

The entomological community lost a valued colleague and great friend with the passing of Peggy Dixon on 21 May 2023. Born in Springdale, NL, Peggy grew up in Baie Verte, NL and always said that's where her love of insects began.

Peggy received a BSc in Biology from Memorial University and her PhD from the University of Edinburgh in 1986. She began her career with Agriculture Canada (now Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)) in Kentville, Nova Scotia (1989–91), then spent a year as a Special Advisor on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) at national AAFC headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario (1991–92). Peggy returned to Newfoundland and worked at the St. John's Entomology lab on Brookfield Road from 1992 until her retirement in 2021. Her research contributed to improving IPM systems for berry crops, feed crops, and horticulture. Peggy's primary focus was on pests, parasitoids and predators in vegetables and small fruits. She had a particular fondness for carabid beetles, which fit well with her interest in habitat diversification and the resulting impact on insects. As a Special Advisor, Peggy served on departmental committees, prepared reports and gave presentations to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture to nurture a national strategy on IPM. She was an invited editorial and scientific reviewer for provincial, national, and international research programs, and for numerous international journals (including *The Canadian Entomologist*). In 2020, she co-edited a Special Issue (11 papers) in *TCE* on spotted winged drosophila. One of her most recent contributions was to a collaborative study across Canada on the parasitoid complex associated with diamondback moth, published in 2022. Peggy and her team provided critical new Newfoundland and Labrador records, including an as-yet-to-be-named species of the Braconidae. Peggy also co-authored a field guide to the insects of Newfoundland and Labrador, Stouts, Millers and Forkytails, which was published in 2019.

Peggy was a staunch supporter of both the Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) and the Acadian Entomological Society (AES). She joined the ESC in the early 1990s, serving on the Board as Secretary from 1994–97. She rejoined the Board as a member of the Executive from 2004–08, serving as President in 2006–07. She joined the Board a third time as the Regional Director for the Acadian Entomological Society in 2018–19. She Chaired the ESC's Science Policy Committee and the Achievement Awards Committee and served on the ESC's ad hoc Strategic Review Committee. As a member of the AES, Peggy served as President (2010–11) and was a member of the organizing committee for several AES annual meetings. In addition to her direct service to the ESC and AES, she helped fund awards and bursaries, supported auctions and made efforts to attend most ESC Joint Annual Meetings. Her brother can attest to the latter as Peggy brought him home a JAM t-shirt every year; he has quite the collection.

In 2002, Peggy received a Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II (for excellence in pest management research). In 2007 and 2021, she received AAFC Gold Harvest Awards for excellence (in pest management research and career achievement) as well as an ESC Service Award upon completing her term as ESC President. In August 2015, the AES conferred upon her the status of Honorary Member. In 2021, Peggy was elected ESC Fellow.



Peggy Loretta Dixon
20 June 1957 – 21 May 2023

As an Adjunct Professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland, and Acadia University, Peggy enjoyed supervising graduate students and teaching courses. Peggy mentored students and staff with kindness and passion and led by example. Her open-door policy created a space for fruitful scientific discussions and a safe place for personal conversations. She served as an External Examiner at thesis defenses, participated in PhD comprehensives, sat on student committees, and gave invited guest lectures. As stated in Peggy's Lab Profile (ESC Bulletin Volume 37(1), March 2005) her philosophy was that research should be fun!

Outside her professional life Peggy's interests were wide and varied. They included photography, shell collecting, reading, sports, astronomy, music, science fiction and travel. In 2018, she was able to fulfill her lifelong dream of visiting the Galapagos Islands. Peggy was a member of the Avalon Dragon Boats, Newfoundland's first dragon boating team and Sci-Fi on the Rock, where she was 'Con-Mom' to many. Peggy was a lover of all animals and was a loyal supporter of many animal rescue organizations. An avid hockey fan, Peggy supported the local St. John's Growlers, Ice Caps and Fog Devils and the NHL (Boston Bruins).

When Peggy retired from Agriculture and Agrifood-Canada, in May 2021, an electronic card was signed by numerous colleagues. One comment still resonates with the passing of Peggy:

"This summer will not be the same without you."

As the first summer without Peggy is almost over, those words hit harder than ever imagined. Peggy will be missed forever, for her depth of knowledge, her dedication to many different societies and organizations, and most of all, her kind and compassionate nature and her ability to make people put smiles on their faces.

Owen Olfert, Peter Mason, Dave Gillespie, Charles Vincent, Kirk Hillier, Carolyn Parsons



Photo from Peggy's Lab Profile (ESC Bulletin Volume 37(1), March 2005, p.24). The original caption read: "Most of the gang at a working lunch at India Gate Restaurant (left to right; Susan Tilley, Peggy Dixon, Carolyn Parsons, Robyn Auld, Janet Coombes, Heidi Fry and Nancy Hudson)."