

Bernardin J. Comeau

December 14th 1918 – December 2nd 2014

A hard-working visionary and innovator

Just a few days after his son Marcel's death, a heart-broken Bernardin Comeau left his beloved wife Thérèse and his Acadian homeland where he lived a fulfilling life spanning almost a full century. Born into a family of 10 children, at a very early age he developed the work ethic required to "bring bread to the table". From a humble beginning as a lobster fisherman, he expanded his work into multiple ventures processing herring, ground fish and scallops. In 1946, along with his brother Clarence, he founded Comeau Sea Foods, a company that thrived through the ups and downs of the fishing industry offering his community a stable source of employment and playing an important role in the regional economy.

Bernardin was a hard-working visionary with an innovative spirit. In his biography, published in 2011, he said: "If you want to succeed in something, you must invest. Throughout the course of Comeau Sea Foods, I had to invest to continue growing." Through his masterful understanding of market trends, loyal employees and marine resources, he succeeded in producing a vast array of processed seafood sold around the world. Schooled by life and life's challenges, Bernardin developed a watchful eye over all aspects of his business, a necessary trait for guiding a company through challenging times. Wanting to maintain the integrity and status of a family business, he welcomed his son Marcel and other members of his family in key positions. Until the very end, Bernardin kept a clear mind, each day looking forward to daily briefings from Marcel, his daughters, Yvette, Denise, Janice and other family members.

Known as a quiet man, when Bernardin spoke, his words carried weight. Throughout his life, his vision and practical skills made him a highly respected member of numerous boards and committees, some of which had policy mandates affecting provincial, federal and international fishing regulations. His wisdom and his numerous contributions to the overall business community were often recognized and praised during his active life. This would not have been possible without the loving support of his wife of 67 years, Thérèse.

Bernardin was one of the last surviving members of a generation of Acadian men who, in the 1950s, launched various initiatives for the promotion and survival of Acadian heritage and culture. He was known for his generous contributions to the church, hospitals, and Sainte-Anne and Moncton universities. He received an honorary business doctorate from Université Sainte-Anne in 1983 after which a new administration building was named in his honor. In 1987, he was named a member of the Order of Canada.

Source: Obituary

http://www.meteghanfuneralhome.ca/?action=obituaries.obit_view&o_id=2842383&fh_id=13742