

IN MEMORIAM

COOMBES, Roland Fredrick 1946 – May 7, 2019



Sgt. (Retd) Roland Fredrick Coombes "Rollie", age 72, passed away on Tuesday, May 7th, 2019 at his residence in Glace Bay.

Born in Halifax, he was the son of Margaret Winnifred (Cox) Coombes and the late Roland Alexander Coombes. Rollie is survived by his wife of 49 years, Ann Coombes (nee Allison), his son, Roland James, his mother, Margaret Winnifred (nee Cox), by sisters, Barbara Butts (Charles), Susan (Merrill Taylor), Margaret (Steven Bones), Pamela Coombes (Chris), brothers, John Auldon (Linda), Blaine (Carolyn), Gordon Charles, Peter (Pamela), Paul (Laura), William (Tracey) and his uncle, Charles Coombes.

Rollie enlisted in The Canadian Armed Forces 15 November 1963. He served 27 years and retired in September, 1990. After retirement from the military, Roland spent a short time as a real estate agent and then went on to work with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, working

at the Coast Guard College, the former NS Power site in Glace Bay and the GB Heavy Water Plant.

As an advocate for walking, he encouraged people of all abilities and all ages to explore this beautiful island. "My favourite times were being with family and friends at our larger family gatherings. Walking with friends and exploring along the many hiking and walking trails of Cape Breton, as well as exploring other parts of NS."

Cal Thistle, CBIH President, reports: It is with a heavy heart that I convey the sad news of the passing of our beloved club member Rollie Coombes.

Rollie was a founding member of the Cape Breton Island Hoppers Volkssport Club back in 1997. For twenty years Rollie served numerous positions in the club. He was President (2001-2006), Trails Coordinator (1998-2000), (2007-2010) and (2012-2016) and Website Coordinator (2011-2017) and he served them very well. He was also Atlantic Director for the Canadian Volkssport Federation (2007-2011) and Canadian Representative on the IVV Americas.

Rollie's love and passion for the CBIH's were unprecedented and he was the major contributor to many of the great walks that members enjoy to this day on this great island of ours. His legacy will live on with these walks and all that he has done for the club over the years. He will be truly missed.

Our sincere condolences go out to his loving wife Ann, who was also an avid club member and to their son Jamie who was a great help to Rollie with the club website.

Ann passed on to me Rollie's request that Cape Breton Island Hopper members attending his memorial service, if possible wear their club t-shirts and jackets.

Happy Trails Rollie