

Local writer Mary Hubelit remembers nice, warm December days

By Mary Hubelit

Nice mild December, wasn't it? Several days were above Celsius zero; only one day, Dec. 12th, dipped below the Fahrenheit zero with full sunshine and a north wind. "That'll do it!" as they say. "They" also said "We'll pay for this!" and "they" weren't smiling.

I began to wonder about other Decembers in the past twenty-five years or so; checked the Weather Book and found this last one very ordinary. In fact, 1978, '79, '82 and '84 were warmer. Until 1975 the measurements were on the Fahrenheit scale of course, but look at this: 1965 had a mean December temp. of 19.5 degrees (-7

degrees celsius) and 1970 and '74 simpered along with 16 degrees fahrenheit and 17 degrees fahrenheit respectively.

So the days were dull and dreary- it's that grey blanket overhead that keeps us warm, you know, so don't knock it. What you save on heating you lose on lighting- a Catch-22 situation but what

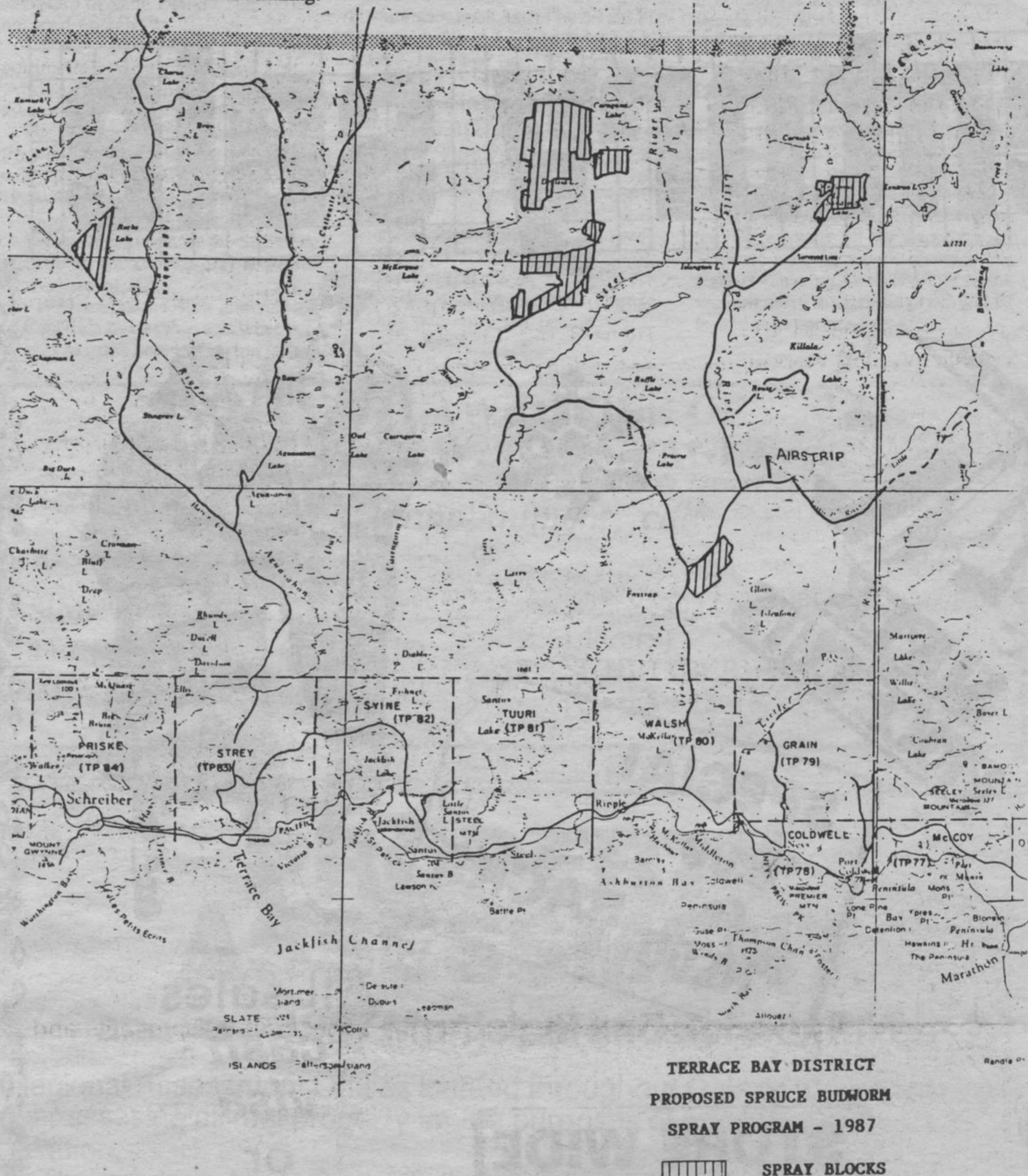
the heck, we Northerners can cope!

There is one mild winter condition we are coping with but find unusual: our three bird-feeding stations have been taken over by starlings. Even the massive ravens are having difficulty herding the starlings into a tree long enough to grab their chopped suet from the garage roof. There are nine ravens and sixty-three starlings (this includes grackles and redwing blackbirds). Where are the beautiful Evening grosbeaks? Where are the friendly little red-polls? Occasionally the

woodpeckers and a grey jay manage to sneak a few bites of the suet nailed to the post, and once I saw a chickadee.

A couple of neighborhood cats can also fill the tree with starlings in a hurry, where, N. says, they look like sixty-three black bulbs on a Christmas tree.

But we mustn't play God with these creatures- our life-style includes setting out daily rations of different foods, not deciding who eats it. Think of the fertilizer our lawn and garden are absorbing!



Spruce budworm spray program on agenda

The Ministry of Natural Resources will be holding two public review information centres concerning the Terrace Bay District proposal for dealing with the spruce budworm in 1987.

The information centres will be on Feb. 27 and 28 from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the MNR office in Terrace Bay.

In general, the spruce budworm population appears to be declining in the eastern section of the district with moderate to high populations persisting in the central and western sections.

The 1987 proposed spray program is approximately one-quarter the size of the 1986 spray program.

In order to salvage budworm damaged stands, timber companies have been concentrating their harvesting operations in budworm infested areas.

A ministry fact sheet supplied to the News states that the proposed number of Hectares to be aerially sprayed will be 5,499. A biological insecticide will be used (*Bacillus Thuringiensis*).

The approximate locations in the Steel River Unit will be Foxtrap Lake, Cornish Lake, Deutzia Lake and Caragana Lake. In the Kimberly-Clark Unit, Rocke Lake will be sprayed.

White Spruce and Balsam tree species will be protected to minimize volume losses until harvesting occurs, states the fact sheet.

The approximate time for the spraying to commence will be late May of this year.

Don't forget, the open house information centres will be on Feb. 27 and Feb. 28 from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the MNR office in Terrace Bay.

CORPORATION FALCONBRIDGE COPPER WINSTON LAKE DIVISION OPEN HOUSE-PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Corporation Falconbridge Copper, Winston Lake Division has submitted an application to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for their review and approval as required under Section 24 of the Ontario Water Resources Act. The submission is being made for an underground zinc/copper mine and milling complex located 20 km North West of Schreiber, Ontario. Area residents are invited to attend an Open House as well as a Public Information Meeting to Review and Discuss the Operating Plans. Corporation Falconbridge Copper and Environment Ontario Representatives will be on hand to answer questions. Dates, places and times are as follows:

OPEN HOUSE:

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1987
SCHREIBER LEGION-NEW HALL
633 WINNIPEG STREET.
SCHREIBER, ONTARIO.
2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1987
SCHREIBER LEGION-NEW HALL
633 WINNIPEG STREET
SCHREIBER, ONTARIO
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

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Ministry of Skills Development
Gregory Sorbara
Minister

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

will be holding a series of PRE-NATAL CLASSES commencing MARCH 24, 1987.



If you are interested in attending please call the HEALTH UNIT in SCHREIBER at 824-2413.