

Budworm spraying in May

By Julio Gomes

The severe outbreak of budworm that has infested areas of Northern Ontario for the last number of years plays an important role in the ecological structure of a forest, according to Dr. Paul Barclay.

"In the long term, looking at the whole forest, and not just the balsam fir, it's good for the forest," said Barclay, a professor of biology at Lakehead University.

"What it's not good for is somebody who wants to make a lot of Kleenex or toilet paper or newsprint or something like that from these trees. That's what it's not good for. It's good for the rest-it's good for the organisms in the forest, all the animals. It's just not good for the forest industry."

The use of biological insecticides to combat jackpine and spruce budworm (which is actually a misnomer because this species prefers balsam firs) in Ontario may cause other problems in the forest. Because no insecticide is so totally selective that it will not affect other organisms, certain species of birds, rodents and large mammals may be removed from the environment.

"I think it's not a good idea," Barclay said. "Ecologically, it's not a good idea to spray unless you have a high-value stand that is going to be utilized in a relatively short period of time."

Barclay contends that once a spray program is initiated it must be continuous to be effective because an insect's potential for reproduction is enormous, and the long-term effect on other organisms may be just as severe.

Decades of insecticide spraying in New Brunswick, for example, has significantly altered the ecological condition of those forests, he explained.

"I don't think a lot of those sprays do anyone any good," he said. "They definitely interfere with the normal progression of events in the forest. Certainly, from an ecologist's point of view, it's not justified. It's like trying to eliminate mosquitoes. You can't do it. As long as there's a forest, they're going to be there... I worry about the long-term consequences for the forest. I wonder what it's going to be like in a hundred years."

According to Barclay, the various species of the budworm are and have long been an integral component in the renewal process of the forest.

"Something most people don't seem to understand about the budworm is that the budworm has been in the boreal forest for quite literally millions of years," he said. "This is not something new- a new organism that just came in... It's part of our forest and something that has been here for a long time... The forest has adapted to the

budworm and the budworm has adapted to the forest."

Fire is the primary agent of regeneration in a forest, Barclay explained. But in a moist area where fire is not the main vehicle of change, the budworm accomplishes the task of replacing the forest, allowing for the development of mixed habitats, more animals and different species.

The balsam fir, for example, is a "shade-tolerant tree," which means it can reproduce itself and overrun the area, choking off the other species.

Fire and the budworm act to defoliate and remove the advanced trees, allowing the seedling to take root and produce a new, mature and healthy forest from the remnants of the destroyed, he pointed out.

"When these budworms feed on the trees, they excrete waste products which happen to be rich in a whole lot of things," Barclay said. "It's like fertilizer- like manure, only manure coming from all these budworms. That fertilizes the surface of the soil. This, plus the fact that more light is getting in, allows for more decomposition of what is really a soil that tends to build up a lot of decomposed material. So it's a way of renewing the soil... This is a normal cycle. This is a normal situation in the boreal forest. It's a renewal mechanism that the forest has, and it's good for the forest in the long run." (Julio Gomes is a writer for *Lakehead Living* in Thunder Bay).

NOTICE TO SCALERS 1987 Scaling Refresher Course

The Annual Scaling Refresher course will be held at the Lakehead Labour Centre, 929 Fort William Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario, April 7, 8, 9, 1987.

Scalers wishing to attend the three day course should forward their notice to:

Regional Scaling Auditor
Ministry of Natural Resources
435 James St. S.
P.O. Box 5000
Thunder Bay, Ont.
P7C 5G6

Tel. (807) 475-1391



Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Anden Vinyl Products

430 Waterloo Street
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 6E4
(807) 623-5565 Toll Free 1-800-465-6820
Serving Northern Ontario for 25 Years
MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE
COMPLETE HOME RENOVATION
50 years non-prorated transferable Warranty
FREE ESTIMATES, DESIGN AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

Alcan Building Products



SUPERIOR ALUMINUM PRODUCTS

Aluminum & vinyl siding,
Seamless Eavestrouthing
Aluminum soffit & fascia board
Aluminum stormdoors & windows
insulated replacement windows



Local Alcan Dealer
Wally Holman
824-3428

TRAVELLING ANYWHERE? LET US HELP YOU!



America Travel Agency Ltd.

217 Simpson St., P.O. Box 964
Thunder Bay, Ont. P7C 4X8

Authorized Agents For ALL AIR LINES!

ITALY and EUROPE TRAVEL SPECIALISTS
1-800-465-6964

Tripaway Reg'd Kennels

BOARDING DOGS CATS



LARGE HEATED INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RUNS

995 GRATTON RD.
935-2891

FRANK & MARG CARTWRIGHT

Breeders of English Cocker Spaniels

THUNDER BAY

Smith's Contracting

Painting, Drywall, Textured Ceilings, Etc.
RESIDENTIAL OR COMMERCIAL

CALL KIM SMITH

Home Phone

824-3333

"FREE ESTIMATES"

Lloyd Snider Contracting

Terrace Bay, Ont.

825-9468

after 5 p.m.

Painting, Wallpapering, Trim finishing, Renovations, Plumbing Repairs

FREE ESTIMATES

Thunder Bay Travel call toll free

1-800-465-3939

*Professional Agents to Serve you.

*Agents for

AX Travellers

Cheques.



We make great vacations.

SUPERIOR STYLES 'N' TRENDS PROFESSIONAL STYLING

COLORING PERMING STREAKING EAR PIERCING

CALL

AGGIE or LORRAINE at 825-9694

MON., TUES., FRI.: 9:30 - 5:30 p.m.
WED., THURS.: 9:30 - 9:00 p.m.
SAT.: 9:00 - 2:30 p.m.

TILDEN Rent-a-car Service

Spadoni Bros. Ltd.

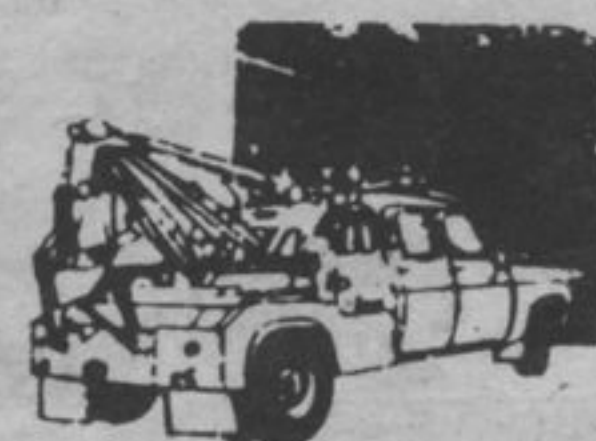
Cars & Trucks, daily, weekly, monthly, & long term leasing.

Call Stan at 824-2043

Toll Free 1-800-465-3360

John's Texaco

Your service centre for gas, car repairs & towing. Your Mini-Mart for groceries, milk & cigarettes.



SERVICE

Mon.-Fri. 7:30am - 9pm

MINI MART

Saturday 8:00am - 7:00pm

Sunday 12:00am - 7:00pm

825-9135

Diane's Place

825-9262

Take out orders welcome

Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

AVIS

The Automotive SUPERMARKET

150 of the Best Cars & Trucks in Northwestern Ontario



ON THE SPOT FINANCING
CLEAN TRADES ACCEPTED
OPEN SATURDAY 9-5
SPOT DELIVERY
1 YEAR WARRANTY



OUT OF TOWN BUYERS CALL THE SALES DEPARTMENT COLLECT

1-800-577-5766

THUNDER BAY

Subscribe Today!

Please enter the following subscription to the Terrace Bay-Schreiber News.

Name _____

Address _____

Please check the appropriate box below and mail cheque or money order to:

Local Elsewhere in Canada
 one year \$14 one year \$18

TERRACE BAY - SCHREIBER NEWS
P.O. Box 579
Terrace Bay, Ontario, P0T 2W0