

Space-age blackfly control

Scientists at Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge, Alberta, Research Station believe that laser beams and X-rays can be used to pinpoint blackfly breeding spots.

Attacks by blackflies have become so severe in parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan that livestock is being killed by the pests. Traditional methods of control provide only limited relief.

Wib Haufe, head of the animal parasitology section at the research station, says the most effective and economical control method tested so far is the application of an insecticide to fast-flowing rivers in which blackflies breed. One test injection into the Athabaska River can result in blackfly control for almost 170 kilometres downstream.

"While this is an effective blackfly control method, it is hazardous to insects other than the blackflies unless exceptional care is used in injecting the insecti-

cide," Dr. Haufe says.

"We are hoping that laser beams or X-ray techniques will enable us to locate the precise areas of rivers where blackflies hatch. By treating the right place at the right time, we would need to use much less chemical and treat a much smaller area.

"During its development, each blackfly accumulates a certain level of different elements in its body related to its breeding environment," Dr. Haufe says. "These elements can be identified by X-rays. We can first determine the blackfly's trace-element profile, then go back to the river, locate areas with the same profile and trace not only the insects' point of origin, but also their flight path."

Another control approach being tested involves the use of laser beams, which could follow blackflies when they leave their breeding sources, providing researchers with specific information on flight paths, population densities, species and, most importantly, the areas infested.

Gander remembers aviation heroes

Newfoundland's Gander Airport, once known as the "crossroads of the world", and still busy, houses a fascinating aviation exhibit that contains models, artifacts and photographs pertaining to pioneer aviation over the Atlantic. In the nearby bogs and forest are the remains of several ill-fated bombers and other planes that failed to reach their destinations during the Second World War.

Anyone wishing to fly across the ocean at a time when planes had a limited range chose Newfoundland, closest North American point to Europe, as the departure point.

In 1935, when Newfoundland was still a British colony, the British Air Ministry chose Gander, a relatively fog-free area, as the site of a future transatlantic air base.

Heroes who knew Gander

Such famous aviation pioneers as Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earheart, Italo Balbo and Eddie Rickenbacker have been associated with the airport.

Gander, 343 km (213 miles) from St. John's, the provincial capital, has a population of nearly 10,000, with good hotels, restaurants and shopping facilities.

Canada's tanks come off Munich assembly line



In Munich, Major-General Charles H. Belzile (right) accepts a gold key for the first C-1 Leopard tank from Colonel Dave Hampson, tank project manager from National Defence headquarters, Ottawa. The Canadian Forces have ordered 128 of the new tanks described as the most sophisticated to leave the assembly line at the Krauss-Maffei company in Munich. The Royal Canadian Dragoons based in Lahr are scheduled to receive their tanks in late autumn.

What's in a name?

Place names in the province of Newfoundland are unique. Where else could be found, for example, Right-in-the-Run Island, Sitdown Pond and Misery Point?

In the island province, which was the last to join Confederation, in 1949, are the Annieopsquotch Mountains and coves called Gripe Cove, Shoe Cove, Butter Cove, Savage Cove, Wreck Cove, Tea Cove, Flowers Cove and Bleak Joke Cove. There's even a cove named Nameless Cove.

Heart's Content, Heart's Delight and Come By Chance are some of the better known place names of Newfoundland. There's also Seldom Come By Chance, Little Paradise, Run By Guess Island, The Harbour Harbour and several Arms, including Sop's, Snooks, Toogood and Joe Batt's.

There are many more, too numerous to list. The Tourist Services Division of the Department of Tourism, Confederation Building, St. John's, Newfoundland, would welcome requests for more information.