

Committee investigating seedling loss

A committee investigating the loss of seven million seedlings in the Thunder Bay area says the Ministry of Natural Resources should set clearer standards for the production of stock by private growers.

Vincent Kerrio ordered the investigation last month after Ministry staff found that seven million seedlings grown for the Ministry by six private nurseries in the Thunder Bay area had not survived the winter.

"I am satisfied with the contents of the report and intend

to act immediately to implement its recommendations. We must ensure that seedling losses of this magnitude do not occur again," Kerrio said.

A team of ministry, private growers and forest industry specialists has recommended that the duties and responsibilities of

the growers and the Ministry be spelled out more clearly, and that a change in contractual arrangements is needed to define the standards and responsibilities for the production of healthy seedlings.

It also suggests that the Ministry take steps to provide technical advice to the nursery operators concerning the growing and winter storage of seedlings.

The report says the seedlings -- which were primarily black spruce and valued at about \$1 million -- did not survive because they had poorly developed root systems and inadequate hardiness to withstand the tough late winter and early spring climactic conditions in Thunder Bay.

A total of 160 million

seedlings are grown for replanting in Ontario each year. Of those, 80 million are container stock, of which 70 million are grown by private contractors.

The seedlings which perished were to have been planted in the MNR's North Central administrative region.

Kerrio said some of the area is being planted this year with seedlings acquired from other locations. "We are also taking the appropriate measures that will allow us to plant trees next year," he said.

Copies of the committee's report have been distributed to the private growers and forest industry representatives and are available to the public through the ministry's Public Information Centre at Queen's Park.

Natural Resources Minister

Hockey from our past



Eugene Legault, James Paulmert, Charles Todesco, George Porter, Malcom Sutherland, Steve Paulmert, Eli King- absent Adolph King and Lenard Thrower. (Photos submitted by Anne Todesco). 1926-27-28



1938 Hockey Team- Dolph King-coach; Fred Gerow- manager; and Chas Todesco- goal referee (upon snowbank). Team- James Paulmert, John Gerow, Bill Baker, Dave Gerow, Dan Gerow, Lester Legault, Herb Legault, Eugene Legault, Alfred Gerow, Jack Douglas, Steve Paulmert, and William Lègault, referee. (Photos submitted by Anne Todesco). 1938



Rosspport Hockey Team in the area of 1912-1920-; could be earlier. In the picture are Alex Anderson, Vince Caswell, Ted McKenna, Alex McKay, Dolph King, Peter King Sr., and Allan McLeod.

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