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## NEWS FEATURE

### DEER ISLE

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### Deer Isle's Hodermarsky receives Boston Post Cane

*Can't believe she's the town's oldest resident*

by Leslie Landrigan

Nancy Hodermarsky, the town's oldest resident at 97, received the Boston Post Cane from Selectman Peter Perez in a small family ceremony on October 7.

Perez, on behalf of the select board, handed Hodermarsky the gold-tipped cane and asked her how it felt to be Deer Isle's oldest resident.

"I can't believe it," Hodermarsky said.

Daughter Maria Hodermarska joined the ceremony in her mother's living room and, with her cell phone, live-streamed her sister, Lisa Hodermarsky, in Connecticut.

"Hi Mom," said Lisa.  
"Congratulations!"

Town Manager Jim Fisher handed Hodermarsky a bonus: a wooden Boston Post Cane holder, too, made by Bobby Bonnett, the son of the previous holder, Dottie Bonnett.

"We'll find a place of honor for it," Hodermarsky said.

The tradition dates to 1909 when The Boston Post gave 700 gold-tipped canes to select boards to give to their oldest residents for safekeeping. The Post, then the region's largest newspaper, distributed the canes in its coverage area: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

You can watch Hodermarsky read her poetry at the Blue Hill Public Library here: [youtube.com/watch?v=GfdeQm36zsQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfdeQm36zsQ).

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Deer Isle Selectman Peter Perez, left, Nancy Hodermarsky and Deer Isle Town Manager Jim Fisher after the Boston Post Cane has been handed over to Hodermarsky as the oldest person in town. This tradition in New England towns is well over 100 years old.

Photo by Leslie Landrigan

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