



Harry R. Hamilton
(1921 – 1944)

Harry Roland Hamilton was born in 1921 to loving parents James and Mary Hamilton of Middle Sackville. The Hamilton family grew to nine people, of which Harry was the second boy born out of five. At the age of seven Harry started attending the little one room schoolhouse, the Middle Sackville School, located on the top of Shay Hill. He did well in his studies, but could not finish school. He and his older brother, Bruce, had to drop out early to become the breadwinners for the family, after Harry's father was struck down with the dreaded tuberculosis disease rendering him unable to work.

Harry opened a general store in his late teens in a building well known to the community at that time. The old Peter Blakney store was located at the junction of the Beaver Bank Road and the Sackville Cross Road. The building, in addition to the general store, held Sackville's first switchboard for the community's phone line, as well as a post office that was the only one in Sackville at that time. When Harry was not working to support his family, he would enjoy walking through the woods or following the path of the Sackville River.

As the storm clouds of war gathered over Europe, Harry joined the band of brave men and signed up for the armed forces in 1942 for overseas service. After completing his training in Halifax, Harry was sent to England where he became a Guardsman with the 22nd Canadian Armoured Regiment. In 1944 Major Edward Hamilton (no relation), second in command of the Regiment, and a Captain Ghewy were engaged to look for a new area in Normandy to move their unit to, and Harry was assigned as their driver. While they were on this task, their car ran over a land mine and Captain Ghewy and Guardsman Hamilton were both killed. Major Hamilton was badly wounded in the incident.

Harry R. Hamilton never returned to his beloved Sackville home. He was buried with many of his other Canadian brothers in a gravesite in Brettyville Sur-Laise, France. The Memorial Cross was awarded to Harry's mother, Mary, in appreciation for the sacrifice he made for his King and Country, by the Minister of National Defense, on behalf of the Canadian Government.

Harry was a man of good character and it was said of him by his comrades that he never had a bad thing to say about anyone and no one had a bad thing to say about him.

Harry's sacrifice for his country was honoured by the Sackville community, who named a school after him, the Harry R. Hamilton Elementary School (pictured below), located in Middle Sackville.

