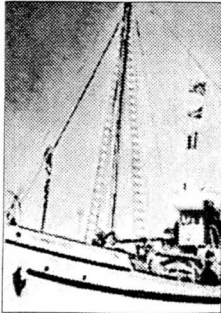




Last member of 1944 RCMP St. Roch North West Passage Voyage passes away April 12

McKENZIE, John Stanley Garfield "Stan" — 92, Arcadia, Yarmouth Co., passed away in Yarmouth Regional Hospital on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Born on July 1, 1918, in Channel, Port aux Basques, N.L., he was a son of the late Stanley and Edwina (Figury) McKenzie.

His mother died at his birth and he was raised by his foster parents, Henry and Harriet Feltham. The sea was life to Stan. At the young age of 14, he went fishing and trawling in a dory; this was the beginning of many years spent on the sea. With the start of the Second World War, he joined the English Merchant Navy and sailed on the SS Corner Brook to England. Later, he joined the Canadian Merchant Navy and became a crew member of the Kittys Brook. This ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat (U-588) off the coast of Nova Scotia in May 1942. Stan and 22 other crew members survived by rowing in lifeboats for three days, finally landing in Lockeport. Following this adventure, he continued to sail with the Merchant Navy as an engineer on freighters. In April 1944, Stan met Henry Larsen and in May, signed the oath of allegiance and oath of office, becoming a special constable with the RCMP. On July 22, 1944, Stan became part of Canadian history as the RCMP schooner St. Roch was the first to navigate through the more northerly Northwest Passage. As a result of this expedition, he and other crew members were awarded the prestigious Polar Medal (one of only 11 struck for this voyage). He request-



■ **McKENZIE**

ed dismissal from the RCMP and continued to work on various ships in Port aux Basques. His final convoy of the war was on the U.S. Joseph A. Brown (Liberty Ship) which sailed from Halifax to Belgium and back to New York. Stan worked briefly for Hamilton and Porter Machine Shop, and then served as shore engineer in 1955, doing engine parts and repairs for the Sweeney fleet of vessels in Yarmouth. From January 1956 to June 1975, Stan was employed with the MV Bluenose achieving his 3rd class engineer certificate in 1958. Due to heart surgery at the age of 57, he was forced to retire from the CNR. In 1972, Stan and St. Roch crewmate Pat Hunt spent time in Vancouver as consultants during the restoration of the vessel and later received a silver engraved bracelet from the city of Vancouver for his contribution to the St. Roch. In October 1974, Stan and his wife travelled to Vancouver for the official opening of the restored St. Roch at the Vancouver Maritime Museum. On October 11, 2007, Stan attended the unveiling of the RCMP Patrol Vessel St. Roch Commemorative at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth. Although he did not like attention drawn to himself and his accomplishments, these were extremely proud moments for him. As well as the Polar Medal, Stan proudly wore the 1939/45 Star, the North Atlantic Star, the Pacific Star, the 1939/45 Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, and the 1939/45 War Medal. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 61 and "H" division RCMP Veterans Association. During his retirement years, Stan loved to tie flies and go salmon and trout fishing, especially back to his beloved Newfoundland. He spent countless hours working on broken motors and engines, getting great satisfaction upon seeing them in operation again. Stan is survived by his wife of 60 years, Olive; his son, Bill; daughter-in-law, Patricia; daughter, Robyn; grandsons, Jason, Ryan and Sean; sister-in law, Margaret Green; niece, Heather (Preston), and grand nephew, Kristen. Visitation will take place on Saturday, April 16 from 7-9 p.m. in Sweeney's Funeral Home and Cremation Services with a Legion service at 7:30 p.m. Funeral service in Beacon United Church on Sunday, April 17 at 2 p.m., Rev. Jim Bragan officiating. Interment will take place in Yarmouth Mountain Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Memorial donations to the Yarmouth SPCA, Heart and Stroke Foundation (Yarmouth), or Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. On-line condolences may be sent to: sweenysfh@eastlink.ca or you may sign the guestbook on-line at: www.sweenysfuneralhome.net Stan will be dearly missed by family and friends.