

# Town of Arnold's Cove COMMUNITY BUILDERS

OCTOBER 2022



*The Town of Arnold's Cove is pleased to launch an annual feature called Community Builders, where we shine a spotlight on deserving members and groups of our community who helped shape Arnold's Cove into the town we know and love. We will run this feature every October, the month of Thanksgiving, as we acknowledge the contributions of these special residents.*

We're pleased to feature our first Community Builder, **Dr. Geoffrey Fowlow**.

Dr. Fowlow, or Dr. Geoff as he is fondly known, is renowned in Arnold's Cove and the surrounding area for his long-standing medical practice in our community, his love of vintage vehicles and his passion for race car driving! Dr. Geoff celebrated 50 years of practicing medicine in the Arnold's Cove area on July 1, 2022. That is a remarkable milestone and one his patients and the residents of Arnold's Cove appreciate.



Dr. Geoff was born in Burgeo, the younger of two boys. His father was an Anglican priest, and his mother was a teacher. He lived in various parts of the province as a child, attending school in Bay Roberts, Heart's Content and Corner Brook. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1966. He graduated from the University of Toronto with his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1971. He started his practice at Come by Chance Hospital on July 1, 1972. He had attended medical school on a provincial bursary and after completing his service agreement at Come By Chance, he could have moved elsewhere but decided to stay in the area and purchased a home. When the Come By Chance Hospital closed in the early 1980s, Dr. Geoff could have moved on but again opted to stay in the area and opened his private practice in Arnold's Cove. Not only did he open the practice, but he also designed and built the medical building!

Practicing medicine has been more than just a job for Dr. Geoff, it has been his life's work. Everyone who had him as their doctor can attest to his reassuring manner, quiet nature and effective use of humour when needed. The clinic and staff were always welcoming. He employed registered nurses to work in the clinic with him and many will fondly remember nurses Verna Nicholson, Rowena

Wareham and Vanessa Francis. His practice reflected a cross section of population and over the years saw generations of many families come through the office doors. Dr. Geoff also took his practice on the road, or should we say to the air! During the 1980s, Dr. Geoff visited Petite Forte by helicopter bi-weekly to provide medical care to the residents there. Over those ten years he also did helicopter medivacs with Government Air Services and 103 Squadron Search and Rescue Gander.

Dr. Geoff contributed to his community in countless ways over the past five decades. He's an honorary member of the Arnold's Cove Fire Department. He was a first aid instructor and advisor to the Fire Department in the 1970s and was an instructor for the local community school. He was a band instructor with the Arnold's Cove Army Cadet Corps in the 1980s. He was a member of the Arnold's Cove Town Council from 1981-1989 and 1993-1997. He served as Mayor from 1985-87 and then Deputy Mayor for two years. He was chair and founding member (along with his wife, Fay Matthews) of the Placentia Bay Islands and Area Heritage association from 1994-2010 and led the development and design of Arnold's Cove's first history board. He was also the Chair of the Mayor's Task Force from 2002-2005, instrumental in writing a report advising Council on the future direction of the Town.

Dr. Geoff's care and concern for his patients, and his contributions to the growth and development of our town through his community involvement over the past five decades are greatly appreciated by Council and the residents of Arnold's Cove.

**Thank you for your outstanding service, Dr. Geoff!**