



NEWS

Canadian Naval Technical History Association

JAMES DOUGLAS HEARNSHAW (NOV. 22, 1922 – SEPT. 6, 2011)

CNTHA News

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The Canadian Naval Technical History Association regrets to announce the death of James Douglas Hearnshaw, a founding member of the CNTHA. He was a professional engineer and a life member of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects. He was 88.

Douglas grew up in England before coming to Canada in 1951. As a boy at Barnard Castle School his interest in art led a headmaster to suggest that he take up drafting, it being a much more remunerative occupation. He went to work for Furness as a naval architectural draftsman before switching over to naval architectural design. In Canada, Douglas began work in the shipbuilding industry, first for Canadian Vickers in Montreal, Quebec, then for Marine Industries Ltd. in Sorel. At the age of 49 he obtained a BSc from Sir George Williams University in Montreal and was accepted as a professional engineer by the Province of Quebec (and later became a P.Eng. in Ontario). Douglas went on to enjoy successful careers with Environment Canada and Transport Canada, where he was involved with the Arctic Research Vessel program. Following his retirement he earned two degrees in philosophy at the University of Ottawa, and took up tutoring children with learning difficulties.

In his final years Douglas was both persistent and tireless in his efforts to preserve Canada's naval technical heritage through the Canadian Naval Technical History Association. He was the driving energy behind the association's flagship Canadian Naval Defence Industrial Base (CANDIB) oral history interview project, producing 37 quality interviews for the archives of the DND Directorate of History and Heritage. Douglas maintained high standards for this work. His success in setting up key interviews and his meticulous editorial

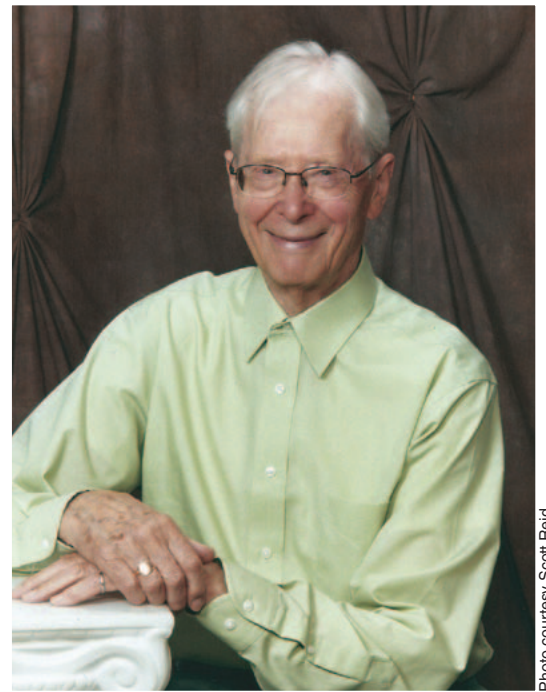


Photo courtesy Scott Reid

review of the transcripts has resulted in a series of unique historical records that will serve future researchers well.

Douglas Hearnshaw was a respected engineer, a valued mentor and a friend. His congenial presence at our meeting table will be deeply missed by everyone. He earned our admiration and our respect as a true gentleman and as a team player.

Douglas joins his beloved Marjorie (nee Lewis) who died Dec. 16, 2010. They were married 57 years.

Farewell, friend.



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