

William (Bill) Groth



Born: 9, March, 1934
Victoria, B.C.

Died: 21 January, 2022
Newmarket, Ontario

Family: Wife Vivienne

1 son, 1 daughter, 2
grandchildren

Pilot

A.B.A.S.

Air B.C.

After Bill Groth graduated from High School, he learned to fly at Victoria Flying Club and became a commercial seaplane pilot flying the coast of British Columbia for B.C. Airlines. When BC Airlines' operation in Alert Bay/Port Hardy was sold to several different companies, there was some dissatisfaction amongst the personnel and passengers and recognition that some other firm would come to the area.

With this in mind, in 1958, Bill, **Don Thompson** and Dave Morrison applied for a licence to operate an airline out of Alert Bay and founded **Alert Bay Air Service**. Bill became the company's administration manager and Don Thompson was the president. **ABAS** remained active through to 1978 after which Bill and his wife Vivienne settled in the Vancouver area where he raised his family and worked for Air BC in management until his retirement in 1996.

After retirement, Bill moved to Newmarket in Ontario in order to be closer to family. Here in 2018 he was diagnosed with the cancer which resulted in his death in 2022. His wife predeceased him.

Apart from flying, Bill was an avid boater and sailor, loved downhill skiing and fishing and was a collector of model railways.

