

Roland "Rollie" Hammerstedt

November 5 1931 – July 21 2017

By
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Rolland, son of Wilhelm (Bill) and Helga Olsen, was born in Lac Du Bonnet, Manitoba, on November 5, 1931. His only brother Murray died 30 Nov 1945 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

He married his first wife Ann who died in 2001. They had one child.,

Derek Hammerstedt b.1970 Kenora, d, 1998 Kenora

He married his second wife Sirley in Kenora.

Ed Hanratty of Ontario Central Airlines over a beer talked Rollie into coming to work in Kenora.ⁱ After Ed Hanratty left, Rollie quit after a dispute with Jimmy Hogg.s Hanratty's replacement, over failure to changing brake lines on a plane on a timely basis. He continued working directly on contract with Barney Lamn the owner of the company



He was an entrepreneur, accomplished airplane mechanic and overall master of trades. He retired from Redditt Aviation in 1999. It was his last adventure, working and forging incredible friendships with Don Wieben and the Fairview Aircraft Restoration Society team, that would mark Rollie's final years.

The project of restoring a Canso, a large amphibian aircraft built for submarine spotting during the Second World War, would draw on his encyclopedic knowledge about aircraft, as well as his tools and time. The Canso gang said that the project would never have been completed without Rollie's help, but it was finished earlier in 2017. Rollie was too ill with throat cancer to attend when the plane made its first flight in sixteen years this past July but his spirit was definitely there. After the flight. Don and some of the team brought memorabilia and their gratitude to Rollie at his Kenora home. It was an amazing time as they shared stories and got to see the old hangar that was so much a part of Rollie's life in Redditt.

Rolland died July 21 2017 in Kenora, Ontario

Sources

Obituary https://passages.winnipegfreepress.com/passage-details/id-247633/HAMMERSTEDT_ROLAND
accessed February 25 2021

Zaruk, Ed, Ontario Central Airlines, The Kenora Years, Haakon Publishing

ⁱ Zaruk, Ed Ontario Central Airway, The Kenora Years, page 143