

Asa Francis Smith
M.F.R.S. 1952

Born in Cambridge, MA on January 02, 1931, Francis moved to Musquodoboit, NS in 1936. A third generation lumberman, Francis started training under his grandfather as a sawyer at the age of 12. This was the beginning of a career in lumbering that led him to the Maritime Forest Ranger School in 1952 and on to Boiestown where he worked as a sawmill manager of Ashley Colter (1961) Ltd. until his retirement in 1997.

While at Colter's sawmill, Francis served the community of Boiestown and surrounding area in many ways. The New Brunswick forestry community has a Woodmen's Museum as a result of the efforts of Francis Smith, one of the founding members. He still serves as president of the board. He was chairman of the Maritime Lumber Bureau in 1973 and served as director. Francis was also a member of the Advisory Board to the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy.

Francis served the Maritime Forest Ranger School in two very significant ways. From the early 1960's until his retirement he hosted every Ranger School class to the Ashley-Colter Sawmill in Boiestown where he gave every student an insight into primary processing. Francis served on the MFRS Sawmill Advisory Committee from 1981 until the new Training Sawmill became a reality in 1988. The Training Sawmill has trained hundreds of employees for the saw-milling sector.

Francis is recognized as a community leader. He served on the school board, the Central New Brunswick Nursing Home Board as a founding member, and is an active member of the Miramichi Board of Trade, the Upper Miramichi Fire Brigade, and the Central New Brunswick Woodmen's Museum. He was presented with the St. John Ambulance Serving Brother Award in 1976 by the Lieutenant Governor and the 125th Anniversary Commemorative Medal in 1993 by the Governor General.