



Tribute to

Nancy Hardy

Nancy Hardy, our Canadian Coast Guard Western Region friend and former co-worker in Vancouver, BC, and Hay River, NWT, passed away on June 24, 2017, after a valiant fight with cancer. Those of you who knew Nancy will remember that she fiercely faced every challenge, but this was one that she couldn't overcome.

Nancy was a proud Canadian and had lived and worked in many parts of Canada before she moved to Vancouver and joined the Western Region Canadian Coast Guard in the 1970s. She moved to Hay River, NWT, and worked in the purchasing and finance departments in the District's Head Office, was cook on a Coast Guard ship and shared her skills again in the Vancouver offices after moving back in the late 1980's. After a number of years dealing with a big office in a big city, in 1996 she left British Columbia with her sister to semi-retire in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. Nancy jumped into the new adventure with the same enthusiasm and energy that had characterized everything she had done thus far.

Life had not always been easy for Nancy – she was quick to admit that she had gone through some rough spots in life, and that even she had some “rough edges,” but it was perhaps for these reasons that she associated so well with Coast Guard operations and the many and different men and women who provided and supported the essential services to Canadians, sometimes

under difficult conditions. There was no problem that could not be solved without applying passion and effort, and Nancy was the first to jump and help with whatever was needed, regardless of the situation. One summer, even though Nancy was working in the administrative office, she jumped in as a cook on the Coast Guard Ship 'Nahidik' at the last minute when the new hire didn't show up – and stayed on for the entire summer season, putting her heart and soul into the job. If anyone asked, she just matter-of-factly said, “...well they needed a cook, and I could do it, so I did.”

She quickly gained a reputation for being an industrious worker and for making friends easily. A conversation with Nancy was always honest, spirited and as genuine as her laughter! She was not shy about telling it “like it is” and making suggestions on how to improve the Coast Guard – whether she was speaking to a ship's Captain, a technician, or a senior manager. At the same time, she opened up personally to one and all, and was always the first to welcome people into her home to visit, share a meal, enjoy a game of cards, or her unforgettably enjoyable themed parties!

The Canadian Coast Guard bids goodbye to a pioneer spirit and a true friend.

The spirit and passion of her years in the Northwest Territories remained strong within her, so it is fitting Nancy's ashes will be scattered on Great Slave Lake.