

## Ray Ford Morris (1919-2004)

It is with regret that we report the death of Raymond F. Morris on 26 February 2004. Ray was born in March 1919 in the small community of St. George's, Newfoundland, the son of the late Harold and Christiana Morris. He was predeceased by his beloved wife Daisy and is survived by two sons, Wayne and Keith, grandchildren Jeffrey, Tara, Tina, Dawn and Sara, and great-grandchildren Ashley and Amber. Ray received a Diploma in Agriculture from the Newfoundland Government Demonstration Farm in 1944, followed by five years with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. In 1950, he graduated from the University of Toronto (Ontario Agricultural College) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture, and in 1955 he received a Master of Science degree in Entomology from the University of Maine. During 37 years with Agriculture Canada in St. John's, Newfoundland, Ray made a major contribution to entomological and agricultural research, not only in Newfoundland, but across Canada. In recognition, he was awarded a Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977, and inducted into the Atlantic Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1985.



He was President of the Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) in 1983-84 and was elected a Fellow of the ESC. He was also a Fellow of the Acadian Entomological Society. Ray successfully lobbied for the issuance of a series of Canada Post butterfly stamps to commemorate the XVIII International Congress of Entomology (see ESC Bulletin 20 (4): 34). An excellent communicator, Ray enjoyed annual cross-island trips visiting farms and holding meetings/ short courses to discuss insect control and a host of other problems, with growers. From 1970 to 1980 he was an Honorary Lecturer at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Ray loved to collect insects - the insect reference collection at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in St. John's exists largely due to Ray Morris, and boasts over 60,000 specimens from Newfoundland and Labrador. At the time of his retirement in 1984, Ray had published a large number of scientific and extension papers on such diverse topics as vegetable and berry insects, microbial degradation of soil insecticides, golden nematode, blowflies in sheep and blowflies infesting light-salted codfish. He also authored a now out-of-print, but still much sought after book *Butterflies and moths of Newfoundland and Labrador: The macrolepidoptera*. Although he completed a draft manuscript on the *Microlepidoptera of Newfoundland and Labrador*, it is unfortunate that this was never published. *The Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador*, edited by former premier Joseph R. Smallwood, contains a section authored by Ray on "Agricultural Insects of Newfoundland". Ray also has a chapter on "Introduced Terrestrial Insects" in the book *Biogeography and ecology of the island of Newfoundland*, edited by G.R. South.

Ray had a fine voice and liked to sing - he was an active member of Wesley United Church through the men's club, the senior choir and the men's choir. For many years he was a board member and a volunteer with Wesley United Church-VOWR radio station in St. John's, and produced a weekly home gardening show. He was also an avid horticulturist and a passionate gardener. His house was across the road from the AAFC Research Centre and was built with wood from trees cut so the Centre could be constructed. Until recently, most days when going to and from the Centre we would see him in his garden, digging, planting or impressively cutting grass with a scythe!

On a personal level, I have known Ray since he assisted with my Honours-BSc project on the

cabbage maggot, *Delia radicum*, in 1978. When I was fortunate enough to be offered the position of AAFC entomologist at St. John's in 1992, I knew I had very big shoes to fill. Ray Morris was ever encouraging, ready to answer questions and offer advice. One of my most treasured possessions is a copy of his book, *Butterflies and moths of Newfoundland and Labrador*, autographed and presented to me on the first day of my new job! We will miss him very much.....

— Peggy Dixon, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador