

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 533

September 2005



“A windy day on Toronto Bay” by Mary Cumming

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TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, September 11, 2005 at 2:45 pm

Invasions: Asian Longhorn Beetles and the Emerald Ash Borer

Howard Stanley

Area Import Coordinator, Toronto Region,
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

VISITORS WELCOME!

SOCIAL HOUR

2:00 - 2:30 pm

Bring your own mug for refreshments if you wish,
only paper cups provided.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2:30 - 2:45 pm

Presentation of Financial Report
Election of the Board (see Board News)

For more information call the TFN office at (416) 593-2656

Room 001, Emmanuel College,
University of Toronto,
75 Queen's Park Crescent East

PLEASE NOTE: Room 001 (Electronic Classroom) is one floor below street level.
ENTRANCE at south end of the building, down a few steps on an outside stairwell.
Wheelchair Entrance: Second Door SOUTH on Queen's Park Crescent east. Door does not have automatic opener. Elevator is inside to the right.



NEXT MEETING: Sunday, October 2, 2005.

TFN OUTINGS

Children and visitors are welcome on all outings but please, NO PETS! To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules by calling 416-393-4636. Check the weather by calling 416-661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings which go rain or shine.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Thursday
Sept. 1
10:00 a. m.</p> | <p>VALE OF AVOCA - Nature Walk
Leaders: Josephine & John Butler
Meet at St. Clair subway station, south side of St. Clair Ave. E. beside McDonald's.
Morning only. Bring binoculars.</p> |
| <p>Saturday
Sept. 3
10:00 a.m.

\$ ferry tickets</p> | <p>WARD'S ISLAND - Nature Arts
Leader: Nancy Anderson
Meet at the Ferry Dock at the foot of Bay St.
Bring what you need for photography, sketching or painting and anything you wish to show the group when we compare our morning's work after lunch.</p> |
| <p>Wednesday
Sept. 7
10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>ALEX WILSON COMMUNITY GARDEN - Wildflowers and intensive gardening in allotment plots.
Leader: Lorraine Johnson
Meet at the garden located at 552 Richmond St. W. (at Portland St., east of Bathurst St.)
Morning only.</p> |
| <p>Sunday
Sept. 11
2:00 p.m.
2:45 p.m.</p> | <p>MONTHLY MEETING
See notice on page 2
Social Hour and Annual General Meeting
Lecture: "Invasions: Asian Longhorn Beetles and the Emerald Ash Borer"</p> |
| <p>Tuesday
Sept. 13
1:00 p.m.</p> | <p>TODMORDEN WILDFLOWER RESERVE - Nature & Wildflowers
Leader: Miriam Webster
Meet at Pottery Rd. entrance to Todmorden Mills (down the hill from Mortimer Ave. and Broadview Ave.). Afternoon only.</p> |
| <p>Saturday
Sept. 17
10:30 a.m.</p> | <p>EAST POINT - Nature Walk
Leader: Boris Mather
Meet at southeast corner of Guildwood Parkway and Morningside Ave. Bring lunch.</p> |
| <p>Sunday
Sept. 18
10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>MUD CREEK (Lost Rivers Walk-10th Anniversary, part 1)
Leader: Helen Mills
Meet at Downsview Subway Station. Ends at Wilson Subway Station. Steep slopes and ravine trails. Bring lunch. This is a joint outing with North Toronto Green Community.</p> |

- TFN events are conducted by unpaid volunteers.
- The club assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained by anyone participating in our activities.
- Children are welcome at all TFN events, but must be accompanied by an adult.

....OUTINGS continued from page 3.

Sunday
Sept. 25
10:00 a.m. **MUD CREEK (Lost Rivers Walk- 10th Anniversary, part 2)**
Leader: Helen Mills
Meet at Bathurst St. and Prince Charles Dr. Ends at Eglinton Park. Bring lunch. This is a joint outing with North Toronto Green Community.

Sunday
Sept. 25
1:30 p.m. **MUD CREEK (Lost Rivers Walk- 10th Anniversary, part 3)**
Leaders: Peter Hare and Ed Freeman
Meet at Eglinton Park (southeast corner of the Park on the north side of Eglinton Ave. W. at Lascelles Blvd.). Ends at the brickworks. This is a joint outing with North Toronto Green Community.

Thursday
Sept. 29
10:00 a.m. **EAST DON MIGRATING BIRDS**
Leader: Ann Gray
Meet at the northwest corner of Leslie St. & Sheppard Ave. E. Bring lunch, binoculars and water.

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Send us your original writing (up to 500 words) of your thoughts and experiences of nature in and around Toronto.

Do you have a favorite natural area in Toronto? Did a TFN outing introduce you to a new park? Tell us about it! Did you see any plants or animals that particularly interested you? Let us know! Tell us what, where and when, and any field guides or other sources consulted.

If you have a digital camera, we would welcome photos of TFN outings. Remember that they will be reproduced in black and white photocopy.

Also welcome are: reviews (up to 300 words), poems, cartoons, and sketches.

Please include your name, address and telephone number so submissions can be acknowledged.

Newspaper clippings should include source and date.

Note the deadline for submissions of time-sensitive material, e.g., notices of meetings or events.

Deadline for October issue:
2 September 2005.

Send to:

or

Toronto Field Naturalists
2 Carlton St., Suite 1519,
Toronto M5B 1J3

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Diana Banville, Jenny Bull (co-editor), Eva Davis, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Elisabeth Gladstone, Siobhan Montague (co-editor), Marilyn Murphy, Toshi Oikawa, Wendy Rothwell.
Printing and Mailing: Perkins Mailing Services

PRESIDENTS REPORT

As summer progresses I am aware of the changes in the natural landscape. Goldenrod has succeeded dandelions and morning birdsong has been replaced by the buzz of cicadas during hot afternoons and crickets in the evening. Change is inevitable and perhaps no one bears witness to it more closely than a field naturalist. In the year since I joined the board of the TFN, its composition and the way the organization operates have changed dramatically.

When Helen and Aarne retired from active participation on the board they counselled us to review the entire operation of the club. To this end Robin Powell drafted a comprehensive "Operating Guidelines" which clarifies what we do and how we do it. This document is invaluable to the board and we are indebted to Robin for it and for his leadership during this difficult transition.

The next momentous change occurred when Robin resigned from the board for health reasons. You were informed of the circumstances and our plan of action in the July news bulletin. Although I agreed to become Acting Interim Co-President, Alex Wellington has primarily shouldered the enormous burden of responsibility and leadership. With optimism, enthusiasm and tremendous capability Alex has devoted her summer to guiding us through another difficult change. A heartfelt thank you to Alex, especially from the board and the newsletter committee. However every member of the board deserves credit for their willingness to take on added responsibilities and duties. In particular I would like to acknowledge the contribution of long time board members Alexander (Sandy) Cappell and Nancy Fredenberg who have taken on multiple roles over the summer, enabling the club to carry on business as usual.

As you know, the TFN is run entirely by volunteers and it takes a massive effort. Many people have stepped forward to help (see Board News) and of course many are continuing their service as outings leaders and on various committees. Too numerous to list here, we thank you all. Much has been accomplished to ensure the future of the TFN although the board still faces tremendous challenges in the coming year, particularly with respect to our financial situation. The board will be addressing this with the same determination to "fix it" as we have demonstrated throughout this year's restructuring.

We welcome your ideas and comments but we also need your commitment, time and energy to help implement them. Contact us on our new email [REDACTED] We are optimistic that our new computer will provide a link to people and organizations who are electronically oriented as well as facilitate organizational tasks such as membership and financial records.

Despite the many changes at the TFN, I am confident that the board will continue to focus on their main objective, which is to encourage the enjoyment and preservation of our natural heritage and to provide opportunities to share these interests with other members.

Pinky Franklin,
Acting Interim Co-president

BOARD NEWS

Due to time constraints and increased costs of the meeting room, the Open Discussion mentioned in the Summer Bulletin has been deferred. In the meantime, please send in any comments or suggestions to the office in writing by email [REDACTED] or regular mail.

2005 - 2006 Board of Directors

On-Going Board Members:

Communications - Alexander Cappell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Past President - Phoebe Cleverley, [REDACTED]

Newsletter Committee - Karin Fawthrop, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Promotions - Pinky Franklin, [REDACTED]

Membership - Nancy Fredenburg, [REDACTED]

Outings Co-ordination - Gail Gregory, [REDACTED]

Nature Reserves - Jerry Spevak, [REDACTED]

Lecture Series - Alex Wellington, [REDACTED]

New Board Members:

Co-Secretary-Treasurer - Corley Phillips, [REDACTED]

Outings Committee - Ruth Munson, [REDACTED]

Recording Secretary - Wendy Rothwell, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Co-Secretary-Treasurer - Linda Stemmler, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Additional Volunteers Reporting to the Board:

Newsletter Co-Editors - Jenny Bull and Siobhan Montague

Co-Coordiators for the Membership Database - Ken Cook and Tessa Edwards

While carillon plays
the chimney swifts dip and dive
and starlings take flight.

Haiku by Helen Juhola, July 1992



REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To The Members Of
Toronto Field Naturalists

I have reviewed the Balance Sheet of Toronto Field Naturalists as at June 30, 2005 and the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Operating Surplus and Changes in Financial Position for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Corporation's Directors.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Except as explained in the following paragraph, my review was made in accordance with generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by the Corporation.

In common with many non-profit organizations, the organization derives revenue from donations and publications, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory review. Accordingly, my review of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records of the organization and I was not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to revenues, net income, assets and operating surplus.

Based on my review, except for the effect of adjustment, if any, which I might have determined to be necessary had I been able to completely review the revenues referred to in the preceding paragraph, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Toronto, Ontario
July 12, 2005

ALISTAIR J. KENNEDY
Chartered Accountant

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

(incorporated without share capital under the laws of the Province of Ontario)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT JUNE 30, 2005

	ASSETS	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 17,049	\$ 79,460
Short Term Investments (Market Value \$57,100)	59,152	-
Sales Tax Recoverable	1,232	-
Inventory at Cost	<u>3,691</u>	<u>3,691</u>
	<u>81,124</u>	<u>83,151</u>
Other Assets		
Photo Library at Cost	<u>10,500</u>	<u>10,500</u>
	<u>\$ 91,624</u>	<u>\$ 93,651</u>

	LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,070
Membership Fees Received in Advance	<u>15,495</u>	<u>8,610</u>
	<u>16,565</u>	<u>9,680</u>

	OPERATING SURPLUS	
Operating Surplus	<u>75,059</u>	<u>83,971</u>
	<u>\$ 91,624</u>	<u>\$ 93,651</u>
Working Capital: Dollars	\$ 64,559	\$ 73,471
: Ratio	4.9:1	8.6:1

	NATURE RESERVES - RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Current Assets		
Cash (Note 2)	\$ 32,285	\$103,355
Short Term Investments (Market Value \$85,650)	<u>88,726</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>121,011</u>	<u>103,355</u>
Property and Equipment		
Land	<u>281,702</u>	<u>281,702</u>
	<u>\$402,713</u>	<u>\$385,057</u>
Operating Surplus		
Reserve for Future Expenditures	\$120,011	\$103,355
Property	<u>281,702</u>	<u>281,702</u>
	<u>\$402,713</u>	<u>\$385,057</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Karin Fawthrop Director G. Gregory Director

The accompanying 'Notes to Financial Statements' are an integral part of these financial statements.

UNAUDITED

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND OPERATING SURPLUS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
REVENUE		
Membership Fees	\$ 17,430	\$ 18,250
Publications	<u>561</u>	<u>267</u>
	<u>17,991</u>	<u>18,517</u>
EXPENSES		
Outings	\$ 2,783	\$ 2,933
Meeting Expenses	2,584	2,473
Newsletter, Printing and Mailing	12,406	12,124
Other Printing Expenses	167	157
Other Mailing Expenses	1,133	903
Accounting	1,070	1,070
Advertising and Publicity	825	1,095
Office Supplies	582	813
Telephone	634	553
Rent	14,106	11,608
G.S.T. Rebate	<u>(1,232)</u>	<u>(1,070)</u>
	<u>35,058</u>	<u>32,659</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	(17,067)	(14,142)
Investment Income	<u>2,334</u>	<u>727</u>
Net Income (Loss) before Donations	(14,733)	(13,415)
Donations	<u>5,821</u>	<u>5,976</u>
Net Income (Loss) for Year	\$ <u>(8,912)</u>	\$ (7,439)
Operating Surplus, at Beginning of Year	<u>83,971</u>	<u>91,410</u>
Operating Surplus, at End of Year	\$ <u><u>75,059</u></u>	\$ <u><u>83,971</u></u>

The accompanying 'Notes to Financial Statements' are an integral part of these financial statements.

UNAUDITED

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Income (Loss) for Year	\$(8,912)	\$ (7,439)
Decrease (Increase): Sales Tax Recoverable	(1,232)	
Decrease (Increase): Inventory	-	(219)
Decrease (Increase): Photo Library	-	(850)
Increase (Decrease): Current Liabilities	<u>6,885</u>	<u>40</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Cash for Year	<u>(3,259)</u>	<u>(8,468)</u>
Cash & Investments at Beginning of Year	<u>79,460</u>	<u>87,928</u>
Cash & Investments at End of Year	<u>\$ 76,201</u>	<u>\$ 79,460</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS - Nature Reserves		
Receipts		
Designated Donations	\$ 15,300	\$ 8,000
Investment Income	<u>3,496</u>	<u>933</u>
	<u>18,796</u>	<u>8,933</u>
Current Expenditures		
Property Taxes & Maintenance	<u>(1,140)</u>	<u>(438)</u>
Increase (Decrease) for Year	17,656	8,495
Cash & Investments at Beginning of Year	<u>103,355</u>	<u>94,860</u>
Cash & Investments at End of Year	<u>\$ 121,011</u>	<u>\$ 103,355</u>

The accompanying 'Notes to Financial Statements' & Notice to Reader are an integral part of these financial statements.

UNAUDITED

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AT JUNE 30, 2005****Note 1: Status and Objects of Organization**

Toronto Field Naturalists is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act and as such is exempt from Income Taxes. The objects of the Organization are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage.

Note 2: Significant Accounting PoliciesCapital Assets

Capital Assets are recorded at cost. Other than the nature reserve property, the organization does not own any capital assets.

Nature Reserves

Donations received for the Nature Reserves are segregated on the financial statements, and are to be used solely for Reserve purposes.

Contributed Services

The Organization depends heavily on the use of volunteers to provide services. Because of record keeping and valuation difficulties, these contributed services are not recorded in the Accounts.

Note 3: Commitment

The organization's Office lease expires February 28 2009 & has the usual annual cost escalation clause. Currently the annual rental commitment is \$13,494.

UNAUDITED

Fall declared on calendar and nights,
Flocks of bluejays on southerly flights.

Couplet by Sheila P. Ryan

HELEN AND AARNE JUHOLA

Aarne and Helen have been active members of the Toronto Field Naturalists Club for 33 years. Soon after joining the club, Helen starting volunteering by leading walks and delighting participants with her knowledge of plants. Following a walk in the Don Valley, one participant said "...she seems to know the name of every life form in the valley, even the tough salt-resistant weeds that have found their way from the Maritimes to take root in the increasingly saline soils near the expressway." Her keen eyes even led to the co-discovery of a plant, seaside plantain, near Lake Superior, previously known only from Hudson and James Bays.

Within a few years, Helen had become involved in the production of TFN publications, first editing *Toronto the Green* (1976) and, soon after, starting the newsletter committee. She co-authored the Taylor Creek and Woodbine Bridge ravine study in 1976 and *Todmorden Mills, A Human and Natural History* in 1987. In 1994, she contributed to and edited *Vascular Plants of Metropolitan Toronto* (compiled by Diana Banville) and provided editorial advice as well as typing and supervision of the publication of *Toronto Islands: Plant Communities and Noteworthy Species* by Steve Varga (1987). As editor of the newsletter, she hosted the Newsletter Committee at her home for many years. The newsletter was produced for the most part on her trusty electric typewriter as, until this month, the TFN did not own a computer. As a non-computer user, Helen might be surprised that one can "google" her name and come up with a list of references!

New Plan Provides More Park Area in Portlands

From Friends of the Spit Newsletter, Spring 2005.

Friends of the Spit and many others have advocated parkland designations for all the lands south of the Ship Channel. The latest proposal for the Portlands Implementation Strategy significantly increases the parkland area south of the Ship Channel. The report can be obtained at www.towaterfront.ca, click on "Current Projects," then "Port Lands."

Aarne joined the Board in 1982, as Secretary-Treasurer, doing work for the club that is so important, yet often unnoticed by many of us who see the club as an opportunity for eye-opening walks, interesting talks and an engaging newsletter that celebrates nature. Helen first joined the Board of Directors in 1976 and served as president from 1980 to 1983. She and Aarne both strove to make the club more accessible to everyone – working to keep membership dues as low as possible and establishing a firm policy to have all outings accessible by transit for members without cars.

Whether battling Metropolitan Toronto to make changes in parks policy, making public deputations at City Hall on environmental issues such as the importance of natural habitats in the Don River or East Point Park, Helen and Aarne have worked for many years to make our city a better place and to enrich people's lives through appreciation and conservation of our natural environment. Thank you, Helen and Aarne for your years of work and your dedication to the club. We wish you all the best.

Editors

MEMORY BOOK FOR HELEN AND AARNE JUHOLA

A Memory Book containing good wishes, brief reminiscences and sketches from members of the Toronto Field Naturalists is being compiled. If you would like to contribute a message to Helen and Aarne, the Memory Book will be available at the September meeting.

Please take a moment to think about your experiences in the TFN and the special moments you have shared with the Juholas. You can send a written contribution which will be pasted in or you may write directly in the book (we suggest you have your message already prepared). If you are sending a written contribution, please write on one side only on standard size paper or smaller notepaper.

The book will be a unique manuscript recording moments with the very special couple who have given so much time and energy to the club. Do take this opportunity to say thank you by taking part in the project!

Gail Gregory

KEEPING IN TOUCH

One day when I was house-sitting I noticed a spider on the carpeted stairs. I feel I should write, "I noticed A SPIDER!!" because it was by far the biggest spider I've ever encountered. Its body alone was around 3 cm long. It was various browns and hairy.

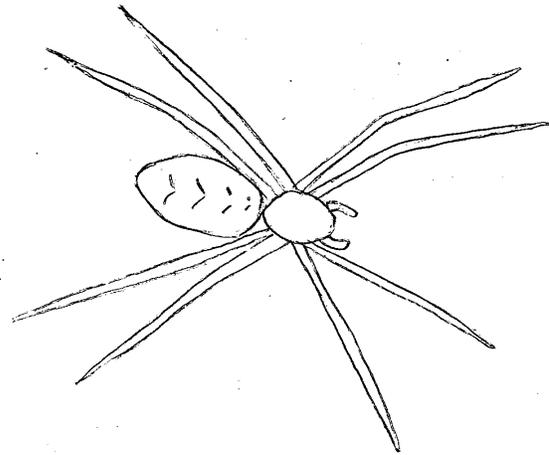
I captured it in a yogurt tub, which was tricky because it was fast and big. With help from the TFN office, I called the Toronto Zoo's Curator of Birds and Invertebrates. I told him about my 8 cm spider and he asked if I'd seen a web. When I replied 'no', he told me that I likely had a Wood Spider, a *Dolomedes tenebrosus*. He said it was unusual for this spider to come indoors at this time of year, that usually they sought warmth indoors in the fall. He said that it was not of scientific interest and that its relative, the Dock Spider, is found further north in cottage country.

I've looked up *Dolomedes tenebrosus* on the internet and have found that it belongs to the Fisher Spider family. The females (which is what I captured) can get as long as 8 cm. They are usually found around water but sometimes can be found quite a distance away. I'd estimate that this one was about a kilometer from the nearest stream. That evening I took it out to the back of the yard which drops off like a ravine. It ran in its quick fashion and then froze: brown spider on brown leaf litter.

The house-owner shivered in horror at my description of the spider. I know better than to mention these things to non-naturalists, but I wondered whether they had encountered such a spider themselves. They hadn't.

Just for the record, it was the highlight of my week, though I had other interesting nature experiences. I was woken between 2 and 3 a.m. quite a few nights by a loud, single-toned, bird-like sound.

One afternoon, I heard a loud screeching in the backyard and looked out to find a fox screaming with all its might at the neighbour's black cat that resembles a black cougar (it's unusually large). The fox's scream was a single-tone scream, pause, scream, pause, scream.... It made me wonder if the night "bird" was in fact the fox. The cat casually disappeared, but the fox continued to scream for some time. Eventually it gave up and headed back to the ravine. Not long after, I saw it creeping between the garden bushes and the hedge. Alas, the fox failed to find the cat. Later on that afternoon, the cat was snoozing on the cushioned swinging chair, apparently without a care in the world.



Linda Stemmler

REPORT FROM THE OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Share Your Favourite Walk!

We know you are out there enjoying a local park or ravine almost every day. You are showing all the signs of being a dedicated amateur naturalist. So why not share your favourite walk with others?

From time to time we need to update our list of outings leaders. We try to offer over 100 walks per year. To achieve that goal we need members to take an active part – so how about offering to take us down your trail?

Attention, Current Outings Leaders! Would you be willing to be paired with a beginner to show how it's done? Having the opportunity to co-lead a walk would encourage more members to take on the leadership role.

Call the TFN Office to leave a message for the Outings Committee, or phone me at [REDACTED] to discuss your area of the city and the times you may be available as a walk leader or co-leader.

Gail Gregory, Outings Co-ordinator

INTRODUCING THE OUTINGS COMMITTEE

The Outings Committee fills the calendar with leaders and location information in time for the newsletter publication deadlines eight times a year.

Nature Arts outings are co-ordinated by Mary Cumming for the first weekend in each month.

Boris Mather finds weekend leaders for the Lakeshore area.

We co-ordinate joint Sunday outings with Peter Hare and the North Toronto Green Community for the third Sunday in every month.

Leaders for the remaining weekend outings are found by Alexander Cappell.

Midweek outings alternate between west of Yonge Street and east of Yonge Street. They are filled by Mary McCoy and Gail Gregory.



DAISIES WINNERS
CHIVES. SEPT. 4.
MARY CUMMING 2004.
RIVERDALE

AUTUMN PALETTE

By Eva Davis

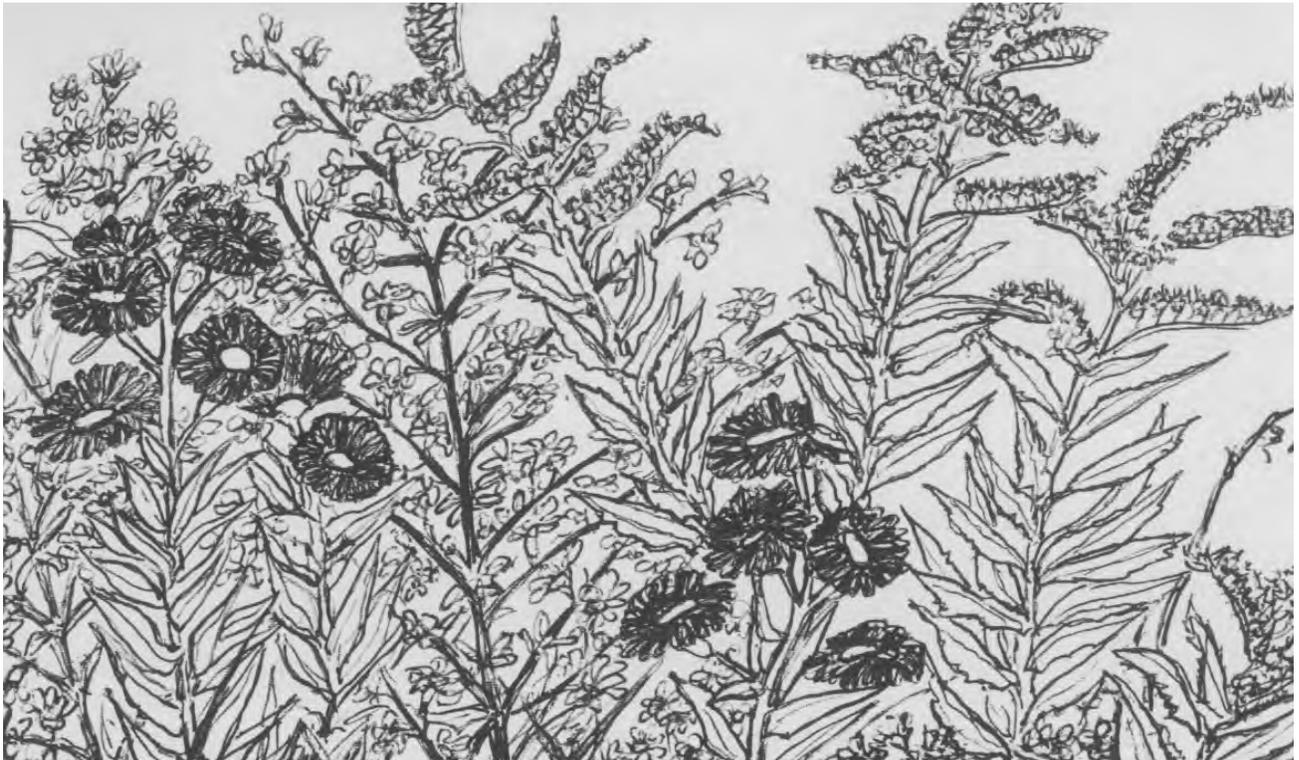
If March comes in like a lion, September arrives like a king. All the valleys in Brampton are presently three-toned in gold, royal purple, and ermine. September is *the* season of triumph for our native plants, the goldenrods and the asters. The name says it all for the first, and the second is in the lavish purple of New England aster and the supporting hue of amethyst aster. The third declares itself in enormous masses of small white aster (which, name notwithstanding, can grow to 6 feet tall). Assisting this motif are the yellows of late cresses and sowthistles and the dulled brass of beggarticks, the royal tones of bull thistle and purple loosestrife, and the creamy white of still flourishing Queen Anne's lace.

Other colours do sneak in a preview: the pale green drapery of wild cucumber flowers and the brilliant reds of early rosehips, high-bush cranberries, sumac, and young maples.

Mallards mass for the winter – the other day I watched a flotilla of 14 on South Fletcher's Creek. The sulphur butterflies continue to brave the change of season. Cone snails (those "humbugs") cling by the thousands to plants and passing litter.

I think of Byron's Assyrian who 'came down like the wolf on the fold. And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold...'* Our "Assyrian" is beneficent. Same colours, but not an assault, an autumnal benediction.

* *The Destruction of Sennacherib*

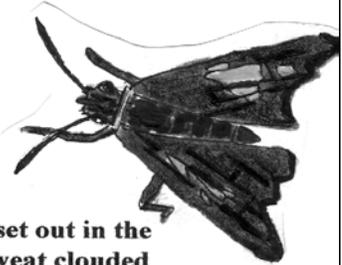


"Asters and Goldenrods" by Eva Davis

A SUMMER WALK AT TOMMY THOMPSON PARK



Tommy Thompson Saturday, July 16:



On Saturday a fair-sized group guided by Ann Gray set out in the sweltering heat to trek the Leslie Street Spit. Through sweat clouded eager eyes, we observed, among other things, an adult Black Swallowtail flap from dainty Queen Anne's Lace to coarse Canadian Thistle, a monarch caterpillar attempt to climb a steep milkweed plant accompanied by 3 milkweed bugs & a fascinating Silver Spotted Skipper (skip) from flower to flower.

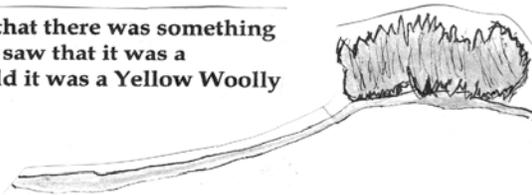
Later in the day in cell #1 & 2, we regarded a Great Egret stalk & stab at its slippery prey and a flock of Mute Swans gracefully in flight. We learned that only a few years ago Great Egrets were very rare anywhere north of the Windsor-Essex County but because of the state of the Everglades & Global Warming they have gradually moved north.

After about 2½ hours the TFN members were beginning to starve so we lunched at Triangle Pond. There Anne's husband caught up with us and he and his scope followed us to view the Black Crowned Night Heron & Cormorant colonies.

So, although thunderstorms threatened us throughout the day, everyone rode safely back in the white van well before the first drops of rain.

By Kabir Joshi-Vijayan

We were observing some Starlings when I noticed that there was something fuzzy on one of the plants. When I looked closer, I saw that it was a caterpillar. I told the rest of the group and I was told it was a Yellow Woolly Bear Caterpillar. We saw 2 of them.



As we gazed upon a beautiful Monarch Butterfly, we saw below it a Monarch Caterpillar. There was only one.

By Manisha Joshi-Vijayan



IN THE NEWS

BUTTERFLY EFFECTS BRING SHEER DELIGHT

Adapted from an article by Shyam Selvadurai in The Globe and Mail, 30 July 2005

Is that a question mark or a comma? We are standing on a wooded path in the Downsview Dell Park debating not a point of grammar but a point of entomology. We appear to be staring at nothing in the unremarkable undergrowth. Or so it would seem, unless you are, like my four companions, an expert butterfly watcher. In the short while we have been standing here, we have identified 10 species. And now there is a debate over an exquisite little butterfly whose upper wings are silky orange with black spots, and whose lower wings are a golden brown. A minuscule white crescent on the underside of its wings would make it a *Polygonia comma*, an even more minuscule white dot under the crescent and it's a *Polygonia interrogationis*. No doubt this very question and similar ones are being asked in numerous parks and glades and meadows and ravines from Downsview to Ward's Island, from Leslie Street Spit to Etobicoke. For today is the 11th Annual Toronto Butterfly Count. Last year 42 species were counted.

Why is this annual butterfly count important? Unusual decreases or increases in a species or the arrival of foreign species can be signs of climate change and the loss of green spaces. Butterflies are extremely

important to biodiversity as their larvae are food for birds. If this food source disappears or dwindles, it affects the whole ecosystem. The results of the count and similar ones across North America end up with the North American Butterfly Association, which uses this information for education but also to lobby for saving the habitats of endangered species. While my companions say they know the environmental importance of butterflies, they have other reasons for being here to watch them. "Some of my fondest memories of butterflying," Ann Gray* says with a rapt look on her face, "are when you are puzzled by a butterfly. So you camp out in the middle of a field and spend 45 minutes going through your books and looking at it closely until you solve the mystery."

A wind picks up, rustling through the trees and making a sound like the sea as it sends waves across the field. Ann Gray comes toward me with an Acadian hairstreak in her bug jar. It has pinkish-grey wings the texture of velvet, which are scalloped at the edge with orange. There is a splash of turquoise at the very tip of the tail. "Now look at that," she says. "Gorgeous, gorgeous, gorgeous. This is sheer delight."

* member of TFN and outing leader [Eds.].

Turkey buzzards
Riding the valley thermals.
I whistle a waltz.

Haiku by Muriel Ford

CHEWING UP THE SPIT

Adapted from an article by Tim Tiner in NOW Magazine, June 23-29, 2005

Parks Canada has confirmed that it is eyeing the area at the base of the Leslie Street Spit, now part of the Tommy Thompson Park, as a prime site for a major exhibition “discovery centre” to showcase national parks and historic sites across the country. But long-time Leslie Street Spit enthusiasts fear the project could cut off the Spit at the neck, disrupting a vital wildlife corridor connecting the man-made finger of land with the port lands and Don Valley beyond.

Known for its wetlands and migrating birds, butterflies and many species of plants whose seeds are carried by birds or the wind, the Spit is also home to reptiles such as snapping turtles, snakes, and the rare all-black eastern garter. The corridor is vital to these as well as mammals such as rabbits, groundhogs, beaver, mink, muskrats, even foxes and coyotes, all of which have found their way to the Spit by following the

naturalized corridors of the Don Valley and crossing the Portlands.

John Carley, co-chair of the Friends of the Spit, points to another Parks Canada Discovery Centre opened on Hamilton Harbour last fall that is larger than a local hockey arena and surrounded by a large parking lot for more than a 100 cars. Carley believes the Spit base has become the prime candidate mainly because Tommy Thompson Park already attracts more than 100,000 people a year, and Parks Canada “wants to go where the action is.”

But Friends of the Spit maintain that Tommy Thompson Park would be better served by establishing the centre at the site of the Portlands Energy Centre on Unwin or other old industrial land around the Shipping Channel west of the Spit base lands. “The Discovery Centre would ruin the base lands. You lose what the Spit is the more you develop it. It’s a habitat unlike any other we have downtown.”

On the subject of wildlife corridors...

TRACKING BLUEBIRDS

Adapted from “Social Studies” by Michael Kesterton, Globe & Mail, July 7, 2005

Scientists in South Carolina sprayed fluorescent powder on berries that bluebirds eat and then monitored the birds’ paths by tracking their droppings. Their research, published in *Science*, supported their thesis that birds do prefer corridors and supports the idea of connecting wildlife reserves with each other to facilitate animals’ movement.



HOW GREEN WAS MY ROOFTOP:

Adapted from an article by Patrick Evans, Amy Brown-Bowers, Toronto Star, 14 July 2005

Environmentalists, politicians and architects around the world are championing green roofs – gardens on top of buildings that can keep a city cooler and air cleaner. Toronto is a city of bricks, concrete and black roofing shingles that can turn a heat wave into an inferno, says Beth Anne Currie of property management company 401 Richmond Ltd. “We must have so much surface area that’s devoted to hard substances that absorb heat...and then re-radiate it late in the day. Sometimes when you go out at night the city’s as hot as it was in the day.” So she’s spreading the gospel of green roofs in big urban centres. “It creates a cooler microclimate right there over the building. The plants release moisture into the air around the building, so it’ll be cooler in the area. It can also reduce air-conditioning bills.” Currie recently completed a study for Environment Canada on the environmental benefits of green roofs. “If you could green 10 per cent of the surfaces in a geographic area, you would reduce the local air contaminants by more than 10 per cent. A green overlay can protect a roof, sometimes doubling its

lifespan – another money-saver. And plants are nicely biodegradable, whereas shingles ultimately end up in the slow-decay cycle of a landfill.” she said. Over at city hall, councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker is fighting for the vision of a green-roofed Toronto. “It will take a decade or two to roll out the program,” he said. “The City of Toronto couldn’t legislate it now, but I think we’ll be able to in the near term.”

WEATHER TAKES THE HEAT OFF BYLAW-BREAKING VEHICLE IDLERS

Extracted from an article by John Spears, Globe and Mail, 14 July 2005

Toronto’s campaign to stop motorists from idling has melted in the heat of summer.

The city launched a one-week blitz from June 13 to 17 when enforcement officers handed out 84 tickets to motorists caught idling their vehicles for more than three minutes. But since the crackdown ended, the city hasn’t written a single anti-idling ticket. The fine for breaking the bylaw is \$105, plus a \$25 provincial surcharge. One consideration is the heat. The city’s anti-idling by-law isn’t enforceable when the temperature climbs above 27° C as it has on many days during the current heat wave.

There are 320 million cubic miles of water on Earth and that is all we’re ever going to get. The system is closed: practically speaking, nothing can be added or subtracted. The water you drink has been around doing its job since the Earth was young.... Of the 3% of Earth’s water that is fresh, most exists as ice sheets. Only the tiniest amount – 0.036% – is found in lakes, rivers and reservoirs, and an even smaller part – just 0.001% – exists in clouds or as vapour.

A SHORT HISTORY OF NEARLY EVERYTHING by Bill Bryson

THE SPECTRE OF EXTINCTION

Extracted from an article by Rick Smith (Environmental Defence), Rob Wright (Sierra Legal Defence Fund), Janet Sumner (Canadian Parks and Wilderness-Wildlands League), Linda Pim (Ontario Nature), and Josh Laughren (World Wildlife Fund), Toronto Star, 29 July 2005.

Lost amid the sweltering smog enveloping Ontario is a quiet crisis facing the province's wildlife, much of which teeters on the brink of extinction. Who could imagine that the familiar monarch butterfly is now officially considered a species at risk? Many species that were once common here, like the passenger pigeon whose immense flocks once darkened our skies, are now gone – extinct. We will never again be graced by their presence. In all, six Ontario species are extinct and another 10 have disappeared from the province, though they hold on elsewhere. Unless the government intervenes, this is the fate awaiting the current list of 178 species at risk. These include the bald eagle, just now beginning to recover from the impact of pesticides. Similar recovery is unlikely for the hooded warbler, as there are few remaining strands of the mature deciduous forest on which it relies. The American chestnut, which once dominated the deciduous forests of southern Ontario, has virtually disappeared, a victim

of a blight introduced a century ago. And though few people have ever seen a caribou, except on the face of the Canadian quarter, this national icon also faces an uncertain future in Ontario as rampant development supersedes any reasonable attempt to plan for the caribou's protection.

What can we learn from the extinction record books? It is simple, really: Just learn from past mistakes. Over-hunting, toxic contamination and habitat loss have all taken their toll, but in the final analysis, nearly all previous extinctions were the result of complacency – the unfounded optimism that ours was a land of plenty that could simply absorb without cost the negligence of humankind. So as we enjoy the Ontario outdoors, let's remember that some of our once most common plants and animals are now gone. When a monarch butterfly flits by, can we be assured that our grandchildren will be able to enjoy the same experience in years to come? So far, we can take for granted the cry of the loon, the howl of the wolf, and the sweet syrup of the sugar maple. But is it just a matter of time before these familiar neighbours also edge onto the endangered species list and then fade into oblivion?

While Ponce de Leon dreamed of finding the Fountain of Youth, and we search for ways to prolong our life or make ourselves look younger, it may not be reassuring to know that our trash has us beat. [Eds.]

THE LIFESPAN OF TRASH

Extracted from Social Studies by Michael Kesterton, Globe and Mail, July 15, 2005

Discover magazine cites research by the United Nations Environment Program on times for the following to biodegrade:

- Plastic soda bottles: forever
- Glass bottles: one million years
- Batteries: 100 years
- Aluminum, tin cans: 50 to 100 years
- Plastic bags: 10 to 20 years
- Plastic-coated milk cartons: 5 years
- Paper: from two to five years
- Orange peel: 6 months

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR...)

September 2004

The pattern change that began in late August became firmly established in September. There was extremely high hurricane activity in the tropical Atlantic, and most of the time, upper-level ridging over central and eastern Canada. Thus, it was dry, sunny, and often warm in Toronto though not as warm as two years ago when we had the hottest September on record. The mean was 18.4° C at Pearson and 18.9° C downtown, about 2-2.5° C above normal. (In 2002, monthly means were about two degrees higher.) Mid-twenties were common up to the end of the month, but there was not a single thirty. This made the summer of 2004 one of the most moderate ever with only three days of 30° C+ at Pearson, and one such day downtown (though there were a couple of 29.9's).

Hurricanes of note this month included Fran, Ivan, and Jeanne. They caused extensive destruction and loss of life in the Caribbean and the southeastern United States. Toronto, however, did not get a repeat of Hurricane Hazel from fifty years ago - our city's only major natural

disaster to date. We did get 25-30 mm of rain from Hurricane Fran on September 8th-9th. Flooding was not severe because the storm was preceded and followed by long periods of dry weather. The clouds from Ivan put in a temporary appearance on the 17th, before the residual storm was pushed back east and then south again by the huge upper ridge. Ivan's ghost somehow ended up over the Gulf of Mexico and briefly revitalized on the 22nd-24th. The outer edges of Jeanne's clouds just brushed our area on the 27th-28th. In the end, September was quite dry as we had hardly any rain aside from that dumped by Fran. The period from the 10th onwards was almost entirely sunny. Sunshine hours at Pearson were 245.8 hours, just shy of the 1998 record of 246.6 hours. (The city station has a record of 251.7 hours in 1891.)

The total rainfall of 25.2 mm at Pearson Airport was just about one quarter normal and the lowest since 1969 which had 15.0 mm. Downtown had 33.2 mm, equaled as recently as 1995.

THIS MONTH'S COVER

Sketch by Mary Cumming

Mary Cumming drew this sketch from the second floor of Harbourfront Centre while looking out across the bay towards the islands. The sketch shows one of the new piers recently built out from the waterfront boardwalk.

COMING EVENTS

Toronto Ornithological Club – Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks – aimed at the intermediate birder, but beginners are also welcome. Free.

- Sat. Sept. 10, 2005 from 8:00 am to 12 noon, with Don Burton. Fall migration at Lambton Woods. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Drive).
- Sat. Sept. 17, 2005 from 8:00 am to 12 noon, with Steven Favier. Fall migration at High Park. Meet in the parking lot inside the Bloor St entrance at High Park Avenue.
- Sat. Sept. 24, 2005 from 8:00 am – all day, with Norm Murr. Shorebirds and other migrants at the Leslie St Spit. Meet at the foot of Leslie St. Bring a lunch.

Ontario Urban Forest Council – AGM and Seminar: “Professionals and Amateurs – Nurturing the Forest,” Thursday, Oct. 20, 2005 at Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Talks include: “Inspiring Stories of Citizens Protecting Neighbourhood Trees from Destruction” and “How to Reforest your Neighbourhood.” For information, contact Jack Radecki at 416-936-6735; fax: 416-291-9584; email jraderc@mountpleasantgroup.com

High Park Walking Tours

Walks begin just south of the Grenadier Restaurant in High Park. Call 416-392-1748 or 416-392-6916 for more information.

Rouge Valley Conservation Centre – Nature Hikes – suitable for adults and families.

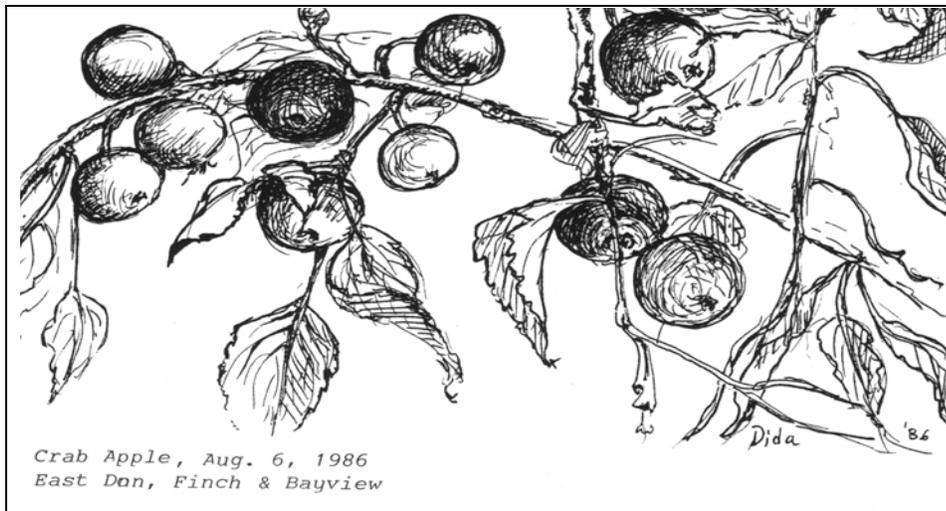
Guided hikes through the Rouge, covering various topics, held the second Sunday of every month, rain or shine. Walks depart from the Rouge Valley Conservation Centre (Pearse House) at 1:30 p.m. and last approximately 2 hours. No charge for admission, donations gratefully accepted.

Thickson’s Woods Land Trust – Birds, Butterflies and Beavers Nature Festival

Saturday, September 17, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Experts will make certain that you learn lots about wildlife, while you spend an entertaining, busy day in the meadow, woods and marsh. Adults \$5. Kids \$2. Families \$10. From the 401 in Whitby, take Thickson Road south of Wentworth Street to the Waterfront Trail and follow the signs.

Planet in Focus – International Environmental Film & Video Festival

September 28 to October 2. Box Office telephone 416-531-4689 (Opens September 5)
For further information visit www.planetinfocus.org.



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\$50 FAMILY (2 adults – same address, children included)
 \$40 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY
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