

**ROWSE, Arthur William (Art) [UNTD MALAHAT(RR) 1949 RR 3163] (1931 - 2017) Age: 85**



It is with sadness that the family announces the passing of our beloved Dad, Art. Born and raised in New Westminster, Art attended Royal Roads Military College as a Cadet and spent his working life serving in the Canadian Navy. A natural Pisces, Art was in his element in, on, or under water. A beautiful swimmer, he met his first wife, Joyce, while lifeguard at a pool. He retired from the Navy as commanding officer of the Canadian Navy's Fleet diving and demolitions unit. The Navy gave Art a life of adventure while allowing him to fulfill fundamental beliefs in duty and service. He traveled widely: serving with UN Forces in Cyprus and Israel; worked with Jacques Cousteau on the Alvin submersible in California; provided demolitions expertise on the construction of the Alaska Highway; and explosives expertise for the Montreal Olympics. There were also unfortunate times when he was called upon to don scuba gear and search for victims of drowning.

Twice lucky in love, he was predeceased by his wife, Joyce, and is survived by his children: Merrilee (Doug); David, John (Kirsten); and granddaughters, Merrilee and Sarah. Predeceased by his second wife, Gail, he is survived by his extended family: Steve (Kathleen); Sandy (George); and Scott (Anne). He was Papa Art to Alison, Spencer, Mikayla, Koryn, Drew, and Cody. Predeceased by his parents, Bill and Mary, and his sister, Joyce, he is remembered by his brother, John, brother-in-law, Milton, and nieces and nephews.

Sadly, for a man who loved reading and learning, Art slowly sank into the long good-bye of memory loss and dementia. Special thanks to John and Kirsten for their loving care of Dad over these past difficult years. Thank you to the staff at St. Charles Manor for their compassionate care.

A memorial will be held on Friday, March 17 from 2 to 5 pm, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 292, 411 Gorge Road East, Victoria. For those who would like to make a donation in remembrance of Art a donation to the Alzheimer Society of Canada would be appreciated.

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He was at Royal Roads 1949-51 and had 2 summers of combined RR/UNTD training: 1950, 1951.

He was Commissioned as an A/SLT RCN, sen. Dec 12 '52, O-64077.

He qualified early on as a Clearance Diver and Ordnance Disposal and had a number of interesting deployments as such, to the Suez and Belfast for instance.

He was CO Fleet Diving Unit Pacific in 1969 and 1976, and CO Fleet Diving Unit Atlantic in 1974.

He was promoted to CDR in 1983 and retired in 1986.

Bill C