

After a long battle with stomach and brain cancer, Robert Sidney Hodgkinson passed away on 26 March 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in June 1950 in Ottawa Ontario, where he grew up. He received a BSc in Natural Science and Biology from Lakehead University. He then worked at the Chemical Control Research Institute of Forestry Canada from 1973 to 1976 in Ottawa, Ontario. From there, he moved to BC where he enrolled in the Master of Pest Management (MPM) degree program at Simon Fraser University (SFU). He briefly worked for the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture 1978-1979 before taking a position as Regional Forest Entomologist for the BC Forest Service from 1980 until his retirement in 2015. Among his many roles there, he annually taught spruce beetle survey and management techniques to forestry practitioners. Robert was a true forest entomologist with both a passion for entomology and for forestry; he had an advanced silviculture diploma from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and he was a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio)—he was totally in tune with forest policy. He will always be remembered as “Mr. Spruce Beetle” as he pioneered much of the survey and treatment procedures we still use. Robert was respected throughout the province and played a pivotal role in the BC Forest Health community. He could always be counted on to collaborate and help his colleagues in research or operational projects. After Robert retired from the BC Forest Service, he joined Industrial Forestry Service Ltd. (IFS) in Prince George as Forest Entomology Associate.



BC Ministry of Forests

### Robert Sidney Hodgkinson (1950 – 2024)

I knew Robert since his days at SFU. I remember that he loved playing hockey, and organized games at Four Rinks several times. Our paths parted for about a decade when he moved to Prince George. In 1994, I and my family also moved to Prince George, and for several years we spent a fair bit of time together with Robert and his wife Brenda and several of Robert’s work colleagues and their spouses in gourmet dinner evenings and other pursuits. Robert and I also worked together on several entomological projects which resulted in two publications. Robert had a lead role in organizing a meeting in Prince George of the Western Forest Insect Work Conference (WFIWC), and he was a great help in organizing a 2005 meeting of the International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO). Robert had a great sense of humour, and he was a talented cartoon artist. I first saw his DeBooBo character as the unofficial ‘logo’ on the “Pest Manager” t-shirts that almost all MPM students wore, and later in various slide shows when he gave guest lectures on forest health policy to our Forest Health students at the University of Northern BC (UNBC).

I had the opportunity to meet with Robert about four months before he passed away. At that time, he was in good spirits, so it was a shock to hear that he had lost the battle with cancer. Robert was survived by his wife Brenda, son Kyle (Natalie), beloved grandchildren Oliver and Maria, and daughter Kaylee (Riley). He will be sorely missed by his many friends and colleagues.



Staffan Lindgren