

CAPTAIN BRUCE DONALD SHEPPERD

OBITUARY

Born Oct 26, 1927 Crossed the Bar 24 Oct, 2023 Age 95
ISMA PENNANT No. 10752



Captain Bruce Shepperd crossed the bar peacefully at the Meaford Hospital on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at the age of 95, two days short of his 96th birthday. Bruce was the father of four children, Bradley, Brian, Susan, Scott. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Lucille. He was a grandfather to 9 children, and a great-grandfather to 27 children.

Bruce Shepperd started his marine career in 1943, at the Age of 16, as a deckhand on the SS CARIBOU, running passengers and freight from Owen Sound to the Soo Via the North Channel's Turkey Trail. In the spring of 1944, he joined the SS ALGOCEN and started his career with Algoma. In 1948 he was involved in the strike where the unions fought for better living wages and the 8-hour work day.

During the 1950s Bruce worked his way up the ranks, and took jobs as ship keeper during the winters with his wife, and children living aboard, while he studied at the Marine School in Owen Sound. In 1955, Bruce was appointed 1st Mate on the E.B. BARBER. In 1959 when the newly constructed St. Lawrence Seaway was opened, he was on one of the first ships to transit downstream, learning this newly modified river and Seaway with strong currents as they went.

Bruce was given his first command as Master of the SS ALGOWAY on April 11, 1960. He then went on to command E.B. BARBER, ROY A JODDREY, SIR DENYS LOWSON, and V.W. SCULLY. In 1970, Captain Shepperd was assigned to bring the AGAWA CANYON out of the Collingwood shipyards, and over successive years brought out the new ALGOWAY, ALGOSOO, ALGOLAKE, ALGOBAY, ALGOWAY and the JOHN B. AIRD. In 1989, Bruce retired having been Algoma's Fleet Commodore for 19 years, and having spent 47 years at sea.

Bruce continued his hobby of making model ships and promoting Great Lakes history. He sat on the board of the Meaford Museum and proudly volunteered for many years working around the harbour and within the Town of Meaford. He was a member of the Museum board, and renovated the building and made all the cabinets. With many friends in the Canadian Coast Guard, he acquired the Coast Guard Cutters CCGC SPUME and CCGC WESTFORD that now sits at the Meaford Harbour. He was an accomplished wood worker, building displays for Christmas and Halloween to put on display at home and in the town. He built large scale models of the ships he was Captain. His home is a tribute to his years on the lakes. He is known in town for having created a marine museum of his home and property with steam whistles, a lifeboat, a 5m Navigation Buoy, Masts, radars and lights. In his later years Bruce also loved working as a crossing guard for the schools which allowed him to get out and help others.

Bruce's family will be forever grateful for the friendship and support shown by Suzanne, Rosemary, Jim and Brenda when Bruce needed it most.

A graveside service of committal and interment will take place at Lakeview Cemetery in Meaford on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

As your expression of sympathy, donations to the Meaford Hospital Foundation would be appreciated and may be made through the Ferguson Funeral Home, 48 Boucher St. E., Meaford, ON N4L 1B9 to whom arrangements have been entrusted. www.fergusonfuneralhomes.ca

