



Earle MacAusland Caravan
Royal Canadian Air Force
World War II

Born: 24 Sep 1921

Died: 26 Jul 2016

Place of Birth: Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

Parents: Walter Hooper and Fannie Edith (nee Parsons) Caravan

Earle does not appear in the 1921 census for Country Road, Bay Roberts, presumably since he was born in September 1921 and the census had taken earlier in that year.

The census does show the Caravan family living in Country Road with Walter at 34, Fannie 28, Arthur 7, Roy 4, and Lois 3. Mrs. Caroline Caravan is also a member of the household at age 77.

The 1935 Newfoundland general census has the family still at Country Road as follows: Walter is 48, Fannie 42 with children

Arthur 21
Roy 18
Lois 17
Earle 14
Leslie 12

Bert 9
Isaac 7
Velma 3
Bruce less than a year old

Earle enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and was stationed at the RCAF Station at Boundary Bay, British Columbia.



It was here, while posted to Boundary Bay Airport, that in 1944 he met Lorraine Gossen of Hepburn, Saskatchewan and in June 1946 they were married in Vancouver. They would make Vancouver their home and raise five (5) children together: Helen, Robert, Greg, Janet, and Joan. They would be married for seventy (70) years.

Once in civilian life, Earle worked for Fletchers Fine Foods of Vancouver as a shipper for 38 years.

They moved to Richmond, B.C. in the late 1950's., where they built a new home and established a blueberry farm that they operated for more than 50 years. Earle died in July 2016 at White Rock, British Columbia at the age of 94. Lorraine passed in 2019 at the age of 93.

Here are some newspaper clippings from the Bay Roberts Guardian that mention Earle specifically. The period is 1943/ 1944 through 1945.

Earl Caravan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Caravan, Country Road, has recently been accepted for service with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Earl was rejected for all the services when he enlisted here about two years ago, and last year he went to Canada where he was again rejected. He then worked with General Seafoods Corp., in Canada, until about two months ago, when he again volunteered and this time was accepted, and will go in training the first of April. Mr. and Mrs. Caravan's eldest son, Arthur, who has been in the United States for a number of years, recently joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps, and is attached to Camp Piccott, in Virginia.

Messrs. Earl Caravan and Bert French have been accepted for the Royal Canadian Air Force and are now in training in Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Caravan this week received a letter from their son, Earl, who in April went in training for the R.C.A. F., stating that he had passed his Electrical Course at the Danforth Technical School, Toronto.

Below is a Newspaper article form the Bay Roberts Guardian dated 30 September 1944

Please accept my deep appreciation for the carton of cigarettes which I received today. It is something that is always welcome and mostly needed. I hope you have every success in your fine work.—L.A.C. E. M. CARAVAN, Boundary Bay, Canada.

From Earl Caravan:

First I must apologize for not writing you sooner and to thank you and your Committee for the Money Orders which I received . . . Thanking you again for the gift of money. Sincerely yours, E. M. CARAVAN, R.C. A.F. Jan. 11, 1945.

Earle's Obituary in full:

Earle Caravan September 24, 1921 - July 26, 2016, Earle MacAusland Caravan passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on July 26, 2016, at Westminster House, White Rock, BC. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Lorraine; his children: Helen Norton (Gale), Robert (Marianne), Greg (Cathy), Janet and Joan; his grandchildren: Meaghan Daniel (Ryan), Michael, Kevin, Christina and Angela; his great-grandchildren: Tristan, Coltan and Greysan; his brothers; Bert (Clarice), Bruce (Phyllis), David and sister, Velma Young (Haig) and their families. Earle was born in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland on September 24, 1921. He came to Vancouver when he joined the RCAF during WWII and was stationed at Boundary Bay Airport. Here he met his true love, Lorraine. They were married June 20, 1946, in Vancouver and built their first home there. Earle worked at Fletcher's Fine Foods as a shipper for 38 years. The family moved to Richmond in the late 1950s, built a new home and established a blueberry farm where they lived and worked for more than 50 years. The children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren share very fond memories of the farm. A celebration of life will take place on August 7th, 11 a.m. at Westminster House, 1653 140th Street, White Rock. In lieu of flowers, donations in Earle's memory can be made to JDRF, BC Children's Hospital or BC Cancer Agency