

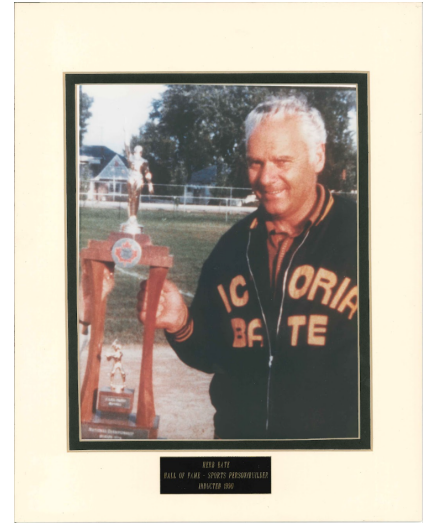
Herb Bate

1990 Inductee - Builder/Sportsperson Category

Herb Bate was born in Victoria, BC and in 1949, he was playing senior fastball with the Esquimalt Meat Market, earning recognition as a powerful homerun hitter.

From the 1950's-60's, he worked as a carpenter and contractor all along the island, while remaining active in local baseball and fastball as a coach.

In 1968, he became the sponsor of the newly formed Victoria Bate Construction fastball team, launching one of the most successful dynasties in Canadian Men's softball. He worked to recruit elite talent, particularly top pitchers and helped establish the Northwest International Fastball League to ensure high-level competition. He sponsored their team for a decade, building a program that attracted players from across the country.



Throughout the 1970's, his team captured five consecutive BC Senior A Men's Championships. In 1974, he helped bring the Canadian Men's Fastball Championship to Victoria. Herb built specialized indoor training facilities, including a "mini astrodome" for pitchers to practice. From 1974 to 1976, Victoria Bate Construction won three consecutive Canadian Championships, achieving Bate's longstanding goal. By 1976, his team became Co-World Champions in New Zealand and served as the last men's club team to represent Canada before the introduction of the national team program.

Across his career he provided opportunities for numerous athletes, who later became inductees of both the Softball BC and Softball Canada Halls of Fame. He is recognized as the driving force behind the Victoria Bate Construction dynasty, helping establish Victoria as a national powerhouse in men's fastball and creating a legacy that influenced the sport for decades to come.