

Leslie James Shaw

Les Shaw, formerly of Fort Simpson NWT, passed away unexpectedly of natural causes in Sechelt, BC on December 26, 2004.

Les was born in Campbell River, BC on April 17, 1950 to proud parents Bert and Mary Shaw. He is survived by his two loving daughters Dana Griffiths (Darin) and Harmony Shaw-Wells (John), and his five grandchildren, C.J., Summer-Dawn, Matthew, Jazmyne and Kenneth. He was also a devoted brother to Ray, Rob and Ron. Les was pre-deceased by brother Ken and sister Judy.

Les recently retired from the GNWT Department of Transportation, where he served as Director of Marine Services, Fort Simpson Regional Superintendent and Inuvik Regional Assistant Superintendent. Prior to joining the GNWT, Les enjoyed a far-reaching career in the marine transportation sector, including working for BC Ferries, BC coastal resupply operations and Beaufort hydrocarbon exploration support. Les held a 2nd Class Marine Engineering Endorsement and was a member in good standing of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

He was a dedicated professional who knew how to get the job done and was highly respected by his colleagues, contractors, shippers and the traveling public. Many northerners will remember Les' countless morning radio interviews providing NWT residents with operational updates on the status of the NWT ferry system.

There was never a dull moment with Les. He had a great sense of humour, a contagious laugh and was master of the quick comebacks. Les was dependable, honest and loyal to his family, his co-workers and his friends. Les may have come in a small package but he was as large as life. His wisdom and strength will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Besides his beloved Vancouver Canucks, Dale Earnhardt and Blue Jays, Les' big love was the game of golf. He was instrumental in developing the Seven Spruce course in Fort Simpson and could be seen most summer evenings "chasing the little white ball" around this challenging circuit with dogged determination. He was affectionately known as the "Tour Director" to those lucky enough to partake in annual golf holidays in various locations across Canada. His famous lines "just hit the ball", "we're lucky" and "don't you just love this country" will resonate with his golf buddies forever.

A Celebration of Life was held in his honour in Sechelt on January 2, 2005, attended by family and his closest friends. Messages of condolence may be sent to: Bert and Mary Shaw, 4357 Wilson Road, Sechelt B.C., V0N 3A1. Donations can be made to a charity of your choice **"In Memory of Les Shaw"**.

A North of 60 "Celebration of Les Shaw's Life" will be planned for the Summer of 2005.

