion when friends gather, in person or around the newspaper, to say "Hello" and ask how one another are. May this be grand for everyone. I think of

glorious gardens of crops and flowers; of long tables at church and community suppers with Washington pies; of digging snow tunnels to get from house to road; of spring breezes with "warmth at last." And through it all, the gentle neighbourliness and the willing help and the good humour of trust.

It's scenes like these which make a people

stalwart, a community strong and a nation great. All good wishes, personal and social, from us both.

Helen and George MacLean

