

facilitated through 35 observation towers and an aerial patrol service with two helicopters and six fixed-wing aircraft. In 1977, a total of 633 fires burned 1 170 ha of forest, an average number of fires, but half the usual area. Fire suppression crews and rangers with equipment are stationed throughout the province.

The forest industry is important to the economy contributing about \$150 million to the gross provincial product annually. In 1977, there were 355 firms sawing lumber or boxwood, a hardboard mill, two newsprint mills, a groundwood pulp mill and a chemical pulp mill. Roundwood production was 3.5 million m<sup>3</sup>, of which 2.9 million m<sup>3</sup> was domestic pulpwood, 50 940 m<sup>3</sup> was peeled pulpwood for export, and 11 213 m<sup>3</sup> was poles, piling and pit props. Sawn products accounted for approximately 27% of primary wood production or 941 258 m<sup>3</sup>. Sawmill chip production totalled 291 490 m<sup>3</sup>.

A small reforestation program, active since the 1930s, has been greatly expanded in the 1970s. Experimental work on container planting, direct seeding, soil capability and site preparation continues, and efforts are being made to improve seed sources. A major nursery in Cape Breton Island was developed to provide stock for large-scale reforestation of budworm-ravaged areas with resistant species.

Timber, pulpwood and Christmas trees are sold through public tender, and cutting on Crown lands is done on recommendation of resource managers of the lands and forests department. Management cruises, regeneration studies and experimental cuttings are conducted on Crown lands and a program of operating these lands under long-term, integrated-use management plans is under way. During 1976-77, 1 336 ha of unleased Crown forest were thinned and improved, and silviculture treatments on 4 353 ha of leased Crown forest were supervised. One hundred and three kilometres of new Crown land access road were added to the existing roads.

The provincial forest inventory, a continuous system designed to operate on a 10-year cycle, commenced its second cycle in 1971. Aerial colour photography, begun on Cape Breton Island in 1969, has been extended to the rest of the province. Projects included a colour-infra-red aerial photo survey of spruce budworm damage in the Cape Breton Highlands. Remeasurement of a system of 1,765 randomly located sample plots every five years provides continuing data on growth, harvest rates and mortality.

Forest research is carried on by federal government agencies and the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. Investigations include stand improvement, tree nutrition, cutting methods, and insect and disease activities. Extension projects include fire prevention, a province-wide school motion picture program, distribution of information on forest and wildlife conservation, promotion of the Christmas tree industry, a hunter safety program, woodlot improvement, preparation of material for the mass media, and technical assistance to sawmill operators.

**New Brunswick.** Of New Brunswick's 72 092 km<sup>2</sup> approximately 87% is classed as forest land suitable for regular harvest. About 46% of the forest land is owned by the Crown and administered and managed by the natural resources department through its five forest regions and four support branches.

The forest industry is of prime importance to the economy of New Brunswick, directly contributing over \$220 million in value-added from primary forestry and forest-related industries and directly employing nearly 14,000 people. The total volume of standing timber is estimated at 580 million cubic metres; coniferous species make up 70% and deciduous species the remainder. Approximately 8.5 million cubic metres of timber are harvested annually with 70% of the harvest being cut as pulpwood.

A large-scale silvicultural program was initiated by the natural resources department and funded under a federal-provincial agreement. It was planned to plant 24 million seedlings on Crown lands in 1979, with an increase to 30 million by 1980.

A task force set up in 1978 recommended to the minister of natural resources a reallocation of Crown timber lands to the forest industry on an equitable basis, with the aim of achieving maximum economic and social benefits from the province's forest lands. Its recommendations were expected to be used in proposing legislation for the 1980 sitting of the legislative assembly.

Since 1952 New Brunswick carried out an aerial spraying program to protect balsam fir and spruce from the spruce budworm.