

## Thomas Anderson Angus (1915-2005)

Tom Angus passed away at the Parkwood Hospital in London, Ontario on 16 June 2005 just a few months short of his 90th birthday. Tom was predeceased by his beloved wife Jane in 1992 and their son John David in 1961. He is survived by his daughters Beth and her husband, John Schiks and their sons, David and Thomas, and by Jeanie and her husband Rod Perkins and their daughters, Elizabeth and Alex, all of whom live in London. As his health began to fail, Tom moved from Sault Ste. Marie to London approximately four years ago to be near his family who meant so very much to him.



Tom Angus was a remarkable man - a World War II veteran, a world renowned insect pathologist, a respected research manager, a long-standing and revered municipal politician, a very accomplished orator, a knowledgeable historian, an extremely community-minded individual, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, a gentleman, a statesman, a respected colleague and a true and wonderful friend. He will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to be associated with him in any capacity.

Tom was born in Toronto in 1915 where he received his High School education. In 1939, he was working in a men's haberdashery in Toronto and, if World War II had not broken out, he might have continued a career along that or similar lines much to the detriment of science and, in particular, insect pathology. However, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and was stationed in England where he served with distinction as a bombardier/ navigator and was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar. Following the war, Tom took advantage of the educational opportunities afforded veterans and enrolled at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph where he earned a BSc in Biology. He later received an MSc from the University of Toronto and his PhD in Microbiology from McGill University. During his university years, Tom worked as a student assistant at the Forest Insect Laboratory in Sault Ste. Marie and, after graduation, was appointed as a research officer at the Insect Pathology Laboratory which was established in Sault Ste. Marie in 1950 and in 1959 was renamed the Insect Pathology Research Institute ( IPRI). It was here that Tom's distinguished research career in insect pathology was carried out and where, with colleagues like Arthur Heimpel and others, he conducted pioneering research which defined the mode of action of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) on lepidopterous insects, thus enabling its subsequent commercial development as an important biological control agent for a wide range of insect pests. Over his career, Tom was the author or co-author of over forty refereed research papers and book chapters, mostly on B.t. and other crystalliferous bacteria. Because of his profound knowledge of this particular area and his knowledge of insect pathology in general, he was constantly called upon to address scientific gatherings worldwide where insertion of his renowned sense of humour into what might otherwise be an somewhat cut and dried presentation was sure to keep the audience awake! During his active research career at IPRI Tom's wide knowledge of insect pathology was often called upon by IPRI management for advice and guidance in expanding the Institute's program along new lines and in the recruitment of appropriate staff to fulfill these needs. As a senior researcher, his door was always open for advice and guidance of both his peers and junior colleagues and his scientific integrity and exceptional command of the English language resulted in continual requests for him to edit his colleagues' research papers. In addition to his career within IPRI, Tom played a key role in the development of the Society for Insect Pathology, first as a Founding Member in 1967 and later serving terms as the Society's Vice-President and President.

In 1970, Tom turned his many talents more to research management and administration and was named Associate Director of IPRI assisting Dr. J.M. Cameron who had been the Institute's Director since its inception. When Dr. Cameron died in 1975, Tom became Acting Director of IPRI, a position

he held until the Forest Pest Management Institute (FPMI) was formed in 1977 through amalgamation of IPRI and the Chemical Control Research Institute. From 1977 until his retirement in 1980, Tom served as Deputy Director and Program Manager of Control Products Research and Development at FPMI where his scientific acumen and his people management skills contributed significantly to the somewhat difficult amalgamation of these two previously independent National Institutes. Throughout his research and management career Tom always found time for fitness and exercise, He was a long time member of the Sault YMCA's noon volleyball league and swam at least three times a week, the latter, an activity he maintained in London until shortly before his death.

Tom's service to Sault Ste. Marie, a community that he loved, was second to none. He entered municipal politics in 1960, serving the city first as councilor for Ward 1 and later (when the ward boundaries were changed) for Ward 2, for 31 consecutive years, becoming the city's longest continually-serving municipal politician. His concern for all things in Sault Ste. Marie transcended the wards in which he was elected and won him respect across the entire city. He brought to the council chambers a sound knowledge of accepted political procedures, an excellent working knowledge of the history and the real needs of the city itself, and an innate ability to lead discussion on contentious issues within council to conclusions that were acceptable to most and of optimal benefit to Sault Ste. Marie. Because of these qualities, he was often called upon to serve as the city's Deputy Mayor. In addition to his service on city council, Tom served for several terms as chair of the Algoma Health Unit, as a board member of Sault College and as a board member of Algoma University College, the latter through some of the now successful institution's most trying times.

Tom will long be remembered by all who knew him, not only for his accomplishments and his contributions, some of which have been noted above, but also for his passion for life, his endless humour, his helpfulness in so many ways and his true friendship over the years. We, who were his colleagues, will miss him greatly.

— George W. Green, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario