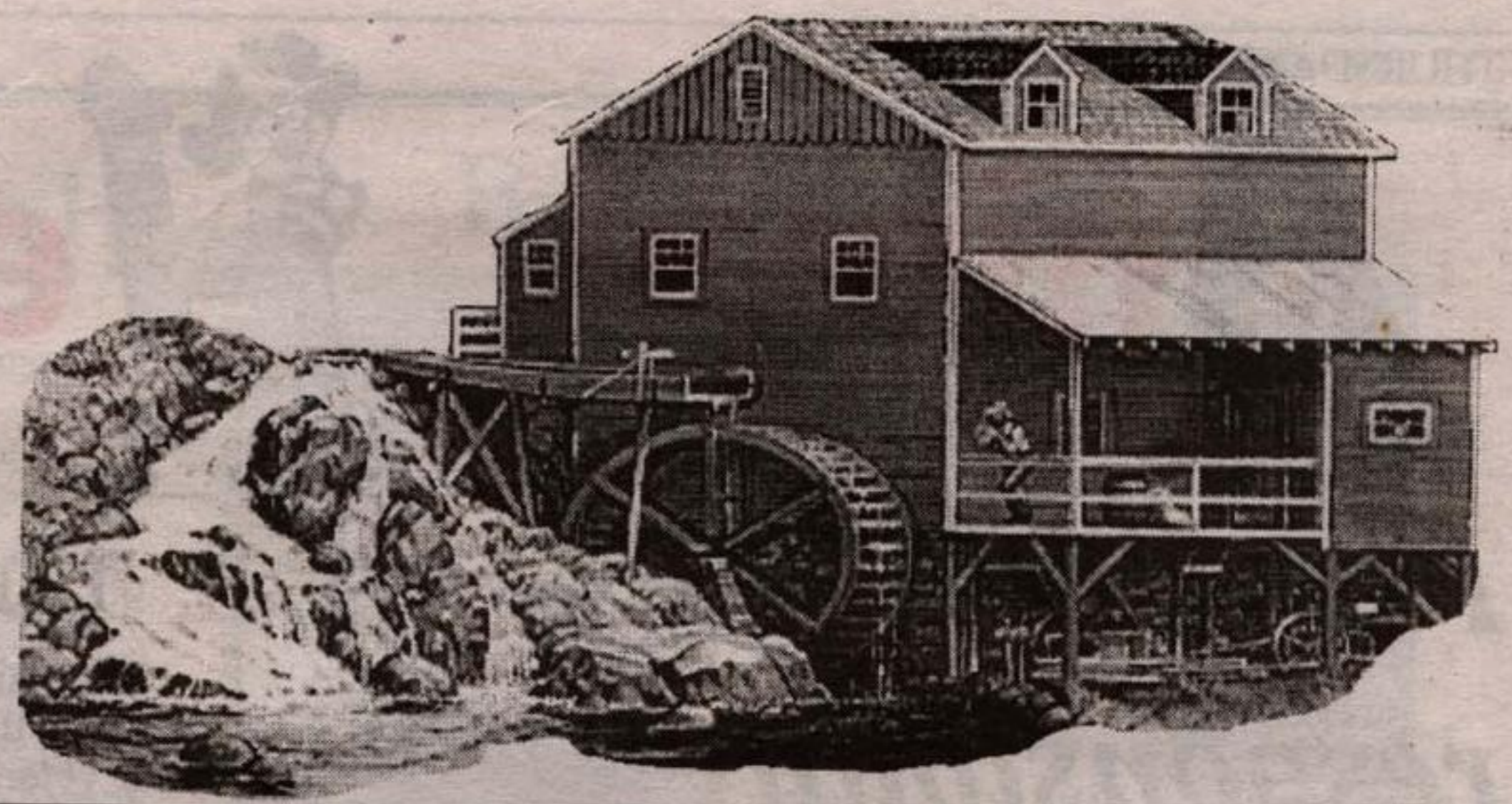


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Company monitored for beetles

By **FRANCES NIBLOCK**
The Rockwood Miller

Monitoring for the Asian long-horned beetle - a nasty pest that could decimate Canada's forests - will continue in and around a Rockwood company that received packing crates from a Waterloo warehouse where two live beetles were found last summer.

There are no known natu-

ral enemies for the beetles that entered North America via imports. Natural Resources Canada, the Canadian Forest Service and other conservation groups are staging a public relations campaign to educate the public about the beetle and federal staff is monitoring all shipments from China.

Ken Marchant, area program officer for plant protection with the Canadian Food

Inspection Agency, wouldn't identify the Rockwood area company involved, but said crates in the facility showed holes and evidence of the beetles.

Marchant said after discovery of two separate species of the live Asian long-horned beetle last summer, all shipping crates that had been at the warehouse were destroyed and the eight destination locations surveyed and monitored.

"We'll not know if any of the insects escaped from the crates although we found evidence of insects in the crates," Marchant said in an interview on Friday.

"We did surveys of all of the locations and within 500 metres of the final destinations, but found no living insects in the trees around eight sites, but that's like looking for a needle in a haystack."

Marchant said an even

more intensive survey of the eight sites would be done this summer, along with any known large-scale importer to Ontario from China.

A shiny black adult Asian long-horned beetle is 20 to 35 mm long with white dots on the body, antenna and leg segments. Its eggs are black, tinged with blue. Adults feed on leaves and bark of mainly hardwood trees, causing considerable damage. Females chew round gouges in the bark to lay a single egg. Larvae feed on the tree's inner wood, leaving a large telltale exit hole. Infested trees are vulnerable to attacks from other insects and disease. In New York City more than \$2 million has been spent trying to eradicate the beetles.

The federal government now prohibits non-treated wood crates or pallets from China that have not been fumigated.

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