

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

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October 1998



"ROUGE VALLEY PARK"

DRAWING BY Mary Anne Miller

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TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, October 4, 1998 - LOST CREEKS OF TORONTO
at 2:30 pm an illustrated talk by Helen Mills of the TFN
and the North Toronto Green Community

in the Northrop Frye Hall
Victoria University
73 Queen's Park Cres. East

This talk will be about Helen's search for buried tributaries of the Don River. She has studied old maps, examined sewer maps, walked streets looking for clues and talked to anyone who has memories of these creeks before they disappeared underground.

+ a social hour beginning at 2 pm with free coffee and juice

NEXT MEETING: Sunday November 1, 1998

NEXT NEWSLETTER: November (to be mailed in mid October)

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER

Requested: Essays (no longer than 500 words), reviews (no longer than 300 words), poems, cartoons, sketches and newspaper clippings.

Subjects: plants, animals and natural areas in the Toronto region, especially reports of personal experiences with wildlife.

Please include your name, address and telephone number so submissions can be acknowledged. With newspaper clippings, include source and date of each clipping.

Time dated material such as notices of meetings should be submitted at least six weeks before the month in which the event is to take place.

▷ **Send material to:** Toronto Field Naturalists
605 - 14 College St.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

WHY LITTER SHOULD BE PICKED UP

Items that are not readily biodegradable often take years to decompose.

plastic bags: 10 to 20 years	styrofoam: never
aluminum: 80 to 100 years	wool socks: 6 to 24 months
cigarette butts: 10 to 12 years	orange peel: up to 6 months
leather shoes: 25 to 40 years	paper containers: 2 to 5 months

from an article about Parks and Camping in a 1998 Vacation Guide

TFN OUTINGS

REMEMBER: 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 393-4636.
 Check the weather by calling 661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings which go rain or shine.

- Thursday
 Oct. 1
 10:30 am
 ALEX WILSON COMMUNITY GARDENS - tour
 Leader: Lorraine Johnson
 Meet at 552 Richmond St. West (south of Queen St. West and east of Bathurst St.). Morning only.
 This is a small but very interesting garden in a downtown neighbourhood which is changing rapidly. Toronto
- Saturday
 Oct. 3
 10:30 am
 SCARBOROUGH CIVIC CENTRE - nature arts
 Leader: Diana Banville
 Meet at the exit turnstile of the LRT Scarborough Civic Centre station. Bring lunch.
 Bring camera or sketching materials and stool or just come and enjoy the outing. If the weather is suitable we will be visiting the woods outside the civic centre. Scarborough
- Sunday
 Oct. 4
 2:30 pm
 TFN MEETING - See page 2 for details.
- Wednesday
 Oct. 7
 10 am
 HIGH PARK - bird study
 Leader: Barbara Kalthoff
 Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West opposite High Park Ave. Bring lunch.
 This is an excellent place to find migrating birds, so bring binoculars and notebook and be prepared to stop, look and listen. If the weather is appropriate we may see migrating hawks. Toronto
- Saturday
 Oct. 10
 2 pm
 WHITE OAKS OF DEER PARK - trees
 Leader: Peter Hare
 Meet at the Deer Park Library on the north side of St. Clair Ave. East, one block east of Yonge St.
 We will be looking at the oaks in this neighbourhood and learning about the history of the area. Toronto
- Sunday
 Oct. 11
 2 pm
 DAVENPORT RIDGE - heritage walk
 Leader: Ian Wheal
 Meet at the southwest corner of St. Clair Ave. West and Lansdowne Ave.
 This walk will be along streets with a long history of use. We will be looking for the springs of Lavender Creek and where very early community gardens existed. Toronto



OCTOBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Tuesday
Oct. 13
2 pm
WHITE OAKS OF DEER PARK - trees & history Toronto
Leader: Peter Hare
Meet at the Deer Park Library on the north side of St. Clair Ave. East, one block east of Yonge St.
We will be learning about the oaks and the history of this neighbourhood.
- Saturday
Oct. 17
9 am
ROUGE VALLEY - nature photography Rouge, Scarborough
Leaders: Morris Sorensen & Starr Whitmore
Meet at the Pearse House on the east side of Meadowvale Rd. north of Sheppard Ave. East. Bring lunch.
This is a joint outing with the Toronto Guild for Colour Photography so bring your camera equipment (or just come and enjoy the fall colours in the valley). We are going early because the light will be better then for good pictures.
- Sunday
Oct. 18
1:30 pm
WESTERN RAVINES AND BEACHES - discovery walk Toronto
Leader: Jerry Belan
Meet at the entrance to High Park on the south side of Bloor St. West opposite High Park Ave.
This is a long walk so bring water to drink and good walking shoes. We will be following scenic footpaths and a beach boardwalk and experiencing natural ponds and marshes, oak woodlands and lakeshore parks.
- +
Sunday
Oct. 18
2 pm
DON FORKS - fall colours & tour of elevated wetlands Don, East York
Leader: Noel Harding
Meet at the northeast corner of Overlea Blvd. and Beth Neelson Dr. (opposite Thorncliffe Pk. Dr.).
First we will look at the fall colours in Walmsley Brook ravine and then visit the forks of the Don to look at the elevated wetlands.
Recycled plastic has been used to create an art form in which native plants will be used to clean river water. This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community and the Friends of the Don East.
- Wednesday
Oct. 21
10:30 am
EARL BALES PARK - nature walk West Don, North York
Leaders: Maureen Allain & Ann Millett
Meet at the Community Centre at the north end of the park on the east side of Bathurst St. just south of Sheppard Ave. West. Bring lunch.
This park contains a variety of wild habitats so be prepared to see birds and even insects as well as fall colours. Bring binoculars and notebooks.
- Saturday
Oct. 24
10 am
ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk Rouge, Scarborough
Leaders: Carol and Murray Seymour
Meet at Old Finch Ave. and Morningview (the end of the #131 bus route from Scarborough Centre LRT station). This bus runs every 18 min. The bus leaving at 9:30 am takes 27 minutes to reach the end of the line. Bring lunch.
This will be a long walk but the colours should be good and the scenery very special.

OCTOBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

Wednesday TODMORDEN MILLS - nature walk Don, East York
 Oct. 28 Leader: Mary Kemp
 10:30 am Meet on the west side of Broadview Ave. at Pottery Rd. (opposite
 Mortimer Ave.). Morning only.
 We will visit this historic site in the valley and see what plants and
 animals live there in spite of 200 years of human occupation. Bring
 binoculars and notebooks.

□



*The meadow is brown
 after frost and snow, only
 gentian in good health.*

haiku by Diana Barville

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although Canada has a proud history, we cannot take pride in the treatment of our original inhabitants. Take for example, the people now known as the Mississaugas of the New Credit whose ancestors lived in the Greater Toronto area at the time of Lt. Governor Simcoe in the late 1700s. In ceding their lands at the Mississauga purchase, the Mississaugas, a branch of the Ojibway people, believed that they were merely allowing the Europeans to settle alongside them. But they soon found themselves pushed off the best land, and in the 1840s they were virtually expelled from the Toronto area. At that time, with the help of the Iroquois Confederacy, many of them settled alongside the Six Nations in southwestern Ontario. This worked for a time but as the Mississaugas have a very different language and culture from the Iroquoians, they were not entirely comfortable with the arrangement and eventually raised money to purchase their own land, now known as the New Credit First Nation and located near Hagersville.

On July 12, 1998, a group of New Credit Mississaugas made a historic pilgrimage, their first official visit to Toronto since their expulsion. A bus load of their people accompanied by their Chief, Carolyn King, arrived at the ferry docks that morning to begin an all day tour led by Jane Beecroft of the Community History Project. An important aspect of the trip was to recreate for the Mississaugas a sense of what Toronto was like at the time when their ancestors lived here, and to that end TFN members Joanne Doucette and I were invited to help out by interpreting the natural heritage, past and present. It was indeed a great honour for us to do so. Among other locations, we visited the Toronto Islands which were much used by the Mississaugas for fishing and healing. These lands were never included in the Mississauga purchase and to this day the people of the New Credit continue to fight for compensation. We also went along Davenport Road for a look at the old Lake Iroquois shoreline which existed well before the Mississaugas but was occupied by earlier aboriginal inhabitants, the mouth of the Humber, site of the Rousseau fur trading post and many other locations, finishing off at Montgomery's Inn, Etobicoke, where many speeches and presentations were made including a small gift of nature books to the New Credit Library which I presented on behalf of TFN. [See letters on page 10.]

On August 22nd, at the invitation of Chief Carolyn King, a group from Toronto, including Joanne Doucette, Starr Whitmore and I representing TFN, made a reciprocal visit to the New Credit First Nation where we attended a pow-wow full of song, dance and celebration. We hope that this will mark the beginning of an important relationship between the First Nations People, the original stewards of the land, and the TFN.

Turning to another matter, I would like to mention some interesting correspondence which I received recently from T.J. Schup of the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative (TREC) which is proposing construction of a 660 kw wind turbine (windmill) on the Toronto waterfront to generate enough electricity to power 250-300 homes. They are conducting environmental assessments to determine the exact site. I expect that the TREC will have a table at our October meeting and I encourage you to speak to them and find out more about the pros and cons of this proposal.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

As I enter my second year at TFN President, I wish to give special thanks to my dear friend Starr Whitmore who has not only attended every meeting to assist me with set up but has helped and encouraged me through some difficult times in my personal life.

Please don't forget to attend our special 75th Anniversary meeting on December 6th and to send in your own memories of the TFN for the newsletter.

President's Field Notes #9, October 1998

October can be one of the most exciting months for the field naturalist. The weather is neither too hot nor too cold, few biting or stinging insects are active, the fall colours reach their peak and the woods and fields are filled with fall flowers, ripened fruits and migrating birds. Here are a few highlights from my October 1997 nature diary.

October 4: To G. Ross Lord Park with Starr in order to photograph fall colours. Noted the brilliant reds of the staghorn sumach and observed turtles (probably painted) sunning themselves on a log as well as three great blue herons, a double-crested cormorant and a white-throated sparrow. Also went to Glen Stewart Ravine where we saw witch hazel, a native shrub which breaks the norm by flowering in autumn.

October 12: Walk in Memorial Park, Brockville, with my father Harold (little did I know at the time that this would be the last of my many nature walks with him) where we saw a group of male mallards, some of which were moulting with others in full plumage displaying their glossy green heads and prominent neck rings. Lots of Canada goldenrod and New England aster and some wild parsley still in bloom. A few monarch butterflies and a clouded sulphur were still active in the park.

October 19: Outing to Milton including Mill Pond and Kelso Conservation Area with Phoebe Cleverley (our Vice President) and Starr. The fall colours were just a little past their peak but still very enjoyable. Botanical observations included maidenhair fern, zig-zag goldenrod and the fruits of carrion flower, partridgeberry, false Solomon's seal and Jack-in-the-pulpit, to name but a few.

October 30: To Rouge Park for a meeting with TFN member Sue Russell. From the park office windows we observed two young white-tailed deer. Later I saw blue-stemmed goldenrod, and a mourning cloak butterfly. Some fall colours still remained and I was able to take some good photos.

Morris Sorensen

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*Fifty black birds
against grey clouds
flying southwest.
Suddenly sunlight slanting through clouds
shows up fall colours.*

Margaret Banville

KEEPING IN TOUCH

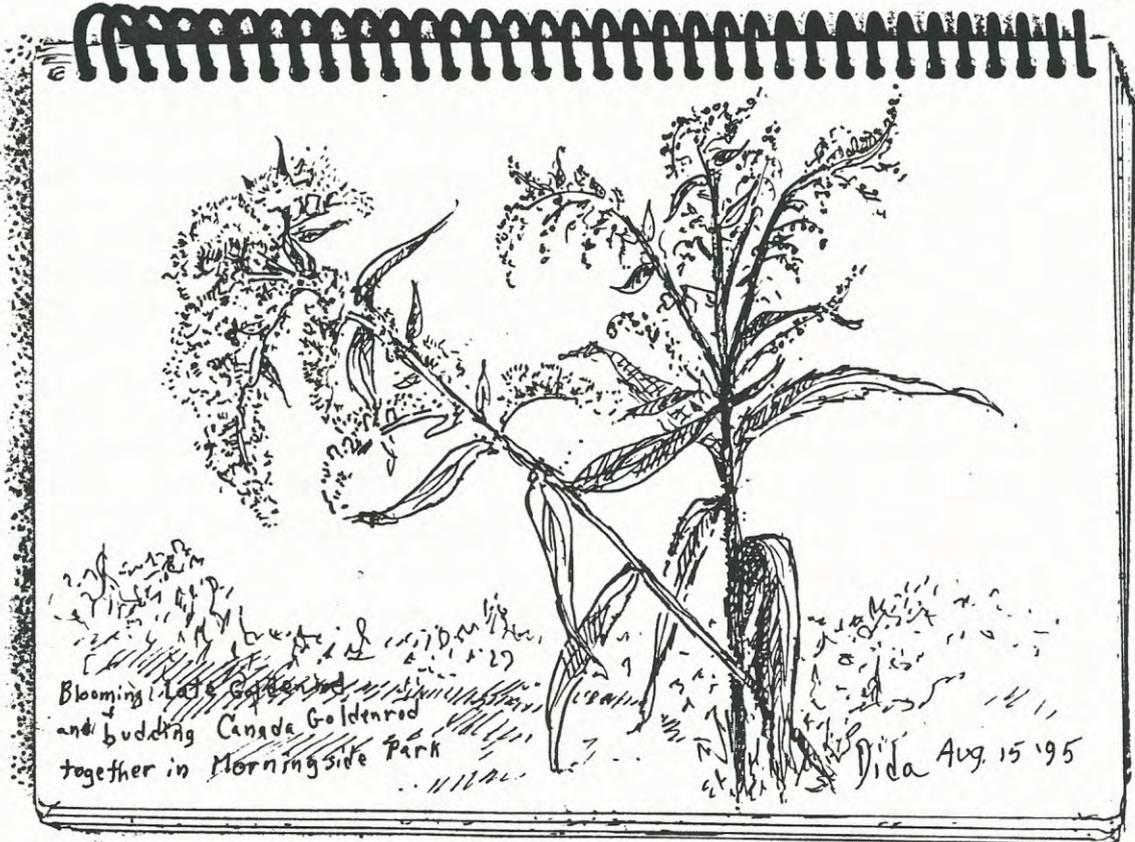
July 16, 1998

How safe is it to consume the flora that grows in Toronto's parks? Have any studies been done on the toxicity of vegetation, especially in the Don Valley which I mostly frequent? Do the plants take up heavy metals or carcinogens that come from dust from the roads, settles out from air pollution, resides in the soil from industries that used to operate there?

I'm thinking of the warnings they had for fishing -- about how safe the fish were to eat from each particular lake or fishing spot. I'd like to try a meal of cooked nettles, or munch on cattails as I bicycle along, or process the apples into sauce, or use Queen Anne's lace seeds as head-ache medicine but hesitate because I worry about the wisdom of such actions.

Stu Vickers

Comment: It's illegal to pick plants in any park so eating vegetation collected anywhere in the Don Valley is definately out. Yes, all studies I have read say that plants do take up heavy metals, etc. from the environment. Anyway, it wouldn't take very many of us picking to destroy what we go to the valleys to see. Anyone wanting to try wild foods should try growing them. H.J.
See also page 12.



KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

August 7, 1998

While driving along Highway 7 from the FON Conference in Guelph on May 31, 1998, we were surprised to hear on the radio tornado warnings for Toronto. On reaching Thornhill we checked out our backyard, but found no damage to the many tall trees surrounding our property. Much to our surprise we did find two nearly grown mourning dove fledglings huddled together on the grass. They remained immobile while I snapped their picture. Presently the mother came and spread her wings protectingly over them.

Concerned that a cat might get them, our neighbour put a tall ladder up to their nest of twigs and branches which we had located in a nearby pine tree. When the mother flew away, the neighbour carefully climbed the ladder and returned the two young ones to the nest. He checked again in the evening and found that the mother had returned to her little ones. Happy ending!

Marion Martindale

August 11, 1998

The Canadian Wildflower Society (CWS) is pleased to announce that Helen Juhola has been awarded a 1998 CWS Conservation Award. The award recognizes individuals who have made an extraordinary contribution to the conservation, protection and restoration of North America's natural heritage and native flora.

Helen Juhola's committed work on behalf of Toronto's native flora, fauna and natural areas is legendary, and Toronto is indeed lucky to have such a tireless advocate.

The CWS is hosting a Conservation Awards dinner on the evening of October 24, 1998 at the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto. Helen will be in attendance, as will the two other 1998 Conservation Award recipients, Bret Rappaport and Dorothy Wade. We are planning an exciting evening to celebrate and honour Helen's achievements and we invite you to join us. To reserve tickets, please call the CWS at (416) 924-6807.

On behalf of the Canadian Wildflower Society, congratulations Helen!

Lorraine Johnson
President, Can. Wildflower Soc.

I believe that the more people learn about the natural world, the greater an appreciation they develop, and the more likely they are to support conservation ideals. If more people appreciate Ontario's birds, then more support will be gained for their protection.

extracted from "Birds of the Feather Band Together" by Carl Rothfels in THE WOOD DUCK (Hamilton), Vol. 51, No. 7, March 1998

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

August 12, 1998

On behalf of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and the New Credit Public Library board I would like to send a heart-felt thanks for your generous donation [of books -- see President's report]. The feedback that I received from the community regarding the recent trip to Toronto was very positive and shows the close ties that our communities still have.

Your donation will be added to our collection and will be made available to the public.

Mike Brant, Librarian
New Credit Library

August 12, 1998

To Mike's thanks [see letter above] I must add my own to both Morris Sorensen and Joanne Doucette for your huge and valuable contribution to the trip itself. Your comments and explanations of the natural heritage were precisely what I was hoping for, but it was the way in which you geared your commentary specifically to our Mississauga visitors' interests which far exceeded my expectations! It was very impressive.

Jane Beecroft, Chair
Community History Project
Heritage Centre

August 15, 1998

I was in my backyard, in Scarborough, hoping to see the Perseid meteor shower on the night of August 12th, '98. There were few meteors to be seen. At 9:34 p.m. I did see something that captured my interest. It was faint orange glowing lights that moved in from the north-west, passed overhead, and then went on toward the south east. It took me a second or so to recognise these 'lights' as birds. They were flying very tightly in a Vee formation. The main reflecting surface appeared to be their bellies, the wings were barely discernible.

I was surprised by three facts. The birds were travelling by night, and their formation was very tight. Furthermore, the formation looked very much like a triangular object rimmed in lights. Because of this, I suspect that some UFO's reports have been instigated by people misidentifying similar flocks of birds.

Can anyone with the TFN suggest what species of birds fly in such tight flocks by night?

D. Andrew White

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FOR READING

THE BUTTERFLIES OF CANADA by Ross A. Layberry, Peter W. Hall and J. Donald Lafontaine, University of Toronto Press, 1998, 290 pages, 32 colour plates, maps, approx. \$30.

This brand new publication is a very thorough compilation of the natural history and identification of Canada's 293 recognized Lepidoptera species. The material is founded in part on 90,000 database records from the Canadian National Insect Collection in Ottawa. With each species description a detailed distribution map is included. The descriptions themselves suggest areas for further study by both amateurs and professionals where information is lacking or limited. Introductory chapters include information on butterfly conservation, gardening, distribution, observations, as well as their taxonomy and systematics. A handy checklist in the appendix will help track one's sightings. Twenty excellent colour plates are dedicated to the different families, one for immature stages, and ten more for regional or habitat types. THE BUTTERFLIES OF CANADA is at once a field guide, a butterfly life history reference, a coffee table book, a source for encouraging further study, and perhaps a benchmark for other future natural history publications. Both casual and serious naturalists will enjoy this book as an addition to their ever-growing libraries.

extracted from a review by David Allinson in THE VICTORIA NATURALIST, Vol. 55.1, July/August 1998

ECO FRIENDLY HOUSE PLANTS by B.C. Wolverton, Weidenfield and Nicholson, \$19.99.

The subtitle "50 Indoor Plants that Purify the Air in Homes and Offices" clearly indicates the scope of this book. When buildings were first being made as nearly airtight as possible, a phenomenon known as sick building syndrome appeared. The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration was at the same time doing experiments concerned with life support systems in space. This book applies its discoveries of the value of plants in restoring air quality to earthbound living quarters. The first four chapters deal with the chemicals found in our homes and the kinds of plants most useful for cleaning the indoor air of each type. Useful charts condense the information for quick reference. Chapter five, which takes up three quarters of the book, deals individually with the 50 plants mentioned. I had known that green plants were good for the environment but this book also lists some flowering plants such as cactus, azaleas and orchids. Accompanied by a colour picture each entry lists: family, origin, light, temperature, pests and diseases, and care as well as a description. There is also a rating chart (out of 10) for each plant under the headings: 1. removal of chemical vapours; 2. ease of maintenance; 3. resistance to pests and diseases; and 4. transpiration rate. For example, the snake plant (Sanseveria) rates three under number one, 10 under number two, 10 under number three and two under number four. Obviously, a plant that should be in every home.

a review by Ruth Zavitz in the LONDON FREE PRESS, Feb. 21, 1998

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THE PLACE IN THE FOREST by R.D. Lawrence, published by Natural Heritage/
Natural History Inc., Toronto, 1998 (originally published in 1967)

Many of us, myself included, have a special place which we hold dear. For R.D. Lawrence and his wife Joan, "the place" was a spot off Highway 503 near the village of Uphill, not far from Coboconk, in Victoria County, where they built a cabin and began a deeply personal study of the living things with which they shared their woodland retreat. Here we learn about a courageous red squirrel, a family of red-tailed hawks and a pair of outrageous orphaned skunks to name a few. The author has shown how the life of all the forest creatures is intertwined and manages to point out in a non-judgemental fashion how death for one being may mean life for another. I recommend this book highly as I do other books by this great Canadian naturalist and author.

Morris Sorensen

REAP WITHOUT SOWING by Erika E. Gaertner, published by General Store
Publishing House, 1 Main St., Burnstown, Ont. K0G 1G0, 1995;
1-800-465-6072 or fax (613)432-7184.

In recent years, there has been a great revival of interest in the edible wild, an interest which this book attempts to address. The author includes recipes for mushrooms, wild fruits, weeds, wild birds and other animals. I would hope that the latter two would be used only if necessary for food or survival and not merely out of curiosity. I would also urge anyone using this book to read the introduction carefully for the cautions contained therein re not collecting plants in areas which have been sprayed or otherwise contaminated, making sure of specific identification, particularly with mushrooms, and the general ethics of collecting. Whether or not one chooses to experiment, this book contains a good reference source for plant and animal lore. For practical purposes it is probably of more use to the country dweller, cottage owner or wilderness traveller than to a person confined to the city.

Morris Sorensen

▷

UP NORTH

Yukon highroads.
The green gold of June, hot sun, white nights,
the rivers too fast
and bear cubs - tame.
The snow and the mud, the blazing light!
The gloomy grey peaks, snow-saddled heights.

Larisa Zviedris
(June 1997)

FOR READING (cont'd)

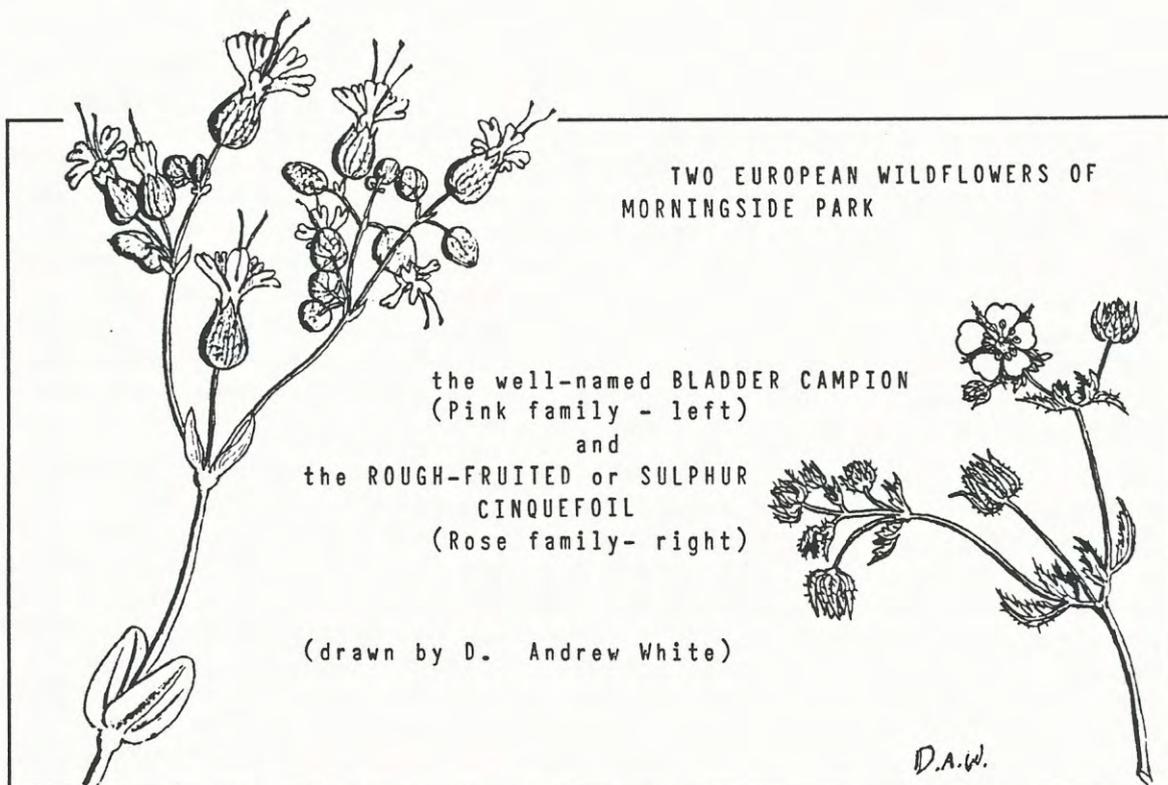
BUILDING BIRDHOUSES FOR NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS by John Plewes, Veritas Tools.

This book may be ordered from Lee Valley Tools, 1080 Morrison Dr.,
Ottawa, Ont. K2H 8K7 for \$12.95 plus taxes, shipping and handling.
Call 1-800-267-8767.

When this book was first contemplated several years ago, the impetus was the lack of soundly researched material on birdhouse construction. The various books on the market had conflicting, inaccurate information on such basic information as the hole sizes appropriate to specific species. In fact, the books emphasized structures that were attractive to people, not birds. The best indication of this was the invariable inclusion of a perch directly beneath the entry hole. None of the designs in this book includes such a perch; the reason is that the traditional perch interferes with a bird's flight pattern -- it is far better to use a few score lines on the box front for grip. The author, an avid birder and do-it-yourself person carefully researched his material. As well, Bruce Dilabio, Canadian Nature Federation, and Pierre Mineau, Canadian Wildlife Service, are two of many individuals who provided material, organized and reviewed the text. The book contains excellent information not only on construction, but on the important details of siting, installation, inspections and parasites, predators and undesirables. The houses are in styles that suit certain groups of bird species (listed) with the appropriate hole size for each.

adapted from a review by Brian Gibbon in THE BLUE HERON, Vol. 42, No. 1, Nov. 1997

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BIRDING BY IMAGINATION

I heard recently that "birding" is the fastest-growing outdoor activity. Good. Now this "good" is after some thought. I feel that the study of birds can help make one more aware of his own environment. I've mentioned before the symbolic nature birds have for me; constant reminders of the global limits of an ecosystem, bellwethers of a healthy ecology. I have a few old bird guides. Some of the birds in the old books aren't in the new ones. I would like to have seen these birds. But more important, their absence from my environment causes me to wonder: "What place in the ecological puzzle did they fill?" I can only read about it. Scary? Now some lighter notes on birding and birders.

When the great "outdoor outfitter" corporations heard about the new popularity of birding, I bet they didn't say "good". Most people already have enough outdoor clothing. In general, being trendy isn't trendy with birders. So what else can you sell them? Well, there is the pair of binoculars. But binoculars are precision optical equipment which, with care, can last forever. They don't need constant upgrading and come in a variety of price ranges. The only other things needed are: a bird guide, a notebook and pen, and a small shoulder bag in which to carry guide, notebook and lunch. Ultimately the only things you have to replace regularly, besides the lunch, are the notebook and pen.

Birders don't need a lot of hardware, but they must arm themselves with a lot of "tools" which are absolute requirements. By far the most important requirement is patience, and persistence. As a rule, at the end of the day, the person who has observed the most birds is the one who has spent the most time looking. It's almost that simple, but other things do come into play.

Vision: (Hearing probably comes first, but we'll start with sight.) You may think that you need good eyesight. Yes and No. Man has naturally evolved to see very little of the world immediately around him. We would go crazy if we had to assimilate all that is in our field of vision. Our brains filter out extraneous motions and concentrate on those which have a bearing on what we are doing or which may affect our safety. To find a bird, you must work against this. You have to look for anomalies in normally unobserved motions. One, you look at motions which you instinctively filter out, and two, you look for motions which are out of the ordinary. When you see a twig oscillating at a frequency different from those around it, you've probably found a place where what you were looking for used to be. You're getting close.

Hearing: (Knowing where to look probably comes next, but we'll continue with sound.) When you see motion, you are getting really close, but hearing was probably the sense which informed you a bird was in the vicinity. Humans are at a disadvantage when it comes to direction-finding by sound. We have stereophonic hearing, but have you ever watched a horse? Its ears work independently and as such they can precisely pinpoint sound sources. We can only get fairly close but that's the start we need. Next is in the identification of species. I admire people who have taken the time to patiently study and memorize vast numbers of bird calls. I have developed only a limited sound repertoire, albeit a repertoire large enough to recognize sounds out of the ordinary, another good start.

BIRDING...(cont'd)

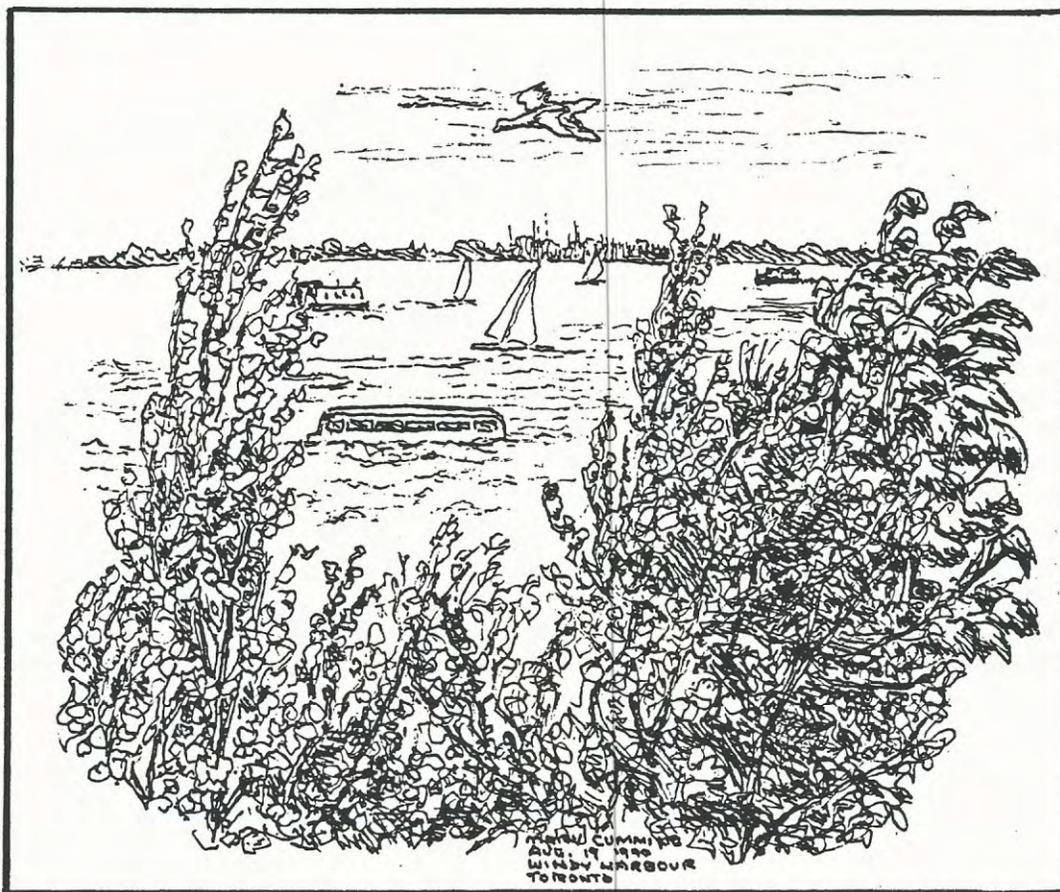
Birder's hearing has become so acute that there is a concept of "birding by ear". I've stood beside birders and heard only noise while they have heard and visualized five or six bird species (which we eventually saw!).

Imagination: (Don't laugh, yet.) There is always a tendency, when you have no clue that a bird is even near, to think the person who reports seeing one, is putting you on: "Birding by Imagination", what a concept. You could impress people by going to the beach and returning with stories of rare plovers; explore ravines and report all the types of vireo. I'm being facetious to make a point; knowing bird habitat is important. You look at the surroundings and imagine, "What a perfect location to spot a rare plover!" then, sure enough, with enough patience and persistence -- "plover"!

The TFN conducts several excellent bird outings throughout the year. Come and join in the frustration and get a bit of first hand assistance from some of the best birders (and nicest people) I know.

Ken Cook

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DINNER FOR ONE

I was granted a discovery this past summer in the Rouge Valley (the Rouge never lets me down). The event was of the sort for which action photographers become world famous: that of the glaring-eyed serpent, jaws stretched to dislocation, engulfing some unfortunate creature. My serpent was a garter snake, and I wondered why it had difficulty slithering away until I saw that it was straining to take a toad with it. The garter snake was young and thin, the toad was young and fat. It was resisting mightily. We all know that nature is not concerned with individual niceties but with survival of species, and while this would have been a photographic catch -- literally -- of a high order, I couldn't bring myself to attempt it. I tend to glance away from National Geographic examples of such things and had no desire to add one of my own to my collection. I have never before, in all the years I have been hiking, seen this, and friends tell me that the garter snake must have been young indeed to attempt to make a meal of a toad which carries an unpleasant taste on its skin that is usually sufficient defence.

Eva Davis

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"LADY'S THUMB"

This common smartweed, the leaves of which frequently bear a thumb-print-like mark, was found by Mary Cumming on August 2, 1997, taking advantage of a roof-top-garden location. Originally from Europe, it is well established in Toronto. Smartweeds are well-represented among our native Toronto flora; some resemble lady's thumb but without the tell-tale feature.



IN THE NEWS

ORGANIC-ONLY FARMING IS GROWING NATURALLY

Worth an estimated \$1.5-billion annually, organic farming in Canada is an industry on the threshold of moving from a niche in the food supply industry to becoming big business. Organic farmers don't spray their fields with pesticides, spread synthetic fertilizers or fatten their livestock with chemically treated feed. Instead they rely on the liberal use of manure, compost and mulches along with crop rotations and an array of tilling techniques. The number of organic growers is increasing at a rate of about 20 per cent a year. A national standard that will define the meaning of organic in Canadian food products is expected to be in place soon. That should help growers market their products nationally and internationally.

from an article by Chris Morris in the GLOBE AND MAIL, April 11, 1998

SEED SOWS EUROPEAN RESISTANCE

While Canadians and Americans happily consume products such as soya beans, canola and sugar beets that have been altered to resist disease, pests and certain herbicides, the commercial introduction of genetically altered varieties is being strongly resisted in Europe. The issue is threatening to spark a new transatlantic trade war as European governments react to public pressure by either banning the genetically altered seeds outright or dragging their feet on issuing import approvals. The mad-cow crisis is partly responsible for making Europeans more skeptical about modern farming methods. There is also concern that the seeds are being aggressively marketed by U.S. multinationals such as Monsanto, Dupont and Dow, whose roots are in the chemical business rather than in food production. Genetic Concern, a Dublin-based lobby group opposed to the testing [of altered crops], contends that Monsanto is developing these new seeds in order to sell more of its herbicide Roundup. The seeds are altered to resist Roundup, so when farmers spray their fields with the herbicide it will destroy weeds but not the crop. The agricultural companies defend this development, saying that farmers will no longer have to use chemical cocktails of herbicides on their fields and that the overall amount of herbicide used will decline. They also point out that the engineering of plants resistant to disease, such as the corn developed by Novartis that kills the corn borer, reduces the need to use pesticides. Opponents worry that the new genes being produced by the chemical companies will not necessarily stay put and could migrate to other crops or weeds with unintended consequences. Ottawa is fighting European restrictions on Canadian soybeans, canola and some of their byproducts. Nearly a quarter of Canada's canola crop is derived from so-called transgenic strains and then pooled, making it virtually impossible to distinguish one type from another. Monsanto has also angered the health-food lobby by mixing its genetically altered soya bean with unaltered soya bean, so that it is impossible for consumers to know the difference. Soya bean is used in about 60 per cent of processed food.

from an article by Madelaine Drohan in the GLOBE AND MAIL, March 7, 1998

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THE CASE OF THE KILLER BUILDINGS

Ways to reduce the number of bird collisions with your windows:

- Draw your drapes or close blinds.
- Turn off all your lights when you go to bed.
- Place bird feeders either very close to or far away from windows.
Most feeders are two to four metres from a window so residents can see the birds without startling them. This is the worst place. The feeder should be either within one metre of a window -- so a bird cannot get up much speed before colliding with the glass -- or over 10 metres away, so birds are unlikely to fly into the window.
- Cover windows with netting, leaving about two inches between the netting and the window. It acts as a trampoline for birds: They are bounced back out instead of colliding with the surface.
- Use hawk or falcon outlines that move. Attach them to a wire strung from an overhang or to a suction cup stuck to the outside surface of a window.
- Talk to your condominium board about reducing or eliminating pesticide use. Birds can get sick eating insects that are sprayed and spraying reduces the birds' food supply.
- Keep part of the grounds as natural as possible. Even a small area with trees and shrubs provides increasingly scarce habitat. This is particularly important if your condominium is beside a ravine or waterfront. Birds need these natural corridors for food, rest and shelter.

extracted from an article by Erin O'Connor in the TORONTO STAR, May 30, 1998

Comment: For information about FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program), a small organization that is trying to publicize the danger posed by illuminated buildings for birds migrating at night, call 905-831-FLAP (3527) or visit its Web site (www.flap.org).

CHEMICAL SPILL SEEPS INTO CREEK

A chemical spill seeped into Mimico Creek at West Deane Park in late April. Milky residue is what work crews found in the catchment ditch near the creek in the Rathburn and Martingrove roads area park. A dam was built at the mouth of the ditch and environmental vacuum trucks were busy pumping the residue out. But some of the alcohol-based liquid did manage to seep into the creek.. The spill was traced to a sewer grate behind an Eringate Drive and Renforth Road Dominion store, about a kilometre west of the park. The spill was a floor stripper for stripping and waxing floors. It contains an alcohol base and materials similar to soap. The material is corrosive, caustic in its pure form. On preliminary observation fish and birds near the scene of the accident appeared unharmed. A member of a custodial crew who worked in the Dominion store the morning of April 28 admitted to dumping the floor stripping solvent into the sewer.

extracted from an article by Joseph Kim in THE ETOBICOKE GUARDIAN, May 2-3, 1998

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

GROUP FIGHTS NOISE

Boom-boxes, leaf blowers, traffic, construction -- noise bombards us from many different sources and invades our lives wherever we go. Last year, Metro Police received more than 23,000 noise complaints. Studies have shown that only two out of ten noise victims ever complain. The negative health effects of noise include stress, hypertension and increased cholesterol levels. Noise Watch, non-profit organization founded in 1994, a Toronto-based anti-noise group, wants the New Toronto to have a comprehensive noise by-law that can be enforced. You can reach NoiseWatch at 410-2236.

extracted from an article by Annette Fiege in the BLUFFS MONITOR, July 1998

CUT GOLF COURSE PESTICIDES: ACTIVISTS

The city has been increasing pesticide use at the city-owned Don Valley course on Yonge St. even though the former Metro council, which owns the course, told the bureaucracy to phase it out. The new city council has adopted the former Metro government's policies, including one that directed the parks department, which runs municipal courses, to find alternatives to pesticides. But little has been done so far. None of the recommendations or research that the Toronto Environmental Alliance has sent to the parks department has been acted on, even though staff have been directed to do so.

extracted from an article in the TORONTO STAR, July 19, 1998

Ed. Note: TFN members observed that Roundup is being applied around the bases of trees in Metro parks this summer. It has also been applied to slopes which are too steep to mow.

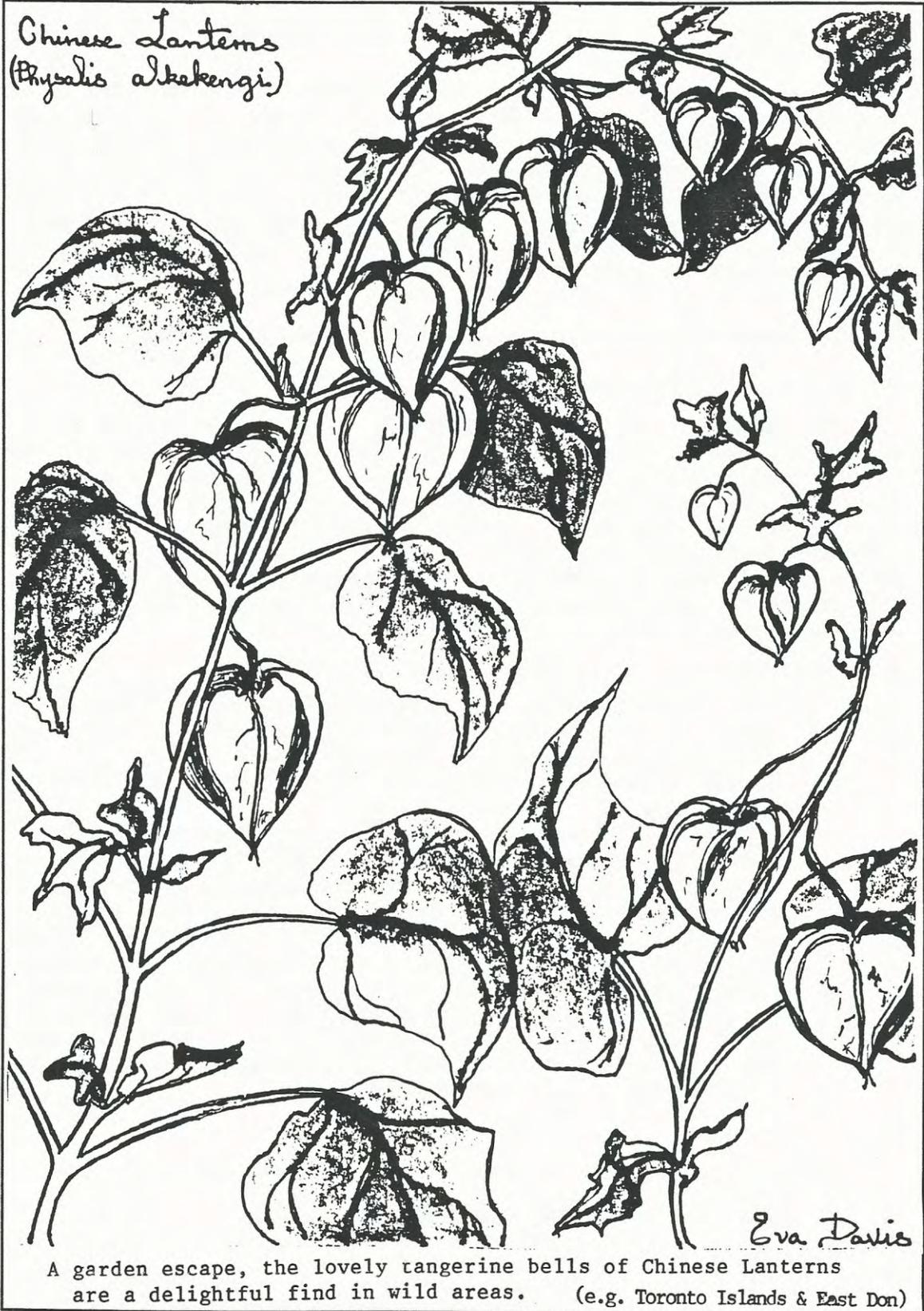
Members concerned about this issue should contact their local councillors.

According to an article in the Canadian Nature Federation's ALERT, Vol. 8, No. 3, Summer 1998, Roundup and related herbicides with glyphosate are not as harmless as advertized. They can be persistent, can drift, are acutely toxic to humans, kill beneficial insects, are hazardous to earthworms, inhibit mycorrhizal fungi, reduce nitrogen fixation, and can increase the spread or severity of plant diseases. For more information the article recommends sending \$2 to the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides for a copy of an article they have published. Write to NCAP, P.O. Box 1391, Eugene, Oregon, U.S.A. 97440 or call 541-344-5044.

H.J.

A swirl of bright leaves
blown across grey streetcar tracks.
October largesse.

haiku by Arthur Wade



A garden escape, the lovely tangerine bells of Chinese Lanterns are a delightful find in wild areas. (e.g. Toronto Islands & East Don)

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

BELTLINE PARK EXTENDED

Land for an additional section to the Beltline Park at the north end of York-Eglinton, south of Castlefield/Roselawn, is now secure. The city has purchased most of it and has a long-term lease for part of it. This addition will extend the Beltline Park from Caledonia to the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The task for 1998 will be to get community and professional input on the design of the park, with construction to begin in 1999. We want a park that will be clean, well-used and safe for all!

from "Update on Parks Development" by Councillor Joe Mihevc in York-Eglinton Report, Vol. 1, Issue 1, Winter/Spring 1998

SPACE EL NINO HEATING UP

The space equivalent of El Nino is coming. During the next three to four years, the sun regularly will spew out storms with electrical pulses that will probably interfere with the electrical systems of satellites and could knock out Earth's interconnected electrical power grids. The solar-storm cycle is natural and occurs every 11 years. But experts said this cycle, which will peak in March 2000, is going to be among the worst ever. Solar-storm activity dramatically increased recently, signalling a start to the four-year-long storm season, forecasters say. In the past, solar storms went largely unnoticed because there weren't as many satellites or interconnected power grids to be damaged. The common citizen can expect some frustrating outages. That means sporadic periods when most people's television reception will go bad as satellites go down and programming has to be rerouted. The same thing will happen with cellular phone reception, with periods when people just can't get through.

extracted from an article by Seth Borenstein in the LONDON FREE PRESS, April 11, 1998

BIRDING AREA GETS RECOGNITION

Prince Edward Point, a peninsula that juts into eastern Lake Ontario near Picton, has received international recognition as a globally significant bird-watching area because of its high numbers of diving ducks and sea ducks. Three waterfowl species -- greater scaup, oldsquaw and white-winged scoter -- occur at the point in globally significant numbers exceeding 1 per cent of their North American populations. The designation by Birdlife International, a global birding organization, takes effect on May 16, 1998

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, May 16, 1998

My short form trudges
the path, but through the ravine
tall shadow strides forth.

haiku by Diana Banville
Crescent Town, Taylor Creek

INVENTORY FINDS TREES INVASIVE

A tree inventory of a Scarborough neighbourhood leaves an interesting picture of the urban forest and what can be done to improve it. The main thing to do is plant trees that are native to the area, according to a non-profit group called Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests -- or LEAF. The LEAF survey was conducted last summer to assess tree health and diversity in the area bounded by Morningside Ave., Morningview Trail and Old Finch Rd. The survey found:

- The most common species in the community are Norway Maple, Cherry, Plum, Pear, Juniper and Cedar shrubs, Little Leaf Linden and Honey Locust.
- 48 per cent of trees in the area are non-native. The term non-native is used to indicate species which do not grow naturally in the region.
- 83 per cent of the trees range in height from one to 4.5 metres. There were no trees over 11 metres.

What can residents do to improve the urban forest? LEAF has a few tips:

- When you purchase a tree, be sure to inquire as to whether the species is native to this region. Native trees are better suited to our climate and will thrive. They also provide habitat for wildlife.
- Plant trees that will grow to be large (over 11 metres). Larger trees provide greater benefits to the community by increasing energy efficiency within the home, absorbing harmful air pollutants, forming a natural canopy which provides greater shade, increasing property values, and beautifying the neighbourhood.

Since the fall of 1996, more than 2,000 trees have been planted through LEAF's Backyard Tree Planting Project. This subsidized tree planting service will be offered to Scarborough residents in the spring of 1999. Call 413-9244 for information or to register.

extracted from an article in the SCARBOROUGH MIRROR, Aug. 1-2, 1998

OAK TREE SAVED

A "significant" red oak tree near the village of Highland Creek is to be saved. The tree is more than a metre in diameter and right in the centre of a subdivision that received draft approval last year. Scarborough community council recommended spending \$110,000 out of a tree preservation fund to save the tree. The four-stemmed red oak is in the centre of an extension of Romac Drive behind the Highland Creek plaza. An engineer has been designing the special serving arrangements that will allow the new street and nearby houses to be built without disturbing the tree's roots. The red oak will be preserved on its own island on the new street. Another 35 trees out of a total of 144 identified by the parks and recreation department in the small upscale subdivision are also to be preserved.

extracted from an article by Larry Johnston in the BLUFFS MONITOR, July 1998

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

HELPING THE OLDER TREE

Some ways to prolong the life of long-lived trees:

- Do not disturb the soil beneath the "dripline", the line defined by the outer edge of the tree canopy.
- Don't park cars under the tree.
- Feed the roots occasionally with a sprinkling of compost but don't dump significant amounts of soil within the dripline -- this can smother the roots near the surface.
- Don't make a drastic change in the drainage pattern. If the tree has reached maturity, it likes its location just the way it is.
- Give the tree an annual check-up.

extracted from "Social Studies" by Michael Kesteron in the GLOBE & MAIL, Aug. 4, 1998

SAWDUST SAVES THE PRAIRIE

Researchers are removing nutrients from the soil to see if they can revive the devastated native flora of North America's grasslands. One method -- dumping sawdust -- could supply a cheap, practical means of helping to restore the biological diversity of the vast grassy prairielands in Canada and the United States. A Manitoba researcher pioneered the new approach by laying down a sugar-and-sawdust blanket on top of the prairie. Researchers suspect that, starved of nitrogen, the foreign grasses die off and leave open terrain to slower-growing native grasses. The invaders date back to early European settlers. Introduced by both accident and for the purpose of providing grazing for pasture animals, they create monolithic biological systems, support fewer forms of life, catch fire more easily and permit greater soil erosion.

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, Summer 1998

WILLOWS TO PRODUCE POWER

A power station that uses coppiced willow as its main resource is to be built at Eggborough near Selby North Yorkshire. Some willow has already been planted and construction of the plant begins soon. Ultimately the power station will need some 5,000 acres of willow coppice which will make up 80 per cent of the fuel supply. Forest residues, thinnings and prunings will make up the other 20 per cent. Coppice will be grown on land which is otherwise under-used, agriculture set-aside and reclaimed soil heaps. Using a process called gasification, the chipped willow will be heated to 900°C (1,650°F) to form gas which will in turn fuel turbines. By next year the power station should be supplying electricity to 18,000 homes. It is hoped to be just the first of a new wave of green power stations in Britain.

from THE GARDEN (Journal of the Royal Hort. Society), April 1998

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RED FOXES THRIVING IN SUBURBAN WOODS

Both the growing numbers of the foxes and their assurance in the presence of humans are signs of a remarkable ecological success story of global dimensions. In an age when so many wild species are under threat, their populations dwindling and their future insecure, the red fox is thriving like few other wild predators. In fact, biologists say, it has become the most widely distributed wild meat-eating mammal on earth, thanks to an evolutionary heritage that has enabled it to adapt superbly to the presence and activities of people. Along with similarly adaptable creatures like raccoon, white-tailed deer, blue jays, mallards, Canada geese and many others, the red fox is a creature of the future, a likely survivor in a natural world increasingly chopped up, manipulated and dominated by people. Many scientists fear that as these super-adapters proliferate and spread, a larger number of more sensitive and less adaptable species will be driven off the landscape, leading to a net loss of species and a relatively simplified, impoverished natural world. Northeastern foxes in recent years have had to contend with a double threat to their hegemony: coyotes and the spread of forests. The bigger coyotes -- which are as adaptable as foxes and have become abundant in the Northeast -- can and do kill foxes, and the foxes respond by simply avoiding the coyotes' territory. The regrowth of Northeastern forests has also reduced fox habitat by reclaiming the open farm fields that foxes like. On the other hand, suburban development is expanding fox habitat.

extracted from an article by William K. Stevens in the NEW YORK TIMES, May 5, 1998

OIL SPILLS? ASK A HAIRDRESSER

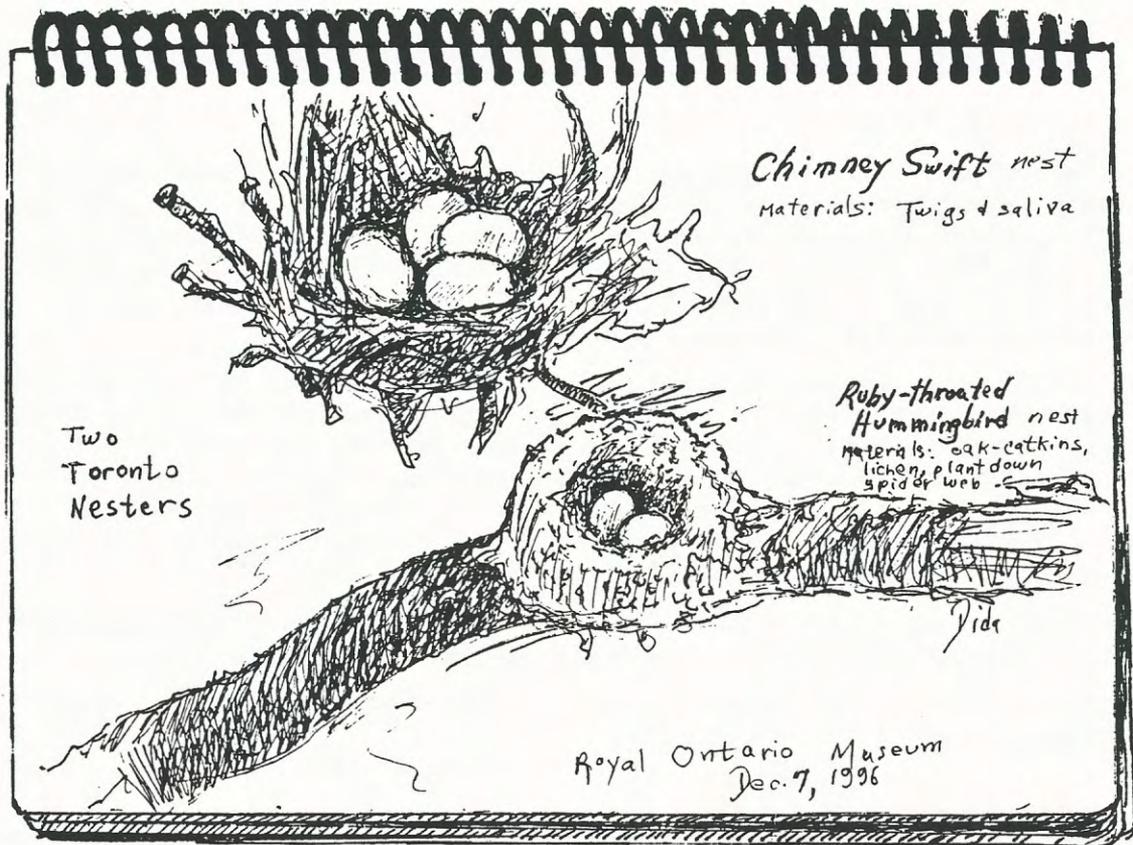
The idea came from an Alabama hairdresser who in 1989 saw television footage of an otter soaked in oil from the Exxon Valdez spill. That's when he said: "If the otter's fur soaked up oil, would human hair do the same?" He built a test otter by stuffing four pounds of human hair into a pair of tights, filled his son's wading pool with water, dumped a gallon of used motor oil on top and heaved in the hair. In two minutes the water was crystal clear. NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center technology transfer expert yielded the estimate that 1.4 million pounds of hair in re-usable mesh pillows could have soaked up the 11 million gallons spilled by the Exxon Valdez in about a week. By contrast, Exxon spent \$2 billion on a lengthy cleanup that captured only about 12 per cent of the spill.

extracted by an article by John O'Neil in THE NEW YORK TIMES, June 9, 1998 (via the BLUE BILL, Vol. 45, No. 2, June 1998)

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Exactness of observation is inseparable from clarity of thinking and language; both imply that the subject deserves respect -- which is the gateway to both affection and care.

from a column by Richard Mabey in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 13, No. 6, June 1995



RAVINE

Autumn evergreens,
surviving summer-songs,
you bushy greeneried yonder wall
of this quite deep and wide ravine;
I hear your chanted
polyphonic litany
a-drifting 'cross the gulf.

Slender aspen trunks,
you old and whitened bones,
you random sticks of ashy life
pronouncing sharply mid the green;
I hear the whispering
cracking clear report of
your chalky silence.

Crimson maple leaves
proposing boisterous toasts
resounding through our sunny chasm,
you happy devils sprinkled along
the ridge line, snatching
precious days from bleakness:
I like your laughter.

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

October 1997, Toronto

This was a pleasant month in 1997 for the most part, with temperatures slightly above normal overall. Warm, sunny conditions for the early and middle part of the month were offset by a cold ending with the first measureable Oct. snow since 1989. The total precipitation was in the 35 mm range, the driest since 1994 and about half the normal. This month's pattern was actually somewhat similar to 1994.

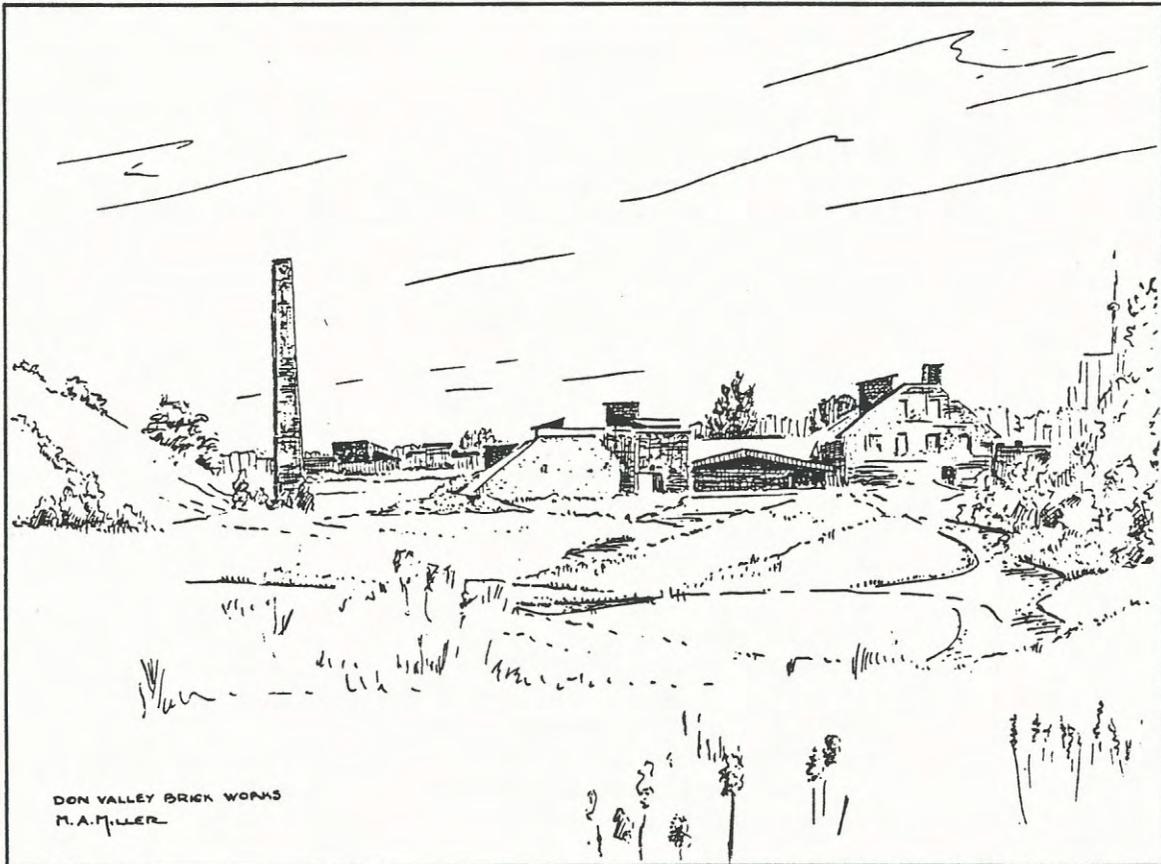
The warm weather peaked the first week with temperatures as high as 26.2°C at Pearson International Airport on Oct. 6th. Temperatures cooled thereafter, gradually at first, but frost reached to even downtown on Oct. 22nd. It stayed almost bone-dry to this point. But on Oct. 26th, the only significant precipitation-producing system of the month arrived with about 30 mm of cold rain with some wet snow. Pearson recorded 2.8 cm of snow, while downtown had 1.2 cm -- the most since 1969.

Warm or seasonable conditions, dry weather and sunshine in September and most of October made 1997 a superb vintage year for Ontario wines.

El Nino was strengthening in the Pacific this month and may have been starting to affect the weather.

Gavin Miller

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COMING EVENTS

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

- Sat. Oct. 10 from 8 am (all day) with Bob Yukich to see late migration at the Toronto Islands. Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. to catch the 8:15 am ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring a lunch.

Don Valley Brick Works - naturalization events with the Evergreen Foundation and Parks and Recreation

- Mon. Sept. 21 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Oct. 4 from 10 am to 12 noon (Sunday)

Volunteers needed to help plant, mulch, and weed. For information, call Seana at 596-1495, ext. 24.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don events

- Sackville Playground Planting - Oct. 3 at 10 am at the corner of Adelaide and Power St.
- Greening the Port Lands Walk - Oct. 4 at 1 pm. Meet at the Queen St. Bridge over the Don.
- Milne Hollow Planting - Oct. 17 at 10 am. Meet at Milne Hollow which is south of Lawrence Ave. East, just east of the Don Valley Parkway.
- Yonge-Summerhill Planting - Oct. 18 at 10 am. Meet at the entrance to the Summerhill subway station on Shaftesbury Ave.

Toronto Entomologists' Association meeting - Sat. Oct. 24 at 1 pm in Room 314 in Metro Hall, 55 John St. Call 261-6272 for more details.

Wildflower Society - East Toronto Chapter meeting - Oct. 28 at 7:30 pm in the Beaches Recreation Centre, 8 Williamson Rd., Call 261-6272 for more information.

Friends of the Don East Annual General Meeting - Oct. 25 at Todmorden Mills (foot of Pottery Rd. off Broadview Ave.). A pot luck dinner is followed by a business meeting and a special guest speaker. For more details, call Sharon Spears at 444-9773.

Toronto Zoo lecture - Tom Mason, curator of invertebrates, will be giving an illustrated talk about 'Biodiversity: a crisis at hand' based on his recent trip to Vietnam - Nov. 5 from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Toronto Zoo. Call 392-5947 to register. Tickets are \$12 each.

High Park Harvest Festival - Oct. 4 from 12 noon to 4:30 pm. For more details call 392-6916.

Black Creek Project - an association of individuals interested in the preservation and rehabilitation of the Black Creek through community involvement. Call 661-6600, ext. 364 for more information.

- Oct. 3 at 10 am - valley cleanup meeting at 5 Shoreham Dr.
- Oct. 14 at 6:30 pm - meeting at York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Ave. West.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Ontario Field Ornithologists Annual General Meeting - Oct. 17 at the Canada Centre for Inland Waters, Burlington (QEW at the Burlington Skyway) from 8 am (all day). Program includes a quiz, illustrated talks, and Ontario's largest, rare and used natural history book sale. A field trip will be held on Oct. 18. To register, send \$15 to the OFO, c/o Jean Iron, 9 Lichen Place, Don Mills, Ont. M3A 1X3 or call her at home (445-9297) or at work (393-5365).

Toronto Bay Initiative - Toronto Island near shore planting - Oct. 4 from 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Volunteers needed to plant cottonwoods and willows. Call Joanna Kidd at 410-3888 for more details.

A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium - Oct. 19, 20, 21 at the Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston, Ont. The theme is Land, Water, Climate. Price is \$265 per person. For more information, contact Conservation Ontario at 905-895-0716.

High Park Volunteer Stewardship Program

- Oct. 11 at 10:30 am - seed collecting
- Oct. 25 at 10:30 am - seed collecting

For more information, call 392-1748.

WeatherWatch Course (for adults and secondary students) - Sun. Oct. 25 at the Ontario Science Centre. Price: \$40. for adults; \$25 for students. Call 696-3255 for more information.

Free Science Lectures - Sundays at 3 pm at the Macleod Auditorium, Medical Sciences Building, University of Toronto, 1 King's College Circle

- Oct. 25: Star Trek on the brain with Robert Sekuler

For full schedule contact the Royal Canadian Institute at 928-2096.

Civic Garden Centre fall courses at 777 Lawrence Ave. East (397-1340)

- The Beauty of Mushrooms, with Vello Soots - Oct. 13 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm; fee: \$21.
- Botanical Illustration: beginners and continuing with Frances Key - for 8 weeks beginning Sept. 30; fee: \$165.

Rouge Park Heritage bus tour - Sunday, Oct. 18 from 1 pm to 4 pm. Bus leaves from Markham Museum and visits Markham area and significant historical and hydrological sites on Oak Ridges moraine before returning to the Markham Museum for a tea party. Tickets: \$10 each. To register and for more details, call the Rouge Park office at 287-6843.

Ian Wheal heritage walk - Oct. 18 at 11 am beginning at the southwest corner of King St. West and Bathurst St. The topic will be the "Toronto Islands Railway" and will include a ferry ride to Hanlan's Pt. Co-leader, George Hume, is from the Ontario Society for Industrial Archeology. Bring lunch and money for ferry tickets.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

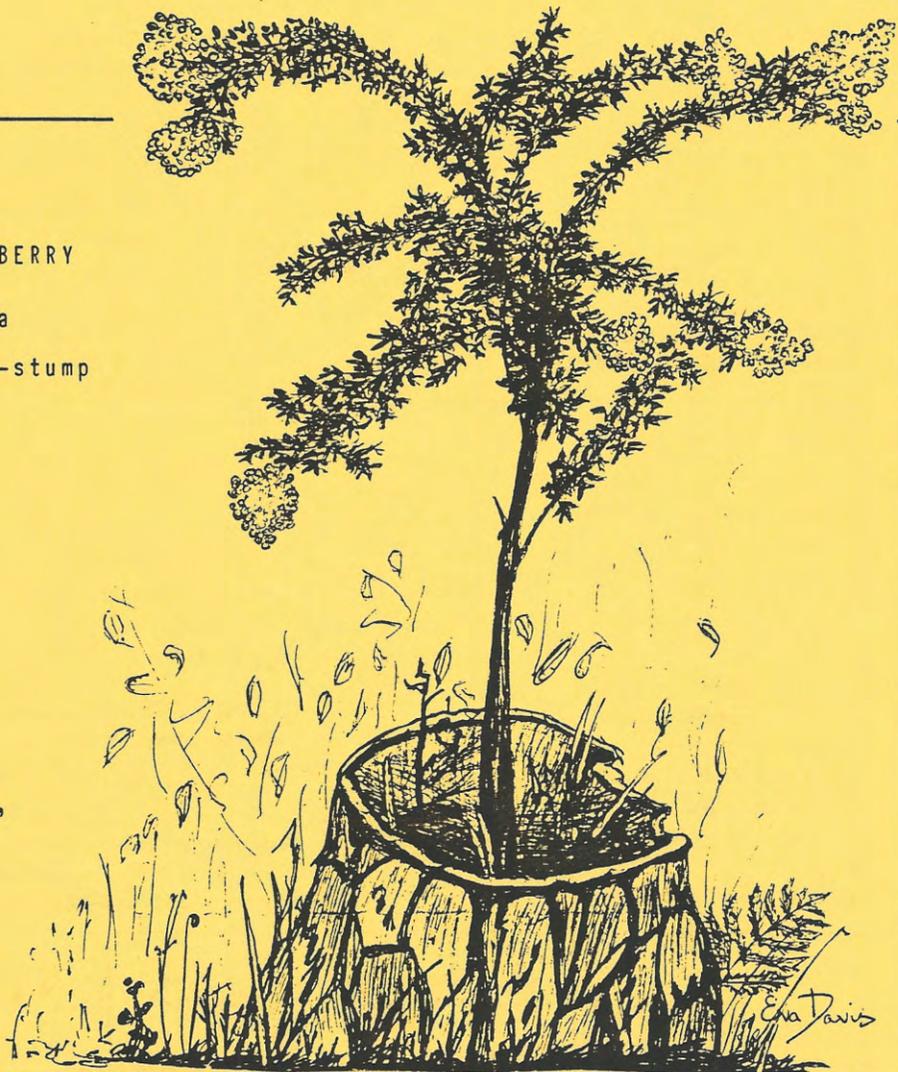
Bus tour with Barry Penhale to Westport in the heart of the Rideau Lakes, includes a night at The Cove, time for walking and shopping and a visit to Foley Mountain Conservation area to meet Perry Philips McQuay, author of "Foley Mountain" who spoke to TFN last winter. \$175 per person includes accommodation, meals, tips. To register or for more information call "Let's Go Tours" at 1-888-666-4210. Trip is Oct. 15-16, 1998.

All about bats, at the Ontario Science Centre during October - call 696-3127 for details.

Toronto Citizens hearing on Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River water pollution - Sept. 28 from 5 pm to 9 pm in Room 308 in Metro Hall, 55 John St. Call 314-9485 or 596-0660 to arrange to speak (limit of 10 minutes). This hearing is organized by Great Lakes United, the Waterfront Trust and the Toronto Environmental Alliance. □

YOUNG ELDERBERRY
growing in a
hollow tree-stump
- drawn by
Eva Davis

Rouge Valley,
April, 1998



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