

## President's Message

Al Eustis *May 28, 1933 - December 20, 2016*



Al's love for aviation began when he started watching RCAF aircraft depart from the Boundary Bay airport from the south slope of Burnaby.

He joined the RCAF Reserve forces and transferred to the Regular Forces in the hope that he would be trained as a pilot, but instead he was commissioned as an Aircrew Radio Officer. He found it interesting, but it was not really what he wanted to do and his job was becoming redundant because VHF radios were making communications directly from the cockpit, easier.

He was encouraged to pursue his goal of becoming a pilot, and when he got his license he began searching for work. He landed his first job as a dispatcher for Pacific Western Airlines, but began his first commercial job flying for BC Airlines in Campbell River, a company that operated 40 float and amphibious aircraft at the time – Beavers, Norseman, Pilatus, Grumman Goose to name a few. He was bitten by the helicopter-bug as a result of a number of flights with Bruce Paine in 1966 and there was no going back.

He was always an outspoken advocate for safety in our industry and he is a past Chair of HAC. Post-retirement he was a Safety Consultant for years to keep his hand in an industry that he loved, and for years was the Vice President System Safety for CHL. He retired at 70 years old. Al was a recipient of HAC's *Agar-Stringer Award* for his contributions to the Canadian Helicopter industry, *and* a recipient of HAC's *Honorary Life Member Award*, for his contributions to HAC.

The family of Robert "Al" Eustis were saddened to announce his sudden passing on December 20, 2016. He leaves behind the love of his life, Joan, his children, grandchildren and close friends. Al loved to fly and spent most of his life flying commercially for BC Airlines, OK Helicopters and Canadian Helicopters. Al will be greatly missed by all, and fondly remembered.