

## **Kenneth Colin Irving**

Kenneth Colin Irving was born in Buctouche, New Brunswick. While his industrial empire would expand far beyond the borders of New Brunswick, he would never forget the importance of the forest industry to his native province

He loved the forest and recognized their value to the economy of New Brunswick. He also understood how quickly the forest could be devastated by fire, by the spruce budworm—and by neglect. In 1919 when he returned from overseas service with the royal flying corps it was to witness how the forests in his native Kent country had been ravaged and obliterated by the spruce budworm.

K.C. Irving believed that nature needed help and, after experimenting. In 1958 he began a reforestation program that would win him wide recognition as a pioneer in the field of forest conservation.

In 1977 K.C. Irving planted the 100 million<sup>th</sup> tree in the program near an Irving mill site about 18 miles from St Leonard. Nine years later, in 1986 when he was 87, he planted the 200 million<sup>th</sup> tree on an Irving Woodlot near Petitcodiac. He said it was “an investment in the future of New Brunswick for future New Brunswickers.”

In 1986 the New Brunswick Legislature by unanimous vote named the province’s honorary Chief Forester in recognition of a lifetime of effort to protect, preserve and renew the forests.