

Roy Shepherd was born in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. He developed a keen interest in nature at an early age, and was active in the Boy Scouts and enjoyed mountain climbing along with his wife Colleen, who passed away in 2021. They led an active life together, enjoying hiking, backpacking, camping, skiing, sailing, curling and travelling.

After graduating from the University of British Columbia with a Bachelor of Forest Science in 1952, Roy spent the majority of his career as a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service. Roy worked on the lodgepole needle miner and on bioclimatology as a student assistant for three summers and joined

the Division of Forest Biology permanently as an Agriculture Research Officer in



Nancy Pinnell

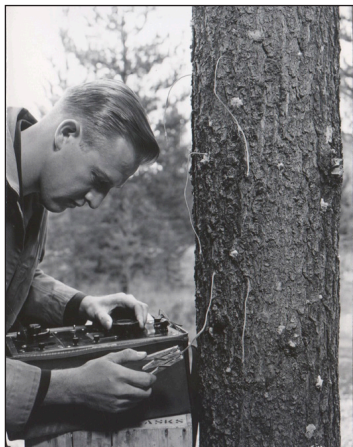
Roy Frank Shepherd (1929 – 2022)

1952. In Calgary he worked on lodgepole needle miner, several species of spruce budworm, and he completed his Master of Forestry studying 2-year cycle budworm at the University of Minnesota in 1955. In addition, he worked on the mountain pine beetle, contributing greatly to our understanding of attack distribution on lodgepole pine. This work was also the topic of Roy's PhD dissertation at the University of Minnesota, which he completed in 1960. In the 1960s, Roy served as Regional Head of the Entomology Section for the Alberta Region, and later Section Head including responsibility for the running of the Mt. Eisenhower lab during the summer months; however, he preferred research over administration.

He was awarded a post-doctoral transfer to Australia for one year from 1968-1969. There, he studied insect

population dynamics with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, an organization similar to the National Research Council of Canada. In 1970, he transferred to the Pacific Forest Research Centre (now the Pacific Forestry Centre) in Victoria, BC, where he remained until his retirement in 1991. After his move to Victoria, he mostly worked on defoliators, including western spruce budworm and Douglas-fir tussock moth. In his research, Roy strived to provide solutions for forest managers to defoliator problems. He served as coordinator of several large defoliator spray programs using *Bacillus thuringiensis* for budworms and polyhedrosis virus for tussock moth.

Roy's talent and dedication are reflected in the following quote in a letter from Gene Amman, a prominent bark beetle researcher in his own right, sent on Roy's retirement: "*Although you were only briefly a bark beetle researcher, your laboratory studies of mountain pine beetle behavior*



Canadian Forest Service

Roy Shepherd measuring temperatures of bark beetle galleries under the bark, about 1952.

are classic. You are one of the few persons who can boast of a successful research career in both bark beetles and defoliators. Had you elected to stay with bark beetles, I think we would be much further ahead in our understanding of them than we are now”.

In addition to his scientific work, Roy served on numerous technical committees relating to the management of damaging forest insects. He was a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, the regional societies of entomology in Alberta and BC, and the Entomological Society of Canada, serving the latter for a period as one of its directors as well as an Associate Editor of the Canadian Entomologist. Roy was also a long-standing member of the Western Forest Insect Work Conference, and in 1996 he was the first entomologist working in Canada to be awarded this organization’s prestigious Founders Award. He presented his Founders Award address at the WFIWC meeting in Prince George, BC in 1997. In his address he acknowledged his wife and Tom Gray, his research technician of 22 years. The mutual respect of Roy and Tom for each other was clearly evident, and Tom was in fact the nominator of Roy for the award.

Roy’s response to the announcement that he had been selected says a lot about his personality. He wrote: *“I am very pleased and honoured to receive this award, but quite humbled by the thought that I would even be considered as a recipient. It seems to me that there are many brighter stars in the sky of forest entomology compared to my small pin prick”.* Roy was generous with advice to students and colleagues, and he served on the supervisory committees for a number of students at Simon Fraser University and the University of BC, and he was Adjunct Professor at UBC from 1985 until his retirement.

Roy passed away on June 4 shortly after a stroke. He is mourned by his children Loraine (& Nancy) and Keith (& Patty) and grandchildren Trevor and Sarah, as well as his many friends and colleagues in Canada and the USA.

Staffan Lindgren and Les Safranyik (with help from Loraine MacKenzie Shepherd)



Roy Shepherd's family, Christmas 2012. Front row: Roy, his wife of 66 years Colleen, and their granddaughter Sarah; back row: grandson Trevor, daughter-in-law Patty and her husband Keith (son), Nancy Pinnell and her partner Loraine (daughter).