



Bob Minkler Memorial Bursary

In December 2000, the community of Campbell River were stunned by the news of the sudden death of Bob Minkler in a recreational-diving accident. Bob's employer, Stolt Sea Farm Inc., now Marine Harvest Canada Inc., and two other companies involved in the aquaculture industry, EWOS Canada Ltd. and Skretting, have generously donated to create a tribute to Bob. An endowment fund in his name has been established to make an annual entrance award within Salmon Farming, Aquaculture, Marine Biology, or an Associate degree in the Sciences at North Island College. The student receiving the award must be a full-time student enrolling at North Island College and living within the geographic area encompassing the Comox Valley through to the northern end of Vancouver Island, including adjacent islands, and must have demonstrated financial need. The award will be applied to tuition fees at the time of registration.

Bob Minkler

18 March 1954 - 3 December 2000

Bob Minkler was born in Levack, Ontario and spent his early years in that province. He graduated from high school and took an electronics course at Fanshaw College. As a child he loved the water. His family considered him a real "water baby" enjoying all activities on and in the water. His love for water led him to take a diving course at Key Largo, Florida and his recreational diving passion began. This passion would later turn into a meaningful career as a diver and manager in the aquaculture industry.

Bob and his wife Ellie moved to Vancouver Island in 1982 and fell in love with the lifestyle and natural beauty. They made Campbell River their home and Bob went to work for Stolt Sea Farm Inc. in 1987 first as a farm worker and occasional diver and then on the management team for 10 years.

Bob was one of Stolt Sea Farm's most knowledgeable and experienced ambassadors, travelling on marketing and development trips to various parts of the world including Norway and the United States.

He was a manager of the Midsummer Island site in the Broughton Archipelago at the time of his death. "He was an unassuming man, a solid worker, and his integrity was beyond reproach," says Dale Blackburn, Vice-President of Operations.

Bob loved salmon fishing, boating and recreational diving. He and Ellie enjoyed diving together, hiking and many other outdoor pursuits both in BC and in places like Mexico and Hawaii.

"Bob was a special man", says Ellie "he was a true romantic and a deeply caring person who treated people with respect and consideration; but he was also a strong, fearless adventurer who just loved life. If Bob could give one message to a student receiving this entrance award," Ellie continues, "it would be to enjoy and be proud of the work you do and the life you lead; keep high standards and never take the every day things in life for granted."

For more information about the Bob Minkler Memorial Bursary, or North Island College Foundation call (250) 334-4267.

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