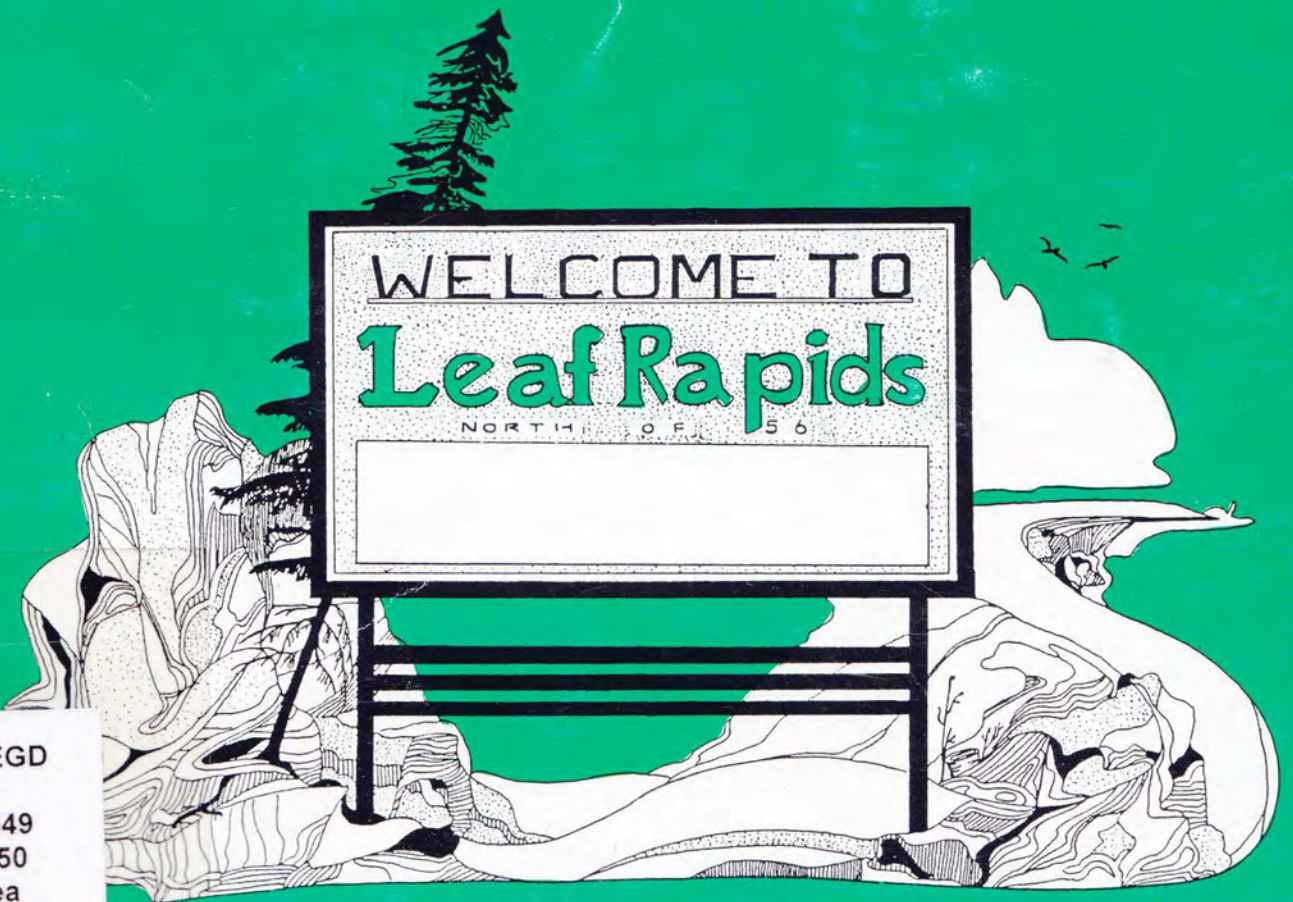
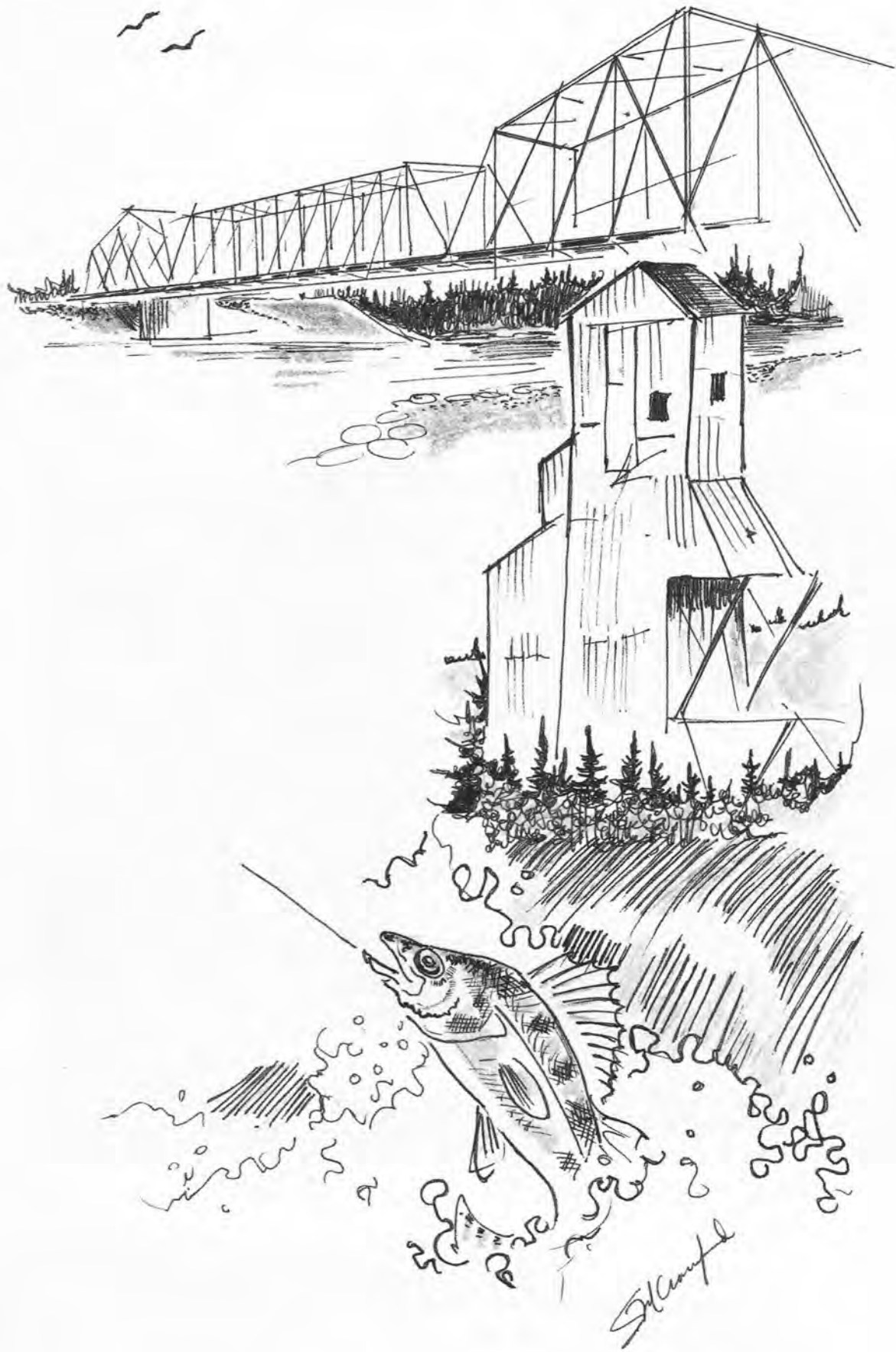


Leaf Rapids

A Local History



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PUBLISHED BY THE LEAF RAPIDS EDUCATION CENTRE
MAY 1989

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- Contributors: William and Shirley Hicks, Chuck Stensgard, Anatole and Helen Shafransky, Anne Pesch, Richard Beaudet OMI, Mac Riddell, Robert and Elizabeth Wilson, Dale Seddon, Joanne Griesman, and Leaf Rapids Development Corporation Ltd.

deposit

LEAF RAPIDS A LOCAL HISTORY 1970 - 1989



Leaf Rapids 1974 - a view of town houses and single family dwellings.



SECTION A

THE BUILDING OF A NEW TOWN

The first pages of this book deal with the construction of Leaf Rapids, from the building of the first house to the opening of the Town Centre.



Map of Manitoba

LEAF RAPIDS - A LOCAL HISTORY



Leaf Rapids 1974. A view of the Town Centre and Highway 391.

INTRODUCTION

In 1970 the Town of Leaf Rapids did not exist. Today it is a thriving northern community. The design of the town is like no other. The central focus of the town is a large building, called the Town Centre. It houses everything under one roof: the hospital, hotel, library, post office, shopping complex, restaurants and all recreational facilities.

Leaf Rapids is unique because of its age. While many Manitoba towns have celebrated their 75th and 100th birthdays, Leaf Rapids is not yet 18 years old.

As you read through this book, you will be able to see how quickly the new town of Leaf Rapids was built.

NEWS FLASH - March 1969

COPPER AND ZINC DISCOVERED AT RUTTAN LAKE

Sherritt Gordon Mines has discovered a Copper and Zinc Ore body situated 65 miles southeast of Lynn Lake.....



After drilling was completed Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd. decided to develop an open pit mine at Ruttan.



The open pit at Ruttan Mine where 50,000 tons of ore and waste rock must be removed every day.

NEWS FLASH - December 1970

A NEW TOWN IN MANITOBA

A new town will be built in northern Manitoba. This town will be developed to support the mine at Ruttan Lake. The townsite will be located on a glacial esker, just three miles from the Churchill River.



Churchill River

“An esker is a long narrow ridge of sand and gravel deposited by the movement of glaciers.”

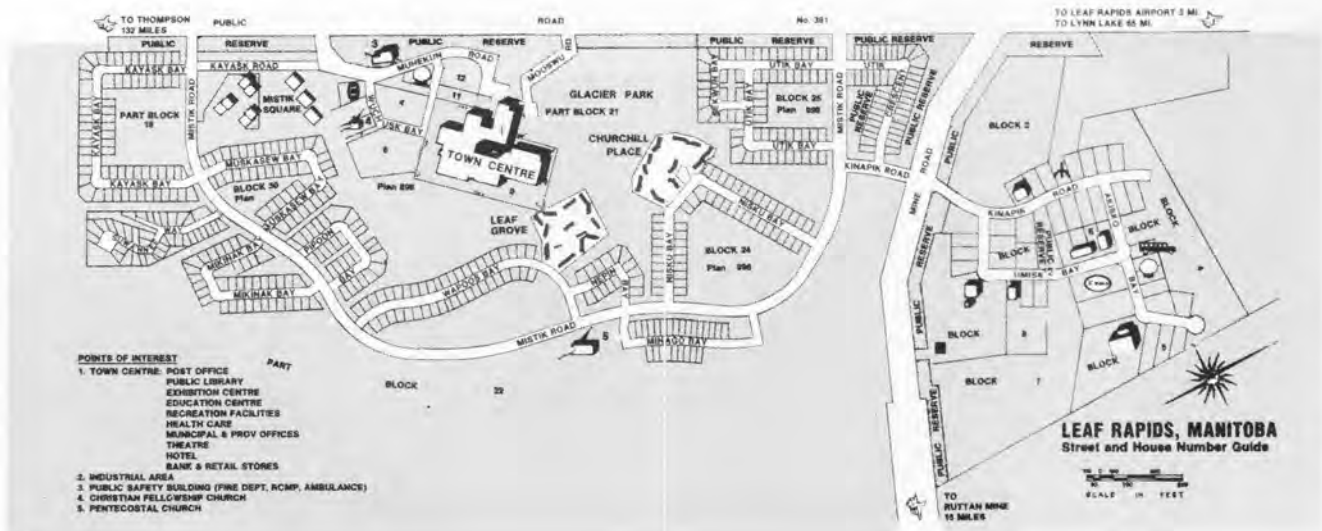


Glacial Esker

NEWS FLASH - June 1971

A UNIQUE PLAN DEVELOPED FOR LEAF RAPIDS

A plan for the new town of Leaf Rapids was designed so that much of the natural vegetation could be saved. The centre of the community will be a large town centre complex with the homes in small groups surrounding the centre.



NEWS FLASH - July 1971

MANITOBA GOVERNMENT CREATES LEAF RAPIDS DEVELOPMENT CORP LTD.

The first steps in creating the new town of Leaf Rapids have begun. The L.R.D.C. has been charged with the responsibility for planning, development and initial management of the new community. It is to be functional in location and appealing in appearance. Roads are being built - sewer lines have begun - MTS and Hydro are installing their equipment.

NEWS FLASH - September to December 1971

CONSTRUCTION MOVING AHEAD

The building of roads in the town of Leaf Rapids started in the fall of 1971. The roads were not given an official name, so they were identified by their use or the order that they were built. For example, the road that circled the town was "The Collector" and the bays were called by numbers.



Leaf Rapids Townsite September 1971



Construction Trailers being positioned 1971



Digging Basements



Installing Hydro Lines



Bay 1 from air October 1971



"Bay 1" from the air September 1971



"Bay 1" from the air October 1971



Partially completed homes

NEWS FLASH - October 1971

BRIDGE ACROSS CHURCHILL RIVER CONNECTS LEAF RAPIDS TO LYNN LAKE

On October 18, Wilson Parasiuk, MLA officially opened the Kananskootik Bridge that crosses the Churchill River 3km outside of Leaf Rapids.



Churchill River Bridge on opening day October 18, 1971

NEWS FLASH - December 1971

LEAF RAPIDS PREPARES FOR FIRST RESIDENTS

In preparation for families to move into the new town a local government administrator has been appointed. Mr. Ray Moore was appointed on December 1.

Mr. Jim Gordon has been appointed Official Trustee and his job will be to organize a school for new students.

New residents will not be totally isolated as telephone service was connected December 17.

NEWS FLASH - December 1971

MOVING DAY - EIGHT FAMILIES MOVE INTO NEW HOMES

On December 21, 1971 Roger and Diane Harrington and their two children became the first official family to take up residence in Leaf Rapids. Before they moved into #3 Bay 1, there was an official ribbon cutting ceremony...



Cutting Ribbon

At the official ribbon cutting ceremony, W.F. Clarke, Sherritt Gordon Mines representative (not in photo) and Al Plaskett, United Steelworkers (left) held the ribbon for Diane Harrington to cut.

The moving van that brought the Harrington's furniture was loaded on a train at Cranberry Portage. It travelled on the train to Lynn Lake and then was driven from Lynn Lake to Leaf Rapids.



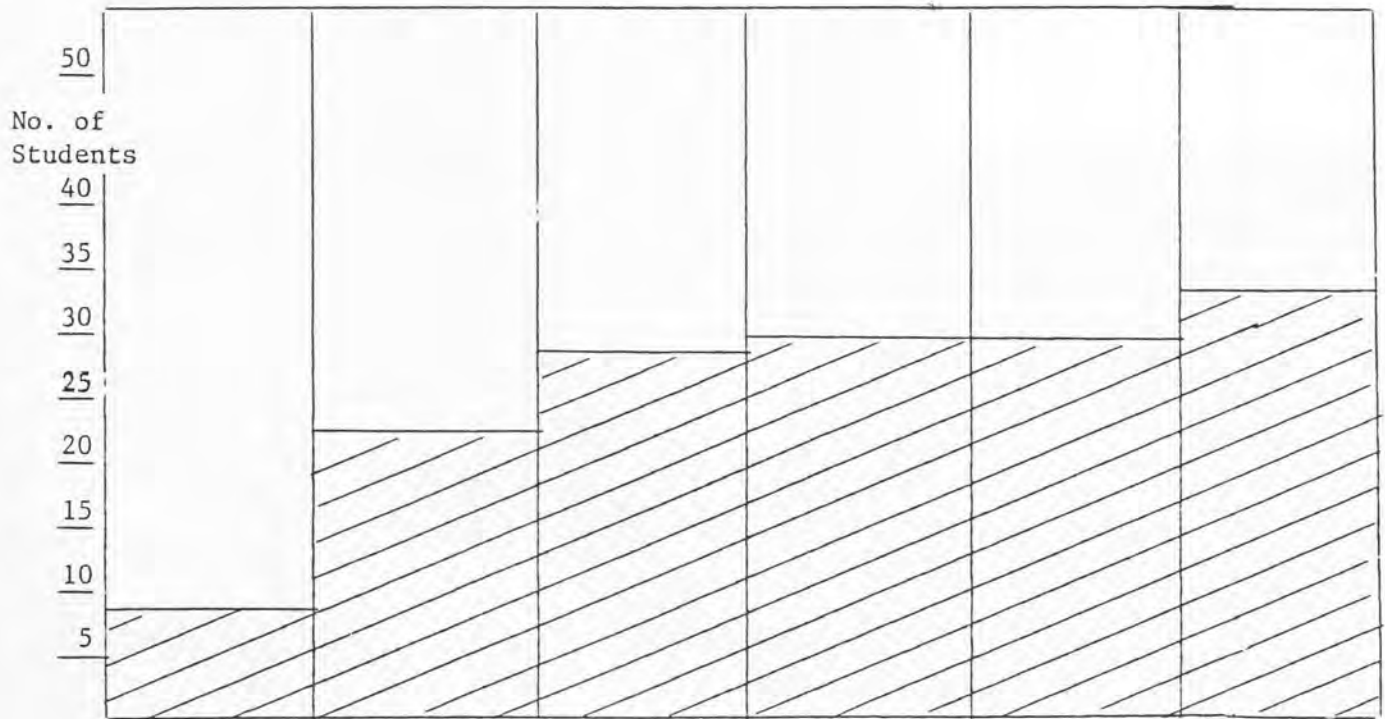
Moving Van

NEWS FLASH - January 1972

SCHOOL OPENS

Students and two teachers, Misses Mary Klassen and Kathy Eby, began school on January 10. There was one Grade 2 student, one Grade 3 student, one Grade 4 student, one Grade 6 student and two Grade 7 students. The school was a house on Bay 2.

SCHOOL POPULATION January 1972 to June 1972



School Population

NEWS FLASH - February 1972

LEAF RAPIDS RESIDENTS ESTABLISH CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Concern over living conditions has prompted residents to elect a committee to look into problems such as the lack of medical services, postal service and a grocery store (Feb. 23).

NEWS FLASH - February 1972

PUB OPENS IN LEAF RAPIDS

The Leaf Rapids Beverage Room opened on February 28. It was adjoined by a restaurant that is nicknamed "Alice's Restaurant".



Alice's Restaurant is also a grocery store, where people can buy canned goods and pick up their mail.

NEWS FLASH - March 1972

NURSING STATION IN LEAF RAPIDS

A three bedroom bi-level home is being converted into a nursing station. A doctor from Lynn Lake will be available one day a week.

By mid May, the nursing station will be staffed by a full-time registered nurse. Miss Anne Pesch R.N. will take residence at 34 Bay 1 and will operate a full-time clinic.



First nursing station



Anne Pesch Registered Nurse

NEWS FLASH - March 1972

LEAF RAPIDS GETS FIRST NEWSPAPER

The Leaf Rapids Development Corporation published the first issue of the Forum on March 29, 1972.

THE
LEAF
RAPIDS

FORUM

v.1, n.1

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 1972

20 cents

HEADLINES:

CITIZENS COMMITTEE CONFRONTS CORPORATION

PRINCIPAL RESIGNS

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PLANNED

BEVERAGE ROOM OPENS

MEDICAL SERVICES COMING

NEWS FLASH - May 1972

TOWNHOUSES

On May 23 construction began on 119 townhouses. Rent per month: 2 bedroom \$215.; 3 bedroom \$245.; 4 bedroom \$275.



Townhouse under construction

NEWS FLASH - July 1972

NEW SCHOOL TO BE READY FOR FALL TERM

The new temporary school will be made from 35 ATCO trailers and will cost \$35,000.00. The school will be located on Bay 2 and will have eleven new classrooms. Sixteen teachers and a principal have been hired.



Aerial view of school trailers

NEWS FLASH - June 1972

THE SCHOOL YEARS

On June 27, 1972 the doors closed, and the first year of school in Leaf Rapids was over... .



Students

Pupils at Leaf Rapids School
- June 1972

Bonnie Bear	Sharon Butler
Curtis Fleury	Sandra Gingera
Karen Speakman	Karen Babcock
Katherine Babcock	Jim Butler
Sharon Selk	Merril Moore
Wendy Jean Bear	Brenda Horst
Beverly Bear	Suzanne Butler
Dawn Marie MacLean	Tommy Leahy
Shawn Shirliffe	Mathew Smith
Patty Speakman	Darryl Riley
Kevin Selk	Benjamin Horst
	Patricia Babcock
Barbara Bear	Brenda Bear
Brian Bear	Georgina Ibey
Kenneth MacLean	Kim James
Robert Ibey	Jo Anne James
Tom James	Gerald Johnston
Michael Babcock	



Students

NEWS BRIEFS - January to June 1972

“FIRST” A WORD OFTEN HEARD IN LEAF RAPIDS

If a person were to go back to the year 1972 and look at the newspaper, The Leaf Rapids Forum, that person would often see the word “first”.



First fire truck

First Church Service
March 19, 1972

First Daily Mail Service
May 1972

First Census Report
May 31, 1972
Population - 39 families

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

HUMANS 1 BEARS 0

First Scoreboard

The residents of Leaf Rapids had many encounters with bears. This was due to the fact that the bears were here first and did not want to give up their territory. They were often trapped and moved to a new location. One bear did not want to move.

WANTED
Person to look after a two month old paper trained puppy. For 4 weeks only.
Phone 2491

First want ad

First Live Theatre
June 24, 1972

The Northern Circle of Players of Lynn Lake, performed for ‘adult’ audiences only in the Beverage Room.

NEWS FLASH - July 1972

HOUSES BEING COMPLETED - COST UNCHANGED



Bay 1 - note all the sand

House prices vary according to size: 2 bedroom \$21,277.00; 3 bedroom \$23,657.00; 4 bedroom \$30,063.00.



Engineered Home - Bay 1



Log home owned by Local Government District Bay 5

NEWS FLASH - July 1972

MOTEL READY TO OPEN

A new 22 unit hotel should be ready for its first customers in a few weeks.



Leaf Rapids First Motel

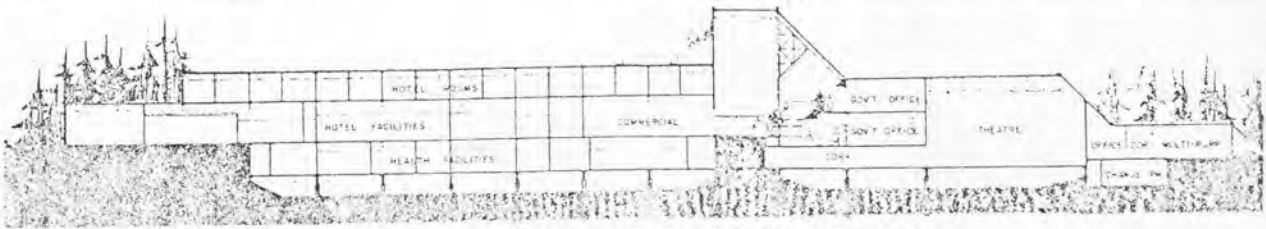
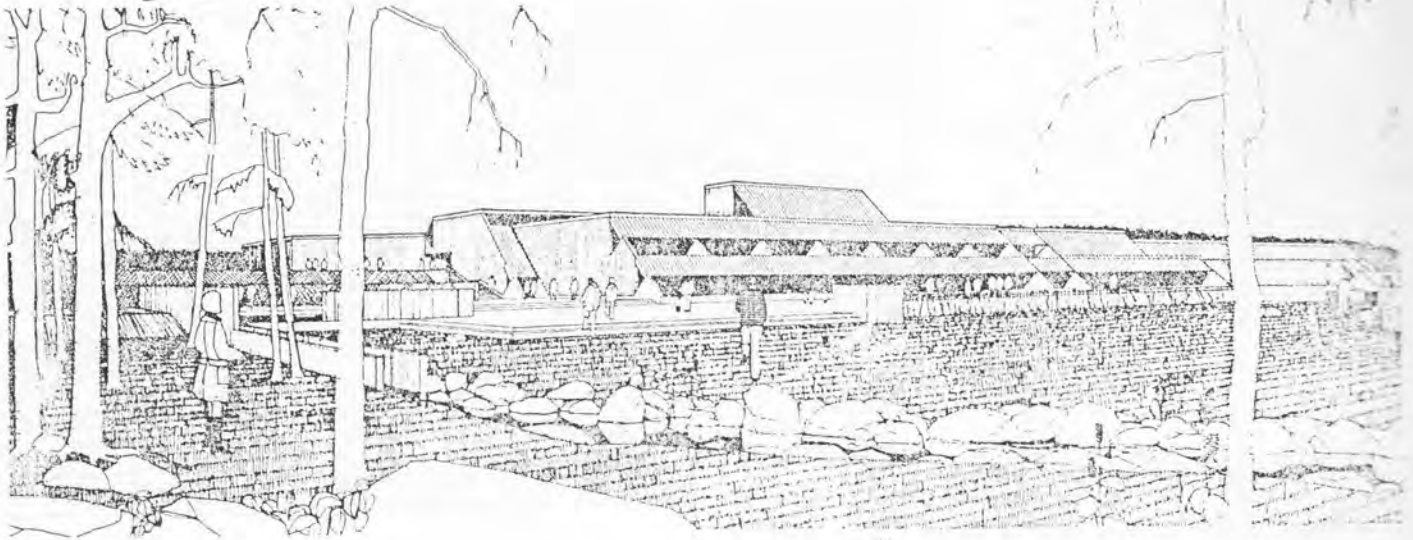


The first medivac by air happened in July 1972 and was carried out by Calm Air Ltd. The medivac program has developed in such a way that now the Manitoba Government has a special plane, called 'Life flight', to carry out such emergencies. Shown above, are the ambulance personnel loading a patient onto 'Life flight'.



NEWS FLASH - July 1972

PLANS FOR TOWN CENTRE UNVEILED



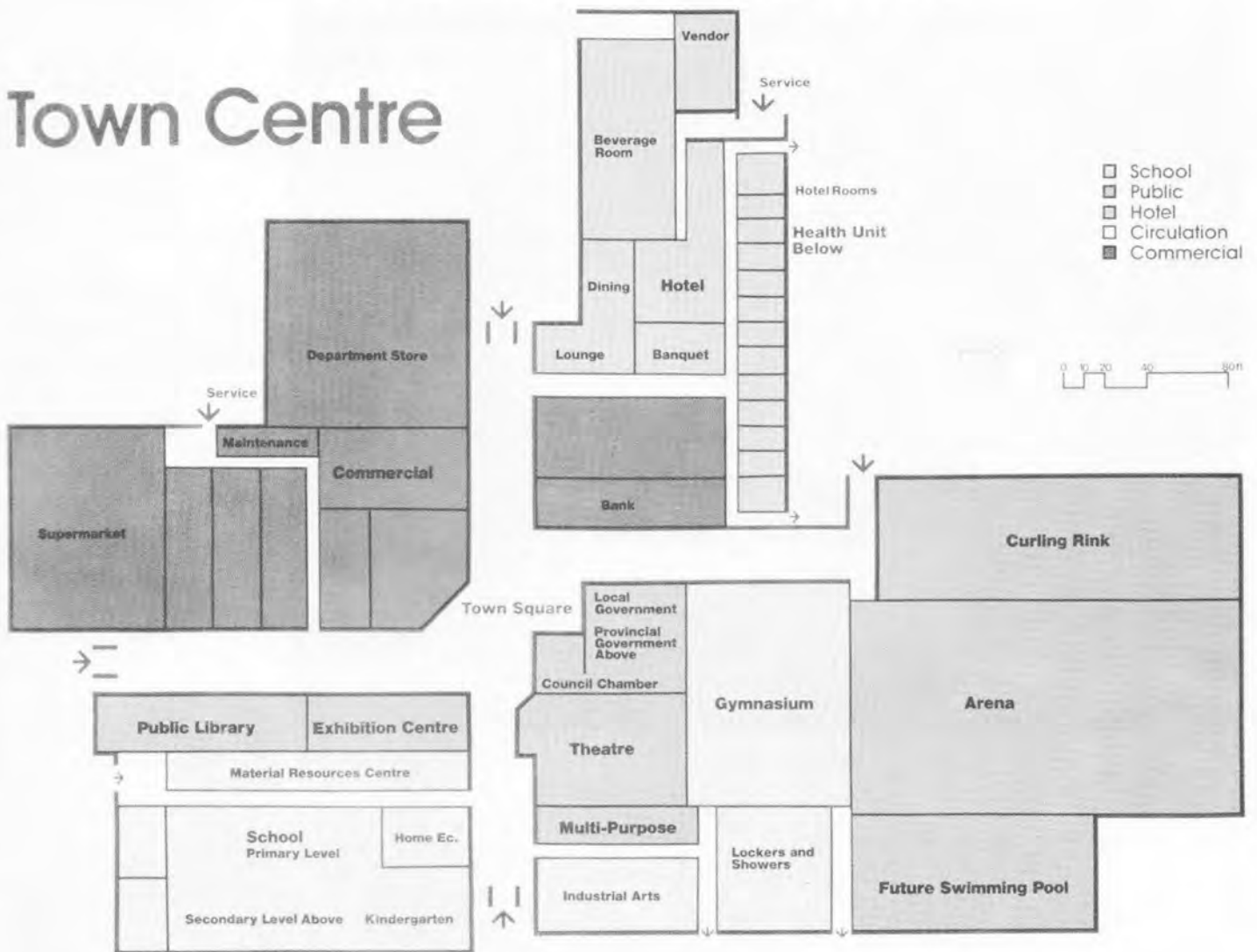
Drawing of outside appearance of Town Centre

Participating in the official sod turning for the town centre are from left: Jim English Chairman of Citizens' Committee; Peter Briant Chairman of Leaf Rapids Corporation and Peter Cain, Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd.



A TOWN UNDER ONE ROOF

Town Centre



The town square will be the focal point of the whole building. A place where people can meet and relax.

The hospital unit will have eight beds, an x-ray unit and a delivery room.

The four sheet curling rink will have a lounge, locker rooms and a snack bar.

The regulation size arena will seat 520 fans.

The swimming pool will not be included in the original construction but will be added at a later date.

The modern theatre is designed to hold 392 people.

The new school will hold 625 students, but can be expanded to hold 850 students.

NEW BUSINESSES OPEN SEPTEMBER 1972



In the fall of 1972 a large barn-like structure was erected. It housed the Leaf Rapids Co-op.

Co-op

The Bank of Montreal opened in Leaf Rapids on September 26, 1972.

Mr. Ian MacDonald was the first bank manager. The bank was located in a trailer placed opposite the Leaf Rapids Co-op until they re-located in the Town Centre in July 1974.



NEWS BRIEFS OF 1972



July '72 scheduled air service for Leaf Rapids



School ready for students



Fish Co-op opens

NEWS BRIEFS OF 1973



Road link to Thompson



September 1973, Leaf Rapids gets T.V. C.B.C. only and then, later on, cable. This dish was installed in the mid 1980's.

NEWS FLASH SEPTEMBER 1974

PREMIER ED SCHREYER OPENS TOWN CENTRE

The celebrations and ceremonies that were held to celebrate the grand opening of the Leaf Rapids Town Centre were terrific. There was a Manitoba Talent Show, a Community Barbeque and a Grand Ball.



Premier Ed Schreyer cutting ribbon at opening ceremonies.



Hon. Wilson Parasjuk speaking at the opening ceremonies.



D. Thomas, W. Parasiuk, E. Schreyer, P. Cain. Unveiling plaque at Town Centre entrance.



Inside the Town Centre



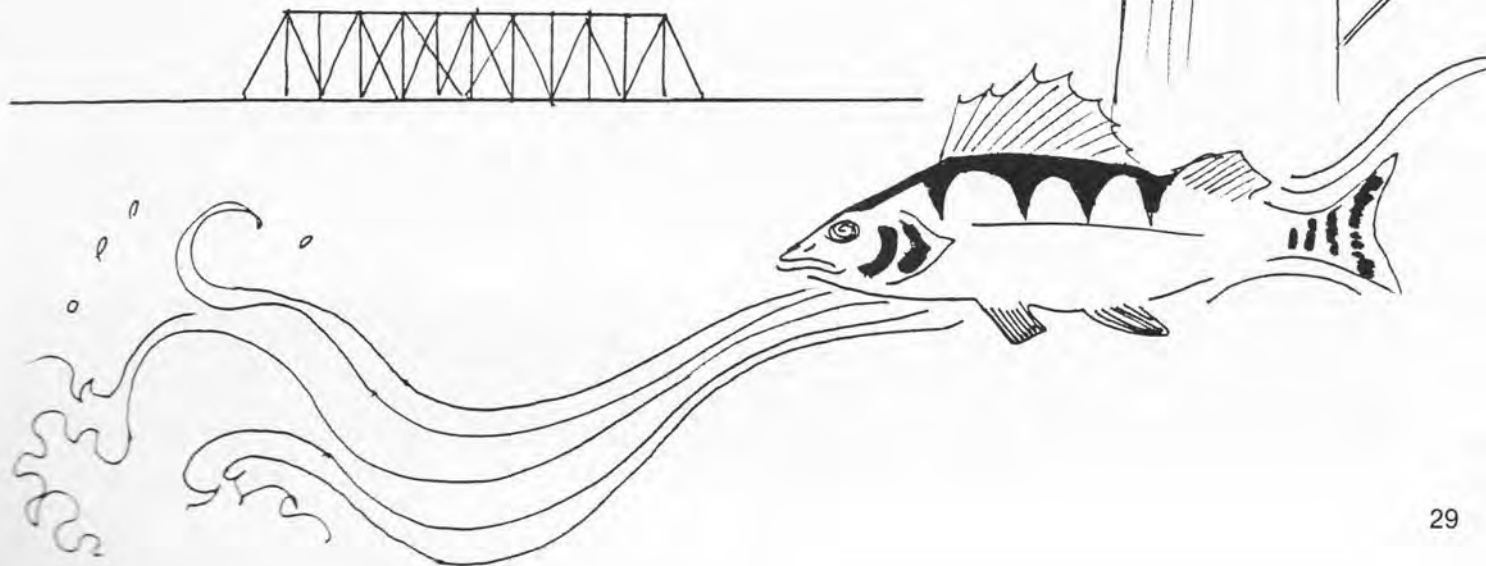
The 'Main Street' of Leaf Rapids



SECTION B

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINE

As the Town of Leaf Rapids was growing to accommodate the workforce at Ruttan, Sherritt Gordon was constructing the mine site.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUTTAN MINE

In 1970 and 1971 Sherritt Gordon mines began to develop the Ruttan mine site. An access road from Highway 391 to the mine site was built and a campsite was established. Construction of the mine began. The mine was to be an open pit operation.



Open pit 1973

Huge Wabco trucks were used to haul the rock from the pit.



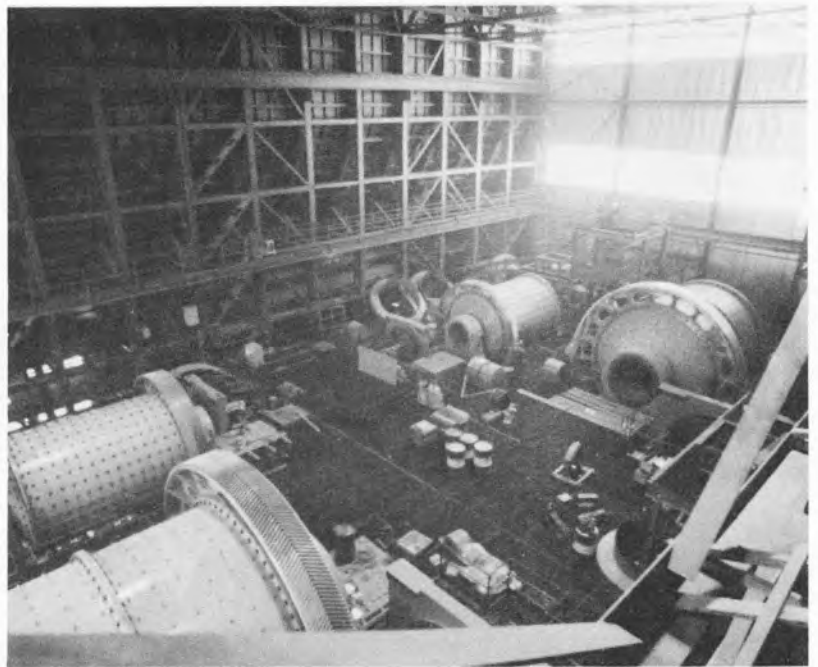
First 85 ton Wabco which was assembled for Ruttan operation.

MINE DEVELOPMENT

By mid 1972, the main components of the mine site were under construction.



Concentrator February 1972



Mill October 1972



Primary crusher, May 1972



Secondary crusher, November 1972



The Open Pit Operation-
The Mill 1972



Service Building 1972



The Ruttan Plant 1974

Northern Manpower Corporation developed a project called "Tawow", for hiring native people to work at the Ruttan mine site. The program was co-sponsored by the Provincial Government and Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd. The workers were also assisted with local housing. The program was given an appropriate name as when translated it means 'You are welcome'.

Shown below are a group of Indian Chiefs from surrounding communities who visited Leaf Rapids as guests of the Northern Manpower Corporation. They were invited to help get the project off to a good start.



Pictured from right to left: Murdo Dysart, Mayor of South Indian Lake, Dominique Hart of Pukatawagan; Tommy Thomas, Councillor of South Indian Lake; Alex Cook, Mayor of Brochet; Ben Wood, Councillor of Nelson House; Pat Hyslop, Chief of Brochet; and Gab Bighetty, Councillor of Pukatawagan.



SECTION C LEAF RAPIDS TODAY

A look at some of the unique features
of a northern community.



LEAF RAPIDS NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE



Hon. Cec. Smith and Steve Alexander, Chairman of Leaf Rapids National Exhibition Centre, opening March 14, 1975.

The Leaf Rapids National Exhibition is the result of action taken by a determined group of people, led by Irene Nordenholt, to provide a cultural centre for the Town of Leaf Rapids.

Its objectives were to promote further development of regional and local arts and sciences and to promote workshops, seminars and concerts. It was also intended the Centre would search for and develop potential talent.

Pictured below is a typical exhibit sponsored by the Leaf Rapids Exhibition Centre.



Since incorporation the Leaf Rapids Exhibition Centre has put on a wide variety of events, as illustrated.



MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE presents

GARRISON'S GARAGE

A HEARTWARMING, DELIGHTFUL COMEDY JUST RIGHT FOR AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT

WED. FEBRUARY 12TH
8 PM - LEAF THEATRE

PRICES: \$17. - \$6
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CANTIER

BUY 'T GET WINTER BLUES
SEE A SHORT COURSE OR ATTEND WORKSHOP
REGISTRATION NECESSARY
COURSES: CALL 973-8682
Testing provided



THE STERCEY BROTHERS

SUN.
FEBRUARY 14
LEAF RAPIDS
6PM
7:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT EXHIBITION CENTRE

\$5.00 (ADULTS)
\$4.00 (STUDENTS)

TICKETS ARE \$1.00



TIPS TO IMPROVE WALLEYE AND PIKE FISHING

PRESENTATION BY AL PASCHUK, PROFESSIONAL FISHERMAN AND PROMOTER.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH
7:00 P.M.

EXHIBITION CENTRE

DOOR PRIZES

OPENING RECEPTION FOR EXHIBIT: "A FISH STORY"



EXHIBITION CENTRE

HOURS OPEN: TUES - SAT. 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.
& FRI. EVE. 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

MILY CROSBY EXHIBIT: JAN. 5 - 30TH

Mily Crosby, a media artist from Herb Ottery, batik paintings. Her works include watercolours.

A Fish Story

Meet the artist who has spent his life on the water. This exhibition features a collection of his most successful works, including watercolours and batik paintings. The artist, Mily Crosby, is a media artist from Herb Ottery. Her works include watercolours and batik paintings.

PROFILE AND A BOARD

- WORKSHOPS: - EXHIBIT CONDUCTED BY THE EXHIBIT.
- SKETCHING SESSION: Models will pose, a charcoal, paper, etc. Some supplies will be provided.
- FINGER PUPPETS
- MURAL COLLAGE
- PIPE-STORYTIME

garden show

AUGUST 22 & 23

PLAN NOW TO DISPLAY

VEGETABLES
FLOWERS
FRUIT
& HOUSEPLANTS

GARDENING IN THE NORTH IS A CHALLENGE.

RESUME WRITING WORKS!

(HOW TO WRITE ONE)

INSTRUCTOR: DALE GIL

IT IS NOT NECESSARY THAT YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO APPLY FOR A JOB. YOU CAN GET BY AT LEAST A HALF THIS IS A JOBS ENOUGH ON PAPER!

THERE IS NO CHARGE

You are cordially invited to an evening of music and art. FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 8:00 P.M.

Leaf Rapids Festival Exhibition
Type Centre
Leaf Rapids, Manitoba
Special Guest: Ambassador from Austria
Austria Exhibition

82-VZ (473-8682)

Ambassador opens Austrian art exhibit

A normal course of events by renowned Austrian artist Anton Wast began off Monday at the Leaf Rapids National Exhibition Centre. It's the first step of a year-long project by the National Library in Ottawa. The exhibition is being presented by the National Museum of Canada. The exhibition is being presented by the National Museum of Canada. The exhibition is being presented by the National Museum of Canada.



THE AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA, (left), and the Ambassador of Austria, (right), at the opening of the exhibition.

Exhibition Centre

473-8682



SUMMER EXHIBIT

Buy it in the direct honest fashion.

ON DISPLAY JULY & AUG.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SALES

MAKING: SOLE, GARDEN, etc.

SALES: A large range of gifts to be selected on the spot. Every gift is guaranteed to be a winner. Call 473-8682 for more information.



WINTER

The most important local winter highlight in Leaf Rapids is the Winter Carnival, which has been held early in March every year since 1973.

The main events are the dog races with dog teams arriving from all over Manitoba,

Saskatchewan and even some of the United States of America.

As well, a lot of interest is shown in northern games such as outdoor tea and bannock making, the jigging contest and moose calling.



Marvin Cook, Brochet, Leaf Rapids Winter Carnival Dog Derby Champion 1974, 1975 and 1976.

CARNIVAL



Tea Boiling



Flour packing



Sleigh Rides

A popular spectator sport is the flour packing held in the Town Centre for which there are competitions for men and for women.

Perhaps the most popular, especially for the children, are the sleigh rides.

RECREATION



The first Recreation Committee was formed in May 1972 with its objective to concern itself with recreational opportunities in the Leaf Rapids townsite and area.



Constructing outdoor rink

The first recreational hall was built on Wapoo Bay and was used for Bingo and dances. The Leaf Rapids Minor Hockey Association was formed in September 1972 and they used a temporary ice rink outdoors where the athletic field is today. In February 1973 they travelled to Lynn Lake for their first inter-club game. The first of their annual banquets was held on April 3, 1973.



First recreation hall being built.

The most popular year-round activity since Leaf Rapids was first developed, has been fishing. Many local residents are avid fishermen and in the summertime there is a steady influx of tourists, with some coming from the United States. Ice fishing is also popular in the wintertime.

When the Town Centre was opened in September 1974, the Leaf Rapids Curling Club was formed. This has always been a popular sport in Leaf Rapids and the bonspiels sponsored by the local club are always well attended. A major drawcard attracting teams is the fact that the hotel and the arena are under the same roof.



In October 1974, the Leaf Rapids Figure Skating Club was started. Today, it employs a full time coach and there are many skaters of all ages that are members of the Club.



Figure Skating Club Ice Carnival



Canoeing on local lake



Path through bush surrounding Leaf Rapids



Hiker on trail around Leaf Rapids

There are numerous trails through the rolling countryside so that everyone can enjoy the local environment.

To the casual observer all seems spruce trees with some birch but for those in-

terested enough to look closer there are many and varied plants to enjoy.

Hiking and canoeing are two pastimes which are well rewarded in this region.

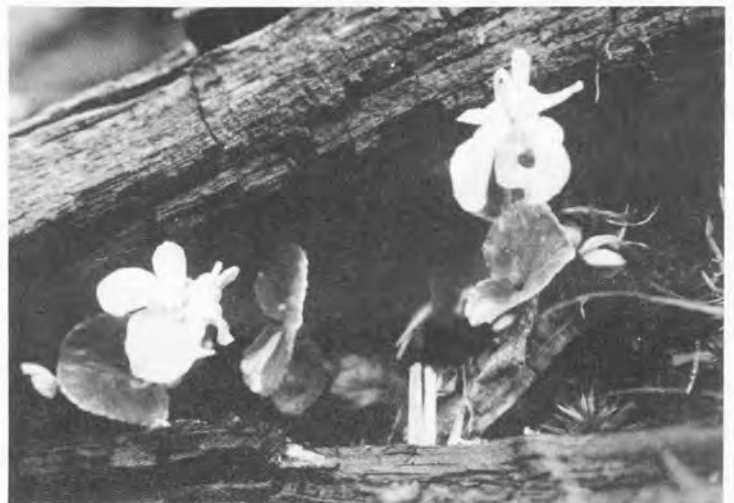
THE ENVIRONMENT



Above is a picture common to local residents depicting poplar trees and the abundant undergrowth of snowberries and wild sarsaparilla.

Wild roses are shown on the lower left, and these are found in the bush in sunny areas.

On the lower right, growing near a fallen tree are wild violets.



LOST HAVEN

An enthusiastic group of people led by local resident Chuck Stensgard, developed a facility they named "Lost Haven", two miles to the west of the Town of Leaf Rapids. A cabin was built and the surrounding area developed for the use of people undertaking the courses offered.

The principle was an instructional facility to teach music, the north we live in, and courses on the earth and animal life.

The accommodation is without modern conveniences so that people have to work, such as get water from the lake, if they want to stay any length of time. Festivals were held for six years and, although it is at present dormant, the concept is still there.



Location of Lost Haven.



Path leading through bush to Lost Haven.



Immediate area surrounding Lost Haven.



Lost Haven Cabin under construction.

FAUNA



Moose in water

LOCAL FLORA



Arrowhead

Opposite you can see cotton grass which is found along the shores of small bogs and lakes.



Cotton Grass



Fire Weed

Rambling through the bush surrounding Leaf Rapids one can see many plants. Arrowhead is found along the shore-line, in the shallow water, of lakes and rivers.

Also along shorelines and in ditches, but most especially in areas that have been burnt, fire weed is found. Generally glorious pink in this area, but some rare white fire weed can be found.

AND FAUNA

Squirrels are a common sight in and around Leaf Rapids. They are constantly looking for food in preparation for the long winters and then storing it.

The White Crown Sparrow passes through Leaf Rapids on its way north in spring and again when flying south in the fall.

As in the South, the robin heralds spring in Leaf Rapids and its diet is largely the local berries.



Squirrel



Robin



White Crown Sparrow

EDIBLE

Small berry plants grow abundantly in the area. Wild currants are found in clearings and love to grow around and under raspberries.

High bush cranberries grow in the bush, along shorelines in semi-shaded areas.

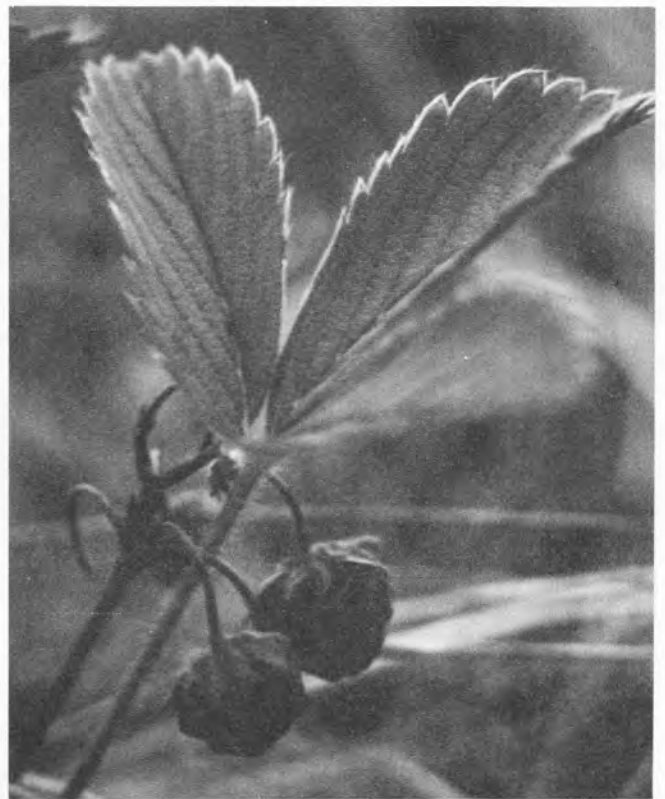
On the other hand, wild strawberries are found mainly in clearings, sandy areas and ditches. Contrary to high bush cranberries, wild strawberries need sunlight.



Wild Currants



High Bush Cranberries



Wild Strawberries

PLANTS

Black currants grow profusely in the Leaf Rapids area. They are mainly found along the edges of clearings.

They are widely sought after by local residents for home baking and these home products are often entered in the local garden show run by the Leaf Rapids Na-

tional Exhibition Centre each August.

Berry pickers have a natural rival for the fruit. It is the brown bear. It is not an uncommon sight to see a bear eating the small berries during the height of the berry season.



Black Currants