

Doug Eidt (1928-2011)

Douglas Conrad Eidt passed away 10 July 2011 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, at the age of 83. Doug was born 2 July 1928 in Fergus, Ontario, and his family moved to Kentville, Nova Scotia, in 1930 where his father was employed as a researcher at the Dominion Experimental Farm. As a student, Doug worked after school and in summers at the Kentville Publishing Co., where he learned many aspects of the newspaper and job printing trade, skills that proved invaluable in later years. Doug graduated from Kings County Academy, Kentville, in 1945 and began his undergraduate degree at the Nova Scotia Agriculture College in Truro. He completed Doug Eidt 1928-2011 a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSA) at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph in 1950 and entered a 2-year program for the MSA degree the next autumn while also employed as a



laboratory demonstrator. Doug married Betty Jean Reddon in the summer of 1951, completed his MSA (a University of Toronto degree) in 1952, and moved to Saskatoon to take a job as a Research Officer with the Federal Field Crop Insect Laboratory in Saskatoon. In 1955, Doug obtained the first PhD in Biology awarded by the University of Saskatchewan. Doug was transferred to the Canadian Forestry Service in Fredericton in 1956 where he was employed as a research scientist until his official retirement in 1989. In 1961 Doug accepted an 18-month tour of duty as a Forest Entomologist in Nigeria with the FAO, an experience he described as one of the most interesting and educational of his life.

During his career, Doug published 89 refereed scientific papers and 80 non-refereed scientific reports, most of which were concerned with the biology and management of forest insect pests. His research interests ranged from early work on taxonomy, morphology, and life history of forest insect pests, to extensive studies on the effects of insecticides on aquatic invertebrates, decomposition and nutrient cycling. A collaboration with Tony Little exploring the concept of controlling insect pests by inducing plant - insect asynchrony led to a 1968 publication in *Nature*. Doug was an Honorary Research Associate at the University of New Brunswick and served on several graduate student advisory and examination committees. Following his official retirement in 1989, Doug continued his research as a "one-third time" scientist, starting a new project developing the use of entomopathogenic nematodes for control of insects in forest nurseries and plantations. Even after Doug truly retired he maintained a passionate interest in the history of entomology, particularly in Atlantic Canada. Doug was always an active member of the Entomological Society of Canada, as well as the Acadian Entomological Society. In addition to serving on several committees (Fellowship, Achievement Awards, Science Policy, Publications, Heritage), Doug chaired the By-Laws Committee and the Common Names Committee, was Founding Editor of the *Bulletin* of the ESC from 1969-1975, Scientific Editor of *The Canadian Entomologist* and the *Memoirs* from 1978-1983, Director-at-Large from 1968-70, and President of the ESC in 1988-89. In recognition of his many years of dedicated service, Doug was made an Honorary Member of both the ESC and the Acadian Entomological Society. Doug was always moving and full of energy at work, in the field, and at home. He loved to see new country and explore less traveled ways. In addition to his passion for entomology, Doug enjoyed many other interests including gardening, stamp collecting, wood-working, singing in the church choir, genealogy, and spending time at the family cottage on Oromocto Lake. He played water polo at lunch for many years and was also an avid cross country skier, clearing many kilometres of cross country ski trails annually. Doug acted as general contractor in the building his own passive solar house in 1979, before many now common items such as heat exchangers were available, and in 1980 it outperformed all others monitored by the National Research Council.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty, five sons, twelve grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, three siblings, and several nieces and nephews. Doug felt one of his greatest achievements was balancing his professional life and love of family.

– Jon Sweeney, Wayne Fairchild, and Graham Thurston
Fredericton