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# FORESTRY BULLETIN

May 1973

## FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE CONDITIONS IN ONTARIO

This is the first of three bulletins on insect and disease conditions in Ontario planned by the Insect and Disease Survey Unit in 1973. Bulletin No. 2 will be issued early in August with information relating to spring and early summer pests and bulletin No. 3, scheduled for late September, will outline the results of late summer pest surveys.

The Unit's field staff, unchanged from 1972, has now taken up its field duties for the new season. Six teams, each consisting of a supervisor and one or two district technicians, will be surveying forest insect and disease conditions in Ontario (one team per survey region as shown on the accompanying map). Locations of our 14 field headquarters are also shown.

Survey teams assigned to different parts of Ontario are listed below from west to east to south, with telephone numbers and mailing addresses. Not all area codes are known at time of writing; hence these will be provided later. Photographs of Survey technicians are also included in this bulletin for your information.

| Survey Region | Team | Telephone | Mailing Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| Western | M.J. Thomson | 737-3630 | RR #1, Site 25, Box 9, Sioux Lookout |
| | C.A. Barnes | 274-6821 | 210 Butler Ave., Fort Frances |
| | M.J. Applejohn | 939-2642 | RR #1, Postal Stn. F, Thunder Bay |
| Northern | H.R. Foster | 854-1317 | Box 495, Geraldton |
| | J. Hook | 367-2410 | Box 202, Moonbeam |
| Central | K.C. Hall | 256-8461 | Box 490, Sault Ste. Marie |
| | F. Livesey | 864-1042 | Box 817, Chapleau |
| | L. Houser | 674-0453 | SS #1, Site 5, Box 7, Sudbury |
| Eastern | L.S. MacLeod | 569-3467 | Box 267, Temagami |
| | H.D. Lawrence | 589-2932 | Petawawa Forest Experiment Station, Chalk River |
| Southwestern | R.L. Bowser | 424-5721 | Box 100, Angus |
| | V. Jansons | 794-2108 | RR #2, Chatsworth |
| Southeastern | H.J. Weir | 286-2650 | c/o Ont. Ministry of Natural Resources, Minden |
| | W. Biggs | 335-2155 | RR #1, Sharbot Lake |

Great Lakes Forest Research Centre

Addresses of
Personnel Pictured
are on
Preceding Page

W.L. Sippell Unit Head

Forest Insect and
Disease Survey
Technicians
(Rangers)

L.L. McDowall
Chief Technician

M.J. Thomson

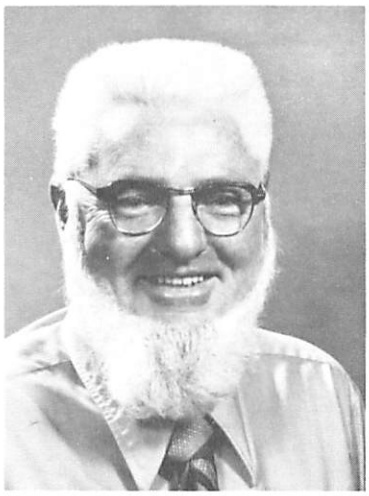
C.A. Barnes

M.J. Applejohn

H.R. Foster

J. Hook

K.C. Hall



F. Livesey

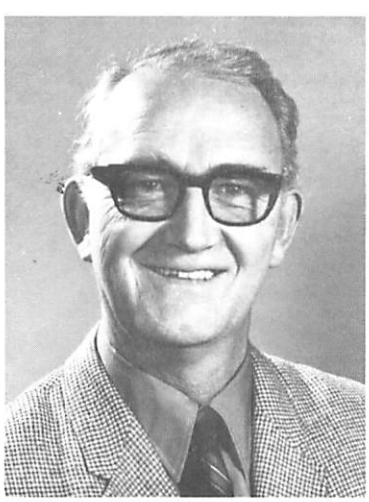
E.L. Houser

L.S. MacLeod

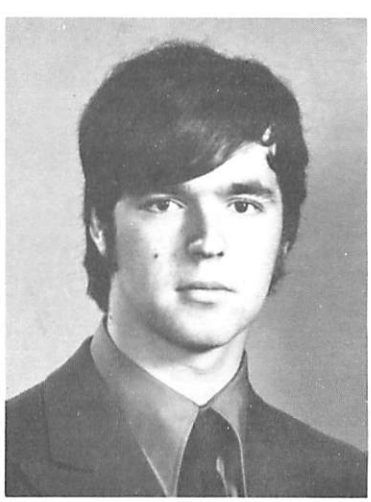
D. Lawrence

R.L. Bowser

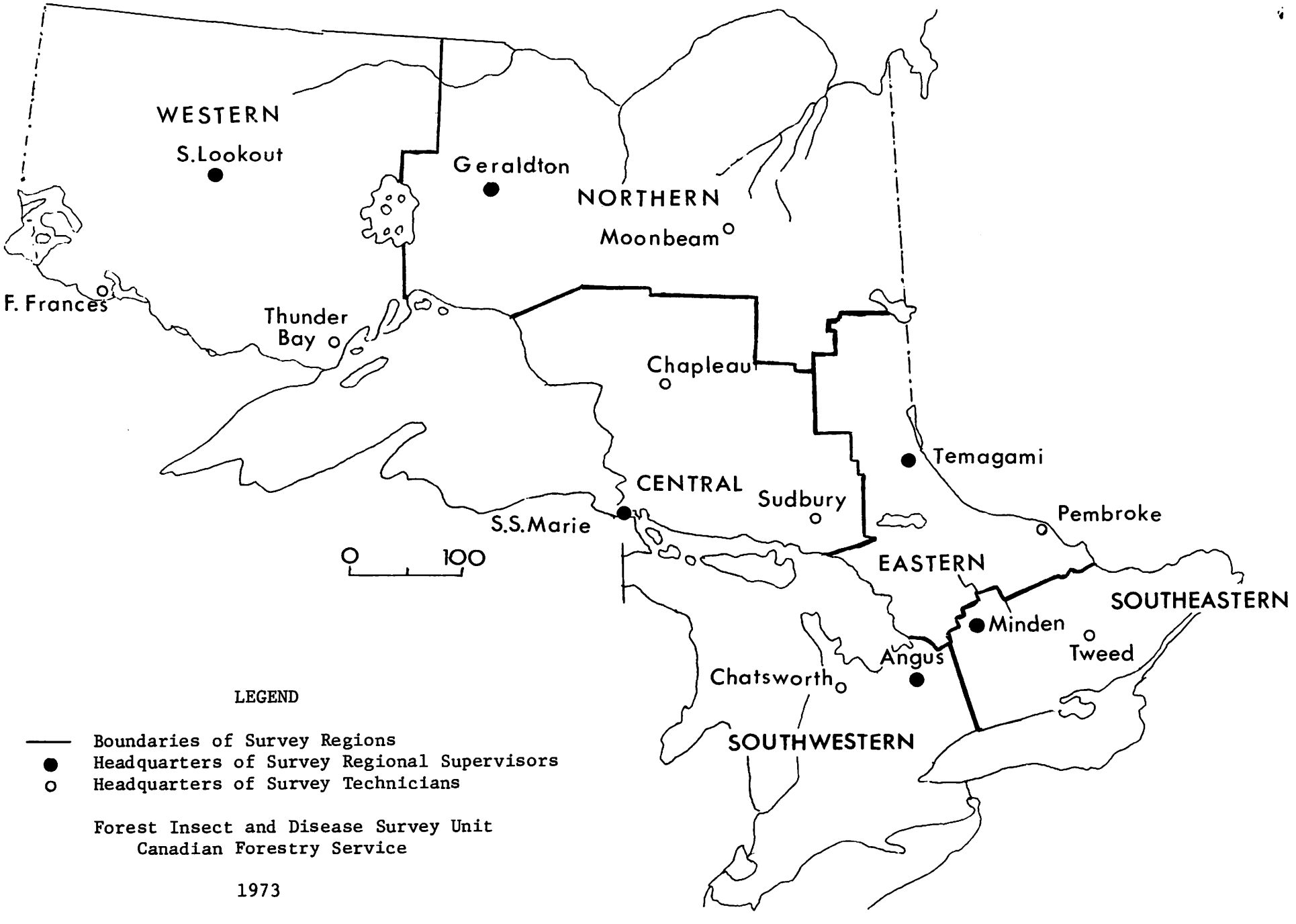
V. Jansons



H. Weir



W. Biggs


WESTERN
S.Lookout
Geraldton
NORTHERN
Moonbeam
F. Frances
Thunder Bay
Chapleau
Temagami
CENTRAL
Sudbury
S.S.Marie
Pembroke
0 100
EASTERN
SOUTHEASTERN
Minden
Tweed
Angus
Chatsworth
SOUTHWESTERN
LEGEND
Boundaries of Survey Regions
Headquarters of Survey Regional Supervisors
Headquarters of Survey Technicians
Forest Insect and Disease Survey Unit
Canadian Forestry Service
1973

Some confusion is bound to arise this summer over reporting areas, since our Survey regions now do not correspond with the new provincial field structure. Unfortunately, this could not be avoided for 1973, and we ask for your indulgence. Plans are underway for a readjustment of our regional boundaries to coincide with those of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources before another field season comes around.

## FOREST INSECTS

Three outbreaks of the spruce budworm, *Choristoneura fumiferana* (Clem.), demand close attention, because of their potential impact on the forest and forestry. One in southeastern Ontario in 1972 affected balsam and spruce over a gross area of almost 6,000,000 acres in the Ottawa Valley between Ottawa and Mattawa and from there south into the Haliburton area. It is expected that heavy feeding will continue in this region and that the outbreak will expand modestly southward. A second outbreak in northeastern Ontario covered roughly 13,000,000 acres in 1972. Here, the damage forecast is for continued widespread feeding on balsam and spruce in 1973, especially in the southern part of the outbreak where new pockets of damage are expected. In northwestern Ontario, on the basis of egg counts made in the fall of 1972, the potential for defoliation of host trees has been reduced to 75,000 acres partly as the result of the aerial spraying program carried out by provincial authorities since 1968.

Little defoliation of aspen by the forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria* Hbn., is expected around Fort Frances where this pest has proved troublesome for up to eight consecutive years. However, moderate-to-heavy defoliation of aspen is expected to show up again during June between Dryden and Vermilion Bay. Elsewhere in Ontario, numbers of the pest are expected to be high around Geraldton, along the Savoff River north of Hearst and at several localities in the New Liskeard-Earlton area.

The aspen tortrix, *Choristoneura conflictana* (Wlk.) is again expected to cause extensive defoliation of aspen stands in several districts although, as in 1972, the intensity of attack should decline in stands that have been defoliated for five consecutive years or more.

Defoliation of jack pine by the jack-pine budworm, *Choristoneura pinus pinus* Free., is likely to be confined to a small area near Parry Sound except for minor flare-ups.

Special surveys will be directed towards following the eastern spread of the European parasite *Olesicampe benefactor* Hinz. on the larch sawfly, *Pristiphora erichsonii* (Htg.), in northwestern Ontario, and the spread of *Lophyroplectus luteator* (Thunb.), another European parasite now known to be attacking the European pine sawfly in specific parts of southern Ontario.

Major emphasis is again being given to the assessment of aerial spraying operations carried out by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Target species in 1973 include the spruce budworm at several locations across Ontario, the white pine weevil, *Pissodes strobi* Peck, and the oakleaf shredder, *Croesia semipurpurana* Kft.

## FOREST DISEASES

### Scleroderris Canker, *Gremmeniella abietina* (Lagerb.) Morelet

Most of the 39 locations where high levels of Scleroderris canker infection were found in 1972, so-called Scleroderris hot spots, were re-examined this spring with a view to preparing sanitation prescriptions that might be carried out by forest management on an experimental basis in 1973. Caution is advised in proceeding with sanitation work without a prescription to avoid serious setbacks and disappointments. As a start, trials are being confined to hot spots having a reasonably good chance of success, before tackling the larger and more complex areas of northern Ontario. The field program of the Unit calls for the continued registration of Scleroderris hot spots as they are detected and continued vigilance for the presence of the disease in the vicinity of tree nurseries.

### Other Diseases

Special surveys which are included in the field program will better quantify, over a 2-year period, the rate at which surviving elms are dying across southern Ontario as the result of Dutch elm disease. This year's program also attempts to improve standardization of disease evaluations that are made of the more important tree diseases and abiotic damage on a region-by-region basis.

May 30, 1973

L. L. McDowall
Chief Technician

Great Lakes Forest Research Centre
Box 490, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

W. L. Sippell
Head,
Insect & Disease Survey Unit