

# Ross, Dr. Douglas

(1916 – 1996)

## Founder and first President of North Okanagan Naturalists' Club

Doug was born in Vineland, Ontario in 1916. He was introduced to his love of natural history at the knee of his father who headed the Dominion Entomological Laboratory in Vineland and later in Ottawa. Doug excelled at his formal schooling, from a one-room schoolhouse to Beamsville High School. His heart always leaned toward the moment when he would be out-of-doors in his beloved woodlot. He often marveled at having had the luck to be born in the Niagara region where the insects exploded to life in the spring on the flyway of a myriad of birds.

His early passion for bird watching led to census work in Ontario on the St. Lawrence River, to Labrador and on the Athabasca Delta. He earned his BSc from the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph in 1939. The war years were spent with the Governor General's Foot Guard and Canada Agriculture (1941–1950) in Ontario and Quebec researching the maple leaf cutter and eastern budworm parasites.

Doug and his wife Edie moved to Ithaca, New York where he earned masters and doctorate degrees in Entomology from Cornell University.

Drawn to the unspoiled beauty of the Okanagan hills, Doug and his wife Edie moved to Vernon where Doug joined the Forest Entomology Laboratory in 1950 as a Research Officer and by 1955 he headed the lab. His professional interests covered a broad spectrum with numerous journal publications on seed and cone insects, wood borers, Douglas-fir needle midge, pine butterfly, European pint shoot moth, larch casebearer and winter moth. He identified a new *Dioryctria*, a species of snout moths, which was named *D. rossi* in his honor by Munroe.

Doug was a director and president of the Entomological Society of BC, its representative on the Entomological Society of Canada (conceived by his father) and president of the North Okanagan Branch of the Canadian Institute of Forestry. He was a founding member and first president of the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club in December, 1951. He was a founding member of the Okanagan Historical Society, and the Vernon Museum and Archives, Library and Art Gallery.

On closure of the Vernon Lab, the family moved to Victoria where Doug headed the Forest Insect and Disease Survey of BC and the Yukon. Retirement in 1978 meant that this naturalist, historian and collector had more time to support the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary and several other interests.



