

David Allison Urquhart

Born and educated in Fredericton, New Brunswick, David Urquhart is being recognized for his work in a unique area of forestry – Urban forestry.

David graduated from the Maritime Forest Ranger School in 1958. He started his forestry career as a Forest Ranger in charge of the Province of New Brunswick's water bombing operations and other forestry projects.

David was hired by the city of Fredericton in 1967 as its first superintendent of Parks and Trees. His initial task concentrated on the destructive Dutch Elm Disease which was destroying the monoculture of Fredericton's White Elm. In the long term, through his dedication and hard work, and with the Guidance of the Fredericton Tree Commission, David saved a good portion of the elm population and gradually implemented the first formal urban forestry program in New Brunswick. He has assisted communities in NB and across Canada that had Urban forestry concerns, and provided many training programs – often on his own time. David developed and conducted many public education sessions in tree and shrub care, authored and co-authored many publication related to urban forestry, and was involved in the establishment of the Fredericton Arboretum.

He was a founding member of the Atlantic Arboriculture Association and, in 1996, was recognized by Landscape New Brunswick for excellence in horticulture.

Although David retired in 1997, he continues his dedication to urban forestry and beautification by volunteering time as a national judge for the "Communities in Bloom" program across Canada, and upon request, continues to assist New Brunswick communities with their urban forestry concerns. Fredericton's tree landscape today, the envy of many municipalities, is a living testimony of David Urquhart's dedication.