

Wilson brothers honoured

Truro businessmen being inducted into Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame

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- BY JASONMALLOY



Jason Malloy - Truro Daily News David Wilson is pleased he and his late brother G. Peter are being inducted into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame. He said it is quite an honour to be mentioned in the same category as previous inductees such as members of the Sobey family, Charles Keating, Thomas Stanfield, Ron Joyce and John Bragg.

TRURO – Hard work, dedication to customer service and community involvement have been three staples of one of Truro’s oldest family businesses.

“It was in our blood,” said David Wilson. “We grew up in that environment if the phone rang you left.”

David and his late brother Peter carried that commitment on as they took over and grew the family business that now includes multiple divisions and employs more than 500 people.

While the business grew, David, now 77, remained connected to the community by being involved with a number of organizations including Scouts, the Colchester YMCA and the Central Nova Tourism Association.

“It was part of our culture,” he said noting his father was also involved in many of the organizations.

The brothers' contributions have been recognized by Junior Achievement which will induct them into the Nova Scotia Business Hall of Fame during a ceremony in June.

"It was quite an honour," David said during an interview at his Truro office. "It's a shame my brother is not here to receive it."

Peter passed away following a sudden heart attack in 1999.

David said they were like twins in many ways but there were differences.

"He was the academic and I always thought of myself as down in the trenches working in the business day to day," he said.

While Peter was the dean of industrial engineering at the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) in Halifax, David said his brother "didn't mind getting his hands dirty" and would go on service calls or deliver fuel whenever needed.

David said Peter's position at the university opened up doors for the company within the academic community for new technology. David even referred to Peter as the company's chief recruiting officer.

"With Peter we were able to attract some of his top students," David said.

He said their father, George, was quietly influential in their lives.

"I never remember him telling us to do it, we just did it automatically," he said.

He described his father as a firm but fair man who treated everyone as equals.

The brothers always had a vision for the company and were able to adapt to changes in technology.

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