

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Irene Kosky Receives Boston Post Cane, Honoring her as Oldest Scarborough Resident.

SCARBOROUGH, MAINE (November 1, 2016) – Irene Kosky, age 97, received Scarborough’s Boston Post Cane recognizing her as the Town’s oldest resident. The ceremony, which took place at Kosky’s home on October 28, included the presentation of the cane from Daisy Higgins of the Boston Post Cane Committee as well as a plaque and pin from the Scarborough Lions Club, presented by Pam Hartford, Gary Tapley, Bill Pape and Gerry Butts.

Kosky’s daughters, Karen Lothrop and Dianne Mills, as well as other family and friends were on hand to celebrate the honor. Town Councilor William Donovan, Assistant Town Manager Larissa Crockett and SEDCO’s Magda Slawiec also attended the ceremony.

The tradition of the Boston Post Cane dates back to 1909 when the publisher of the Boston Post commissioned gold-headed ebony canes which were then distributed to hundreds of New England towns. The towns were instructed to present the cane to the oldest resident. The cane would be owned by the town and would be passed on to successive recipients. More than 500 of the original towns are still reporting on their ceremonies, including the Town of Scarborough. Scarborough’s original gold-headed cane is housed at town hall, but replicas are made for each of the recipients. In order to be eligible for Scarborough’s Boston Post Cane, the recipient must be at least 90 years old and must have lived in Scarborough for at least 20 years.

“This is such an honor,” said Kosky. She noted that the weather outside was rainy, but “the sun is shining in here today.”

Kosky grew up on a farm in Scarborough, located on Beech Ridge Road. Her first years of school were spent at the Beech Ridge School House on Holmes Road. In 1937, she was named Valedictorian of her Scarborough high school graduation class. Kosky notes that she is the only remaining student from her class.

After High School she worked at Maine General Hospital in Portland and at a Dunstan-based inn to save money to further her education.

In 1939 she signed a contract to work one winter at the Palm Beach Biltmore Hotel, a luxurious Florida landmark. She explained that she shared expenses with other girls driving to Florida.

Looking to further her education, Kosky attended nursing school in St. Petersburg. She gained her RN diploma while working at Mount Park Hospital.

In 1944, she met her soon-to-be husband, Anthony Kosky, who was in the Army. They married in 1945 and moved to Massachusetts soon after World War II. By the 1950's, they had moved back to Maine and into the Beech Ridge Road house where Kosky grew up to care for her parents. During this time she worked at the Osteopathic Hospital.

Irene and her husband had two daughters, Karen and Dianne. Kosky lives with her daughter Dianne Mills and her husband on the Spurwink Road in the summer. During the winter, Kosky lives with her daughter Karen Lothrop in St. Petersburg, Florida.