

Edgar J. Leroux (1922-2007)

A prominent figure of Canadian entomology passed away on 13 October 2007. Edgar J. Leroux died at home, seven months after his wife Ardis. They are survived by their three children Estelle, Pierre and Elizabeth.

Ed was born in Ottawa on 13 January 1922. After spending the Second World War in the Navy (Writer, RCN 1941-1946) he entered Carleton University where he graduated with a BA in 1950, and went on to obtain his MSc and PhD from McGill University, specializing in insect ecology. His research at Agriculture Canada and at MacDonal College of McGill University, where he was a professor in the early 1960s, focused on the population dynamics of orchard insects and the European corn borer. During that period, he published over 75 papers on various aspects of insect ecology and physiology. He was well liked by students for his pedagogical skills, his keen interest in their career development, and his simplicity. He kept in touch with many of them and their families throughout his career. As was so well stated at his funeral, Ed was a gentle man and a gentleman.

In 1965, he returned to Agriculture Canada as Research Coordinator (entomology). In the 22 years that followed he had a major impact on the development of agricultural research and policy, in a perpetually changing context of political decisions that did not give Canadian renewable natural resources the place they deserve. Dr Leroux was particularly involved in promoting the success of Canola, his involvement being recognized by a recognition for service award by the Canola Council of Canada in 1987.

An active member of the Entomological Society of Canada, Ed became a Fellow in 1977 and was awarded the Gold Medal in 1986. In addition to the Honorary doctorates he received from McGill University and the University of Ottawa, and numerous other awards, Ed was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1988.

- Bernard J.R. Philogène
Professor Emeritus
University of Ottawa