

## **C**MMUNITY BUILDERS

April 2025



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 are pleased to feature the late Bruce Wareham as the 2024 Community Builder recipient.

Born and raised in Harbour Buffett, Placentia Bay, Bruce was immersed in the fishing industry from an early age. His father, Frank, owned a fishing enterprise that sold salt cod, and Bruce was actively involved in the family business. As

his passion for the industry grew, he pursued a business degree at Memorial University. However, before completing his studies, his father suffered a stroke, prompting Bruce to return to Harbour Buffett to manage the family business. This would mark the beginning of his lifelong commitment to the fishing industry.

When the Wareham family relocated to Arnold's Cove, Bruce began working with Bay Roberts Fisheries. It was then that National Sea Products recognized his potential and approached him to run their organization. Bruce continued to work for National Sea

Products until the company left the island, at which point he took on a more significant leadership role in the industry.

Bruce's personal life flourished when he met Hilda, whom he married in 1965. Together, they raised two children, Alberto and Kenneth, in Arnold's Cove, where Bruce would go on to make a lasting impact on both his family and community.

Over the course of his 55-year career in the seafood industry, Bruce held prominent roles, including senior executive positions at National Sea Products Ltd./High Liner Foods Inc. and the founder and chairman of the Icewater Group of Companies. Throughout his career, Bruce earned recognition for his leadership, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to high-quality seafood processing.

His leadership extended to various boards, such as the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation, the National Seafood Sector Council and the Marine Institute of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Bruce also contributed to the World Wildlife Fund Canada's

Atlantic Chapter and several provincial Government working groups, including the Premier's Taskforce on the Economy.

Despite his significant global career, Bruce's heart remained with Arnold's Cove and its people. He always attributed his success to the community that supported him, and his greatest goal was to ensure a thriving future for them. In 2004, Bruce acquired the assets of High Liner Foods through Icewater Group of Companies during a time when Newfoundland's cod stocks were low and the industry faced an array of challenges. Through his vision, hard work and

determination, Bruce not only preserved the groundfish processing plant in Arnold's Cove but transformed it into a globally respected operation known for its dedication to quality for years.

Bruce Wareham's passing marks the end of a remarkable journey, but his legacy will continue to resonate in the seafood industry and within his community. A pioneering force in Canada's fishing industry, Bruce's dedication to Arnold's Cove and its people was unwavering. He always remained optimistic about the future of Newfoundland and Labrador's fishing sector, and his passion for the community never faltered. Bruce will be remembered as a man of integrity, a visionary leader, and a true gentleman. His profound impact on both the industry and the community serves as a testament to his role as a true builder.

It is with great pride that we honor him as the 2024 Community Builder recipient.