

**Ralph King is one of the
Newfoundland Club of Victoria's Founding Members**

**In the Club's early years, Ralph held the positions of Member-At-Large;
Entertainment Director; and NewsLetter Editor**

**Ralph is an Honorary Member, receiving the
Club Appreciation Plaque & Lifetime Membership Award in 2007**

Ralph was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, *"but I call Clarenville home!"* he says. He left home in 1958 when he joined the military, taking basic training in Sussex, NB. He was then stationed in Kentville, NS before being sent to Germany where he spent 5 ½ years.

While in Germany, Ralph married. *"I married the same woman twice actually,"* says Ralph. *"We had a German wedding one day and, the very next day, a Canadian wedding. It was Canadian law that said we had to do that,"* he explains. *"And that meant, of course, celebrating two anniversaries every year - one day following the other – which we did, happily, for the next 43 years!"*

Upon returning to Canada in the late 1960's, Ralph continued his military life, raising his family and going wherever the forces sent him. Places like Oromocto, NB, Winnipeg, MB, and eventually Cornerbrook, NL where he was posted in the Recruiting branch of the forces. It was in 1978 that he was transferred to Victoria BC where he eventually retired from the military after serving 25 years. And Victoria is where he plans to *"stick it out,"* he says, smiling happily.

Ralph has two children, Kathy and Michelle, and four grandchildren, Ryan, Tony, Pamela and Emma. His hobbies and interests include fishing, traveling and meeting people.

Ralph proudly proclaims that he has been a member of the Newfoundland Club of Victoria since day one. *"In the late '80's I received a phone call from a friend who invited me to a house party,* he explains. *"It seemed they were gathering some local immigrants from Newfoundland to see if there were enough of us in the area to form a club."* As a result of that gathering, Ralph quickly got involved and claims fame for being the one who originally coined the phrase 'The Newfoundland Association of Victoria, incorporated in 1991, was established for individuals of Newfoundland and Labrador living in British Columbia. Our objective is to have fun, enjoy life and be active members of our community.' This phrase, although slightly revised since then, is currently displayed on the front page of our Club newsletter, the Newfie Bullet-In."

Ralph, to this day, continues to participate in the Newfoundland Club, especially enjoying his involvement in the dart league, the Club's fundraising events and the many Club social functions offered. *"If it wasn't for this Club, I would not have gained so many wonderful friendships over the years here in Victoria. And I'm not the only one who feels that way. Lots of individuals in the Club have actually become couples, in fact, because they were lucky enough to meet each other at a Club function. And I think that that's just fantastic. I, myself, am one of those lucky individuals I might add."*

Besides being one of the Newfoundland Club of Victoria's Founding members, Ralph is also one of the first five Honorary Members of the Club, presented with a Club Appreciation Plaque & Lifetime Membership Award in 2007.