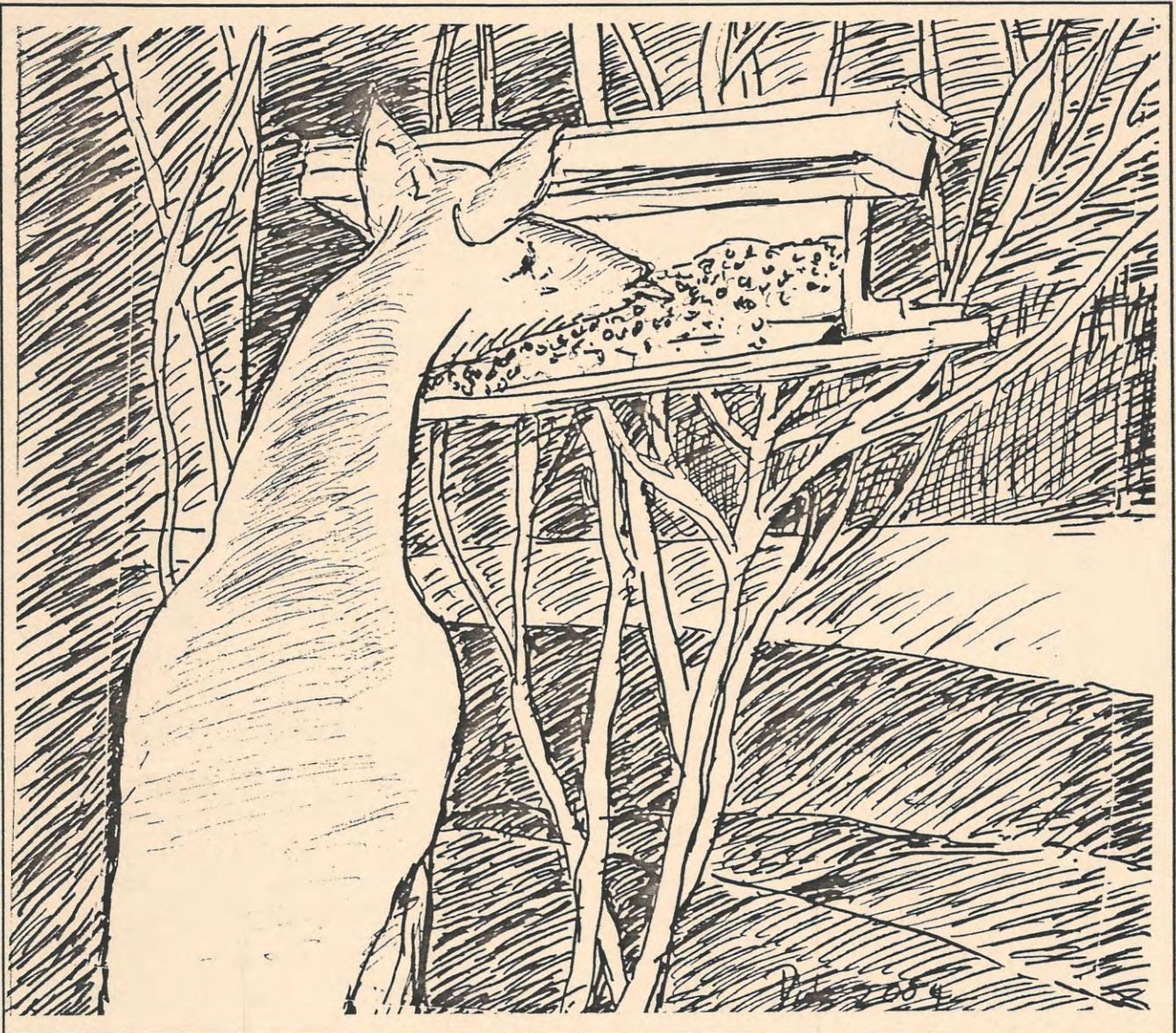


# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 525

September 2004



## Inside

Amphibians & reptiles 22-23  
Birds 25-26  
Coming events 29  
Fishes 24  
Health 24  
Invertebrates 13, 21-22, 23  
Issues 5, 15, 17, 21  
Mammals 1, 6, 27  
Plants 16, 20, 28  
Projects 5, 14-17  
Reading 18-19

Trees & shrubs 2, 5, 14, 24  
TFN - Board of Directors 6  
Financial statements 7-11  
meetings 2  
newsletter submissions 4  
outings 3-4, 19  
President's report 5  
publications 30  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 14  
Weather 28

COVER STORY 27

## TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004 - THICKSON'S WOODS -- AN URBAN TREASURE  
an illustrated lecture by Otto Peter of Durham  
Region, naturalist and photographer.

at 2:30 pm

at Emmanuel College  
75 Queen's Park Cres. East

➔ VISITORS WELCOME!

Bring a friend.

- Nestled within an industrial park in south  
Whitby are Thickson's Woods and meadow. A  
valuable green space of over 90 acres saved from  
development by a dedicated group of volunteer  
naturalists. This talk will review the birds,  
plants, insects and other animals of Thickson's  
Woods and the adjoining newly purchased meadow.  
You will come to appreciate why this area was  
rescued from development.

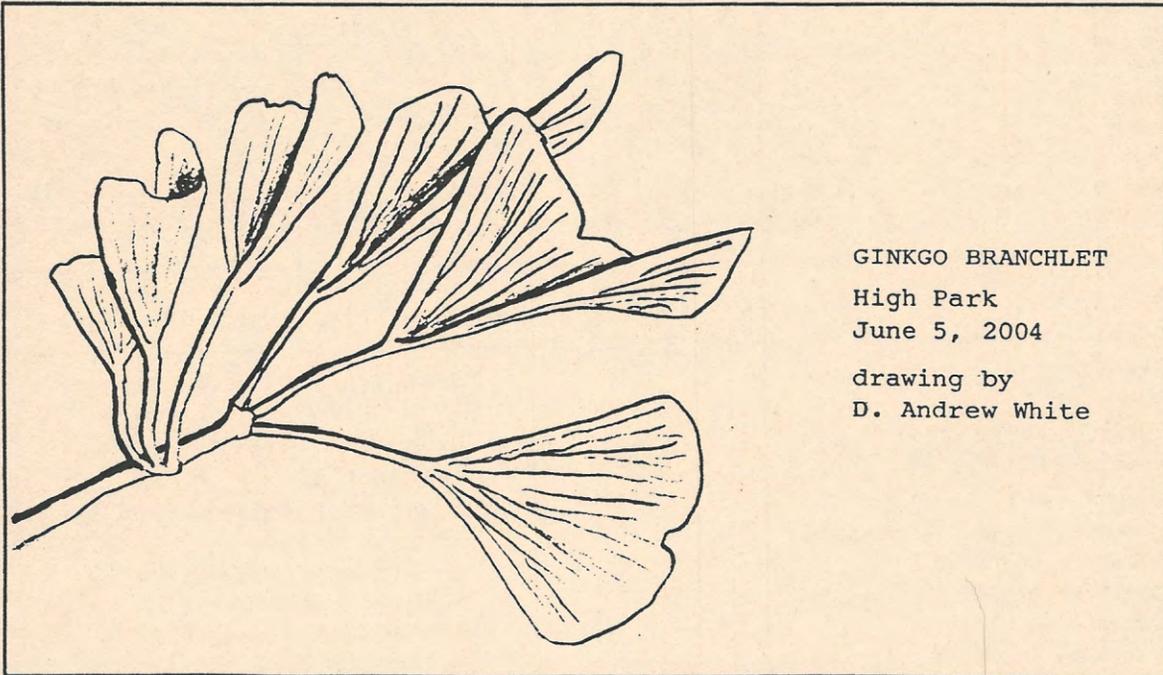
+ a "social hour" with free coffee and juice,  
beginning at 2 pm

+ an opportunity to purchase selected TFN material

▷ + TFN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - The financial  
statements will be presented and directors  
introduced.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, October 3, 2004

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



GINKGO BRANCHLET  
High Park  
June 5, 2004  
drawing by  
D. Andrew White

## 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 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.

- Saturday  
 Sept. 4  
 10:30 am RIVERDALE FARM - nature arts  
 Leader: Nancy Anderson  
 Meet at the southeast corner of Sumach St. and Winchester 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.
- Thursday  
 Sept. 9  
 10:30 am HUMBER SHORES - nature garden  
 Leader: Lorraine Johnson  
 Meet on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd. West at the foot of  
 Park Lawn Rd. Morning only.
- Saturday  
 Sept. 11  
 2 pm WEST DON TRIBUTARIES - nature walk  
 Leader: Alexander Cappell  
 Meet at the northwest corner of Steeles Ave. West and New  
 Westminster Dr. (half-way between Bathurst & Dufferin).
- Sept. 12 TFN MEETING (See page 2 for details.)
- Wednesday  
 Sept. 15  
 9:30 am COL. DANFORTH PARK - nature walk  
 Leader: Karin Fawthrop  
 Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Kingston Rd.  
 at Col. Danforth Trail. Morning only.
- Saturday  
 Sept. 18  
 10 am HUMBER BAY - birds  
 Leader: Doug Paton  
 Meet at the Humber streetcar loop. Bring lunch and binoculars.
- Sunday  
 Sept. 19  
 1:30 pm WYCHWOOD & THE EQUINOX - urban ecology  
 Leader: Peter Hare  
 Meet at the Dupont subway station (northwest corner of Dupont & Spadina).  
 This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community.
- Wednesday  
 Sept. 22  
 10 am LOWER HUMBER - heritage walk  
 Leader: Madeleine McDowell  
 Meet at the northeast corner of The Queensway and South Kingsway.  
 Morning only.



FOR MORE OUTINGS & OTHER EVENTS, SEE PAGES 4 & 29.

TFN OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 9 am to 12 noon

SEPTEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

▷ Saturday TFN NATURE RESERVES - a day in the country  
Sept. 25 Leader: Robin Powell & Jerry Spevak  
10 am to Call 416-593-2656 if you want to attend. Leave your name and  
5 pm telephone number and send a cheque for \$20 made out to the  
TFN to the TFN office, 2 Carlton St., #1519, Toronto M5B 1J3.  
PARKINSON The bus leaves from Old York Mills Rd. just east of Yonge St.  
BUS LINES (south exit of York Mills subway station) promptly at 10 am  
and returns there at 5 pm.  
\$ 20 Bring lunch and waterproof footwear.  
in advance

\$ ferry  
tickets

Sunday WARD'S ISLAND - wildflowers  
Sept. 26 Leader: Jenny Bull  
1:45 pm Meet at the ferry docks in time to take the 1:45 ferry to  
Ward's Island to meet the leader there at 2 pm.

Tuesday TAYLOR CREEK - wildflowers  
Sept. 28 Leader: Melanie Milanich  
10 am Meet at the Victoria Park subway station. Bring lunch.

□

## 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, including locations, dates, and any sources consulted.

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  
2 Carlton St., #1519  
Toronto, Ont. M5B 1J3

Editor: Helen Juhola

Poetry, Art and Nature Observations: Diana Banville

Assistants: Patricia Brind, Eva Davis, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg,  
Toshi Oikawa, Marilyn Murphy, Robin Powell

Printer: DM Printing

Mailer: Perkins Mailing Services

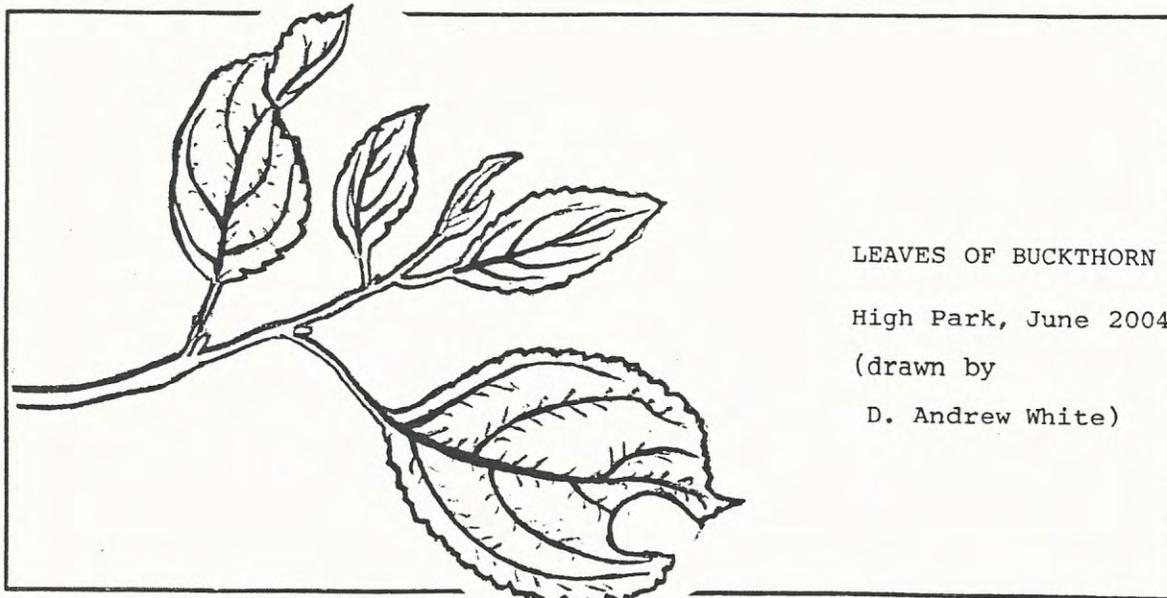
## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

So far, it's been a good summer. Although somewhat cool and cloudy this year, any summer that doesn't have power blackouts is a good summer. Let's hope it continues.

A proposed bylaw to harmonize existing tree protection bylaws across Toronto is slowly making its way to a vote through the City's Planning and Transportation committee and then full Council in September. This is part of a massive ongoing effort to harmonize all the bylaws across the city. The proposal is basically to protect trees over a certain size (30 cm in diameter, 1.4 metres from the ground) on private property. For removal, a permit (plus a fee) would be required as well as a replacement tree planted. This summer there were public consultations at each of the community councils. At Etobicoke community council where I spoke in favour of the bylaw, there appeared to be overwhelming public support for its adoption. In spite of public support like this, some community councils appear to be unenthusiastic. The additional constraint on the rights of private property owners appears to be the hurdle. Toronto city council, which has the strongest bylaws of the boroughs, is taking the lead on the proposed bylaw harmonization. This might also explain the luke-warm support of the other boroughs; i.e. the old City of Toronto appears to be dictating what the other boroughs should do. I encourage you to urge your city councillor to support the proposed harmonized tree protection bylaw. [ See also page 24.]

Robin Powell

□



LEAVES OF BUCKTHORN

High Park, June 2004

(drawn by

D. Andrew White)

TFN BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2004 - 2005

President: Robin Powell, 504 - 1017 Seneca Ave., Mississauga L5G 3X5  
(905-278-4798)

Past President: Phoebe Cleverley, 506 - 110 The Esplanade, Toronto M5E 1X9  
(416-369-0546)

Secretary-Treasurer: Aarne Juhola, 112- 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3  
(416-924-5806)

Other Directors:

Alexander Cappell, 109 - 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., Willowdale M2R 2Z4  
(416-663-7738)

Elaine Farragher, 23 Wright Ave., Toronto M6R 1K9  
(416-537-5877)

Karin Fawthrop, 347 Beechgrove Dr., Scarborough M1E 4A2  
(416-282-6044)

Pinky Franklin, 34 Plymbridge Cres., Toronto M2P 1P5  
(416-488-3226)

Nancy Fredenburg, 807 - 360 Ridelle Ave., Toronto M6B 1K1  
(416-781-8550)

Gail Gregory, 17 Westlake Cres., Toronto M4C 2X3  
(416-538-4713)

Helen Juhola, 112 - 51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3  
(416-924-5806)

Jerry Spevak, S 66 Kydd Lane, RR2, Sunderland LOC 1H0  
(705-357-3593)

Alex Wellington, 63 Pauline Ave., Toronto M6H 3M7  
(416-532-3777)

□

MOUSELIFE...by Susan Weiss



**Alistair  
J. Kennedy**  
Chartered Accountant

**REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

To The Members Of  
**Toronto Field Naturalists**

I have reviewed the Balance Sheet of Toronto Field Naturalists as at June 30, 2004 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 10, 2004

  
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, 2004**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 79,460	\$ 87,928
Inventory at Cost	<u>3,691</u>	<u>3,472</u>
	<u>83,151</u>	<u>91,400</u>
Other Assets		
Photo Library at Cost	<u>10,500</u>	<u>9,650</u>
	<u>\$ 93,651</u>	<u>\$101,050</u>

**LIABILITIES**

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,070
Membership Fees Received in Advance	<u>8,610</u>	<u>8,570</u>
	<u>9,680</u>	<u>9,640</u>

**OPERATING SURPLUS**

Operating Surplus	<u>83,971</u>	<u>91,410</u>
	<u>\$ 93,651</u>	<u>\$101,050</u>
Working Capital: Dollars	\$ 73,471	\$ 81,760
: Ratio	8.6:1	9.5:1

**NATURE RESERVES - RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Current Assets		
Cash (Note 2)	\$103,355	\$ 94,860
Property and Equipment		
Land	<u>281,702</u>	<u>281,702</u>
	<u>\$385,057</u>	<u>\$376,562</u>
Operating Surplus		
Reserve for Future Expenditures	\$103,355	\$ 94,860
Property	<u>281,702</u>	<u>281,702</u>
	<u>\$385,057</u>	<u>\$376,562</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Robert Powell (Director)

Rene Gubala 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, 2004**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Membership Fees	\$ 18,250	\$ 19,225
Publications	<u>267</u>	<u>284</u>
	<u>18,517</u>	<u>19,509</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Outings	\$ 2,933	\$ 2,001
Meeting Expenses	2,473	2,657
Newsletter, Printing and Mailing	12,124	11,376
Other Printing Expenses	157	298
Other Mailing Expenses	903	1,226
Accounting	1,070	1,070
Advertising and Publicity	1,095	391
Office Supplies	813	1,120
Telephone	553	491
Rent	11,608	9,963
G.S.T. Rebate	<u>(1,070)</u>	<u>(1,925)</u>
	<u>32,659</u>	<u>28,668</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	(14,142)	( 9,159)
Interest Income	<u>727</u>	<u>924</u>
Net Income (Loss) before Donations	(13,415)	( 8,235)
Donations	<u>5,976</u>	<u>4,197</u>
Net Income (Loss) for Year	\$ <u>( 7,439)</u>	\$ <u>( 4,038)</u>
Operating Surplus, at Beginning of Year	<u>91,410</u>	<u>95,448</u>
Operating Surplus, at End of Year	\$ <u>83,971</u>	\$ <u>91,410</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, 2004**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net Income (Loss) for Year	\$( 7,439)	\$ (4,038)
Decrease (Increase): Inventory	( 219)	( 252)
Decrease (Increase): Photo Library	( 850)	
Increase (Decrease): Current Liabilities	<u>40</u>	<u>(3,037)</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Cash for Year	<u>( 8,468)</u>	<u>(7,327)</u>
Cash at Beginning of Year	<u>87,928</u>	<u>95,255</u>
Cash at End of Year	\$ <u>79,460</u>	\$ <u>87,928</u>
RESTRICTED FUNDS - Nature Reserves		
Receipts		
Designated Donations	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,300
Interest Earned	<u>933</u>	<u>1,970</u>
	<u>8,933</u>	<u>6,270</u>
Current Expenditures		
Property Taxes & Maintenance	<u>( 438)</u>	<u>( 3,243)</u>
Capital Expenditures		
New Fence & Gate	-	( 18,243)
Land Purchased in Uxbridge Township	<u>-</u>	<u>(106,424)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>(124,667)</u>
Increase (Decrease) for Year	8,495	(121,640)
Restricted Cash at Beginning of Year	<u>94,860</u>	<u>216,500</u>
Restricted Cash at End of Year	\$ <u>103,355</u>	\$ <u>94,860</u>

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

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AT JUNE 30, 2004**

**Note 1: Status and Objects of Organization**

Toronto Fields 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 Policies**

Capital 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 \$12,698.

UNAUDITED

□

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

May 5, 2004

Your (our!) newsletter continues to inform and delight. Thank you for all your hard work.

Marion Martindale

May 5, 2004

Thank you for all your hard work, fascinating lectures and delightful walks and newsletter.

Anne Cipollone

May 22, 2004

I enjoy the newsletter very much. Thank you.

Katherine J. Miller

June 25, 2004

I really enjoy your journal -- great drawings, descriptions, etc.

M. Murray

June 30, 2004

I enjoy your publication immensely. Keep up the good work! And have a pleasant summer.

James Butler

July 12, 2004

I learned about your organization by seeing your magazine (Toronto Field Naturalist) at the Toronto Public Library Urban Affairs Branch and I would like to join.

C. Coneybeare



As often as not, the dwellers of the rural spaces and the denizens of the towns seem to have little in common. In fact, one detects suspicion and outright antipathy between today's countrymen and naturalists, sometimes. The former see themselves as the last of the pioneers and the last to really work the land for a living; they see the visitors as naive about agriculture and unhelpfully romantic in their attitudes toward wildlife and land use.

from WINTERGREEN: RAMBLES IN A RAVAGED LAND by R.M. Pyle, Charles Scribner's Sons, N.Y., 1986

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

July 18, 2004

I wonder if anyone else has been visited by a Great Carpenter Bee this summer. The first indication of something new was in mid-June when my wife noticed a pile of sawdust on the seat of the wooden bench that lines one side of our rear deck. Looking closer we noticed a hole in the back of the bench – a perfectly round 1cm diameter one. While we were looking, a large insect backed out to the entrance and with its hind legs, pushed out some sawdust, then retreated back into the hole.

My first thought was – Asian Long-Horned Beetle – but we live in the wrong Area(Bayview-Finch) and it was the wrong wood(spruce 2 x 6 lumber).

To find out just what was in the hole,I fastened an open-top glass bottle over the hole. Soon the local occupant was buzzing around inside the bottle. It looked like an extra large bumble bee, larger than I had ever seen. We checked in the Audubon Nature Encyclopedia and there it was – The Great Carpenter Bee – a native of eastern and southern North America.

After we released the bee, we probed the hole with a wire. The wire went in about 2cm and then turned at right angles and went another 3 or 4cm, rising slightly the full way. This is exactly as described in the Nature Encyclopedia. Our identification was correct!!

According to the Encyclopedia, after finishing the hole, the bee lays about 10 eggs in 10 separate compartments – I didn't want that. I decided to plug the hole to prevent the bee's return. A 3/8" dowel fitted neatly.

A couple of days later I discovered more sawdust under the bench, this time the hole was in the bottom of the seat. I plugged it as well.

The Carpenter Bee came around several times after that, probably scouting for another location. I always knew when it came. It was like a bus with wings.

After the end of June, I did not see it again.

Bill Emmerson

□

No Hollywood - but  
entertaining cardinal  
singing in the rain.

Diana Banville  
Crescent Town  
May 14, 2002

# PROJECTS

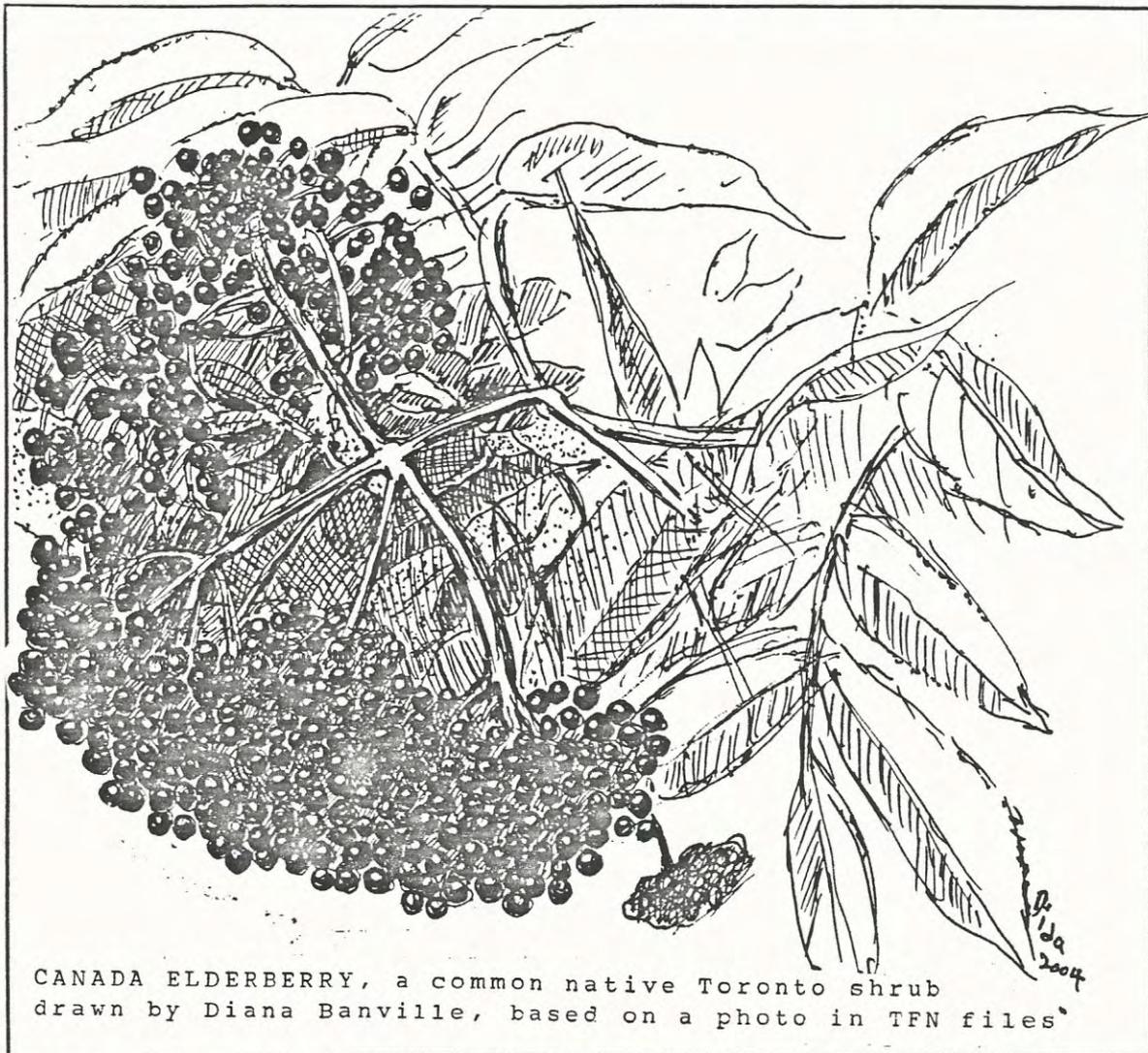
SPREAD THE WORD

Do you enjoy the TFN newsletter? guided walks? lectures? Would you enjoy talking to people about it? We need you to help promote the TFN by "manning/womanning" a table at functions such as the City of Toronto's Conservation Day -- "Caring and Sharing" on Wednesday Sept. 22 or the Harvest Festival at Todmorden Mills on September 26. [See page 29.]

Please call if you can volunteer a few hours. Do you have a place in your apartment building or condominium to place a poster advertising the TFN? We need help getting the word out about the TFN.

▷ Please call Pinky Franklin at 416-488-3226 or leave message at the TFN office (416-593-2656).

Pinky Franklin



CANADA ELDERBERRY, a common native Toronto shrub  
drawn by Diana Banville, based on a photo in TFN files

PROJECTS (cont'd)

### **The Don Valley: Can it be both a natural watershed/park and the major transportation corridor for Toronto?**

In the fall of 2004 a transportation planning report will go to Toronto City Council outlining recommendations of the Don Valley Corridor Transportation Master Plan. The result of the Class Environmental Assessment process - this report has sought public input at two sets of area meetings (in Spring 2003 and Spring 2004). The TFN and other environmental groups attended, spoke and provided written responses in order to keep environmental concerns alive.

The purpose of the Master Plan is to determine how the TTC and GO Transit can provide increased person carrying capacity in the Don Valley Corridor within the City of Toronto. This transportation demand is based on estimates of population growth, business and residential development, especially in areas north and east of the city. Transport studies also estimate that many city residents will need the service to go out of the city to employment. Input to the report is screened, selected and developed entirely by Transportation Planning staff and the consultants hired for the assessment process. Their purpose is to develop mass transit.

Unfortunately the major solution being developed is to run **diesel buses** down a widened Don Valley Parkway shoulder. Widening would also take place on Don Mills Road. Many of the buses would be routed through the Redway Road extension which would mean relocating a railway spur and carving off a strip of Crothers Woods. Also lost from Crothers woods will be the on and off ramps which would connect the new road with Bayview Avenue. Although the Don Valley Parkway widening cannot provide a dedicated bus shoulder lane for the entire route (especially south of Lawrence there are several "pinch points" where there are existing bridges, or lack of space prevents widening) many buses would continue along a widened Bloor off ramp to off-load the commuters at Castle Frank Station (the small park near the station would provide bus lane space). There would be a capacity for 30 buses per hour to the heavily travelled Bloor subway. Future expansion would include widening the Bayview Extension to send buses all the way downtown. Who would have thought that diesel buses were the best transit technology of the future?

Another related initiative, a new GO station, would be built on the Richmond Hill GO Rail line at Eglinton East and Wynford (the land is at the top of the Charles Sauriol Nature Reserve). The most environmentally-friendly part of the study has been "operational improvements" which use technology to improve the regulation of traffic on the Don Valley Parkway and on arterial roads within the city. Transit Signal Priority could also be used to improve the movement of TTC vehicles along surface routes. Some discussion was also held regarding additional carpool lots (on the Finch Hydro corridor) and increasing the number of commuters per vehicle with additional priority lanes.

▷ You'll want to let your city councillor know how you feel about these proposals and how they will affect air quality, noise pollution, water pollution and parkland in Toronto.

Gail Gregory



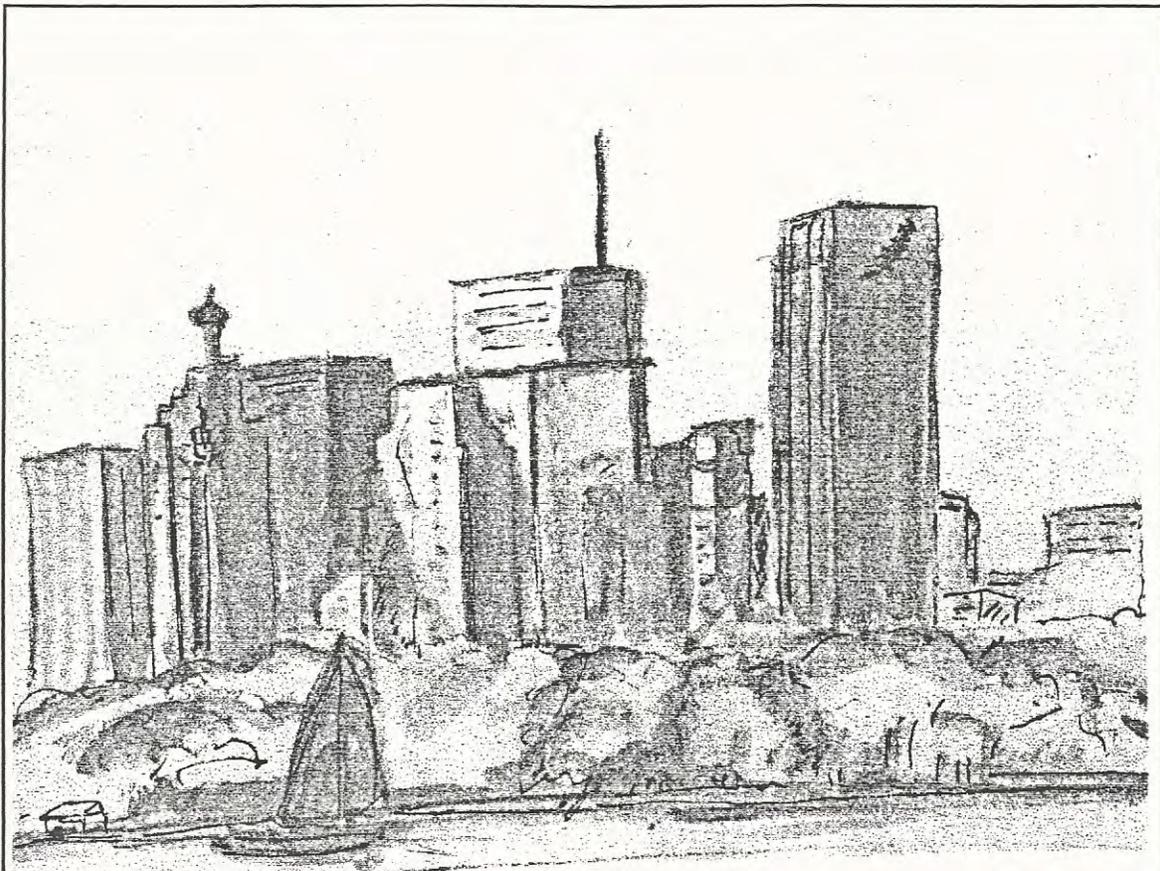
PROJECTS (cont'd)

WILDFLOWER-BLOOMING PROJECT - TORONTO REGION

About 140 September-blooming wildflowers is the count from TFN file-records. All are dicots except for nodding bur-marigold. (Of course graminoids are not included in the wildflower project but it's clearly a subject for a future project judging by the interest shown. For now a list of such is being noted.) Mid-September is about the middle of the aster-goldenrod season, and all the common species are represented - 22 species - even early goldenrod.

▷ Please continue to report: fall and even winter-blooming wildflowers - using the star-symbol in your outing reports.

Diana Banville



TORONTO SKYLINE  
from Leslie Street Spit

by Adele Cassan,  
September 29, 2001

## PROJECTS (cont'd)

## DEATH AND TAXES

A hallmark of Ontario's back-to-back Conservative governments over the past eight years has been an increased reliance on the private sector, often in association with various partnerships or incentives, and conservation organizations have risen to the challenge. Last year alone, Ontario's land trusts protected some 1,200 hectares of ecologically sensitive lands, valued at about \$4 million. But a key component of the incentive package to support land trust initiatives and other, similar, protective efforts -- an exemption from property taxes for "community conservation lands" -- is absent. In 1997, the Ontario government announced just such an exemption for all lands held by nonprofit organizations for conservation purposes, as a special category within the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP). It was glowingly described by then Minister of Natural Resources Chris Hodgson as testament to his government's "permanent, long-term commitment to the environment." That commitment lasted less than a year. In 1998, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) bureaucrats temporarily suspended the exemption, supposedly for only a few months, to clarify some of the rules concerning whether conservation authorities could participate.

The subsequent bureaucratic and political meanderings have all the twists and turns of a badly written mystery novel. Three years ago, after months of negotiations with conservation groups, MNR posted a proposed regulation for public review on the Environmental Registry, but resistance from Ministry of Finance officials stalled that effort. Last year, MNR put forward a modified regulation that would have benefited some land trusts but left others in the cold, but critical reviews from all sides killed it.

In an effort to resolve this before the next election, MNR staff has prepared a revamped proposal, which deals with the previous concerns of the Ministry of Finance. Municipalities have expressed minimal concern. The CLTIP incentives already exempt all private owners of several types of provincially significant natural lands from property taxes; the additional lands exempted through the community conservation lands category would make up less than one percent of the program total.

For the 32 land trusts and nature clubs in Ontario that hold title to natural lands, the reinstatement of this tax exemption, along with the several related program improvements, is critical. The outcome of this issue will be a test of the ability of Ministry of Natural Resources Jerry Ouellette to cut through the bureaucratic maze, and of his government's real commitment to the natural environment. [It's still an issue!]

An article by Ron Reid (Nature Network News) in the WEST HUMBER NATURALISTS Newsletter, February, 2004

□

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Politicians count the number of messages they receive on a given issue and this greatly influences their decisions. So don't discount the power of a single letter, email, fax or phone call. In the effort to protect our natural environment every voice counts. We don't always win, but we do have some significant victories.

from "Greetings from the President" by Diane Haselmayer in EARTHWAYS (Samia), March 2004

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## FOR READING

A number of people this past summer have asked "What's a good field guide for trees?" The following are my personal choices. Does anyone else have suggestions?

A GUIDE TO TREES OF CANADA by Alan Mitchell, Dragon's World, 1987

This 9" X 12" book includes many non-native trees found on Toronto streets and in our cemeteries. Though originally published in Britain, it has been "Canadianized", even referring to specific examples growing here (for example, the osage orange trees on Lake Shore Drive). Beautifully illustrated, accounts include drawings of leaves, bark, tree shape, flowers and fruit.

TREES: A CANADIAN NATURE GUIDE by Alan Mitchell, Galley Books, N.Y., 1990

This is a smaller version (5" X 7") of the above and doesn't include as many species, but does include range maps for many (at the back of the book).

TREES OF NORTH AMERICA: A GUIDE TO FIELD IDENTIFICATION by C.F. Brockman, Golden Press, N.Y., 1968

A good field guide for anywhere in North America. This book includes a few non-native trees, range maps and drawings of leaves, fruit etc. An easy book to carry (4½" X 7½").

TREES OF ONTARIO INCLUDING TALL SHRUBS by L. Kershaw, Lone Pine Publishing, 2001

This book is good for anywhere in Ontario. It includes photographs and drawings as well as range maps. And it's not too large to carry (5½" X 8½").

TREES OF THE CAROLINIAN ZONE: A GUIDE TO SPECIES, THEIR ECOLOGY AND USES BY Gerry Waldron, The Boston Mills Press, 2003

This book (6" X 9") includes colour photographs, Ontario range maps, and drawings of trees. It has an excellent preamble about the history of trees in Ontario and information about restoration of forests.

▷ Please send any further suggestions to the TFN office (address on back of newsletter).

Helen Juhola ▷

### A TREE-RING STORY

In the period AD 536 to 545, Irish oaks, Sierra Nevada foxtail pines and Fitzroya conifers from Chile show years of extreme cold -- the only years in which rings narrowed from severe weather match up across the three. There was no volcanic eruption to account for such global chilling, and [scientists] have proposed a catastrophic encounter with cometary debris, an event recorded not only in tree rings but in Britain's Arthurian myths and Celtic folk tales.

from IRELAND: A SMITHSONIAN NATURAL HISTORY by M. Viney, Smithsonian Books, Washinton/  
London, 2003

FOR READING (cont'd)

Recently published:

THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM FIELD GUIDE TO WILDFLOWERS OF ONTARIO by Timothy Dickinson, Deborah Metsger, Jenny Bull & Richard Dickinson, McClelland & Stewart, 2004; \$29.99; available in bookstores and the ROM Reproductions shop.

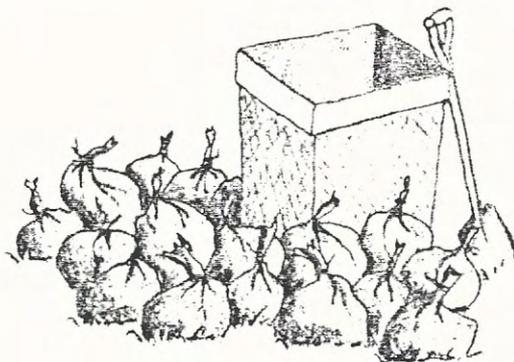
THE NATURE JOURNAL by Federick W. Schueler & Aleta Karstad, Bishops Mills Natural History Centre, 2004; \$40.00; available from Bishops Mills Natural History Centre, R.R. 2, Oxford Station, Ont. K0G 1T0; shipping charge \$9.00. [A copy will be available for sale at the TFN Sept. meeting).

FIRST BOOK OF ONTARIO WILDFLOWERS by Joan Crowe, Le Corbeau Press, 2004; \$16.00; available from the Bruce-Grey Plant Committee, Box 401, Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 5P7.

HAWKS AND OWLS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION AND EASTERN NORTH AMERICA by Chris G. Earley, Firefly Books Ltd., 2004; \$16.95; available in bookstores.

M.M.

□



*Jim Allen  
April 5, '04*

**Result of Garbage Clean Up. Park Drive Ravine.  
South of St. Clair Ave. E. East off Mt. Pleasant Rd.  
at the bottom of the hill.**

**Saturday, March 27, 2004**

**Thanks to Henry for standing in for Marita Dreger.  
He brought garbage bags, tongs (not for hamburgers),  
juice and fantastic home-made cookies, and humped  
most of the 18 full garbage bags and one old shovel  
up to the collection site.**

LIFE CYCLE OF A COMMON MILKWEED



Clusters of architecturally  
exquisite florets, pink to  
mauvish-brown, with a  
pervasive fragrance  
June to August

Fat green, spiky pods burst  
to release a storm of  
minute silky seeds  
Late fall

Spectacular,  
sculptural brown and gold husks  
Throughout winter

Went to Kortright, ... wandered the hiking trails and came across these spectacular  
milkweed husks -- they really do have deep yellow insides. How people can dismiss  
them as "weeds" beats me (farmers excepted).

E.D.



## IN THE NEWS

### LAND GRANT DOUBLES ROUGE SIZE

The provincial government has donated \$35 million worth of land, doubling the length of Rouge Park on Toronto's eastern border.

In all, 1,432 hectares of government-owned lands along the Rouge River watershed in Scarborough, Pickering and Markham have been added to the park, giving it a total area of more than 50 square kilometres.

This transfer of land from the Ontario Realty Corp. to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and Town of Markham shows the government's commitment to promoting a cleaner natural environment.

Of the land donated, about 660 hectares are next to the Little Rouge River in Markham and 770 hectares are mixed rural, agricultural and natural areas in Toronto and Pickering.

extracted from an article in MEIRO, April 22, 2004.

### HALIBURTON OUTDOOR CENTRE TO BE CLOSED AFTER 83 YEARS

The Ontario government axe has fallen on a popular Haliburton area outdoor education centre used heavily by schoolchildren, community groups and provincial workers for nature training.

The Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre, which opened in 1921 and sits on 24,000 hectares of lake-dotted wilderness southeast of Dorset, Ont., will close next Wednesday, the Ministry of Natural Resources confirmed yesterday.

The closing is designed to save the cash-strapped Liberal government \$1.2 million a year in operating costs.

extracted from an article by Anthony Reinhart, in The GLOBE AND MAIL, July 7, 2004

### BEEBLE SPELLS DOOM FOR 5,000 OAKVILLE TREES

More than 5,000 of Oakville's majestic oak trees, some over a century old, have been attacked by a beetle known as the two-lined chestnut borer.

The insect, native to Canada and much of the United States, attacks white and red oak trees that are already weakened from drought and other factors.

The pest was detected in 2003 at the Iroquois Shoreline Woods Park. A follow-up study also revealed infestations at Bayshire Woods Park and



Winston Woods Park. Another 22 woodlots containing large stands of oaks were identified as being at risk but not yet infested.

The beetle, named for being the primary pest of the American chestnut tree, lays its eggs in cracks in the bark. Larvae hatch and burrow into the tree, cutting off its water supply.

About 4,000 infected oaks - almost half the forest cover at Iroquois Shoreline - had to be cut down. Only about 10 per cent of the oaks were saved.

extracted from an article by Mike Funston, in the Toronto Star, April 8, 2004

#### POLLUTED LAKES TURNING TURTLES INTO TURTLETTES

Canadian researchers studying wildlife on the Great Lakes have found sexual abnormalities in male snapping turtles, with penis size diminished and some males able to produce egg yolk protein, a capability normally found only in females.

The research, conducted by biologists with the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, is part of a growing body of international evidence indicating that many species are suffering from exposure to so-called gender-bending chemicals, industrial pollutants that have been found to mimic sex hormones.

These changes so far have been observed most in fish, but researchers have noted genital abnormalities in other species ranging from Florida panthers to alligators.

The turtles with abnormal penis size were found in Ontario: in the Detroit River near Windsor, the St. Clair River near Sarnia, and the harbour of Wheatley, a small fishing community on Lake Erie. All three sites are pollution hot spots.

The turtles that produced egg yolk protein were found around Wheatley. Additional work by the scientists on herring gulls discovered the egg protein in some male birds along the Detroit River. Young turtles showed other biological abnormalities, such as impaired thyroid function, at all three sites.

However, environmentalists said the research is worrisome because chemicals powerful enough to affect hormones are a potential health threat. At Wheatley, the researchers were unable to find any signs of reproductive activity by the snapping turtles. Along the St. Clair River, scientists found less hatching success than at the non-polluted sites.

Gulls from the Detroit River showed impaired immune systems. There were also high numbers of dead gull embryos in nests along the Detroit River and in western

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

Lake Erie, compared to cleaner sites.

extracted from an article by Martin Mittelstaedt, in The Globe and Mail, April 28, 2004

#### NASTY NEWCOMERS WIELD SHARP CLAWS

A new threat to Toronto waterways is called the rusty crayfish, an invasive species that the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority says is moving into area waters because of anglers who use them for bait. While crayfish are common in Ontario rivers and lakes, the rusty species, which originated in the streams of Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee, is noted for a few crucial differences in looks and attitude.

Adults are usually 7.5 to 13 centimetres from nose to tail, are brown in colour and look as if someone with paint on their thumb and forefinger had picked them up.

Rusty crayfish, first noticed by the conservation authority in 2002, have since been found at 18 data collection sites in the Humber River, Rouge River and Duffins Creek. The conservation authority can't confirm if the crayfish are living in Lake Ontario. There have been other sightings on Lake Simcoe and the shores of Lake Superior, and possibly in other locations around the province.

The invading crayfish have big appetites and eat the vegetation that fish feed on and use for cover and breeding. This could destroy fish habitats, especially in areas already suffering from environmental degradation, and lead to a decline in fish populations. The crayfish have also been reported to eat fish eggs.

One redeeming quality of the rusty crayfish is that it eats the zebra mussel, another invasive species. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority hopes to stop the spread of the invasive crayfish, and wants anglers in the province to learn about them and avoid using the creatures as bait.

extracted from an article by Erin Conway-Smith, in The Globe and Mail, July 14, 2004

Although the Great Lakes are immense, and contain about 20 per cent of the world's fresh water, they are a finite resource. Only about 1 per cent of the water in the lakes is renewed each year from precipitation or other inflows, such as rivers.

from "Stemming the flow from the Great Lakes" by Martin Mittelstaedt in the GLOBE & MAIL, July 20, 2004

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

BANG GOES YOUR HEARING, IF YOU DON'T EXERCISE YOUR EARS

The ear needs a noise workout to keep in shape. A global survey has found that the city dwellers have better hearing than people who live in quiet villages. As expected, people exposed to extremely loud noises at work, such as construction workers, had poor hearing. But the hearing of those living in quiet, rural areas was just as bad. People like orchestral musicians and airline pilots, by contrast, have unusually good hearing despite exposure to noise at work. Prolonged exposure to excessively loud noise degrades hearing. Industrial standards are therefore based on people's average exposure to sound energy. It is the very strong impulses -- loud bangs -- that do the most damage.

from "In Brief" in NEWSSCIENTIST, May 29-June 4, 2004

DYE TURNS HUMBER RIVER BLUE, OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE DEAD FISH

A chemical spill from a nearby manufacturing plant turned part of the Humber River bright blue. Barrels of green dye, dumped into storm sewers by a company called Climatizer Insulation caused the colour change. Climatizer said the dye is safe and biodegradable. However, Environment Ministry officials said dead fish popping up in the river suggested otherwise and have ordered a full report from the company. Climatizer manufactures cellulose thermal and acoustical insulation, hydro-seeding mulch and speciality fibres. The company, in operation since 1977, said the chemical has been approved for use on golf courses and growing grass on roadside construction sites. Its products are listed on its website as environmentally friendly and not harmful to humans.

from 24 HOURS, July 29, 2004

CITY PLANS BYLAWS TO PROTECT MULTI-TASKING TREES

The city plans to pass a new tree bylaw in September. The former city of Toronto's bylaw is being recommended, with the addition of a \$100 fee for requesting permission to cut down a tree. That's fine with councillors from Toronto, East York and North York. It's not okay with the majority of those from Etobicoke and York, who say it infringes on the rights of property owners and will cost the city too much. Scarborough councillors haven't aired any opinion at all. Early in September, councillors on the city's planning and transportation committee will vote on the proposed bylaw. Then it will go to council for final approval at the end of the month.

from an article by Kerry Gillespie, in the TORONTO STAR, July 29, 2004

□

On steep shaded cliffs  
On the grave of fallen trees  
Mother nature thrives.

haiku by Theresa Paradis

## 2003 SEASON TOTALS FOR THE GREATER TORONTO RAPTOR WATCH

The Greater Toronto Raptor Watch operates each fall, from September 1 to November 30 at three sites in the Toronto region, Cranberry Marsh, High Park and the Iroquois Shore. The Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch and the High Park Hawk Watch are both Lake Ontario shoreline sites, some 48 km apart, while the Iroquois Shore Raptor Watch is located some 10 km north of Cranberry Marsh on the Oak Ridges moraine.

Over a period of ten years, the advantages of having multiple monitoring sites in the Toronto region has been amply demonstrated with each site recording somewhat different mixtures of species and reflecting different migration routes around the region.

Cranberry Marsh has annually had much greater numbers of osprey, northern harrier, rough-legged hawk and American kestrel than either of the other two sites. High Park, in contrast, has had a larger number of broad-winged hawks and sharp-shinned hawks. The Iroquois Shore Raptor Watch, because of its location on the moraine, has had a much higher number of red-shouldered hawks and golden eagles over a five-year period. Conversely, sharp-shinned hawks are virtually absent from the Iroquois Shore counts.

In general, the individual species' totals for each of the three sites were, for 2003, at or above seasonal averages. The most obvious exception was the low numbers of broad-winged hawks migrating over any of the three sites, despite the favourable northwest winds, combined with a rising barometric pressure during the critical mid-September peak migrating period. The broad-winged hawks, which annually put on their "air show" over the lakeshore sites, were flying much farther inland and essentially by-passed the Toronto region. This is highlighted by the Iroquois Shore observation totals which, in a very limited number of observer hours, exceeded the totals for the other two sites.

The peregrine falcon totals for the two lakeshore sites should be qualified by stating that every peregrine falcon observed was counted with double counts being made in the High Park count. (There are at least two active nesting sites within 6 km of the monitoring site.) Even with double counting of peregrines, the count does give us a relative idea of activity from year to year. ▷

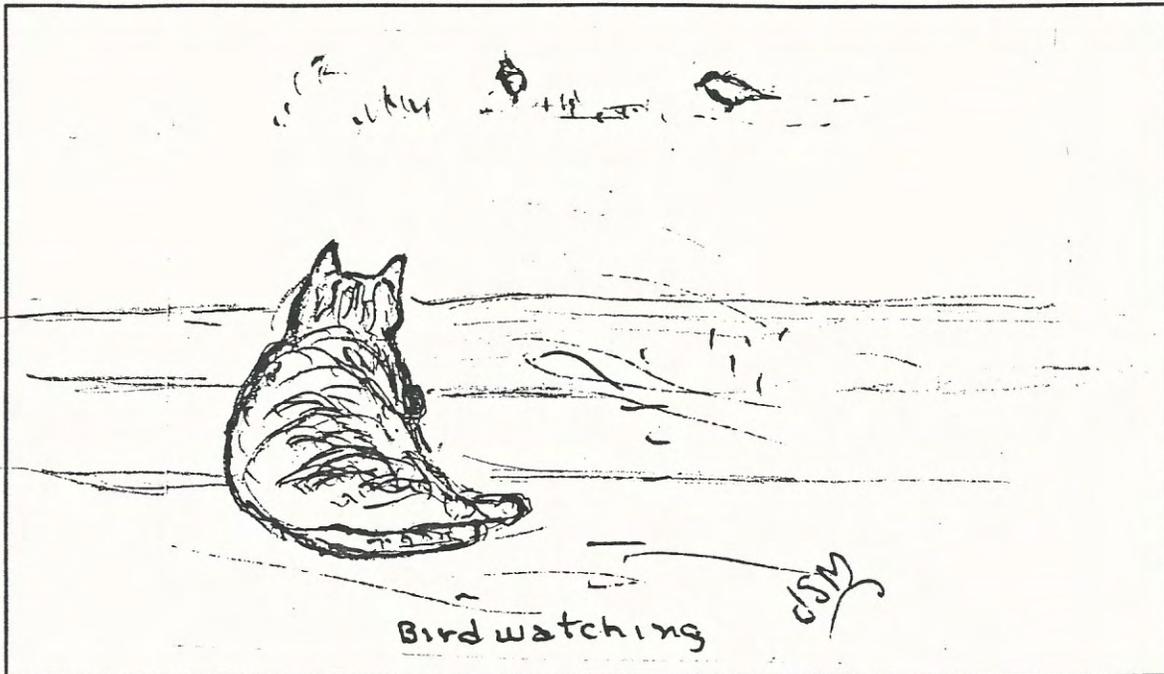
I believe that knowledge of one's neighbourhood, of the plants and animals and insects and rocks (and everyone else I've left out) that share our space, ought to be part of everyone's lexicon of place. Surely it's not asking too much for each of us to know ten native plants, ten stars, by name, ten six and eight-legged crawlers and hoppers? There are many ways of knowing home, and if you don't know home, how can you care for where you live?

from SHAPED BY WIND AND WATER: REFLECTIONS OF A NATURALIST by A.R. Zwinger,  
Milkweed Editions, 2000

2003 RAPTOR WATCH (cont'd)

<u>Species</u>	<u>Cranberry Marsh</u>	<u>High Park</u>	<u>Iroquois</u>
Turkey Vulture	2355	1964	754
Osprey	123	41	17
Bald Eagle	47	25	14
Northern Harrier	269	196	48
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1973	2381	388
Coopers Hawk	88	126	17
Northern Goshawk	25	11	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	178	68	281
Broad-winged Hawk	276	603	672
Red-tailed Hawk	2018	2892	942
Rough-legged Hawk	88	23	50
Golden Eagle	11	10	22
American Kestrel	597	322	27
Merlin	51	23	9
Peregrine Falcon	39	42	3
Gyrfalcon	0	1	0
Unidentified	298	149	0
<u>Totals</u>	8438	8877	3239
Hrs. of Observation	425	296	88

Adapted from an article by Don Barnett, in THE TORONTO ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER #142, February 2004



cartoon by Jean McGill

## THIS MONTH'S COVER

### OH DEER, AN URBAN PROBLEM!

"Deer at Bird Feeder" is based on a photo by Robert Ragaini in the GLOBE & MAIL, June 23, 2004

Urban deer -- The deer population is much greater now than it was a century ago [in Toronto] and urban deer sightings (and vehicular collisions) are common.

"We are nurturing the deer to very high populations. Gone are their natural predators, hunting is severely curtailed and we provide vast fields of corn and soybeans for their consumption. Population pressure is pushing them into urban river valleys and undeveloped areas. As beautiful as they are, they may turn into pests if not controlled."

extracted from a letter by Robert J. Austin, London, Ont. in "Letters to the Editor, the GLOBE & MAIL, June 23, 2004

"Deer in your garden - Deer inhabit the Bayview Village ravines [Toronto]: In the winter (and other seasons too) they may enter properties near the ravines on the look-out for food. Hungry deer can destroy many cherished garden trees, plants and shrubs and damage expensive landscaping.

What can you do to control these garden pests?

- Build a fence. The most effective fence is six feet high, made of wire and angled 30-degrees away from the yard to create a barrier.
- Repel deer with unpredictable noises; for example, by hanging tin cans.
- Try scenting your yard with a smell which deer detest. Or spray your plants with something that tastes bad to deer. Such products are available at garden centers.
- Landscape with plants that deer don't like to eat. Unfortunately, many popular garden plants are favourite deer snacks -- apples, white cedar, birch, daylilies, dogwood, euonymus, hostas, hydrangea, impatiens, and yew. But, there are other plants which deer don't like -- plants with thorns, lilacs, peonies, ageratum, baby's breath, balsam fir, bleeding-heart, butterfly-weed, castor bean, coral bells, lily-of-the-valley, periwinkle and snapdragons."

extracted from the BAYVIEW VILLAGE NEWSLETTER, April 2004

□

Sustainable water management starts in the hills. In many parts of Europe and the U.S., the water companies pay for woodland conservation, because a continuous canopy of broadleaf trees cuts down the rate of storm water run-off, lessens the risk of down-stream flooding and helps to filter out particulate pollution.

from "Opinion: water works" by Chris Baines in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 18, No. 10, Oct. 2000

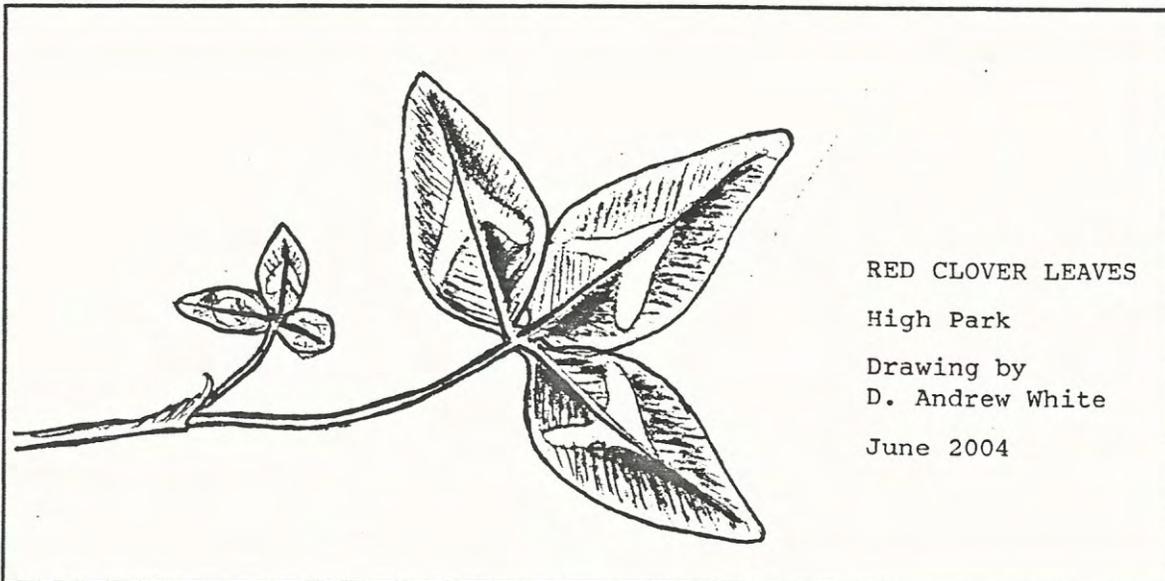
## THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

September 2003, Toronto

September was characterized by moderately warm, tranquil weather for the first half of the month, carrying over from August. Almost total sunshine prevailed from September 2nd to 13th. Thereafter, it was more rainy and unsettled, with intermittent shift to cooler autumnal conditions. The passage of Hurricane Isabel on September 18th-19th was associated with the pattern shift. Although Isabel followed a path similar to that of Hazel in 1954, this hurricane brought just 22.2 mm of rain downtown and 32.4 mm at Pearson Airport. There were no resulting troubles in the Toronto area. Other fairly heavy rains on September 22nd and 27th brought September's total rainfall to higher than in most recent years. Downtown had a total of 75.4 mm, the highest since 1999. This was still short of the 1971-2000 average of 83.5 mm. (Note that during the 1971-2000 period, there were several extremely wet Septembers with totals approaching or exceeding 200 mm: 1977, 1986, 1996). Pearson had 114.2 mm this month, the highest since 1996.

Temperatures averaged about 1°C above the 1971-2000 average, but well below the record levels of 2002. Pearson's mean temperature was 17.0°C; downtown, 17.8°C. There were no extreme temperatures: no days reached 30°C and it dropped to the 4°C-5°C range when a deep trough pulled cold air in late in the month.

Gavin Miller



RED CLOVER LEAVES

High Park

Drawing by  
D. Andrew White

June 2004

## COMING EVENTS

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

- Sat. Sept. 11 from 8 am to 12 noon with Don Burton - Fall migration at Lambton Woods. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Dr.)
- Sat. Sept. 18 from 8 am to 12 noon with Steven Favier - Fall migration in High Park. Meet in the parking lot inside the Bloor St. entrance at High Park Ave.
- Sat. Sept. 25 from 8 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.

Toronto Entomologists' Association

- Sat. Sept. 25 at 1 pm - Members' meeting  
Call 905-727-6993 for details.

Rouge Valley Conservation Centre

- Sept. 30 at 7:30 pm at the Pearse House - t.b.a.
- Sept. 12 at 1:30 pm - a walk in the valley (rain or shine) beginning and ending at the Pearse House.  
Call 416-282-8265 for more details.

The Gem & Mineral Club of Scarborough

- Wonders of the Earth - Sept. 18 from 10 am to 6 pm and Sun Sept. 19 from 11 am to 5 pm at Mid-Scarborough Community Centre, 2467 Eglinton Ave. East. Admission: adults - \$3, children \$1.  
Call 416-282-5319 or 416-438-8908 for more information.

The Market Gallery

- The People & Places of Riverdale - June 26 to Sept. 26  
Wed. to Fri. 10 am to 4 pm; Sat. 9 am to 4 pm; Sun 12 noon to 4 pm  
Free. Call 416-392-7604 for more details.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Call 416-661-6600, ext. 5660 for events & to register.

Ian Wheal heritage walks

- Sun. Sept. 5 at 11 am - Dovercourt Wetlands and Waterways - Meet at the northwest corner of Bloor St. West and Salem Ave. Free.  
Call 416-570-6415 for more information.

▶ Todmorden Mills - Harvest Festival - Sunday, Sept. 26 from 12 noon to 4 pm. See page 14 for opportunity to promote TFN at this event.

Mycological Society of Toronto - Fungi Fair - Mon. Sept. 20 at the Toronto Botanical Auditorium. Call 416-444-9053 for more details.

□

TFN 525 - 30

# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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\$25 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY

\$20 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE

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