

TOM MARTIN joined the Newfoundland Club of Victoria in 2004

Tom has held the position of Treasurer (2007 and 2008)

A proud Maritimer, Tom was born in New Waterford, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. *"I left home at the ripe young age of 14"* he says. At that time he left for southern Ontario and spent half a year in school in Brighton before leaving for Elliot Lake where he worked in the mines for two years. After that he tried out a variety of different jobs between Ontario and Alberta. These included shoe salesman, cab driver and construction, not to mention stints in a pickle factory and a cotton mill. *"But the best thing I ever did was join the Canadian army when I was 19 years old,"* Tom emphasizes. *"I stayed in it for six years and served in Germany for just over two of those. That's where he met his wife, Irmgard, "and that changed my live around for sure!"* he exclaims.

Tom and Irmgard were married in 1962 and have been living in Victoria, British Columbia ever since. They have two children, Rachel in Moncton, New Brunswick and Tom, also in Victoria. *"And we're the proud grandparents of a granddaughter, Grace,"* Tom adds.

Soon after marrying, Tom realized *"the army was not a good place to bring up a family so, when the opportunity came along, I got out. I started up my own business with Esso Imperial Oil, beginning a new career in auto repairs. And I'm still at it 40 plus years later."* In fact, his son, who played hockey in the NHL system for eight years, eventually joined his father in the business and is still with him today.

During his childrens' growing-up years, Tom spent a considerable time coaching kids in hockey and, one day, an opportunity came along where he was offered a job with the Central Scouting Services of the NHL. And so, for 21 years he was an NHL hockey scout while still maintaining his auto business. *"I don't know how, but I got it all done,"* says Tom.

In his spare time, Tom enjoys hockey (still!) and golf and fishing. And he's been a member of the Rotary Club for over 30 years in the Victoria area. He also has been, and still is, involved with a lot of charitable projects.

When asked how he became involved with the Newfoundland Club of Victoria, Tom explains *"A lot of encouragement and prodding over a period of time from my good buddies, Bill Collins and Wayne Thomas, probably had a lot to do with it. But actually, in the end, it boiled down to a conversation with Bob and Barb Budgell about the Club. The four of us just decided one day to join, and we did."*

Tom has met a lot of great friends from coast to coast, keeping in touch and getting together whenever possible. But he especially enjoys being a member of the Newfoundland Club of Victoria *"and the people I've met through it. The Club is going in the right direction and is improving all the time. And I'm glad to be a part of it,"* he concludes.