

Leo Arthur Dionne (1911-2004)

Leo Dionne died at Fredericton, New Brunswick, 2 September 2004 after a long illness. Leo started his professional career in 1944 at the Fredericton Field Crop Insect Laboratory under Jean Adams (Bulletin 20:150; 29:67) about the time Jean succeeded R.P. Gorham as Officer-in-Charge. He left the federal service for the Biology Department at the University of New Brunswick about 1967.

Leo was a plant geneticist, although his contribution to entomology was considerable. He worked very closely with Ellen MacGillivray in the search for overwintering hosts of aphids, particularly those attacking potatoes, such as *Myzus persicae*. To paraphrase Ellen, he was a congenial and knowledgeable person to work with. He knew well the flora of New Brunswick and Ellen says she learned a great deal from him.

Leo did not hold the common attitude among plant breeders that if the quality and yield were good, one didn't have to be concerned about insects and diseases; sprays would look after them. Leo worked closely with the pathologists as well as entomologists in his potato breeding work.

In retirement, Leo took great pride in his successes breeding hardy roses. He was once cited as having said that with adequate financing he could produce a good wine grape for the New Brunswick climate from the hardy but acid native *Vitis riparia*.

Leo was very active in the community, as an ordained Unitarian minister, in Home and School, Y's men, ethics counselling and teaching dyslexic children to read. He was predeceased by his wife Peg, in 1978, and is survived by two daughters and a son.

— D.C. Eidt and M.E. MacGillivray, Fredericton

