Ned France

William Edward (Ned) France was 'called up' for national service at the end of WWII and served in the British army of occupation in Germany, Belgium and Holland for 3 years. By the time he was demobbed, his mother and brother had immigrated to Canada and, on his 21st birthday, he joined them in Port Hardy.

For 5 years, Ned worked for Alice Lake Logging. In 1953, he started a four year apprenticeship in aircraft engineering with **BC Airlines** at the Port Hardy Airport. After completing the apprenticeship, he stayed with the same company and eventually took charge of their aircraft maintenance. In 1974, Ned decided to switch careers and bought a 39 ft. 'troller' (fishing boat) the 'Ebie'. He and his wife Prue commercially fished salmon until he retired, at the age of 72.

As well as being an aircraft engineer, Ned loved to fly and got his commercial pilot's licence in Vancouver in the early 1950's. For a few years, he shared the ownership of an amphibious Republic Seabee, which he used to travel around B.C. lakes to fish. He was equally happy on boats and on the ocean. Through the 1960's he took his family on boating holidays to destinations north of Vancouver Island. A Scotsman, he was a keen golfer, and was also a skilled woodworker.

For 55 years, Ned lived at Storey's Beach in Port Hardy. He was a member of the Port Hardy Aero Club, and director of the Pacific Trollers Association, the Harbour Commission, the Port Hardy Historical Society and the North Vancouver Island Salmon Enhancement Society. For the last 2 years of his life, Ned, who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, lived in Nanaimo Senior's Village.

Born: June 9 1927
Beauly, Scotland

Died: Jan 11 2011
Nanaimo B.C.

Family: wife Prudence,
3 daughters, 1 son
8 Grandchildren
1 Great Grandson

Conscripted British Army
1945 – 1948

Aircraft Engineer

BC Airlines