



Earl Bailly

b. 8 July 1903 in Lunenburg, d. 1 July 1977 in Lunenburg

Associated Places: Bailly Home, 134 Pelham Street; paintings on display at Lunenburg Town Hall, 119 Cumberland Street, Lunenburg Art Gallery, 79 Pelham Street, and the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic, 68 Bluenose Drive; where Earl Bailly memorabilia is displayed; interred at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Contributions: Artist and inspiration to others in overcoming physical challenges to lead a full, productive life. Even "Earl" Bailly brought attention to Lunenburg with his lifelong artistic accomplishments, and his engaging personality. Stricken with Polio at the age of two, he lost the use of his arms and legs, learning to write and paint with his mouth. Earl developed a highly refined sense of colour and composition, being well read in art theory and practice. He travelled to major cities across Canada, the U.S. and Bermuda, achieving recognition at Galleries for the quality of his Maritime scenes. In 1933, with his brother Don, Earl sailed to the Chicago World's Fair on the original Bluenose, with Captain Angus Walters.

Newspapers were eager to publish the story of an artist who had overcome his disability by creating paintings of real artistic quality by using his mouth to wield brushes. Earl was very proud to proclaim that he was a true Lunenburger.

Earl was presented to the Queen twice in his lifetime, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, also a polio victim, purchased a painting for his own collection.

At a conference of the world wide Association of Mouth and Foot Painters, in Barcelona, Earl represented the North American Continent as the Senior Canadian Member Artist.

In 1973, Earl Bailly was awarded the Honorary Degree, **Doctor of Civil Laws** by St. Francis Xavier University. His address to the graduating class was said to be the most memorable one in the University's history.

Earl really enjoyed riding around Lunenburg in his convertible car, and sailing in a specially outfitted boat. He often parked his wheelchair at the corner of King and Pelham streets to chat with tourists.

Earl Bailly's wonderful artistic career was made possible by the heroic dedication of his brother Don, who accompanied him on all of his trips throughout the world.

