

Daryle Ray Brown

June 26, 1932 - November 16, 2014

Aged 82

Daryle Brown, formerly of Yellowknife, passed away peacefully in Victoria on November 16. Daryle led an adventurous life, with a work history that began at the age of 13 when he left home to log and fish commercially on BC's West Coast. He learned to fly, earned his commercial pilot's licence, and flew for 30 years. In 1962, he came to Yellowknife to fly for NWT Air. Everyone knows that a good pilot is a good storyteller, and Daryle Brown had no shortage of stories to tell. While in Yellowknife and around the North, he flew prospectors and freight, Prime Ministers and the Royal Family, medevacs, court circuits, Commissioner's tours, and water-bombed forest fires. He flew Single Otters, Beavers, a Beech-18, Bristol Freighters, DC-3s and was the first pilot in Canada to log 1,000 hours on the de Havilland Twin Otter. He was most proud of the role he played in establishing the first scheduled passenger service between Yellowknife and Frobisher Bay for the GNWT in 1972, flying his Grumman Gulfstream G-1.

Daryle was an avid, shrewd businessman who partnered with the late Stan Cochrane to form Titan Drilling in the late 1960s. After leaving the North in 1977, he operated a charter boat business from Vancouver Harbour on the MV Gulfstream and MV Taconite. In later years, he owned and operated a marina in Sidney, BC. The marina was home base for many trips up the West Coast, back to Kingcome Inlet, where he was born and raised.

Daryle was truly a man who followed his dreams, not the rules. He will be remembered for his humour, his warmth, his tremendous love of his family, and his skill at the controls of just about anything that flew or floated.

His grandchildren are collecting stories and pictures. If you have anything they might include in a memory book, please email stgermainev@gmail.com