

DAWSON, John Charters [UNTD DISCOVERY '49 U-19815] (1930 - 2014) Age: 82



John Dawson launched his canoe for one last time and paddled into the west on June 2, 2014. Predeceased by his wife Kathryn (Katie) in 2005, he is survived by his brother Fred, children Dave, Jane, and Greg and their families, including four grandchildren, his companion Tina, and numerous other relatives and friends. John was born July 28, 1930 in Prince Rupert but moved to Vancouver at a young age where he was raised and lived until retirement. He earned a BComm from UBC in 1957, and worked for most of his career with BC Hydro where he rose to the position of Community Relations Manager. Upon retirement in 1987, John moved with Katie to North Saanich where he enthusiastically took up country living. A skilled cottage winemaker, he produced a steady flow of pear wine that warmed the hearts and lubricated the minds of many. He was also a keen canoeist, birder, cook, gardener, raconteur, and writer of letters to the editor. A civic-minded organizer, he was active in the restoration of Dominion Brook Park, for which he received numerous awards. John was a thinker, questioner, and proud Canadian, always quietly ready to help a person in need. He was a good man who lived life to the fullest, and will be profoundly missed. A Gathering of Remembrance will be held on Monday, June 30, 2014 at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's United Church, 2410 Malaview in Sidney, followed by a reception. Donations to Victoria Hospice are appreciated. Published in The Times Colonist from June 7 to June 8, 2014

He had at least 2 UNTD summers; '50 & '51 and was promoted A/SLT, seniority 1 May '52, O-18665.

In an interview he gave in the late '90s, he states that in 1952 he was awarded his Air Observer Wings at SHEARWATER, and had an accumulated 220 hours in an Avenger. Under what conditions he took this training is not known, although in that time frame both Pilot and Observer courses were offered to UNTDs. He appears to have had no further Naval Service but by 1953 was back at UBC as a 1st-year Commerce Student, graduating in 1957 with a B.Com. as the Obit mentions.

There are some interesting records of his writings during his time at BC Hydro, particularly in the 60's during the controversial Peace River Hydro Project. He was then a BC Hydro Industrial Economist. New plans in that area have recently re-ignited new controversies. In looking into that, it was discovered that Dr Gordon Shrum had a hand in the original Peace River Project. Shrum was head of UBC COTC in the WWII years and also of the UNTD when it formed there in 1943. Shrum was himself a WWI COTC in Toronto (with Lester Pearson and Vincent Massey as "wingers"). Although Hellyer "wears the can" for Forces Unification, it was Pearson who ultimately had to sign off on it.

Bill C