

# COOPERATION

Canada and the United States have worked together to conserve their forests for years. Listed below are current joint endeavours.

**CANUSA:** The CANUSA cooperative research agreement on the spruce budworm was signed in 1977. It is the most extensive international forestry project ever undertaken. It was designed to avoid the expensive duplication of efforts to control this insect pest and to make the best use of both countries' research facilities and scientists. A similar joint project is devoted to the control of the mountain pine beetle.

**FIRE CONTROL:** The two countries signed a fire suppression agreement in 1982. It provides for the exchange of intelligence, equipment and personnel.

**MARKET RESEARCH:** Working groups, with representatives from both countries, develop models on timber supply, product demand and trade exchanges.

New Brunswick Department of Forests, Mines and Energy



*The spruce budworm has ravaged balsam fir forests in New Brunswick.*

## The Emerging Truth About the Spruce Budworm

In 1977 Canada and the United States signed a joint multimillion-dollar project to control the ravages of the spruce budworm.

Since 1909 the worm has destroyed hundreds of millions of cubic feet of timber in eastern Canada and New England. In recent years it has destroyed 60 million acres of spruce.

In the ordinary course of things the worm returns in force every thirty years, producing larvae that eat foliage, stems and cones of balsam fir and five varieties of spruce.

In recent decades control efforts have relied mainly on the spraying of infected forests with chemical pesticides. This method kills the majority of the pests but has an unfortunate side effect. In the natural cycle the worm larvae eventually ate all the available foliage and then starved to death. The spraying saved much of the foliage and provided food for the next generation of surviving worms. The old cycle was broken and the destruction continued year after year, though on a reduced scale.

The joint research program has tested