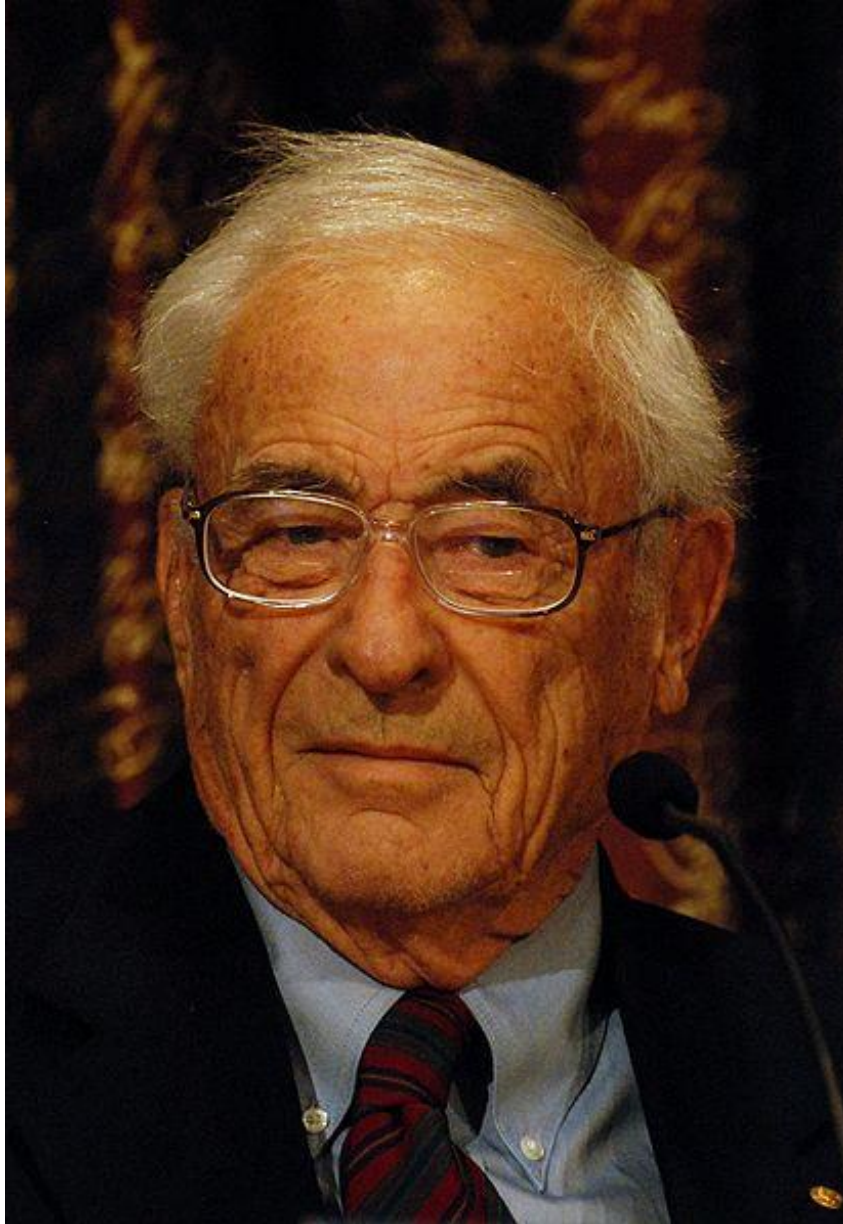


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**Willard Boyle**  
**1924-2011**



He was the son of Dr. Ernest Boyle from Wallace, Nova Scotia and Bernice (Dewar) from Knowlton QC. Raised in a log cabin in “the bush” in Sanmaur, Quebec, he was home schooled by his mother.

He then went to Lower Canada College and McGill University both in Montreal for a total of seven years of formal education. Despite this, his contributions to mankind are extraordinary. To the world he is best known as the co-inventor, with George Smith, of the charge-coupled device (CCD). This won them the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2009. Bill is one of only twelve Canadians to win a Nobel Prize, and the only Laureate from Nova Scotia.

Briefly, the CCD is best known as the eye of the digital camera, enabling instantaneous image transmission to essentially anywhere. Most scanning devices have CCDs at their core. It is also used in the medical imaging that on several occasions saved Bill’s life. Far from Earth, the CCD is also the image sensing element of the Hubble telescope.

Most of his work was done at Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey. He appreciated having had the opportunity to work in an environment that allowed creative minds to collaborate unfettered. He was a lifelong advocate of science education and curiosity driven inquiry.

Bill was an intrepid traveler through life who lived with zest and courage, a ‘bon vivant’ who most recently loved driving around the Maritimes with Betty in his Mini Cooper (with CCD license plate) as recently as the last week of his life.

He excelled at many things – from downhill skiing to solid state physics. He had a wide range of interests from politics to sculpture. He loved experimenting with the artistry of his digital camera, showing his work in local galleries. He had an insatiable curiosity and love of life. He died as he lived, with pizzazz. He was in many ways a Canadian hero with a characteristic self-effacing sense of humour, enjoying the occasional practical joke. Like one of the fine cheeses that he loved, he grew better with age.

He was a man of honour who served his country as a spitfire pilot in World War II and took pride in wearing his Fleet Air Arm wings (Royal Canadian Navy) on his lapel. He was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2009, and was recognized with the Companion to the Order of Canada in November 2010.

*Obituary provided by Coulter’s Funeral Home.*