

## Second Boat Bay

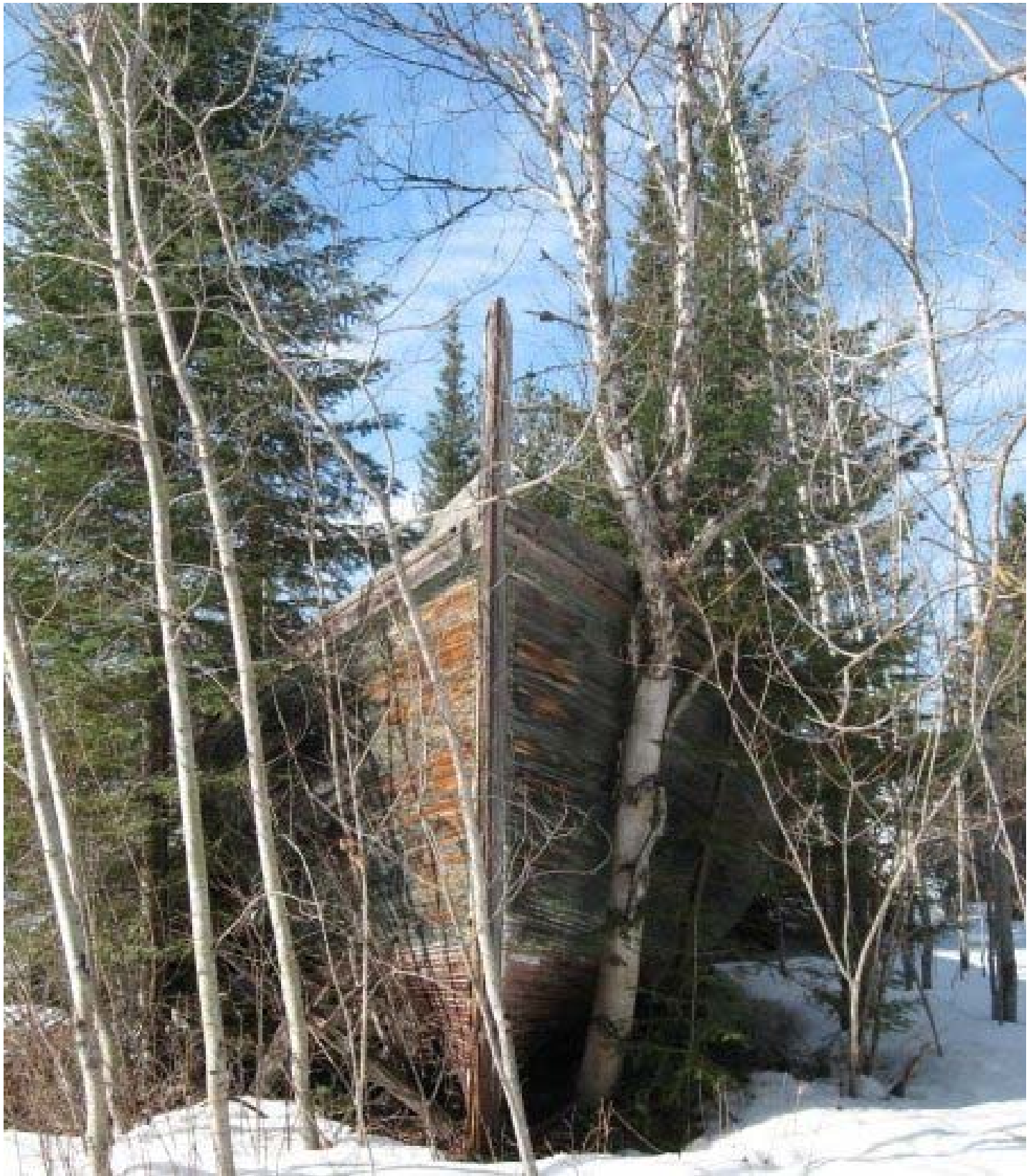
During the 1930's and 1940's Second Boat Bay was operated by the Patricia Transportation Company. Road access to Red Lake did not exist until after WWII so passengers and freight arrived in Hudson by rail and then forwarded by boat, tractor train or by air. With the acquisition of Starratt Airways and Transportation boats in 1942 some boats and scows were surplus and hauled up on shore. Later, after WWII, construction of the Red Lake highway drastically reduced the need for boat traffic from Hudson and additional boats were sold or stored here at Second Boat Bay. The remains of a number of boats and scows, at Second Boat Bay, can still be visited well over 60 years later. During the spring low water levels some of the timbers used as a base for skidding the boats are still visible on the lake bottom.

### The Wapesi

The Wapesi was built in Hudson, by boat builder Olie Gustafson, in the early 1930's. It was ordered by the Patricia Transportation Company to carry freight and passengers, destined for the Red Lake gold fields, from Hudson up Lac Seul to Ear Falls. Although a large boat, the rough waters of Lac Seul caused the wooden boat to twist, creating alignment issues for the long drive shaft, stressing the bearings and causing constant maintenance problems. The Wapesi became less useful when marine railways were constructed over portages enroute to the gold fields, allowing the scows loaded in Hudson, to be portaged all the way to Red Lake. Unloading and reloading at each of the four portages became unnecessary with the efficiency of these portaged scows. In addition, more and more, aircraft were being used for passenger traffic, diminishing its value as a passenger craft. Facing parts shortages for its Cummins diesel engine during the War and the addition to the company of the Starratt boats, the Wapesi became expendable. About 1942 the Wapesi was skidded ashore at Second Boat Bay, where still today it sits, slowly succumbing to nature.



**Wapesi (1973)** – *Photo credit: Bob Starratt*



**Wapesi** – *Photo Credit: Darby Starratt*