

JOHN HANS TORUNSKI

Born in Montreal, Quebec, John Tournski came to New Brunswick in 1952 to study forestry at the University of New Brunswick and here he has stayed.

After receiving the Canadian Institute of Forestry's Gold Medal upon graduation in 1957, John joined the newly created New Brunswick Forest Extension Service. Here he was responsible for developing and directing advisory services for private woodlot owners. This laid a foundation for woodlot owner groups and organizations in New Brunswick.

In 1974, John began his work with the Maritime Forest Ranger School where he directed and expanded the Continuing Education Department, served as Assistant Director and was the Director of the school from 1985-1994. John has been a member of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick since 1959 and a Life Member since 1995. In addition to being active within the Association, John has held executive positions with the Canadian Institute of Forestry, the Canadian Forestry Association, Fredericton Tree Commission, Rotary International, and The Boy Scouts of Canada.

His awards too have been numerous. They include the Canadian Forestry Association's National Tree Farm Award, the National TAP (Trees and People) Award and the K.L. Golding Award; several CIF awards such as the Merit Award, and the Tree of Life award, and the Canadian Forestry Achievement Award. Other awards include Meritus Achievement Award from the council of Eastern Forest Technician Schools and Rotary Internationals Paul Harris Fellow Award.

John Torunski is best known for his dedication to professional, technical, and public training and education. A great teacher, and observer of forest dynamics, his career serves as a reminder to all of the importance of life-long learning. A reminder that is not lost on us or his three children: Tara, Stephen and Cindy and six grandsons: Brandon, Brock, Brodie, Jeffrey, Justin, and Michael.



Fig 1. John Torunski in his later years.