



## Randall Michael Sherman

July 27, 1945 - June 19, 2024

Born August 27, 1945, Randy died at home in Mahone Bay on June 19. Survived by his wife Susan Brown; his son Ian, grandsons Henry and James and their mother Allison; stepdaughter Anna Eidt, grandson Lou and his dad Ben Hatcher; stepson Tom Eidt and his wife Dijana MacMillan, and his siblings Heather, Cheryl, Tom (Sarah), Lynne, and Jan. He was predeceased by his parents Willard and Marjorie, and his sister Sandra. Randy was born in Digby and grew up in Little River on Digby Neck, and had travelled the world over before he actually drove out to Brier Island. "I didn't have a car." He did have a dory, and going on a date often meant taking his girlfriend for a row. As a teenager, he spent nights unloading fish from his uncles' boats with his cousin Dennis, and after a few hours of sleep, his mum would pass him a sandwich as he ran for the school bus. He finished high school with a full scholarship to McGill to study architecture, and there were more people in his dorm than in the village where he grew up. He also spent a year at Acadia, but he decided he was more interested in seeing the world from the deck of a ship. He worked his way up from able seaman, eventually becoming captain, and attaining the designation Master Mariner. He was the Halifax harbourmaster for many years, and was instrumental in making Tall Ships 2000 such a success. He lost 10 pounds that week. In 2005, he convinced his non-sailor wife to head south with him on Nancy Dawson, their Cheoy Lee Clipper 42, and they travelled the Caribbean for the next six years, having adventures and making lasting friendships. His most rewarding work at sea was with the Sea

Education Association aboard the R/V Westward, a 125' schooner conducting oceanographic and sail training with university students. He was both chief mate and instructor, and his greatest satisfaction was watching the students gain confidence and skill over the course of the voyage. Randy made it around the world twice, and his time on Westward and the research vessels Robert Conrad and Vema figured large in so many stories. He was an excellent teacher, seaman, and navigator, and particular about doing things in a traditional way. He felt that there was nothing like the peace of being on the water, and that life was too short to sail an ugly boat. Randy built many beautiful small boats, but was proudest of Rozinante, a 28-foot Herreshoff design. More satisfying than all the bathroom and kitchen renos, and there were more than a few of those. So many examples of his craftsmanship are scattered around the world on boats and in the homes of friends and family. He loved music, but didn't dance. He blamed that on the Baptist minister in Little River, who would rage from the pulpit when the teenagers in the village had a party ("The Devil was in the River last night!!"). He was a great cook, a skilled artist, a wonderful raconteur, a terrible punster, and when he was together with his family, they amused the hell out of each other. Years in the tropics ruined him for Canadian winters. He was personally offended by cold weather, and cranky with bad forecasting. He could keep time zones straight, deal with officials and forms in French and Spanish and navigate the complications of any port, in the anchorage or ashore. He was good at math, bad with money, but he got some great deals on boat parts. He figured out eBay, and once bought a crate of anchors at 2 am. Randy and Susan were able to navigate a challenging year and a half after his diagnosis of cholangiocarcinoma with the support of family, the staff at the chemo clinic, the palliative care team, the VON, pharmacists, thoughtful friends and neighbours, and Helen Searle, who was always on call for us. Randy spent a lot of time on the water, but never learned to swim. His wish was to have his ashes scattered at sea, and when asked about finally going into the water, he said "This time, I won't be afraid." Family and friends are invited to a gathering

at 92 Maple Street in Mahone Bay on July 20, from 2 to 5pm. We'll raise a glass.

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ *What a great guy, a pleasure to work for at HPA during the 90's. My condolences to Randy's family. Don Carter*

Don Carter - July 06, 2024 at 11:13 AM

MM

*I was so sorry to hear of Randy's passing and may all the very special memories you each have of him bring you great comfort in time. To his sisters, you were blessed to have such an amazing brother who accomplished so much in his well lived life. May your tears evolve into laughter and joy as you remember events of the past. Sincere sympathy to you all. Maxine A. Marshall*

Maxine A. Marshall - July 06, 2024 at 03:23 PM

JM

*Thank you, Maxine. Your words are a great comfort.*

jan morrigan - July 06, 2024 at 11:57 PM

PB

*I'm long retired from the former Dover Mills (a Port tenant) and came to know Randy upon his appointment as Harbourmaster. To me, he's best described as "a gentleman's gentleman" and contact with him was always a pleasure.*

*Men of his calibre seem increasingly rare nowadays.*

*My sincere sympathy with his family*

*Paul Brennan*

Paul Brennan - July 08, 2024 at 05:26 PM

NB

“ We were sorry to read of Randy’s death. But, oh, what a life! And what a fitting tribute you wrote to his life. I remember the 2000 Tall Ships event with much pride in our city; glad to be reminded of Randy’s leading role. I also remember visiting the set of Theodore Tugboat in the basement of the Shambhala School with our 5-year-old son, who was so fond of Theodore. That visit was courtesy of Randy, who had loaned his Harbourmaster’s framed certificates to the set, lending an air of authenticity. Our sincere condolences to Susan and family. Nancy Bowes and Don Murray

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nancy bowes - July 06, 2024 at 09:23 AM

AG

I am so deeply saddened to hear of Randy’s recent passing on to greater glory. With that may Susan and family find within themselves the Peace that passes all understanding and draw whatever strength is necessary to manage their loss.  
For myself, I have always found comfort, solace and hilarity in their company. Thank you both so much.  
M. Angus Spence Grant

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Angus Grant - July 06, 2024 at 06:56 PM

RJ

I am very sad to hear of Randy's death. Although I last saw Randy in about 2006 or 2007, I have a boatload of memories from our time as kids going to school in Cole Harbour. A lot of stories about fishing from the railway tracks, and using BB guns for nefarious purposes. My condolences to all, especially Heather & Cheryl who were also neighbours growing up, and who I continue to run into over the years. I remember Sandra's very untimely death many years ago as we were classmates.  
Ron Jeppesen

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Ronald Jeppesen - July 17, 2024 at 01:40 PM