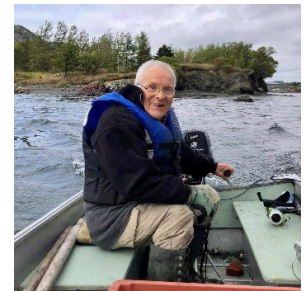




A Life Lived For Clarenville

Remembering Fred Best

Born in Wesleyville, Bonavista Bay on November 1, 1934. Fred graduated from Memorial University with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education. He moved to Clarenville in 1965 to begin his career as an educator at Clarenville High School. After two years teaching at Clarenville High School, he became Principal of Clarenville Elementary School, a role he held with dedication for 26 years.



Fred Best's life was a testament to his deep love for family, his community of Clarenville, and the great outdoors. Beyond his public service, he found immense joy in nature. Fred was well-known for spending countless hours **berry picking, fishing,** and tending to his garden. His cabin in George's Pond was a cherished retreat, and he was often seen on the water, either fishing or making the crossing to his beloved sanctuary.

THE ENDURING LEGACY OF "MAYOR BEST"

To many, Fred was simply "**Mayor Best**", a name synonymous with Clarenville and municipal leadership throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. His passion for local governance was unparalleled, making him one of the province's longest-serving figures in municipal politics. His remarkable career spanned nearly four decades, beginning with four years on the Town Council in Wesleyville. In 1977, he joined the Clarenville Town Council as Deputy Mayor, and in 1981, he was elected Mayor, a position he held for an incredible **32 years until his retirement in 2013**. Notably, he never lost an election for Mayor during his tenure.

Fred's impact on Clarenville was immense. As Mayor, he guided the town through an era of significant **growth and transformation**. He often cited the town's expansion and the **amalgamation with Shoal Harbour** as pivotal achievements. He was a tireless advocate for Clarenville's diverse economy, championing its role as a dynamic regional service center.



His leadership style was distinctly hands-on, driven by a desire for a direct connection with residents. Fred genuinely enjoyed helping people and was frequently seen across town, engaging in conversations with both locals and visitors. He held a profound belief in the power of municipal government, highlighting its immediate impact in a 2013 CBC interview upon his retirement: "You can offer advice and help immediately, usually in municipal government. Municipal government is a place where you're so close to the people that it doesn't take months and months to get something done." This personal approach and dedication to the community were true hallmarks of his time in office.



One of Fred's final honorary council contributions was joining former Mayor Frazer Russell and current Mayor John Pickett to officially open the newly renovated Town Hall, a fitting capstone to his long service.

Fred's influence extended far beyond Clarenville, significantly shaping municipal politics at the provincial level. For decades, he served on numerous boards and regional committees, including the **Board of Directors of the Federation of Municipalities** and as **Chair of the Municipal Assessment Agency**. He was also a director of Newfoundland and Labrador Municipal Employees Inc., among many other regional organizations. In recognition of his dedicated service, the Municipal Assessment Agency honored Mayor Best by naming their regional office after him.

A CHAMPION OF VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteerism was another of Fred's great passions. He firmly believed in the importance of contributing to one's community. He was a co-founder and lifelong member of the **Clarenville Lions Club**, dedicating over five decades of service. His commitment to community well-being also saw him serve as Chairman of the **G. B. Cross Hospital Board**, a Director of the **Clarenville Chamber of Commerce**, and a director with the **Alpine Development Association**, he was instrumental in the formation of the **CREST (seniors bus service)**, an advocate and supporter of the Clarenville **SPCA**, among many other volunteer endeavours.

His dedication did not go unnoticed. In 2011, Memorial University of Newfoundland recognized him with the **Alumni Award for "Outstanding Community Service"** for his remarkable commitment to Clarenville and the entire province.

In 2017, as part of Canada 150 celebrations, he was deservedly recognized as one of the **150 faces of Clarenville**, a truly fitting tribute to a man who had become synonymous with the town he loved so dearly.



Fred Best lived a remarkable and full life, leaving an unparalleled legacy on Clarenville. Please join us in honoring "Mayor Fred Best," as he was affectionately known to so many for so long. His contributions and his spirit will never be forgotten.

