

Obituary

Dr. John Cunningham, a member of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology for most of his career and a Research Scientist at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre passed away on April 6, 2008 in Sault Ste. Marie Ontario, Canada. John was born in Aberdeen, Scotland on January 28, 1942 and obtained most of his education in Scotland then to Oxford for his PhD in Entomology. Following his doctorate programme, he immigrated to Canada to join the Insect Pathology Research Institute (IPRI) of Canadian Forest Service in Sault Ste. Marie as a Virologist. During his earlier career at IPRI, John conducted research on the basic properties and electron microscopy of insect viruses and published key paper in various entomology journals. Soon, John moved to investigating the behaviour of viruses in the field and dedicated the rest of his career to finding biological alternatives in the control of forest insect pests such as the eastern spruce budworm, the redheaded pine sawfly, the gypsy moth, etc. John was instrumental in the registration of insect viruses as biological control agents in Canada. Those were the pioneering days when regulatory agencies did not have clear guidelines on the process and John had to wade through muddy waters to achieve his goals, but succeed he did. He registered the *Neodiprion lecontei* nucleopolyhedrovirus against the redheaded pine sawfly under the label "Lecontvirus" and the *Orgyia leucostigma* nucleopolyhedrovirus against the whitemarked tussock moth under the label "Virtuss".

John was an active member of the SIP and chaired the committee that brought the Annual SIP meeting to Sault Ste. Marie. He was a most affable man, well liked by all his colleagues and friends and highly respected by his fellow scientists. He enjoyed gourmet foods and was a connoisseur of Scotch Whiskey. He will be missed not only by his family and friends in Canada but by his science colleagues throughout the world.