



In Memoriam

DURHAM, Thompson Seelye (Tom) (1930 - 2016) Age: 86

UNTD CATARAQUI 1948 U-22390

David Frayer recently forwarded the January 2017 issue of the NAC-Winnipeg Newsletter, wherein is the Obit notice for Tom Durham, who crossed the bar in Winnipeg on December 13, 2016 at the age of 86.

The text of the Obit as it appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press is addended below:

THOMPSON SEELYE DURHAM It is with sadness we announce the death of Thompson Seelye Durham, on December 13, 2016 at the age of 86. He is survived by his wife Leone; his daughter Louise, her husband Scott Gray and their son Aidan; Tom's first son Edwin and his wife Linda, and Tom's second son James and his wife Leanne Foley and their son Ethan. Tom lived a full life; he was a hard rock miner, a Queen's Grad, a drum major, and foremost a family man. He worked at the Industrial Development Board, the Better Business Bureau, and served his country in the Naval Reserve reaching the rank of Commander. He loved his family, Lake of the Woods, rum, dogs, and being a Naturalist. His philosophy was succinct: "There is no free lunch". Special thanks to the staff at Victoria General for their care attention. For condolences - durham.james@gmail.com

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Within the Winnipeg Naval Community, he was most notably the CO of CHIPPAWA from 1969 - 73 and was associated with the Manitoba Naval Museum (opened 1980) which is co-located within the unit. Tom had 3 UNTD summers; 1949, 1950 and 1951.

He was Commissioned as a A/SLT RCN(R), sen. 1 Jul '51, O-21377, attached to CATARAQUI.

He was promoted to LCDR on 22 Aug '63, attached to CHIPPAWA and was a CDR by the time he assumed Command of the unit in 1969.

He held a BA from Queen's (1951) and an MBA from Western (1959).

Tom's parents were from Sault-Ste-Marie, his mother's maiden name being Seelye. His father, Thompson Edwin Durham, was a very early enlistee in WWI (Sep 22, 1914 at the age of 20) and was in the 1st contingent overseas. He was wounded and captured at the 2nd Battle of Ypres, Apr 24, 1915 and spent the balance of the war as a POW in Germany, not returning to Canada until May 1919. I can only guess at the impact of that circumstance on Tom as he was growing up.

WAC
December 24, 2017