

Arnold Hagen
Alumni Volunteer of the Year 2012

Arnold was raised on a mixed farm in Springfield, Prince Edward Island. He attended Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1983, to study in the animal science department.

Graduating with an Animal Science technician diploma in 1985, the focus of Arnold's studies changed direction and he received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics in 1988.

Immediately after graduating, he was hired by Scotiabank in Saint John, New Brunswick and spent the next two decades moving up through the banking world at various locations in New Brunswick, Halifax and Prince Edward Island.

Arnold transferred to Truro in 2005 after accepting a position with the Commercial Banking Division of Scotiabank.

He settled in Bible Hill where he still lives with his wife Heather and two daughters Bethany and Olivia. In his spare time he enjoys curling, golf and harness racing.

While a student on the Agricultural Campus, Arnold had a dream to one day own his own business. This lifelong ambition was realized in January 2011 when he purchased the Harris Home Hardware Building Centre on Pictou Road from the founder of Harris Home Hardware. In this role he really enjoys working with staff and customers.

His commercial career went from strength to strength and in May 2012 he opened a new branch on Willow Street.

Arnold has gone above and beyond to dedicate time and energy into his local community. Showing dedication to the Rotary Club of Truro he has been a member since 2005, a member of the club executive for two years, was named Rotarian of the Year in 2007-08 and was recognized with the Paul Harris Fellowship in 2011.

Fellow Rotarian Jim Goit remembers Arnold's excellent coordination of the club's two major fund raisers, the Annual Community Yearbook and the Annual Auction.

Other achievements include serving as board member and chair of the Colchester East-Hants Health Centre Foundation.

Sharon Crowe, Executive Director of the Health Centre Foundation describes Arnold as a really committed and hard working volunteer with the Foundation, who has held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Chair and currently holds the Past Chair title.

“Arnold began volunteering with the Foundation prior to accepting a board position, working on our biggest fundraiser of the year, our annual Gala. Arnold is a very well-respected member of our board and our community, and has been extremely generous with his time and his talent. “

While living in the Summerside area of Prince Edward Island, Arnold was also a board member with the Prince County Hospital Foundation

Arnold holds strong ties to the former NSAC, being actively involved in the Alumni Association.

He chaired the association from 2007 -2010 and in this role was instrumental in bringing together the Alumni Association and the former NSAC Foundation.

Arnold strongly believes that getting involved in your community is not only a terrific way to meet people but, from a personal standpoint, an effective means to develop your life experiences.

Arnold is a perfect example of the belief that one person can make a difference.

It is most fitting that Arnold Hagen be named the 2012 recipient of the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture’s Alumni Volunteer of the Year award.