Ted B. Blackburn

Mr. Blackburn settled into Sackville nicely after arriving in a beat-up truck from the Prairies in 1934. He was known for his diversified brand of commerce in Sackville.

Blackburn operated a general store on the main highway and Cobequid Road intersection.

In 1935 local entrepreneur, Ted B. Blackburn, began his first store with his sister, Florence, in the building pictured above.

He would later open the Blackburn Shopping Centre, which was the first shopping centre in Sackville. He would later sell the centre in the early 1970's.

A group of kids taking a break from sliding outside the Blackburn Shopping Centre.

He was an instrumental force in the formation of the Sackville Fire Department, and in the founding of Hillside Park School, the Acadia School and in the planning and building of Sidney Stephen High School, which was to become the area high school.

Blackburn, when not pursuing community interest projects, served as a local councillor in the fifties, representing the communities of Sackville, Bedford, Windsor Junction, Waverley and Mount Uniacke. He was also known for his love of politics and always kept chocolates and silk stockings on hand during an election. He worked on many conservative campaigns.

A roast in Ted's honour revealed that he was also an avid supporter of television when it came out. In fact, he bought hundreds of sets and was determined to make sure that every home from Sackville to Ecum Secum had one. He went to every door and installed a television free of charge. A month later the bill arrived.

Blackburn was a man who listened and followed what the public wanted. It has even been said that his store was the K-Mart of the day.

Being a patriotic soul, Blackburn gave everyone who worked for him the day off when it was announced that World War II was over.

Ted Blackburn was the kind of man who always lent a helping hand. When not helping friends and his neighbours, he was known for relocating his homes. Once he moved his home off the Cobequid Road corner and it appeared two weeks later on Hillside

Avenue. It is even joked that because of Blackburn moving buildings around, this is why the Old Sackville Road became so wide.

Known as Mr. Sackville to many area residents for his radio ads to draw people in to a then rural community, Blackburn helped create a new identity for the community and was a catalyst for change. His friends called him "a tough old critter."

Blackburn, a founding member of the Sackville Heritage Society, was an instrument for change with the provincial government in saving the house from demolition, and turning the house into the Fultz House Museum. He was a testament to determination in getting the job done in locating, developing and speaking to the merits of why our community needed a place for people to come and to not only learn about the past, but a place where you sit and walk amongst the beauty of the grounds, visit a tourist attraction, attend a meeting place, and do so much more. He knew that not only was the Fultz home an important part of our community's past, but a bright spot for the future in so many ways. His work with Fultz House was part of his lasting legacy for the community.

Not only the Blackburn family, but the community suffered a great loss, when Ted B. Blackburn unfortunately lost his fight with diabetes and other ailments in 1987. As a fitting tribute to Blackburn, a wishing well was constructed on the Fultz House grounds and named in honour of a great visionary for our community, the late Ted B. Blackburn, not only a family man, but an entrepreneur, an historian, and a courageous community steward.