

HOWIE, William Lovell † [CHIPPAWA '49 U-35xxx]

Rev. William "Bill" HOWIE

HOWIE, Rev. William (Bill) Lovell passed away at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria on October 31, 2011 at the age of 80. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years June, their children Maggie, Carol, Ian, Jim and Tish; their grandchildren James, Anna, Rissa (Maggie & Michael), Duncan (Carol and Philip), Mary Jane, Tom (Jim & Morna) and Christoph (Tish & Jorg); his sister Sheila and brothers John and Gordon and their families. Born at The Pas, Manitoba on July 11, 1931, Bill followed his parents into both the Royal Canadian Navy and the United Church of Canada pulpit, enjoying distinguished careers in both. After theological training at United College of the University of Winnipeg he was called to the United Church Marine Mission at Bamfield. That put him at the helm of the mission ship Melvin Swartout, calling at towns and villages up and down the West coast of Vancouver Island. Bill later joined the Navy as a chaplain and served on bases all across Canada, on the ships in the Atlantic including the HMCS Bonaventure and at the Royal Military College. He retired as a Lieutenant Commander in 1982 and went back to work with the United Church as a Presbytery Officer serving its Vancouver Island region. He was particularly proud of his ecumenical work with colleagues in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches in their reconciliation with coastal First Nations communities and in founding the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria. In retirement he volunteered at the Centre, which will be pleased to accept donations to the William L. Howie Endowment in lieu of flowers. An avid sailor all of his adult life, Bill loved nothing better than sharing his love of sailing, boating and general seamanship with his family first and almost anyone else! He was a fixture at marinas and government docks all around Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the South coast. He was famous for getting big boats safely into places they had no business going. Bill's family would like to thank Dr. Jim Stockdill and the attentive, professional staff at Royal Jubilee Hospital for taking such good care of us. Special thanks go to Reverend Dr. Harold Coward for his enduring friendship and for conducting the family service which was held in the Pemberton Memorial Chapel of the RJH. Bill's ashes will be scattered at sea on a fair day with a following breeze. The Chaplains of the University of Victoria and the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria will be pleased to host Bill's friends and colleagues at a celebration of Bill's life at the Fireside Lounge in the University Club this Thursday, November 10th from 4-5:30. 642103