

Tom Makinson



Born:

Died: 13 April, 2024
Toronto

Family: Wife Debby
2 Sons, Baird and Cole
4 Grandchildren

Pilot

AirBC

Owner Fishing Lodge

Tom Makinson flew out of Port Hardy for **Air BC** from about 1980. He had grown up on a mink ranch where he learned the value of hard work and how to take apart and reassemble almost everything.

Tom first started work on tug boats along the MacKenzie River, North West Territories, and learned to love the life and adventure of the north. His ambition, however, had always been to fly and he worked to earn his commercial pilot's licence. Once qualified, he found work at Port Hardy flying various amphibious planes. He transported people and freight in and out of the fishing camps, logging camps and small communities up and down the coasts of British Columbia. One of his favourite jobs was dressing up as Santa Claus and bringing Christmas to the remote communities he served.

The fishing lodges he flew into inspired Tom to start a new Fishing Lodge close to Port Hardy with a partner Rick Aiello. Tom was personable and outgoing and enjoyed talking to the lodge guests, which helped the business to thrive and the guests to return year after year.

After he retired, Tom became involved in his community and served on the board of directors for the Quatse River Hatchery, Port Hardy and for Mt. Cain, a popular skiing destination in the north island.

Brent Howard, also named on the Port Hardy Mural was brother to Tom's wife Debby Howard.

