

The Bow Observation Tower

The Bow Observation Tower was built in 1942, at the high point of Carl Ogden's farm on Bow Bog Road (later J. Nesbitt). It was manned 24 hours a day during World War II to spot any planes flying overhead, and to warn officials of any enemy planes approaching. There was a warning siren mounted on the top of the Bow Mills School to be sounded in case of an emergency.

Hilda Sargent was one of the volunteers. She recalls the busy days of World War II. The volunteers were members of the Army Air Corps. They had to undergo training to identify the airplanes. The Red Cross taught courses to the volunteers at the Bow Mills School. Some of the volunteers were Air Raid Wardens. Art Sargent was one of Bow's Air Raid Wardens. The Wardens went around at night to make sure blackout curtains were in place over windows, and that automobile headlights were covered. Gas rationing was in effect, and only necessary trips were taken. Hilda and Laura Sargent received extra gas coupons to drive to the "lookout tower."

The tower was in operation even after the war. Hilda and Laura were also spotters at the top of the State House Annex as well as another observatory on Long Pond Road (near Dr. Nydegger's house). Some of these towers were in operation until 1953.

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