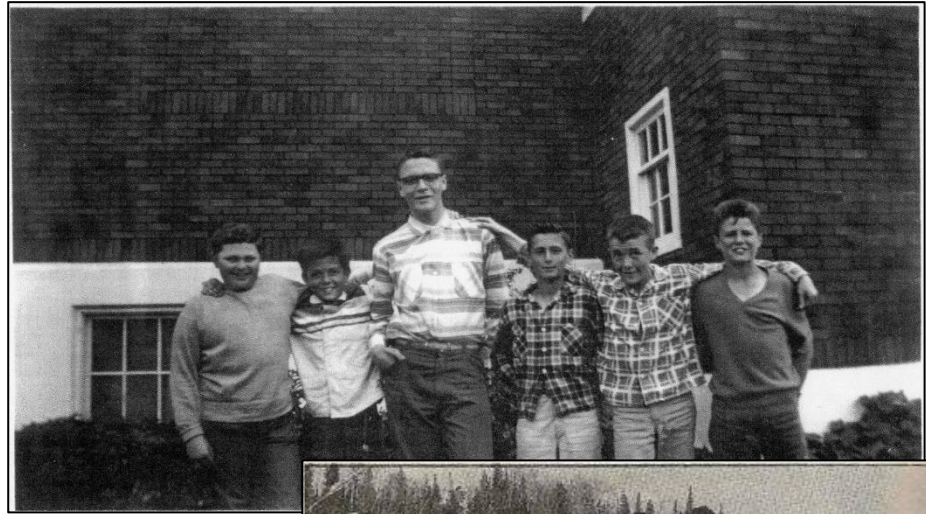


Farewell to “Brinks”, a boyhood friend

by Ernie Bies December 28, 2020

I had spent all day on Boxing Day writing a tribute to an old friend Gordie Lussier, who passed away that morning. Today I learned that another one of the old gang, Brian “Brinks” Egan, had passed away last week, on December 19.

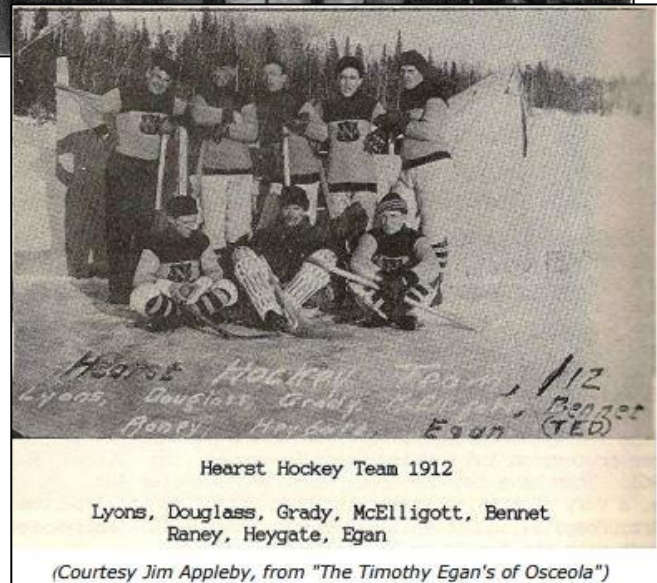
Brian and Gord form the bookends in this picture of the Grade 8 boys in 1958. Left to right, Gord, Ernie, Gordon Meads, George Bosnick, Jonathan Turner and Brian Egan.



The Egan family has a long history in Hearst dating back to 1912 when Ted Egan was a member of a Hearst hockey team.

Brian’s Father Daniel, originally from Osceola in the Ottawa Valley, married Rita Waugh in Hearst in 1926. They moved back to Osceola, then again to Hearst and Cochrane where Brian and his sister Sharon were born.

Orphaned early in the 1950s, Brian and Sharon came to Hearst to live with Uncle Donald Martin. Brian joined my grade 3 class at Hearst Public School in 1953.





Back Row: Walter Waugh; Bruce Pellow; Joe Roy; Billy Hendrickson; Gary Mitchell; Bobby Hosfeld; Billy Greeley; Gordon Lussier; Andy Cowie; _____; Ernie Bies; George Bosnick

Middle Row: David Hendrickson; Ida Russell; Mary Horchak; Jean Mitchell; Jean Martin; Virginia Coulam; Marilyn Menard; Gail Bolton; Anne Johnson; Eddie Rosevear

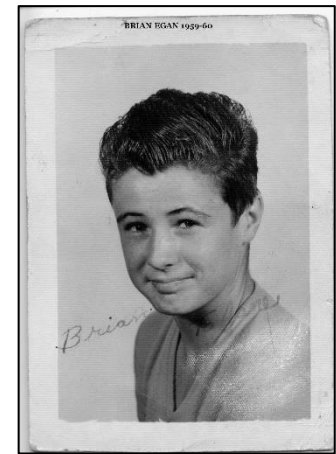
Front Row: Jonathan Turner; Selma Koivisto; Dorothy Rosevear; Necia Coulam; Sally Spennato; Katy (Terefenko) Larouche; Geneva Malette; Cecile Roy; Judy Gelineau; Viola Waugh; Alan Achilles; Brian Egan



Brian had mischief spelled all over his face and soon was one of the most popular boys in the class. He was always a superb athlete, be it softball, broomball or hockey. Over the years he was also an instigator of hi-jinks at school or at summer camp where he led the night-time raids on the girl's camp and the smokers in the attic, until they set fire to the cabin and had to change their ways.

I didn't get involved in the street mischief until my family moved into town from the

farm in 1957 but made up for lost time quickly. Hearst had a motorcycle gang called the Rebel Rousers led by the Rosevear boys and Brian's cousin Wibbie. They allowed us to hang around their club house and we formed our own little gang calling ourselves "Devil's Angels" complete with a home-made crest and a club house made of twigs in the bush behind Uncle Donald's house on the western outskirts of town. (which is now closer to the centre of town). We fancied ourselves rebels, stripping down our bikes and sampling cigarettes and beer when we could liberate a bottle (that we shared). We had cool nick names, Brian was Brinks, Wayne was Slaughter, Eric was Pickles and I can't remember mine. (Brinks, Slaughter and Pickles are gone now). I do recall the others trying to teach me to inhale cigarette smoke when I was 12 but it made me violently ill so I gave it up.



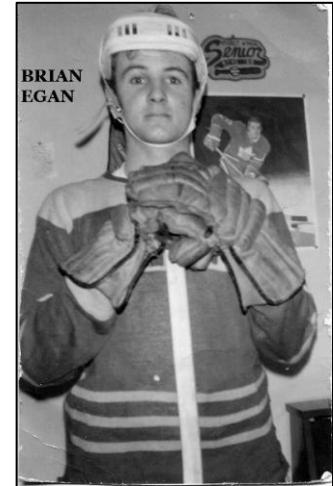
Hearst had a nine o'clock curfew for kids under 16 when the police sounded the fire siren. Prince St. is probably the longest street in Hearst and connected us all. Brian was in the extreme West end of town on 15th Street, Gerald was at 10th, Jonathan at 8th, I was at 7th and Eric and Doug near 6th. Television came to Hearst in the mid-50s and Patty Rice's parents had the only TV available to our gang. He lived midway on Prince so the challenge was to get home without getting caught by the Police. This involved a lot of

fence hopping in mid-block but on the occasions that we had our bikes with us we were in trouble. The police would escort us home and speak to our parents.

The hockey rink at the Public School at Prince and 10th was also a focal point and everyone wanted to be on Brian's team as he was without a doubt the best player.

We would often cycle out to Lac Ste Therese to swim. On one occasion Brian, George Bosnick, Wayne Lahtinen, Billy Koivisto and I were at the lake. We had finished swimming, changed out of our bathing suits and were sitting on the big curb beam on the edge of the dock. George took Billy's bike for a spin and on his return was rolling to a stop and putting his foot out onto the curb. He didn't see a small 2x4 block on the dock and when his front wheel hit it, he missed the curb and tumbled into the water, with the bike on top of him. George was a non-swimmer and Brian jumped right into the water after him. I scrambled down the edge of the crib supports of the dock and as Brian pulled George up by the shirt collar, I grabbed his flailing arms and pulled him to the dock crib. George and I scrambled back up onto the dock and Brian dove back in to retrieve the bike. His clothes and wallet were soaked. When we settled down on the dock, catching our breath, we saw Wayne hurrying back onto the dock from behind a boathouse where he had gone to change back into his bathing suit.

Brian moved to Moonbeam in Grade 9 and we began to lose touch except when he came back to visit old flames. I didn't see him again for 30 years when he came back for the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hearst High School. Brian still had unlimited energy even though he, like his brothers, had heart issues. He also had a full leg brace to protect a



wrecked knee but that didn't stop him from playing on the alumni basketball team and the softball team.

1992, Hearst High School Reunion. Left to right, Annie Horchak Madigan, Brian Egan, Sandy Bies, Ernie Bies, Mary Horchak, Liz Dahlin Bisson, unknown.



Brian was now living in Wawa where he was the Town Works Foreman. Most of his brothers and sisters were also living in Wawa.

The next connection I had was at an Ottawa Senators Hockey game in 2008 when I was all excited about attending Claude Giroux's NHL debut. I asked the Senators ambassador for an extra Game Roster telling her that I was there to see Giroux who was from Hearst. She said "I'm from Hearst" It was Sharon Egan who I had not seen for about 40 years.



Brian and I kept in regular touch by email and phone since then.

2020 has not been kind to that old gang of mine. Deepest sympathy to Ellen and the Egan families.

Obituary of Brian Egan



EGAN, Brian – Passed away suddenly on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at the age of 76 years. Beloved husband of Ellen for 54 years. Great dad of Kimberly Duguay (Eric), John Egan (Cathy Ward), Chantal Scott (Wesley McLeod) and Danielle Dorosh (Marly). Loved papa of Michael, Christopher, Austen, Kailie, Cody, Lucas, Jack and Xander. Big papa of Paisley, Bentley, Brian, Knox, Kade and another great grandchild in April 2021. Dear brother Sharon Beaulne (Rolly) and predeceased by Johnny (late Anne), Timothy, Willy (Delores), Gerald (Martha), Phil (Dorothy), Jimmy (late Mary) and Helen (late Norm). Dear brother-in-law of Steven Mitchell (Karen), the late Jackie McGie (Bruce McKee) and the late Susanne Olhiser (Daniel). Brian will be remembered by his many nieces, nephews and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Cremation will take place at River's Edge Cremation Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, ON. Memorial donations made to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses or to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario would be greatly appreciated.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Cremation will take place at River's Edge Cremation Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

I have attached the Egan Story, from Clayton's Kids, Pioneer Families of Hearst Public School.

Egan

Egan, Daniel & Rita (Waugh)

Children: John, Timothy, James, Helen, Willard, Gerald, Philip (Red), Brian, Sharon

Hearst Relatives: Waugh, Martin (Donald), Girard (Wilfred), Greeley

Keeping the Family Together by Sharon (Egan) Beaulne *(with information provided by Timothy Egan and Dalton Appleby, 1987)*

Francis Waugh and Ann Watchorne (married 1871) had eight children. Their sixth child, Charles Alfred Waugh, married Hannah Grace Hill in 1905 in southern Ontario. They had eleven children. Rita (Daniel Egan), Frances, Vera (Wilfred Girard), Bernice (Donald Martin) were all born in Purple Valley in Albermarle Township. Mancel (Maria Fox) was born in Warton, Ontario. Orville, Beulah, Peter, Audrey, Dorothy and Elta were born in Hearst.

Daniel Egan, originally from the Ottawa Valley, married Rita Waugh in Hearst in 1926. Their first three children—John, Timothy and James—were born in Hearst. They moved to Osceola, near Cobden in the Ottawa Valley, where Helen, Willard and Gerald were born. They moved back to Hearst, where Philip (Red) was born in 1940, then to Cochrane, where Daniel was working for the railroad. Brian (1944) and Sharon (1945) were born in Cochrane.

After Mom (Rita Egan) passed away in 1949, Helen quit school at sixteen to try to keep the family together. Some of the older boys moved out on their own; the younger ones went to live with relatives. Sharon started school in Kapuskasing in 1951–52. Helen, Philip, Brian and Sharon came to Hearst to

live with Uncle Donald and Aunt Bernice Martin. In 1952–53, Philip, Brian and Sharon began attending HPS. They also lived for a time with Aunt Vera and Uncle Wilfred Girard.



Peggy Mills and Sharon Egan on George Street in front of Ted Wilson's -1954

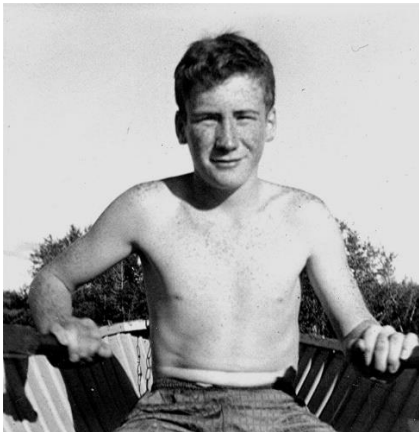
Helen married Norman Greeley in 1952, and they lived in West's apartments on Prince Street, before

renting Miller's house farther east down the street. They had four children and moved to Wawa in 1960.

Dad, passed away in 1954.



Brian Egan -1953



Philip Egan -1956

Philip quit school at sixteen in 1956 and joined the navy. After his service, he found his way to Wawa, where he worked for Algoma Ore. In 1967, he joined the Michipicoten Township Police Force and served as chief from 1978 to 1985. Most of the older Egan boys suffered from heart problems, with John, James, Willard and Gerald all passing away in their early sixties. Philip also had the same health problems and had to transfer to lighter duty in the police service, until his retirement in 1996. He suffered a fatal heart attack on February 26, 2001, at the age of sixty-one.

All of the remaining Egans found their way to Wawa. Norm Greeley passed away in 1985, but Helen continues to enjoy retirement there. Brian also worked for Algoma Ore in Wawa, where he got his welding ticket. Always interested in sports, he began managing golf courses, an ideal job for him. He married Ellen Mitchell, and they raised four children. Then he began to work for the town public works and still does, part-time. He also suffers from heart disease, having survived five heart attacks and bypass surgery.

Sharon married Roland Beaulne and they raised four boys. Rolly enjoyed a long career in the banking business. They now live in Manotick, near the home of the Ottawa Senators. They spend their retirement years travelling and volunteering with the Ottawa Senators Foundation as ambassadors at the hockey games. They have ten grandsons, which takes up a large amount of time just keeping up with their activities.

