

John Jay, CD, P.Eng. 1936-2013



John Jay, CD, P.Eng. - 77, Windsor, passed away peacefully on February 20, 2013, surrounded by members of his immediate family. He was born on January 1, 1936, in Pisquid West, PEI, to the late Malcolm B. and Jessie M. (Buchanan) Jay.

He is survived by his wife and best friend, Della Marie; his children, John Fitzgerald (Laila), Toronto; Elizabeth (Dr. Simon Walling), Halifax; adored grandchildren, Jessie, Jackson, Jonah, Malcolm; sister, Gloria M. Fullerton, Cornwall, PEI; brother, Brian G. (Marion), Halifax; his first wife, Joyce (Mason) Jay; many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother in infancy.

He attended Dalhousie University and Nova Scotia Technical College, graduating with a B.Eng. in Civil Engineering in 1959. He was a Consulting Engineer for 46 years until retiring at the age of 75 as the Chairman of Novaport International Consultants Limited. As the managing director of Canadian Plant and Process Engineering, Canplan Consultants and Novaport, he traveled the world from Bangladesh to Belize and from Yemen to Guyana.

A compulsive volunteer, he gave his time and resources to many organizations including: The YMCA where he served as Chairman of the Halifax Y, Chairman of the International Development Committee, Representative at the World Alliance of YMCAs in Uganda, and was an Honourary Trustee at the time of his death. He served on the Board of Pine Hill Divinity Hall and The Atlantic School of Theology. John had an abiding interest in tall ships as a youth training and skill development initiative. He was the Vice Chairman of the Tall Ships 2000 transatlantic race for which he received the Robin Duchesne Memorial for best tall ships venue. He was a member of the Board of the Nova Scotia International Tattoo Foundation.

Of particular interest to John were matters relating to the Royal Canadian Navy. He was an active member of the Naval reserve, attached to HMCS SCOTIAN for 16 years, retiring as a Constructor Lt. Cdr. He was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration in 1964. A member of the Royal United Services Institute and a Life Trustee of the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust which he recently served as Chairman. John was a trustee of Windsor United Church at the time of his death.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held 2 p.m., Monday, February 25, 2013, in Windsor United Church, 613 King Street, Windsor, Reverend Bill Gibson officiating. Reception will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations to Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, P.O. Box 99000, Stn Forces, Halifax, NS B3K 5X5, in his memory, would be appreciated. Arrangements have been entrusted to DeMont Family Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 419 Albert Street, Windsor (902-798-8317). Messages of condolence may be sent to the family by visiting: www.demontfamilyfuneralhome.ca

Windsor resident John Jay, a driving force behind the preservation and promotion of Canada's naval history and a committed volunteer for many non-profit agencies, has died. He was 77. Jay, a retired engineer, died Wednesday surrounded by his immediate family, an obituary in The Chronicle Herald said Thursday. No cause of death was given.

Among the initiatives Jay was dedicated to was the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust. He was a life trustee and had recently served as chairman.

The trust is a non-profit group that was formed in 1982. It promotes this country's naval heritage, including the operation of an interpretive centre in Halifax and the stewardship of HMCS Sackville.

In 1985, the Second World War-era warship was officially designated Canada's Naval Memorial. The trust undertook a number of activities during the Royal Canadian Navy's centennial in 2010 to ensure the preservation of the Sackville, a corvette commissioned in 1941.

"It is most appropriate that Sackville as Canada's Naval Memorial is front and centre during the navy's 100th anniversary celebrations this year," Jay said before the centennial events.

The trust restored the Sackville after saving it from the scrapyards. It is working on a much larger project — a naval heritage centre built around the berthed vessel.

Ted Kelly, chairman of the trust's memorial action committee, said Jay was an affable person who was "a very astute observer" and a self-reliant guy. The two men knew each other for about 25 years.

Kelly said Jay had a wry sense of humour and "was very clear headed. He was an engineer by profession, and he was very much an engineer in terms of the way he approached his daily life." Born in 1936 on Prince Edward Island, Jay earned a degree in civil engineering in 1959. He retired at age 75, the obituary said.

"A compulsive volunteer, he gave his time and resources to many organizations, including the YMCA, where he served as chairman of the Halifax Y," it said.

Jay had been an active member of the naval reserve, the notice said, "attached to HMCS Scotian for 16 years."

He enjoyed tall ships and was also a board member of the foundation for the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo.

"John had an abiding interest in tall ships as a youth-training and skill-development initiative," the obituary said. He was vice-chairman of the Tall Ships 2000 transatlantic race.

Jay is survived by his wife Della Marie, children, grandchildren, a brother, a sister and his first wife. He was predeceased by a brother who died in infancy.

A memorial service will be held Monday at 2 p.m. in Windsor at Windsor United Church.

Donations in Jay's memory can be made to the Canadian Naval Memorial Trust, PO Box 99000, Stn. Forces, Halifax, B3K 5X5.