

# A sign of the times?

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**P**ROBABLY UNIQUE IN the annals of forestry co-operation in Quebec is a reforestation project recently completed adjacent to Quebec highway No. 15 near the Bersimis River, about 190 miles northeast of Quebec City.

During the summer of 1967, a block of 320 acres of unproductive logged forest, burned in 1941, was scarified by a bulldozer, dragging shark-fin barrel and anchor-chain scarifiers. The plot was then planted with treated jack pine seed dropped from a helicopter. The project's uniqueness lies in the high degree of government-industry co-operation and co-ordination.

To appreciate the project's significance, it is important to note that this was the first large-scale undertaking of its kind in Quebec. Channels that would ensure co-operation and co-ordination were largely unexplored and there were no cost data on Quebec conditions available.

The project was conceived by André Demers, then a research scientist with the Canada Department of Forestry and Rural Development (now superintendent, Montmorency Research Forest, Laval University Faculty of Forestry and Geodesy) in consultation

with Hervé Lizotte, head of the Quebec Department of Lands and Forests' Bureau of Forest Restoration. Both government departments — federal and provincial — quickly saw the merits of the proposal and agreed on a cost-sharing plan.

The forestry department of Anglo-Canadian Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd. assisted by arranging to have a selected stand of jack pine cut and the cones gathered by Indian residents of the Bersimis Reserve. Pulpwood was delivered to the company and 320 bushels of cones went to the Quebec Department of Lands and Forests' tree nursery at Berthierville, where the seed was extracted and treated with repellants against birds, rodents, insects and fungi.

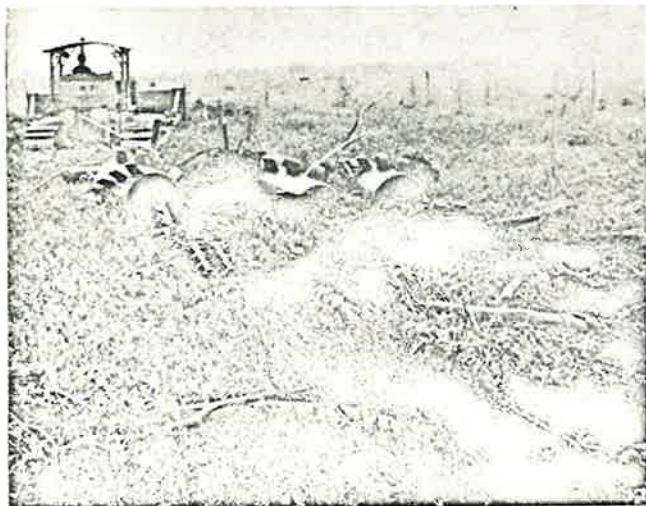
A local contractor was hired for 25 days to prepare the seedbed. The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests provided their specially-designed seeding device, plus the technician to install it in a helicopter (see cover photo). The chopper was under lease to Quebec-Hydro and stationed at Forestville, 20 miles from the site. Aerial seeding was completed in about 75 minutes on October 4.

Interest in the project has been expressed by several organizations.

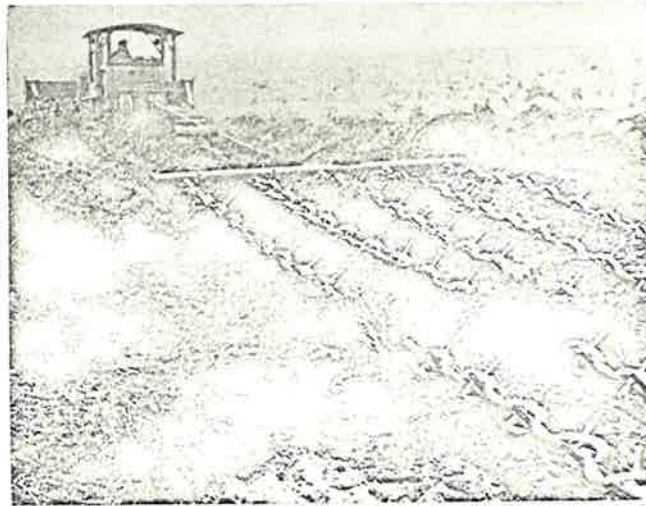
The Forestry Committee, Woodlands Section, CPPA, held one of its regular meetings in Forestville and watched the scarifiers at work. Representatives of the Canada Department of Forestry, the Quebec Department of Lands and Forests, the forestry and geodesy faculty of Laval University and Anglo-Canadian Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd. witnessed the aerial seeding.

Work on the project began in 1966 and was completed on schedule in 1967. It was made possible by the co-operative spirit of a group of foresters and the availability of development funds. These men were dedicated to the proposition that unproductive forest land cannot be left idle for too much longer and that to be ready for the future, the techniques and costs of large-scale reforestation should be investigated now.

The project shows the intensified awareness on the part of government and industry that the application of silvicultural techniques to increase productivity must become commonplace before the next three decades pass if Canada is to supply its share of a greatly-increased demand for wood in and beyond the year 2000. The project is indeed a sign of the times. ●●



A tractor drags shark-fin barrels over the 320-acre plot to prepare for aerial seeding.



Anchor-chain scarifiers are used to further prepare the plot. A local contractor did the job.