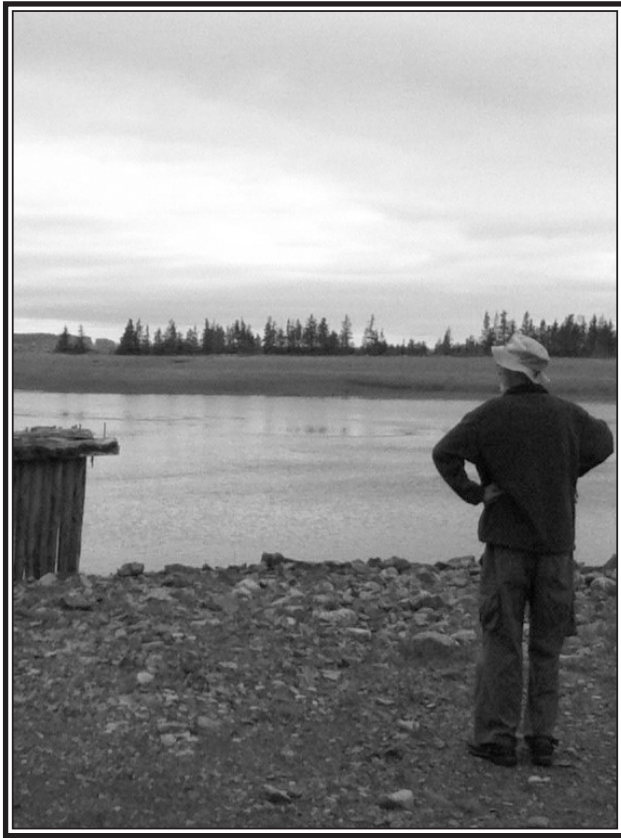


# Remembering Conrad Byers Part 3

*Continued from page 1*  
 how bad was that when you had to pay for pallbearers. We both thought that was terrible.  
 "I said to Frank, jokingly, 'Let's agree that whichever one of us goes first, the other one will be a pall-bearer for sure.' So that's what we agreed on. Well, it wasn't very long, a couple of months, before he did die. So I got out to the funeral, and I had called the undertaker and said I wanted to be a pall-bearer, and I was." That was Conrad's explanation for a poem called "Frank's last day" from 1978, that went into the poetry collection I edited for him, *Salmon Dreams* (see below).

He went on to tell me about a newsletter he enjoyed reading, TBC (The Byers Connection): "My grandfather, Ed Byers lived in a cabin on the lake. He and his wife parted and he sort of went native, went back into the woods and became a guide. Everybody loved him, people visited him and kept him going. This was before old age pensions or anything. I could talk a lot about him, because he was a very interesting man. We'd go back and visit him, and he'd say, 'Do you want to see some ducks?' And we'd say yeah, so he'd go and get his violin and come out on the deck of the cabin and play his violin, and all these ducks would come in. I thought it was magical. Of course, he'd feed them, and that's how they knew it was feeding time. He'd feed them every day. I thought he was magic. And then he'd say, 'Do you want to see a moose?' And he had this big birch-bark horn, and he'd blow in that, like mmmmm, you know, and bring a moose out into the lake."



"There are lots of Byers from 40 American States and every province of Canada, and they had reunions every 5 years near Tatamagouche and hundreds of Byers descendants come there. The Byers Connection editor is now dead, she was a cousin of mine in the States, and it's not published anymore. People with Byers connections would write in their stories about their families. It was a very interesting magazine because it really showed the traits of that clan, and we all laughed at it because we were all so similar. There are certain traits. Music was a big thing in the family, and they were all teetotalers. Hundreds would come, all descendants of this big family from Scotland, and they all

would come and nobody smoking and nobody drinking!"

As we spoke in his apartment, the phone rang and Conrad talked with his brother Bernie about getting Con's blue sailboat into the water, a preoccupation of his in the last years. He wanted to go into the Bay and photograph all the villages along the Shore, to compare past with present and document the Shore's current condition. He never was able to begin this project, and indeed things have changed in the seven years since Con's passing. Old homes and buildings picked up by new owners and saved from decay, and others fallen down, burned, or demolished. Wharves and pilings fall into the Bay, and in Parrsboro the flood-gates are gone from under the dam. Solar panels and a sewage treatment plant on the site of the old mill, have replaced the old outflow pipe that emptied into the inner harbour, changing even more the ever-changing faces of water, land and history.

That old sewage pipe, by the way, is the central character in another long-standing Parrsboro story..... ask Kerwin Davison about the rum-running days!

# OLD MAN

by Conrad Byers

Four o'clock in the morning -  
 the best hour for my head.  
 All my life's thoughts rush  
 through dying leaves of trees  
 that rustle for no one else to hear.

And the balance of things  
 so near to the heartbeat.  
 Seconds pass slowly,

the better to grasp at passing life.  
 I could write till dawn  
 but what would it prove?  
 That I have regret, that  
 I have more sorrow or love  
 in my heart than I have shown?  
 I try now to tell only my pen.  
 Good night!

(published in *Salmon Dreams* by Black Dog and One-Eyed Press of Main & Station, Parrsboro in 2015, with illustrations by Francis Piché of Québec)

In my personal copy of his poetry book, I wrote, "Sept. 22, 2017, my birthday. The day after his death, I pick up the second printing."

the night he died  
 one star dimmed  
 for each dream

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## 2024 Cumberland Election Results

October 22, 2024

**The Municipality of Cumberland today issued the final, official results of our 2024 Municipal Election. The results issued today differ from the unofficial results released on Election Day. The number of votes cast manually, by paper, were included twice, in error, in the unofficial results previously released. This error did not impact the outcome of any of the races. The revised totals along with the previously released, incorrect, totals appear below:**

Mayor	Unofficial Results	Official Results
Rod Gilroy	3739	3332
Stan Blenkhorn	1128	956

**District 1**

Fred Gould	740	687
Shane Kelly	128	115

**District 2**  
 Anthony Fromm (Acclamation)

**District 3**  
 Jennifer Houghtaling (Acclamation)

**District 4**  
 Kathy Redmond (Acclamation)

**District 5**  
 Angela "Angel" McCormick (Acclamation)

**District 6**

Scott Lockhart	320	252
Paul Taggart	207	157
Drew Fraser	126	105

**District 7**

Carrie Lee	516	504
Dale Porter	331	309
Shawn Duffy	54	50

**District 8**  
 Marchel Strong (Acclamation)

*Cathy Coon, Returning Officer*

**The Season of Giving is here**

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