

Gordon Richard Fuerst Davis (1925-2005)

Richard, the name he preferred, was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. He completed his high school education in Toronto, enrolled at the University of Toronto, and completed the first year of a pre-med course by 1943. Then followed a 16-month hitch in the Canadian Navy and a resumption of University studies - this last at McGill University. His summers were spent at the Biological Control Unit, Belleville, working in programs of biological control of forest insect pests. In 1952, Richard and wife Pauline moved west, when Richard was transferred to the then Dominion Entomological Laboratory (later the Entomology Section of the Agriculture Canada Research Station) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. There, for 33 years, Richard carried out research on many aspects of the nutrition of stored grain and field crop insect pests - a vast and complex area that included the nutrition requirements of insects, digestive enzyme systems, and the influence of food characteristics on insect reproduction. He took part also in studies of mycotoxin identification, nutritional assays, and insect behaviour. During that time Richard served terms of Director and Honorary Secretary- Treasurer of the Canadian Federation of Biological Sciences, Vice-President of the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan, and Director of the Entomological Society of Canada.



Following his retirement in 1985 from his career in entomology, Richard continued to be very active in new endeavors. He moved to Regina, Saskatchewan, and worked as a translator -English-French/French-English - for a major firm, and then retired from that and set up his own Triple D Translations business. Richard was an active volunteer with the Alzheimer Society in Regina, again doing translations, and giving lectures on the disabling affliction. He also became keenly interested in genealogy for quite a number of years, and researched both his family and his wife's family, each back for several hundred years. For studies of his German ancestors he became fluent in German and went to Germany, searching records, meeting previously unknown relatives, and uncovering many missing pieces in his family tree. During his later years he was working on Spanish - self-taught - as well, and was interested in returning to University with the intent of earning another PhD in another of the sciences.

Richard died 23 November 2005, in Peterborough, Ontario, while visiting family members.

— Bob Burrage Saskatoon, Saskatchewan