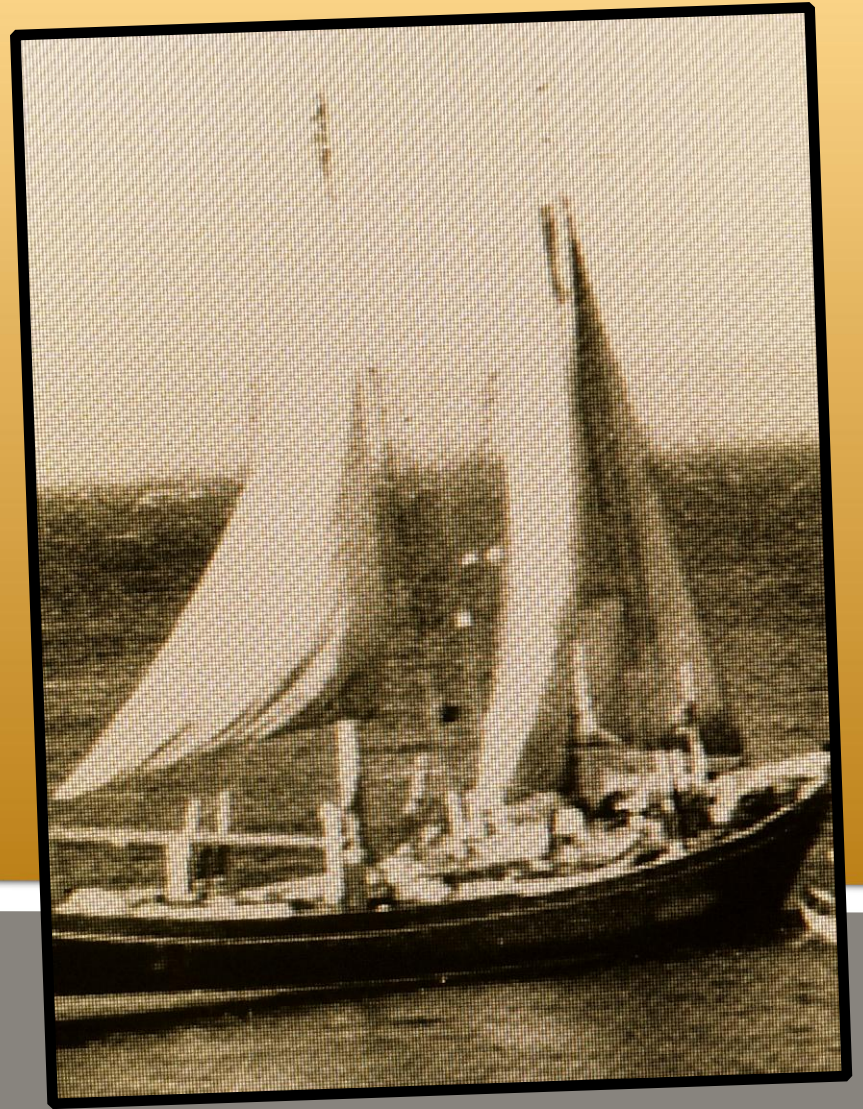


## March 28, 1940

On the night of March 28, 1940, the British freighter SS Esmond, out of St John's Nfld, was bound for Halifax with a cargo of newsprint. Pilot Vessel No. 2, the Hebridean, was in the approaches to Halifax Harbour ready to place a pilot on board the Esmond to safely guide her into the harbour. As the tender from the Hebridean came to the Esmond, for reasons never known, the Hebridean crossed the bow of the Esmond and was struck. The pilot and oarsmen were thrown from the tender and then rescued from the water by the Esmond. Two crewmen who were on the deck of the Hebridean were also plucked from the water. Witnesses reported that the Hebridean sank almost immediately. No wreckage and no victims of the Hebridean were ever recovered. Nine brave souls perished that night while working in the service of their country. The tragedy devastated Herring Cove and its families. Today many descendants of the pilots still live in Herring Cove and surrounding areas.



# THE HEBRIDEAN

Heavenly Father, creator of the seas, the passing of 81 years has not diminished our love and gratitude to those pilots and crewmen who lost their lives on board the Hebridean, March 28th, 1940 while in the service of their country. We honour them today and remember their families and friends.

Pilot James Renner, Halifax

Pilot James Dempsey, Herring Cove

Pilot Lorne Dempsey, Herring Cove

Pilot Lionel Pelham, Halifax

Pilot Carleton Dempsey, Herring Cove

Engineer Matthew Power, Herring Cove

Boatman Roy Purcell, Portuguese Cove

Cook Lawrence Thomas, Herring Cove

RCN Officer Claude Martin, Halifax

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual*

*light shine upon them-*