

## Edward (Eddie) Quinn

### 1944 – 2018

Eddie Quinn passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018 after a long illness, at the relatively young age of 74 years. Eddie was born in Tramore, Co. Waterford, the only child of Teddy and Nancy (née Power).

He received both his primary and secondary education at Tramore Christian Brothers School. On completing his secondary education, he entered U.C.D. where he studied Forestry. In 1968, he graduated with an honours degree in Forestry and returned to his old Alma Mater, Tramore C.B.S., to teach Science. In 1969, Eddie joined the Forest Service where his first posting was to Acquisition Section in Limerick. This was followed by a move to Bray where he continued his work on land acquisition. Eddie's sociable manner made him well suited for this role and many purchases were finalised, helped in no small way by the rapport that Eddie had developed with the farm owner. In 1979 he was transferred to management duties in Bray as Assistant District Inspector. Following this, Eddie was appointed to the post of Work Study Inspector for the Bray Division. Here again, his winning personality helped him in these new and often challenging roles and many difficult situations were resolved by his silver tongued ability to defuse potential conflicts.



When Coillte was formed in 1989 Eddie joined the new company where he held a number of roles, including Development Manager, Region Accountant, District Manager and finally, Harvesting Manager. He particularly enjoyed this latter role where his quick mind and genial personality made him ideally suited for interacting and negotiating with saw millers and contractors. Eddie retired in 2005, but continued to work for a further four years on a contract basis.

A larger than life character with many interests, Eddie was interested in all sports and a gifted participant in many. He played Gaelic football for Co. Waterford at minor level and had the distinction of playing against Kerry in the Munster Championship. He was a keen tennis player, winning the under-16 Junior Munster Championship. He enjoyed a life-long love affair with golf and played off a single figure handicap. He was always competitive and had many successes in competitions, even in recent times. His competitiveness however never clouded his sense of fun and he always regaled his playing partners with a seemingly endless stream of jokes. He was an avid fan of several other sports - both as a supporter and a spectator. His great passion was undoubtedly Waterford hurling and he was very

disappointed after the defeat in the 2017 All Ireland Final. He was also a life-long and enthusiastic supporter of Munster rugby.

I had the pleasure of working with Eddie for many years. I greatly enjoyed his rose-tinted view of life and his infectious comradery. He had many progressive ideas, particularly in relation to harvesting and development work. Eddie was highly adaptable and possessed a strong intellect which allowed him to thrive in the many roles that he held during his career with Coillte. He enjoyed a good relationship with colleagues, contractors and customers alike. Eddie always fought his corner. He strenuously defended his views and proposals, often during quite heated discussions. However, disagreements and differences of opinion were soon be forgotten when an episode from Eddie's vast archive of funny stories thawed an icy atmosphere.

During his all too short retirement, Eddie travelled extensively throughout Europe, the US and Asia. He enjoyed many golfing holidays in Portugal and Spain where he was accompanied by his wide circle of friends and playing partners. Despite his deteriorating health, Eddie had planned a holiday in Thailand and a cruise in the Caribbean with his beloved wife Ann.

To his wife Ann, his son Mark, his daughter Keely and his four grandchildren we offer our sincere sympathy.

Michael O'Brien