

Freeman McEwen was an outstanding scholar, an administrator, a teacher, President of the Entomological Society of Canada, Dean of the OAC, friend, colleague, and family man. For me it is an honour to be asked to write an obit for this man. Freeman documented his life and times in a book that he wrote during Covid times (McEwen 2022). It is an excellent record of his family life, which I have briefly summarized.

Freeman was born in St. Peter's Harbour, Prince Edward Island, the fourth child in a family of farmers. Naturally, Freeman was interested in farming and after completing school, he applied for a summer job in plant pathology at the Agriculture Canada research station in Charlottetown. He found that the position had already been filled so he quickly took another in entomology, a binary decision that was the start of a long and fruitful career. Freeman started his higher education at the Prince of Wales College at the age of 16 and worked in ag-related jobs off and on to support his studies. After graduation, he entered Macdonald College of McGill University where he earned a bachelor's degree. He then accepted a graduate position at the University of Wisconsin and defended his PhD in December of 1953. After a stint in Geneva Research Station in New York state, and a sabbatical in Hawaii, Freeman accepted a position in entomology in the Zoology Department at the University of Guelph in 1968.

While at Guelph, Freeman was asked to establish the Department of Environmental Biology (ENVB) at the University of Guelph and was the first chair for 10 years. The focus in ENVB was pest management of weeds, arthropods, and microbiota. I first met Freeman in 1978 when I interviewed for a position in ENVB. I was very impressed that he took the trouble to meet me, a stranger in a strange land, at Pearson Airport and ride back to Guelph with me. I guess I must have made a good impression on Freeman because I was offered the position soon afterwards. I jumped into teaching the course *Pesticides and the Environment* a month after arriving and was grateful for the good guidance in the page proofs of a book written by Freeman and Gerry Stephenson, "*The Use and Significance of Pesticides in the Environment*" (McEwen and Stephenson 1979). As Chair of ENVB, and in his subsequent role as Dean of the Ontario College of Agriculture at the University of Guelph (1983-1991), Freeman was a "decider". He would listen to all sides of the discussion (AKA argument) and immediately decide what to do. No passing the task to committees or other delaying tactics. I admired this mental acuity and the fact that most of his decisions turned out to be correct. This is perhaps a hallmark of his approach to life, academia, and administration. Freeman retired in 1991 and took to more leisurely activities.

Freeman was strong promoter of entomology and insect pest management in North America. He was very active in the Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) and the Entomological Society of Ontario (ESO). From 1973 to 1977 he was elected as the ESC Director-at-Large and was chair of the Resolutions Committee. He took active roles in the Manpower Committee and the Nominations Committee, and he was named as a Fellow of ESC in 1975. His activities in support of entomology in Canada were recognized when, in 1983, he was the recipient of the ESC Gold



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Freeman L. McEwen
(11 Nov. 1926 - 16 Sept. 2022)

Medal for Outstanding Achievement and was elected as a fellow of the ESO in 2011. His work in the ESC and at the University of Guelph stimulated the growth of entomology in Canada and his contributions will carry into the future. His good humor, his quick wit, and his love of single malt will be remembered by all he met. Freeman was a *man among men; we shall not see his like again*.

Keith R Solomon, Professor Emeritus,
School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph

References

McEwen, F. 2022. My Life, the First 94 Years. Pp 69

McEwen, F.L., and Stephenson, G.R. 1979. *The Use and Significance of Pesticides in the Environment*. John Wiley & Sons, 538 pp.

