

Press Release

March 1, 2024

Wilmot Historical Society

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Retired Architect Donald P. Paulsen, 97, Receives Wilmot's Boston Post Cane

On Friday, March 1, 2024, members of the Wilmot Historical Society board awarded the Boston Post cane to Donald P. Paulsen at his home on Fox Run Road in Wilmot. Don was born July 22, 1926. He is 97 years old and is currently the oldest living member of the Wilmot community.

Don came to Wilmot in 1998 with his wife Janet, who passed away in 2018. Both Don and Janet had volunteered at New London Hospital for many years. Both were avid skiers, which is how they met.

A WWII veteran, Don served in Japan as a medic. After the war he attended Newark College of Engineering and later worked in his father's firm as an architect in Jersey City, NJ.

Two of his four children, Lynn and Carl, as well as his grandson and son-in-law attended the small award ceremony at his home. ~~on Fox Run~~. His other two children, Pete and Fred live in Colorado.

The tradition of the cane began in 1909 when Edwin Grozier, publisher of the Boston Post newspaper, presented a personalized cane to the select boards of 700 towns throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Each cane had the name of the town etched into the 14K gold head. The directive was that the cane be given to the oldest citizen in the town.

Each recipient receives a certificate of recognition and a framed photo of him or her holding the cane. A copy of the certificate and photo are posted both in the town office and on the historical society website.

Walter Willis Walker, a longtime resident of Wilmot and member of the Town of Wilmot history committee for many years, proudly held the cane from December of 2020 until his death this past July.

Past recipients of the Wilmot Boston Post Cane may be found on the Attic page of the Society's webpage <www.wilmothistoricalsociety.org>.

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