

## Charlie A. Miller (1921– 2009)

Charlie Miller died peacefully in his sleep 26 November 2009, in Edmonton, Alberta. He was just one day short of his 88th birthday. He was predeceased by his wife Muriel, his parents, Christine and Otto Schleicher, and an infant brother. He is survived by his son Paul (Kim Mackie), Edmonton, and his daughter Susan (Al Sosiak), Calgary, and four grandchildren.

Charlie was well known among both Canadian and US forest entomologists, particularly for his leading role in spruce budworm research. Under the name C.A. Miller, he was the author of many reports, publications, position papers, and was a major contributor to the landmark ESC Memoir on spruce budworm that helped make its author, Dr. R. Frank Morris, the first ESC Gold Medalist. It was Charlie who developed many of the sampling methods still in use for defoliators, and continued to encourage further research in population dynamics after Frank Morris' retirement. His research accomplishments are described in a little more detail in the account of his retirement (*Bulletin ESC* 14:47).



Charlie was a Fellow of the ESC, and served from 1978 to 1983 as Assistant Scientific Editor of *The Canadian Entomologist* and *Memoirs*. He was a member of the Acadian Entomological Society, and served as President in 1956-57.

Charlie was born in Montreal (because caesarian sections were not available in New Brunswick) in 1921. He studied to be a teacher in 1939-40, but then enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He was a pilot who served first in Canada, and later with Coastal Command in Britain. He was discharged after the war with the rank of Flying Officer.

With the availability of help from the Department of Veteran's Affairs, as many ex-servicemen did, he went for more education. He graduated from the University of New Brunswick in Forestry in 1947. While he was a student, Charlie worked summers for the Forest Biology Division of Agriculture Canada (now a component of the Canadian Forestry Service). He then earned an MSc at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Carl Atwood. Charlie was urged by colleagues to go for a DSc at the University of London, where it could be had based on the research he already had accomplished. Charlie characteristically declined the advice, because the work he loved was reward enough, and he didn't need a fancy title.

While in Toronto, he met his future wife and companion, Muriel. It is rumoured that she persuaded him to change his name to Miller, and she became the star around which he revolved. To appreciate her vivacious personality and sense of humour, check out her story "My Life With the Spruce Budworm" (*Bulletin ESC* 16:70-73).

The Millers lived just down the street from the Eidts. Charlie and I commuted together, worked together, and hunted together. Commuting to work on the one ancient bridge at that time, and through the congested downtown was a skill carefully honed. Charlie's name for it was "offensive driving". Charlie's research accomplishments speak for themselves. Hunting, on the other hand, was

an obsession, ducks in particular, and he and his dog Blue kept the table well supplied. Charlie's father was a fisherman (and a rumrunner during prohibition) so Charlie loved boats and wouldn't scoff at rum. Charlie and Muriel lived on the beautiful Saint John River and its tributaries in the summer. In the winter he curled.

In 2001, Charlie was in a car accident that slowed him down considerably. He had lost his beloved Muriel, his hunting dog, and his children had moved to Alberta, so he moved to Edmonton to be near his son, Paul. I visited him there on two occasions, where things were somewhat better for a while, but were not to last.

Charlie's legacy is his research record, his service to the ESC and AES, his children, his grandchildren, and many fond memories.

Doug Eidt, Fredericton, NB