

Mackie, Patrick

(1922 – 1999)

Patrick (Paddy) Mackie was born in Vernon, B.C. on September 14th, 1922. His parents Hugh and Grace Mackie along with his uncle Austin Mackie had come from England, first settling in Saskatchewan. On coming to Vernon they formed the Vernon Preparatory School in the Coldstream area. This was a private school for boys which Paddy attended until Grade 7 when he entered the Vernon School system and graduated in 1938. Paddy taught at the private school for two years. He also attended the Ontario College of Art.



After his two brothers were killed in World War II, Paddy joined the Navy and became a lieutenant under the command of Jack Kidston, another Coldstream resident. Paddy was a navigator of corvettes that accompanied convoys between Ireland and Newfoundland.

When the war was over, Paddy went to the University of B.C. for three years obtaining his B.A. by attending year round. He then "polished up his French" at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, for two years. After a sabbatical in 1954, he taught French and Mathematics at the Vernon Junior High School (now the W.L.Seaton School). He was a very popular French teacher.

Paddy was an environmentalist at heart. He, along with others, helped to establish Monashee Provincial Park. He was also a philanthropist, raconteur and a great reader. His main hobby was watercolor painting; all his friends requesting a painting, many of which were displayed on the second floor of Mackie House. He loved to entertain. Mackie House was the scene of many naturalist club outings and Christmas parties. He also took up playing the flute.

Paddy was a member of the North Okanagan Naturalists Club. Most will remember him for the summer camps when early in the morning the sounds of a flute would come soaring over the camp to say he was awake!

When the Bishop Wild Bird Foundation was formed in 1980, Paddy who was a great friend of Lydia Bishop was asked to join the Board. He held that position until his death on July 31, 1999.

Paddy Mackie had ensured that his house, the Mackie Lake House, was registered as a Provincial Heritage Site, and left as a legacy The Mackie Lake House Foundation to preserve the building, grounds, and furnishings for the enjoyment and education of the public.

A Crimson King Maple was planted in memory of Paddy Mackie in the Memorial Gardens at the Bishop Wild Bird Foundation. The Crimson King Maple is a "cultivar" or variety of the Norway Maple *Acer platanoides* with a distinctive leaf shape and a dark purple coloration.

Vivian Merchant
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