

Frederick Gordon Cuming (1922-2010)

Fred Cuming died early on 20 June 2010, at the age of 87, in the Colchester Regional Hospital in Truro, Nova Scotia. Fred was born in Fredericton, where he received a BSc (probably pre-med) from the University of New Brunswick. Fred had lost an eye and gave up thoughts of medicine to accept employment with the Forest Biology Division of Canada Agriculture (now a component of the Canadian Forestry Service).

When I moved to Fredericton in 1957, Fred was head of the sub-laboratory in Debert, which oversaw the Forest Insect Survey in Nova Scotia and provided laboratory space for people conducting forest insect and disease research in that province, notably Douglas G. Embree whose work on the winter moth (*Operophtera brumata*) is well known nationwide and beyond. Fred was instrumental, along with Lloyd Hawbolt, Nova Scotia Lands and Forests, and Ken Greenidge, a tree pathologist with CFS, in establishing advisory committees on Dutch elm disease control – that disease being vectored by bark beetles – in most of the towns and cities of the Province. Fred, too, worked on the winter moth and, with his thesis “Some aspects of the biology of the winter moth, *Operophtera brumata* (L.) in Nova Scotia (Lepidoptera: Geometridae)”, earned an MSc from Dalhousie University.



With the closing of the Debert sub-laboratory in 1973, Fred was moved to Fredericton where he left entomology to become the Information Officer. In Nova Scotia Fred had shown he was particularly good at communication and coordination among diverse jurisdictions for insect and disease survey and control.

Fred was a Royal Canadian Navy veteran of World War II, and a long time member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Fred had many outside interests but above all, it seems, in music. He was Director of the [Saint John] River Valley Barbershop Chorus and, after retiring to Nova Scotia, the Truro Barber Shop Chorus.

Fred was predeceased by his wife Barbara, the day before, in the same hospital, only minutes before he himself died. They are survived by three sons, Gary, Mark, and John.

- Doug Eidt (Keswick Ridge, NB), with help from Doug Embree