

Earl Alexander McNeish

Born in Point La Nim, Restigouche County, Earl now resides in Campbellton, New Brunswick; His forestry schooling came from the “School of Hard Experience”. His formal schooling is the provincial normal school, from which he graduated in 1922

Following a year of teaching school, Earl joined the New Brunswick Department of Lands and Mines in 1923. The following year he started his long career with the international Paper Company in Northern Maine. In a few years, he had done reconnaissance surveys throughout much of New Brunswick and parts of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Quebec. After 45 years in forestry Earl Retired from I.P. in 1968.

He pioneered the development of the forest inventory information needed for land acquisition. These inventories were later designed to supply data necessary for planning logging operations and preparing management plans. Earl began using aerial photographs as early as 1931, only a few years after the first photographs were taken for forestry purposes. By 1940, he was preparing very accurate inventory maps which separated forest stands on the basis of species composition and age classes. Although common today, they were unique at the time. They were outstanding example of what could be achieved through the application of aerial photography.

Earl is a chartered member of the Association of Registered Professional Foresters of New Brunswick and was made a life member of the Association in 1968. A few years ago, in recognition of his researching the Scottish Pioneers, Earl was chosen “Scot of the Year” by the Caledonian Society of Restigouche.

It is for his devotion to the painstaking and detailed application of aerial photography to inventory procedures that Earl McNeish is honored in the Hall of Fame.