

Frank Ernest Webb (1918-2010)

The death of Frank E. Webb occurred at the Dr Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on Friday, 4 June 2010. He was born in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, the son of the late Ernest and Monica Webb. He was predeceased by his wife Beulah Johnson in 2002 and later by his second wife Edith MacDonald Webb. Frank was a veteran of World War II. In 1938 Frank, who had yet to settle into a career, was visiting England, joined the Royal Air Force and was trained to be a fighter pilot. When war broke out 3 September 1939, he was ready to play his part. In 1941 he was posted in Debert, Nova Scotia, with the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, where he was a Link Trainer Instructor. (The Link Trainer was a ground based flight simulator.) Later, he remustered to the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he saw further action as a fighter pilot. At one point he flew Typhoons, in which he attacked the unmanned "buzz bombs" being directed at British targets. It had been discovered that the most effective tactic was to flip the wing of the bomb with the wingtip of the plane, which caused the bomb to crash short of its target. Frank was discharged after the war in 1945 with the rank of Flying Officer.



Atlantic Forestry Centre, Fredericton, through Jon Sweeney

He was a long time member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch # 4, the Canadian Air Force Association, and the Fredericton Garrison Club. Frank took advantage of the support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to further his education and enrolled in Forestry at the University of New Brunswick. He graduated in 1949, having come second in a class that was unusually large because of the great number of veterans taking advantage of the DVA plan.

Frank worked for the Forest Biology Division of Agriculture Canada where he, like others, was encouraged to take graduate studies. He earned his PhD at the University of Michigan with a thesis titled "An ecological study of the larch casebearer, *Coleophora laricella* Hbn. (Lepidoptera: Coleophoridae)".

Early in his career with the Forest Biology Division (which in 1960 became part of the Canadian Forestry Service), Frank was the senior applied researcher on spruce budworm, responsible for topics such as infestation and damage mapping and spray timing. In connection with the latter, I recall that he developed a spring phenology map for New Brunswick that made it possible to time control activities with insect and host development and thereby save a lot of travel, better spent elsewhere. Frank became a research manager when he was appointed Director of the Winnipeg Forest Research Laboratory in 1960. Later, as Associate Director at the Fredericton Forest Research Laboratory, he was very effective in ensuring that projects which were approved had the resources available to effectively implement them. In 1965 he became Director of the Fredericton Laboratory. Next, he was transferred to the Canadian Forestry Service headquarters in Ottawa as Special Advisor for forest protection to Director-General, Malcolm L. Prebble.

He completed his career in the Province of New Brunswick where he advised the New Brunswick Forest Service and Forest Protection Ltd., the Crown Corporation that did the aerial spraying.

Indeed, he was always available and assisted even me by reviewing my manuscripts on impacts of forest spraying on aquatic invertebrates, having done some of the earliest work himself. Frank's work was not widely published, but nonetheless made a difference in how, now, and in the future, we manage forest insect pests. Frank is survived by one son, Brian Webb of Montreal, his brother, Robert, of Saskatoon, his sister Mona Gilstrap, of Victoria, and one stepson, Duncan MacDonald of Fredericton.

Doug Eidt with help from other CFS retirees: Ed Kettela, Doug Embree, Murray Neilson, and Bill Varty.