

HISTORY OF THE CANE:

The Boston Post Cane tradition was established in 1909 by Edwin Grozier, Editor and Publisher of the Boston Post Newspaper. On August 2, 1909 in letters sent to 700 Boards of Selectmen of towns in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, Grozier asked them to be trustees of the 700 ebony, gold topped canes that he had contracted to be made during the previous year. A special cane was then presented to the governing authority in 431 towns in New England who responded to the letter, to be presented as an honor to each town's oldest resident. The recipient held the honor as long as he/she lived within the town's boundaries.

Upon his or her death (or relocation outside of the municipality) the cane would be awarded to the next oldest resident. A stipulation in the letter was that the original Cane would belong to the town and not the citizen who received it in order to provide for the preservation and public awareness of the tradition.

The cane is ebony with a 14 carat gold head inscribed thus:

Presented by
THE BOSTON POST
to the
OLDEST CITIZEN
of
Boothbay Harbor, Maine
to be transmitted

Today the cane remains in the Town Hall for its protection and the recipients receive a Certificate of Recognition.

ELIGIBILITY:

The holder of the Cane must be the oldest known resident and must reside in the Town of Boothbay Harbor for a minimum of 5 years.

The term 'resident' refers to a person who intends to physically reside at a fixed, permanent and principal home in the town.

The applicant for the Boston Post Cane must be a Boothbay Harbor resident though they may be living outside of Boothbay Harbor with family or in an assisted living/nursing facility. It is understood that the person would be living in Boothbay Harbor if it were possible.

Recognizing that the Town has no formal means of identifying residents by age, selection of the honoree shall be by the Board of Selectmen and the Town Clerk.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANE:

The Chairman of the Boothbay Harbor Board of Selectmen or his/her designee shall present Boothbay Harbor's oldest resident with a certificate signifying the honor.

The location of the presentation will be determined according to the circumstances of the honoree.

The recipient will retain this honor as long as he/she lives even though another resident may become eligible. The Town Clerk's Office must be notified if the recipient of the Boston Post Cane dies or otherwise refuses or returns the honor. At that time the Town Clerk shall determine the new oldest resident of Boothbay Harbor and present the name to the Board of Selectmen.