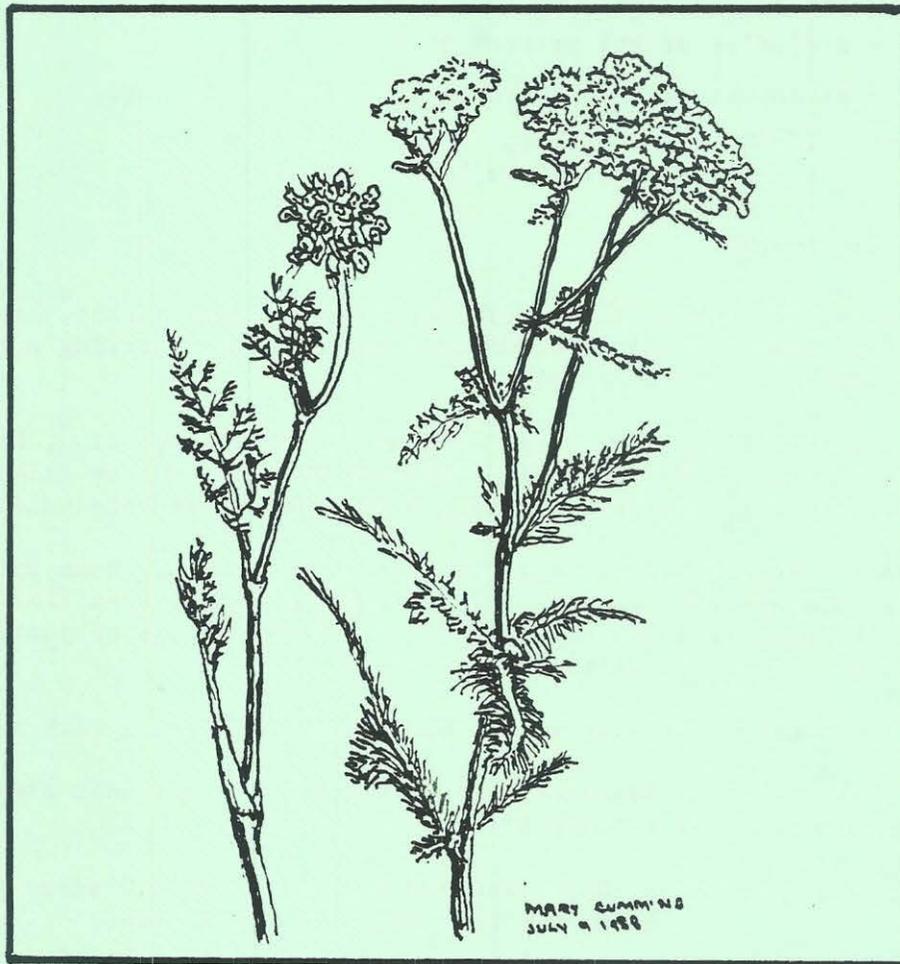


# TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 415

November 1990



See page 2.

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# TFN MEETINGS

## General Meeting

See also page 27.

Monday, November 5, 1990 at 155 College Street,\* 6th floor auditorium

7 pm - TFN social hour

+ a display of the artwork of Lenore Patterson

+ an opportunity to purchase TFN publications etc.

8 pm - LICHENS AND MEDICINE,

an illustrated lecture by Dr. Rupert Warren

## Group Meetings

Bird Meeting: Wed. Nov. 14 at 7:30 pm at 155 College Street,\* Room 251  
Dr. Ross James of the Royal Ontario Museum will be giving a talk on his research. Everyone welcome!

Botany Meeting: Tues. Nov. 20 at 7:30 pm at 155 College St.\* , Room 251  
Tom Atkinson of the Canadian Wildflower Society will be talking about Gathering, Preparing and Planting Tree Seeds. Everyone welcome!

Environment Meeting: Thur. Nov. 15 at 155 College St.\* , Room 251  
Irene Paparo-Stein, author of "Cities under Siege" (see TFN 414:14), will be speaking about her battles to reduce the use of pesticides in Winnipeg. Everyone welcome!

\* Easy TTC access (building is one block west of Queen's Park subway stn.)  
also  
Free parking in the Board of Education garage on the west side of McCaul Street just south of College Street.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Monday, December 3 with Mr. Skid Creesey speaking on Nature Education for Young People

## This Month's Cover

Common Yarrow, by Mary Cumming

Gavin Miller's "The Weather This Time Last Year" (TFN:399) tells us that November of 1987 had above normal sunshine and unseasonably warm temperatures at the beginning of the month. That was the year Isabel Smith found the yarrow still in bloom on November 5th and 13th. Other years her last observation for this wildflower has been in September or October. A Eurasian species, it is common in Toronto, usually white but may be pink to magenta.

D.B.

*Crimson-tipped leaflets  
glazed in a feathery frost  
foreshadow winter.*

haiku by J. Kenneth Cook

# TFN OUTINGS

TFN 415 - 3

## November

- Saturday  
Nov. 3  
11 am  
GALLERY HOPPING - nature arts  
Leader: Mary Cumming  
Meet at the southwest corner of Bloor and Yonge. Lunch optional. Toronto
- Sunday  
Nov. 4  
10:30 am  
ROUGE VALLEY - nature walk  
Leader: Robin Powell  
Meet at the Metro Zoo entrance. (We will not be going inside.) Bring lunch. Rouge, Scarborough
- Wednesday  
Nov. 7  
10:30 am  
LAKESHORE - nature walk  
Leader: Eva Davis  
Meet at the southwest corner of Coxwell Ave. and Lakeshore Blvd. East. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Lakeshore, Toronto
- Saturday  
Nov. 10  
10:30 am  
EAST POINT - nature walk  
Leaders: directors of TFN  
Meet on the east side of Morningside Ave. north of Guildwood Parkway, south of the railway tracks. Bring lunch. Parking on sidestreets. See pages 8, 20-22. Lakeshore, Scarborough
- Sunday  
Nov. 11  
2 pm  
HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk  
Leader: Joan O'Donnell  
Meet on Albion Rd. at Bankfield Dr. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. West Humber, Etobicoke
- Tuesday  
Nov. 13  
10 am  
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR  
Leader: Diana Banville  
Meet inside the main entrance to the Coliseum (near the Bathurst streetcar terminal in the CNE grounds, east entrance). Admission: \$7.00; seniors \$5.00. Bring your camera or sketching materials, stools optional, or just come and enjoy. Lunch optional. Lakeshore, Toronto
- Wednesday  
Nov. 14  
1:30 pm  
LAKESHORE - nature walk  
Leaders: Jean Orpwood and Margaret Canning  
Meet at the southeast corner of Queen St. East and Neville Park Blvd. (east end of Queen streetcar). Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Lakeshore, Scarborough
- Sunday  
Nov. 18  
11 am  
HIGHLAND CREEK - nature walk  
Leader: Robin Powell  
Meet at the northeast corner of Ellesmere Rd. and Neilson Rd. Bring lunch. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Highland Creek, Scarborough
- Wednesday  
Nov. 21  
10:30 am  
PROSPECT CEMETERY  
Leader: Cathy Heynes  
Meet at the cemetery entrance on St. Clair Ave. West opposite Lansdowne Ave. Walk will end at a different public transit stop. Toronto, York



TFN 415 - 4

NOVEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

Sunday            WEST HUMBER - nature walk                            West Humber, Etobicoke  
Nov. 25           Leader: Ellie Elder  
2 pm               Meet on the west side of Kipling Ave. at John Garland Blvd.  
Walk will end at a different public transit stop.

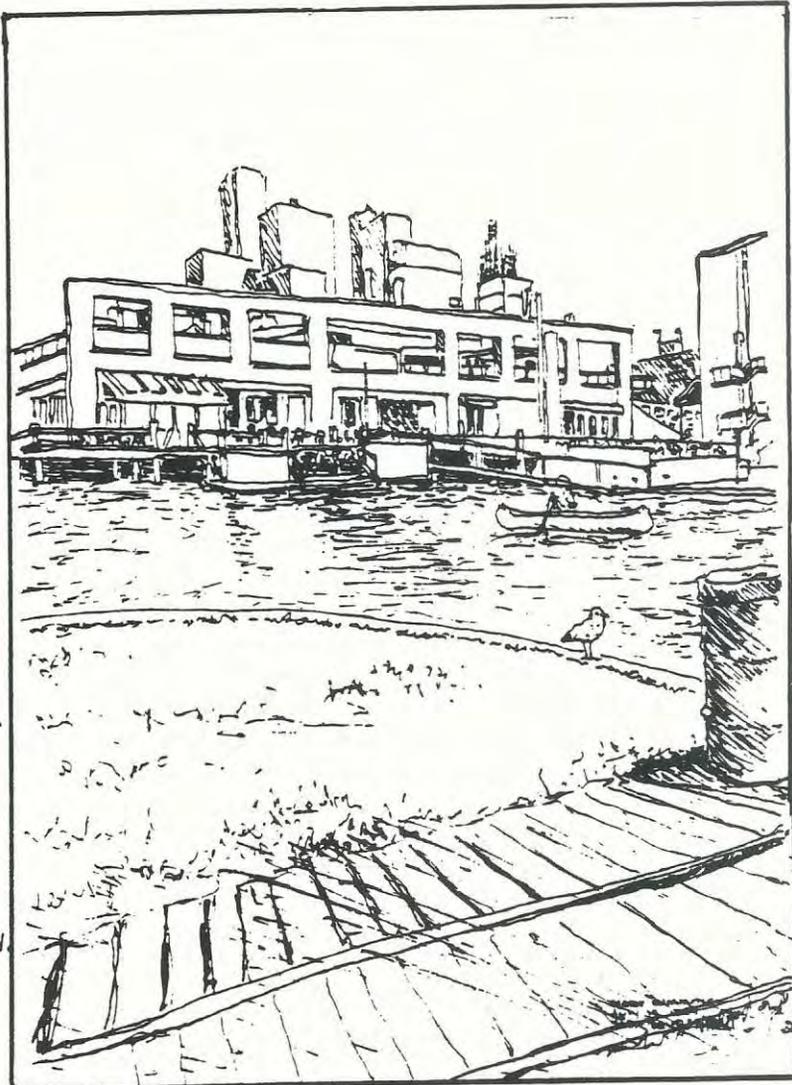
Wednesday      LAKESHORE - nature walk                                Lakeshore, Scarborough  
Nov. 28           Leader: Graham Neville  
10:30 am        Meet at the southeast corner of Kingston Rd. and Birchmount  
Rd. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.  
Lunch optional.

"HAPBOURFRONT, the best things in life are here" says the Government of Canada program for the winter of 1989-90 (but not necessarily free). Entertainment and activities listed do not include viewing of the winter bird life for which Toronto lakeshore is famous. It shows how far things have gone toward the exclusion of nature from human life.

If you have concerns about what is happening along our lakeshore, write to:

△ The Hon. David Crombie P.C.  
Royal Commission on the  
Future of the Toronto  
Waterfront,  
P.O.Box 4111, Station A,  
Toronto M5W 2V4  
Phone: 973-7185  
or visit 207 Queen's Quay W.  
Suite 580.

(Drawing by Mary Cumming during a TFN Nature Arts outing.)



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WATERSHED -- the Interim report, August 1990, by the Honourable David Crombie, Commissioner of the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront is now available. It is the second interim report. The work plan for the third year of operations of the Royal Commission will soon be released; the final report will be published in the summer of 1991.

This report states "...successful efforts to restore the health and usefulness of the waterfront will depend, in large measure, on an ecosystem approach. By its nature, such an approach cannot be implemented by any one agency or government in isolation. Rather, a wide range of agencies and governments must cooperate to apply an ecosystem philosophy and principles".

"It is the Commission's view that the process of bringing governments and people together must begin with the Government of Ontario. The Province should recognize the Toronto Area Waterfront, from Burlington to Newcastle, as a Provincial Resource..."

It will be of great interest to see how the new Provincial Government will meet this challenge. Another challenge to both Metro Politicians and the Province is the loss of the Olympic games. If the proposed housing project, the Ataratiri neighbourhood at the mouth of the Don River, and a project on the railway lands, go ahead, how does this support the recommendations of the Royal Commission? [See page 16.]

The Nature Centre located in Sunnybrook Park has concluded another successful season. Some 2000 visitors showed considerable interest in the posters illustrating birds, wildflowers, fish and insects as well as the "touch table" and in the activities of the TFN.

Eileen Mayo

□

### THINK BEFORE YOUR DRIVE

Curbing the car has got to be one of our most pressing priorities for the 1990s. Although few would deny that the convenience and comfort afforded by the private automobile has brought benefits to millions, the real price we pay for such personal mobility is no longer acceptable.

It's not just that cities designed primarily for the motorist are increasingly dangerous and unhealthy places in which to live; profound damage is also being done to the environment, through the contribution of car exhausts to acid rain and the greenhouse effect. Road transport is responsible for about a fifth of the carbon dioxide being added to the atmosphere every year, making it a very significant contributor to global warming. The use of unleaded petrol and catalytic convertors will, in time, make a difference to air quality, but neither of these has any impact whatsoever on carbon dioxide emissions.

from "Where on earth are we going?" by Jonathon Porritt in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol. 8, No. 7, July 1990

TFN FEE INCREASE

In the past year several members have asked me "how can the TFN possibly provide all the activities it does for the low membership fees it charges?" My reply is that we have a large number of volunteers and in total they donate an amazing amount of time, none of which is paid for. However, there are some things that can not be done by volunteers so we do have unavoidable expenses such as newsletter printing and mailing. In order to get 1,500 newsletters to members in good time for the activities listed therein we have to use a professional printer and mailer, and as pointed out in the October newsletter our necessary expenses are now running well ahead of our membership receipts.

Even with an increased membership fee you will still be getting a bargain. As a matter of interest (I am a Chartered Accountant), two years ago I calculated the value of the time contributed by all our volunteers. Most of the time was taken at the minimum wage rate so the figures were not inflated. I had felt that the TFN was an excellent organization but I hadn't realized how good it was. I was impressed -- the volunteer time contributed per membership was \$335.00. \$335.00 of value for a \$15.00 average membership!

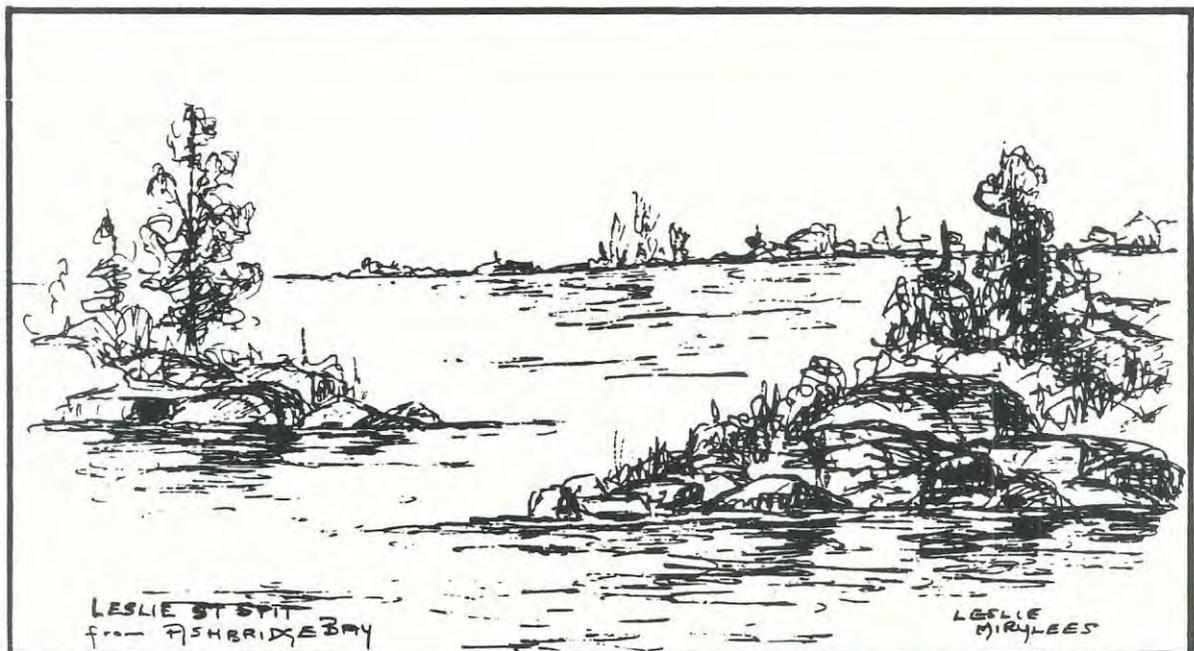
When you consider alternative choices, it is still a bargain. One evening out will cost you much more than a year of activities with the TFN. For one outing with the Royal Ontario Museum or the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, you will pay \$15.00 to \$25.00. Your TFN membership last year gave you 172 outings.

Even with a much higher membership fee, you have a tremendous bargain.

[more next month]

Aarne Juhola  
Secretary/Treasurer

□



## KEEPING IN TOUCH

August 25, 1990

...For two months we had Cape Eagle Owls on the roof - came at dusk and called in the night. I found a deposit of pellets, and on examination discovered they were eating only rodents and insects, no birds...At the farm, I picked lovely protea...recently and made a dried arrangement...with stasis. The farm is four acres and I call it "Much Birding".

Joy Pocklington  
Durban, South Africa

Sept. 13, 1990

Thank you for your letter dated June 5, 1990 expressing your concern about vehicle emissions. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding.

Members of the public can report excessive visible emissions to the Vehicle Emissions Test Centre at 965-4159 or to one of our local Ministry of the Environment District Offices. The regional and district offices forward complaints to the Test Centre. The telephone numbers for our district offices are listed in the blue pages of telephone directories for each community in Ontario.

In addition to taking public complaints, my Ministry's Vehicle Emissions Test Centre is involved in a number of other enforcement activities. The Centre works closely with the police in Ontario and is responsible for testing emission levels and pollution control devices on vehicles sent to the Test Centre through police spot checks. It investigates the sale of vehicles (by dealers or individuals) not in compliance with the Environmental Protection Act (PE), and initiates prosecution when violations are found. In addition, the Centre investigates the removal of emission controls by mechanics or private citizens and lays charges where necessary. It also enforces compliance with the EPA and Regulation 311 for persons operating a motor vehicle with pollution control equipment removed or inoperative and for vehicles that are emitting excessive visible emissions. Furthermore, the Centre provides inspectors who will appear in court as expert witnesses for police and other agencies.

Photochemical smog is formed by the combination of oxides of nitrogen with hydrocarbons in the presence of light. In order to reduce summer photochemical smog, my Ministry lowered the permissible levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in summer-grade gasoline to 10.5 pounds per square inch (psi) last year from the previous limit of 11.5 psi. The 10.5 psi limit applies again this summer. This change will reduce gasoline evaporation from tanks and pumps in Ontario by an estimated 15 per cent. My Ministry estimates that Ontario-generated smog formation (from both the automobile fuel and industrial sources) will be reduced by 8 to 10 per cent -- both locally and for hundreds of kilometres downwind.

Staff of my Ministry are currently in the process of reviewing its other regulatory policies as they relate to vehicle emissions. In this examination, staff are reviewing U.S. legislation which contains many of the suggestions

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

you have offered. The emissions from diesels as well as other vehicles will be addressed.

Thank you for expressing your interest and concern for the environment.

Jim Bradley, Minister (Ontario)  
Ministry of the Environment

Sept. 13, 1990

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the proposal by Metropolitan Toronto to construct a sports field complex at East Point.

We have recently updated our information about the flora and fauna within the park as part of our environmental assessment of the Authority's plan for the area. We would appreciate receiving any specific information you have about the location of significant plants.

We share your concern about maintaining a large natural area in the park and have proposed such an area within our plan (see attached 1989 Master Plan). The sports field is proposed on the westerly edge of the area we want to protect and we will consider your comments about possible impacts. We will be reviewing the details of the sports field proposal in the near future and reporting to the Authority with recommendations.

We are also scheduling a special meeting of our Board, in Scarborough during November, to receive public input on our East Point Park Master Plan. We will be considering your comments, as well as others, we have received concerning the Authority's plan, as part of our report.

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns.

[See pages 3, box below, and  
pages 20-22.]

Brian Denney, Manager  
Engineering and Development Section  
Water Resource Division, MTRCA

Sept. 24, 1990

...I'm happy to report, my husband took a flying leap at a Canada goose to capture it for the purpose of cutting off an ugly, very hard plastic neck band (J350). Two years ago I wrote to Washington wanting the history of this number. They informed me the bander would be in touch. I am still waiting...

Adele Cassan

□

TO ALL "BIRDS-AND-BEES TYPES"...

The above was the appellation contemptuously applied by Scarborough Councillor Ken Morrish to the environmentalists objecting to the building of four baseball fields (with service and parking facilities) within East Point Park, an Environmentally Sensitive Area. There were only a FEW such objectors, he protested. There is still a chance to stop this serious encroachment if ALL of us birds and bees write to the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, 5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, Ontario M3N 1S4, or phone them at 661-6600 (preferably before the public input meeting which they plan for some time in November.)

DB

## NATURE RESERVE REPORT

The Jim Baillie Nature Reserve, which lies downstream from the town of Uxbridge, will benefit from a conservation project announced by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. "The Township of Uxbridge, in cooperation with the Authority, has undertaken extensive rehabilitation of a piece of land in the downtown core of Uxbridge. Situated beside the confluence of two tributaries of the Uxbridge Brook, the four-hectare municipally-owned lot had been used as a snow dump," reports the Authority's CONSERVATION CLIPS, Vol. 9, No. 2, 1990. Elimination of the sedimentation and runoff from the melting snow should greatly improve water quality. Looked after properly, the streams could support a brook trout population, says the Authority. It will plant trees along the stream banks this fall. This will help stabilize the banks and eventually establish shade and stream cover. The rehabilitated lot will become a public park sure to be enjoyed by Uxbridge residents.

H.T.

□

POISON IVY was in bloom on the banks of the Newtonbrook Creek on June 19 when Mary Cumming made this field sketch. Later dense clusters of pale green-gold berries will develop. They are attractive so often turn up in dried bouquets and Christmas wreaths. Without its leaves, and with only the berries on their bare woody stems evident, the plant is recognized as poison ivy by few people, at this stage. All parts of the plant have the toxic substance.

Ref.: ONTARIO WEEDS  
by Alex et al.



MARY CUMMING  
JUNE 19 1990  
NEWTONBROOK  
POISON IVY

# BIRD REPORT

## AURORA FALCONS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED

The peregrine falcons released in Aurora (see TFN 413:23) appear to be off to a good start. Ten birds, hatched in northern Alberta, were brought to Aurora by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. In late September, Fish and Wildlife supervisor, Tracy Smith, said that, as far as he knows, all the birds seem to be surviving away from the launch site on food they are catching themselves. Young raptors are very vulnerable to serious injury. During that critical period when they were trying out their wings while still being fed at the hack box, the falcons were closely watched through the binoculars and spotting 'scopes of Aurora naturalists and volunteer Ministry staff members. Mr. Smith praised their efforts and happily says, "There were no crash landings and our keen observers did not have to make any dramatic rescues". Peregrine falcons go south for the winter. The bird seen down on the lakefront may well have been an Aurora grad. Let's hope that all 10 will return to Ontario or neighbouring northern states next spring.

Harold Taylor

□

THE PRAIRIE FALCON is about the size of a peregrine but its range does not extend to Toronto Region. The closest it comes to us, according to the American Ornithologists' Union's checklist of 1983, is Manitoba where it is a "casual". Unlike the world-wide peregrine, it is a North American species, ranging from southwestern Canada to the northern half of Mexico. Drawing by Geraldine Goodwin from a photo by Tom W. Hall in MacKenzie's *BIRDS OF PREY*.



*Prairie Falcon*

But the very joy that he found in the natural world and the degree to which he understood it, made his pain and concern at its despoilation the greater. I once asked him (Sir Peter Scott) whether he thought the conservation movement was really making progress, whether there was any hope that the destruction of wildlife might be halted. "I don't know," he said simply, "But I think there is just a chance that things might get a little better, than if one does nothing."

from "The legend of the Green Knight" by Sir David Attenborough in *BBC Wildlife*, Vol.7, No. 10, October 1989

## BREEDING BIRDS OF TORONTO

A conservative count of the breeding bird species of Metropolitan Toronto is 72 - those with "definite" status according to records of the past decade. Most are frequent nesters, but a few are occasional:

Black crowned night-heron	Purple martin
Mute swan	Tree swallow
Canada goose	Northern rough-winged swallow
Wood duck	Bank swallow
American black duck	Cliff swallow
Mallard	Barn swallow
Blue-winged teal	Blue jay
Gadwall	American crow
Red-tailed hawk	Black-capped chickadee
American kestrel	White-breasted nuthatch
Ring-necked pheasant	Blue-gray gnatcatcher
Virginia rail	Wood thrush
Killdeer	American robin
Spotted sandpiper	Gray catbird
American woodcock	Brown thrasher
Ring-billed gull	Cedar waxwing
Herring gull	European starling
Great black-backed gull	Warbling vireo
Caspian tern	Red-eyed vireo
Common tern	Yellow warbler
Rock dove	American redstart
Mourning dove	Scarlet tanager
Black-billed cuckoo	Northern cardinal
Eastern screech-owl	Rose-breasted grosbeak
Common nighthawk	Indigo bunting
Chimney swift	Chipping sparrow
Ruby-throated hummingbird	Savannah sparrow
Belted kingfisher	Song sparrow
Red-headed woodpecker	Red-winged blackbird
Downy woodpecker	Eastern meadowlark
Northern flicker	Common grackle
Eastern wood-pewee	Brown-headed cowbird
Great crested flycatcher	Northern oriole
Eastern kingbird	Orchard oriole
Horned lark	House finch
	American goldfinch
	House sparrow

We hope to keep records of these for the present decade, and also to obtain a better idea of specific nesting locations within Metro for each species. If you observe an active nest, notice adults coming and going with food and/or fecal sacs, or engaging in 'the broken-wing act', or if you actually see fledglings or downy young, please report - giving date and location. There are 31 other species with "indefinite" nesting status in Metro (e.g. the hairy woodpecker) so we need to keep our eyes open for more conclusive evidence. We're still interested, of course, in Toronto Region beyond Metro limits. There are 27 additional "definite" breeding species in this category with another 36 of "indefinite" status.

BREEDING BIRDS OF TORONTO - cont'd

For a switch, a few species have recent breeding status within the Toronto Region ONLY in Metro! Can you find any records, for instance, of double-crested cormorant breeding, or of mute swan or ring-billed gull, elsewhere along our lakeshore - Pickering or Bronte areas, for example?

▷ Please send any breeding bird records you may have to me at #710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7.

Diana Banville

ref.: ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO,  
Cadman et al. 1987  
TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, Bruce Parker, 1983

□



(Drawing by Diana Banville from a Maslowski photo)

THE YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER occasionally nests in Metro, though more commonly north of here. A preferred nesting site is the dead heart of a trembling aspen, from which it makes sorties to adjacent birches for its fill of sap.

The most likely time to observe this species in Toronto in migration is the last half of April to the first week in May or the last half of August to mid-September.

When perched, in all plumages, the white streak of the closed wing clamped to the bird's side is prominent, whereas the prominent white is on the back of the downy and hairy woodpeckers. The yellow of the belly is a pale shade, though some illustrations depict it as rather bright - not conforming to the text. "Pale straw-coloured" might be a more apt description of this part of the bird, as well as to others in its genus, with the exception of the western Williamson's sapsucker which, though described as lemon-yellow-bellied, never bore this English name, having been named for the ornithologist who described it.

ref. ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO,  
Cadman et al.

Monitoring bird populations is just one, relatively simple way of measuring environmental quality...A phone-in report of the number of different species heard in various parts [of a town in Britain] peaked at 14 in one leafy suburb, and dived to a miserable two by the town bus station.

from "Plants as Plant" by Chris Baines in BBC WILDLIFE, Vol., 8, No. 8, Aug. 1990

# IN EXCHANGE

## MERCURY RISING

In 1943 Ontario Hydro impounded the Ogoki River and diverted water from the Arctic watershed down the Little Jackfish River and into Lake Nipigon. Back then, if Hydro had an idea, and if the economics made sense, then it simply went ahead and built.

Today, life is more complicated. Hydro's latest dam and powerhouse proposal for the Little Jackfish River has run into stiff opposition, although it involves no water transfers and a reservoir only 15% the size of that created by the Ogoki diversion. Much of the resistance has come from commercial fishermen. They fear that the new reservoir will result in elevated mercury levels in fish taken from Lake Nipigon.

Back in 1943, mercury was not an issue. Even 15 years ago no one would have thought to mention mercury contamination as a possible effect of reservoir creation. Then, it was thought that mercury contamination originated only with industrial processes and pollution. This view was reinforced by incidents of suspected mercury poisoning in humans, in Minimata, Japan, and at the Whitedog and Grassy Narrows Indian reserve in northwestern Ontario. In both cases, mercury-laced industrial effluent was the source of the problem.

The view of mercury contamination as an industrial problem was so entrenched that it wasn't shaken even by the discovery of high levels of mercury in supposedly pristine northern lakes and reservoirs. These occurrences were usually explained away as the product of abandoned mines or unknown outcroppings of mineralization.

It wasn't until the late 1970s that there was a re-assessment of this idea. At that time routine monitoring showed a substantial rise in mercury levels in fish from newly-created reservoirs in Manitoba and Quebec. In neither case was this contamination predicted in the environmental assessment. Clearly, the culprit was something other than "outcroppings of mineralization".

Studies in northern Manitoba have now revealed the source of the mercury to be a process at once fascinating and difficult to control. Inorganic (metallic) mercury, which occurs naturally in small concentrations in soil and rock, is converted into organic methyl mercury through microbial action. Methyl mercury is potentially dangerous because it readily dissolves in water, where it is taken up by fish as they breathe through their gills and feed. Methyl mercury accumulates in muscle tissue and is eliminated only slowly.

In most lakes methyl mercury is not a problem because there is a natural balance between the microbes which methylate mercury and those which act in the opposite way, changing the organic form back into the metallic. Low and relatively constant levels are the rule, and do not pose a significant hazard to human consumers of fish.

When a new reservoir is created the delicate balance of mercury cycling is upset. Vegetation in the flooded terrain is slowly decomposed by microbial action, but this process seems to favour those bacteria which methylate metallic mercury over those which do the demethylating.

▷

IN EXCHANGE - mercury (cont'd)

Levels of dangerous methyl mercury rise abruptly and remain elevated for many years, until most of the flooded organic material has been decomposed. In the case of the Ogoki Reservoir, methyl mercury levels are still high 45 years after the impoundment. Today, levels in the Reservoir are about twice as high as they are downstream in Ombabika Bay, while the Bay itself has levels 2.4 times those in the rest of Lake Nipigon.

The commercial fishermen are worried that a reservoir on the Little Jackfish will further raise the mercury levels in Ombabika Bay, making fish caught there unsafe to eat, and therefore unsaleable.

Ontario Hydro has countered these concerns with proposals to remove up to 80% of the vegetation from the reservoir site. In theory, this would reduce the impact on the mercury methylation balance. The fishermen remain unconvinced.

Mike Bryan

from NATURE NORTHWEST (Thunder Bay) Vol. 43(3), Sept. 1989



*THE NEW ENGLAND ASTER*  
accounts for the purple  
patches in the splendid  
quilt of colour we see  
in our Toronto meadows  
in the fall - though  
occasionally it is  
found in white or pink.

Two months - late  
August to late October -  
is a typical season,  
but it has been found  
in bloom as early as  
July 26 (1982) and as  
late as November 13  
(1987). In fact, the  
longest season we have  
on record was in 1987  
when this species was  
found in bloom from  
August 5 to November 13 -  
over three months.

Isabel Smith  
& Diana Banville



Field drawing by Joyce Cave

## IN THE NEWS

### YUILL WANTS CHEMICAL SPRAY BAN

Don Yuill who represents Don Mills on North York Council wants his community declared a "chemical-free zone". He says he has received many calls from local residents calling for an end to chemical spraying in city parks. And the North York Board of Education has already imposed a moratorium on herbicide spraying at all of the city's public schools. However, Yuill will have to persuade city council to reverse its stand on weed spraying. On July 30, it decided to continue weed spraying despite strong opposition from environmental groups. Yuill thinks Don Mills would be a good place to test eliminating pesticides and herbicides. He also wants public schools in the Don Mills area to start an environmental awareness program. Part of this would involve students from the various schools adopting a park in their community. Classes at the school then would be responsible for picking weeds in the park on a regular basis. The students could carry the weeds back to their school for composting. He has a lot of support from parents in the area for the plan.

adapted from an article by Stan Josey in the TORONTO STAR, Sept. 27, 1990

### NEW PLAN TO PROTECT PARKLAND

Markham is guarding its greenspace with a new master plan for the picturesque Milne Dam Conservation Park, at Markham's south end. The new plan, which has been two years in the making, will ensure the park remains a largely natural area. However, new amenities such as a bicycle path and picnic shelters will be introduced. The 109-hectare (270-acre) park stretches between McCowan and Markham roads a few blocks south of Wellington Street (Highway 7). At the heart of the greenspace is a 24-hectare (60-acre) reservoir fed by the Rouge River. The land is classified as floodplain by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, which leases the park to the town. Protection of the park's natural habitats is a key objective of the new plan, which was developed with input from the Milne Park Conservation Association. The Association was formed in 1985 by local residents concerned about encroaching development. They wanted to see the park remain a natural area. The park reservoir plays an important role in the river's watershed by catching sediment from construction sites upstream.

adapted from an article by Laura Morrison in THE REAL ESTATE NEWS, Aug. 10, 1990

### LAKE MADE PHOTOS, MAN SAYS

Lake Ontario is polluted and Jeremy Lynch has the "dirty pictures" to prove it. The third-year Ryerson photography student says he took a series of pictures along the lakeshore and then developed them in water taken directly from the lake, with nothing added to it. [Historically mercury was used to develop pictures and he knew the water contained iron and mercury.] It took 28 hours but it worked. Nothing happened after 50 hours in tap water or mineral water. The worse the water, the better the results. The Port of Toronto water gave the best results photographically.

adapted from an article by Bill Taylor in the TORONTO STAR, Sept. 22, 1990



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

IS MORE PARKLAND FOR SALE?

Incredible. Just as people in York are getting worked up over plans to sell a swimming pool and part of Fairbank Park on the east side of the municipality to a developer, another developer is trying to buy a park on the west side. The park is called Mallaby and it's not much more than a third of an acre, just a bit of grass, some bushes and half a dozen benches. It's beside the busy intersection of Weston Rd. and St. Phillips Rd., on tableland up above the Humber Valley. It's a restful place and I suspect people from apartment blocks up the road like to go there. Bangor Construction has acquired houses around the park and plans to build one 14-storey condominium tower and two 27-storey towers connected by a curved six-storey podium. One of those 27-storey towers would sit on Mallaby Park. [Although City of York officials deny the possibility of selling the park] Bangor has invested in drawings and a consultant and the uneasy feeling remains that someone in York City Hall has told the company buying Mallaby might be possible. After all, York has made a deal for Fairbank Park...

adapted from an article by David Lewis Stein in the TORONTO STAR, Aug. 31, 1990

OLYMPIC BENEFITS NOT LOST, MAYOR SAYS

Toronto's failure to be selected as the host city for the 1996 Olympics does not mean social benefits tied to the Games will be lost. Mayor Art Eggleton said everything from affordable housing to stimulation of the arts and refurbishing of Exhibition Place can still happen in six years. "We may have missed out on 16 days of glory," he said, "but we have six years of achievement before us." He wants two proposed developments, the Ataratiri neighbourhood at the mouth of the Don River and another project on the railway lands "fast tracked" and finished in six years...

adapted from an article by Jane Coutts in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Sept. 21, 1990

SIX HOUSES TO BE EVACUATED IN FIGHT AGAINST NEW TERMITE

Six houses in Toronto's east end, in the area of Main and Gerrard Streets, are to be enveloped in a plastic tarpaulin and surrounded by guards before being permeated with methyl bromide gas, an extremely toxic insecticide, to fight a new kind of termite never before reported in Ontario. The termites found on Swanwick Avenue are the western drywood termite, common in the southwestern United States but not previously reported in Ontario. Unlike the eastern subterranean termite usually found in Toronto, they infest entire buildings and feed on dry wood, not damp or rotting wood...Most likely the termites were imported in a piece of furniture or a packing crate.

adapted from an article by Jane Coutts in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Sept. 7, 1990

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<p>WATERSHED (the second interim report of the Royal Commission on the future of the Toronto Waterfront), available FREE from 880 Bay St. GREATER TORONTO AREA GREENLANDS STRATEGY (Kanter report), available for \$5.00 from Ont. Govt. Bookshop, 880 Bay St.</p>
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IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

#### IT'S ENVIRONMENTALLY CRUCIAL TO SAVE OAK RIDGES MORAINE

On July 26, MPP Ron Kanter released his Greater Toronto Area Greenlands Strategy, with a number of very important recommendations. One of the most important recommendations was the recognition of the value and the purpose of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The province will begin a two-year study on the moraine; and announce a general expression of provincial interest. The purpose of declaring provincial interest would be to provide time to conduct a comprehensive land-use planning study of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The province would review all proposed official plan amendments and rezoning applications. In the specific instances of the towns of Richmond Hill and Aurora, the province would also review plans of subdivisions.

So what is the Oak Ridges Moraine and why is the moraine so important?

- What is the moraine?  
It is a major landform in southern Ontario stretching for more than 100 miles from the Niagara Escarpment to the Trent River. It was formed by glaciers (like large bulldozers) pushing the earth into high ridges (300 metres). The moraine is characterized by a rolling hummocky or hilly appearance dotted by lakes (more than 100), swamps, bogs, etc. The soils are generally sand, gravel or clay.
- Why save the moraine?  
The environmentally crucial aspects of the moraine lie below its surface beauty. It is a recharge and discharge area for more than 50 rivers. As rain falls, it is filtered down into large storage aquifers. Functionally, the moraine constitutes a magnificent water-control system. Water which must not be contaminated by pollutants. At present, 10 towns along the moraine use this water source for the municipal water supplies.
- Why save the moraine's surface waters?  
Kettle lakes, swamps, bogs, etc. are all an integral part of the moraine's aquifers. These wetlands also form a natural habitat for many ecosystems.
- Why save the headwaters of rivers?  
Headwaters must be protected from disturbance and pollution to ensure the integrity of our river systems, the cleanliness of our beaches and, most of all, the quality of our drinking water.
- Why save our natural habitats?  
It is imperative that appropriate areas of habitat be set aside to ensure species diversity. Perhaps 10 to 20 metre-wide strips of greenlands are not adequate for animals.
- Why save the moraine's cultural heritage?  
There is evidence of many Indian villages and burial grounds around the water courses of the moraine. Some sites date back to times B.C. Studies must be done to protect and recreate some of these sites.
- Why save the agricultural lands?  
There are considerable agricultural lands along the moraine. Along with conventional farming, horse stables and pick-your-own farms are needed for optional lifestyles and recreational open spaces for a population that is to grow to more than 5 million by 2011.

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● Why save the moraine's trees and forests?

Trees and forests release oxygen into the air and improve our air quality.

If you would like to learn more about the moraine or even work to help save what is valuable within the moraine, please call STORM Coalition. STORM (Save the Oak Ridges Moraine) Coalition is a coalition of citizens groups, university groups and individuals whose focus is the moraine. The mandate is to obtain legislated environmental protection for the Oak Ridges Moraine from the province. You can help by calling 833-5816 and 773-5744 or by writing to STORM, Box 2209, Station B, Richmond Hill, Ont. L4E 1A4.

adapted from a letter by Dorothy Izzard and Ene Leivo of Richmond Hill to the TORONTO STAR NEIGHBORS EAST, Aug. 23, 1990

ENRICHING THE MAIN STREETS

...I think the city should grow out of a three-pronged process. First, we need efficient working places to compete in the global market. We need affordable accommodation to be able to live close to these places of work and we must integrate all the other activities that make life enjoyable in the city such as entertainment, culture and learning.

The second prong is creating an urban environment that will respond to our emotional desires. Sidewalk cafes adjacent to a used parking lot are not the same as the sidewalk cafes on a Parisian boulevard. We want to open our senses, to widen them, to make life more meaningful.

We need a visual city that delights in addition to the functional city. We must provide the setting for our activities rather than just provide the activities...

The third prong, however, is the need for solitude, to have contact with nature. This should be possible within walking distance from where we live and work, not after a three-hour drive. As human beings we require such change to be emotionally balanced. The ever-growing size of the city, however, pushed the open landscape away from our doors. We must look inward again and encourage the park inside the city, parks that are seemingly pieces of nature and yet reachable, safe and alive...

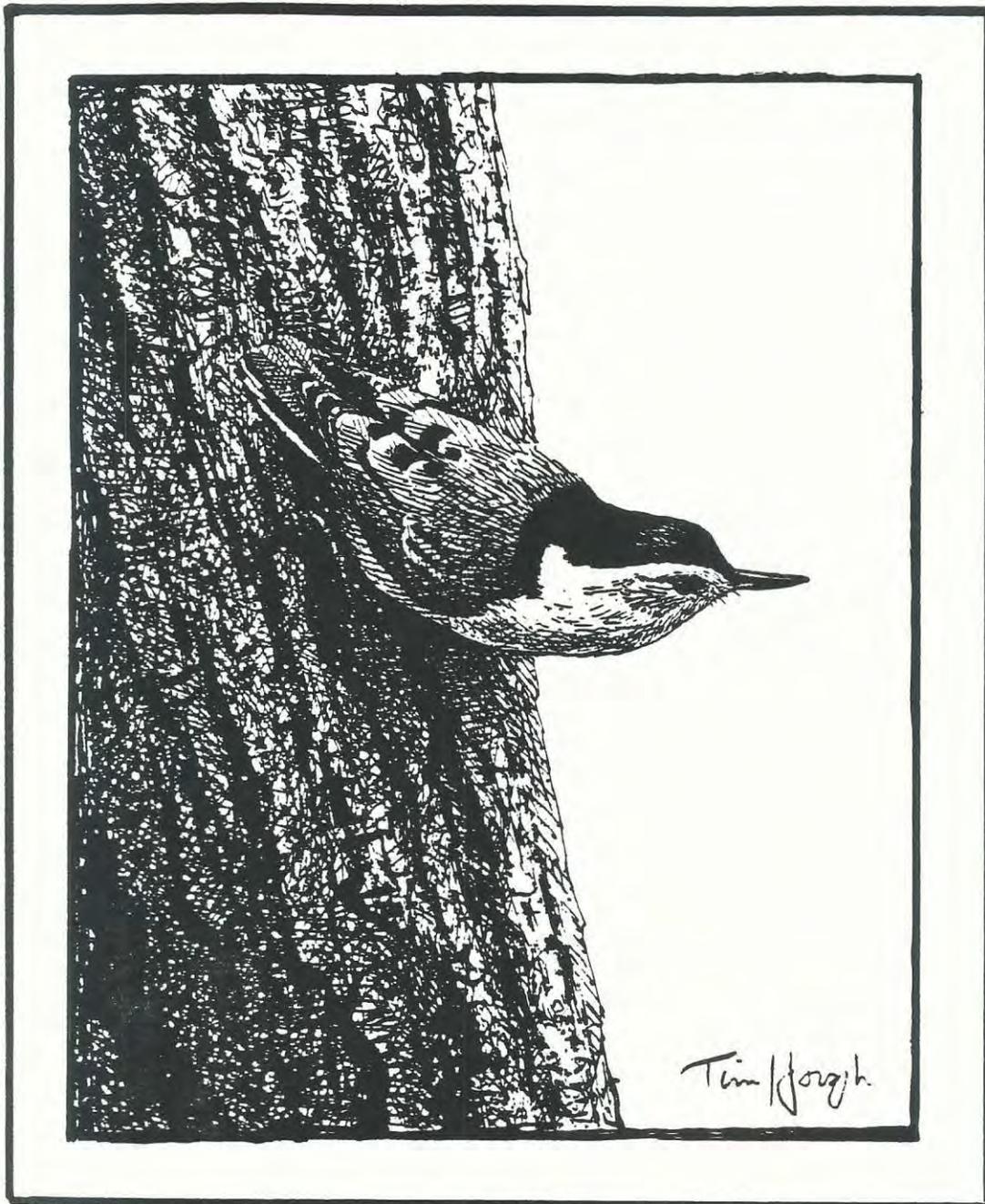
adapted from an article by Eberhard Zeidler in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, July 24, 1990

PLAN FOR SITE OF BRICKWORKS TOO COSTLY, COUNCILLORS SAY

A proposed five-year, \$27.5 million master plan for the Don Valley brickworks should be scaled down Metro councillors say. They voted 18-12 to have its park committee try to scale down the size and cost of the scheme. The site could have been bought six years ago for just \$4 million, but the provincial government of the day balked at the cost and allowed the site to remain in private hands. Metro moved to expropriate the brickworks in 1987 at a cost of \$4.2 million. The Ontario Municipal Board granted the expropriation in 1988 but set the price tag at \$16.1 million. That figure was appealed to the Ontario Divisional Court, but the strategy backfired when the court ruled that the figure should be \$19 million. With interest and legal cost, the total tab for the site is about \$22 million.

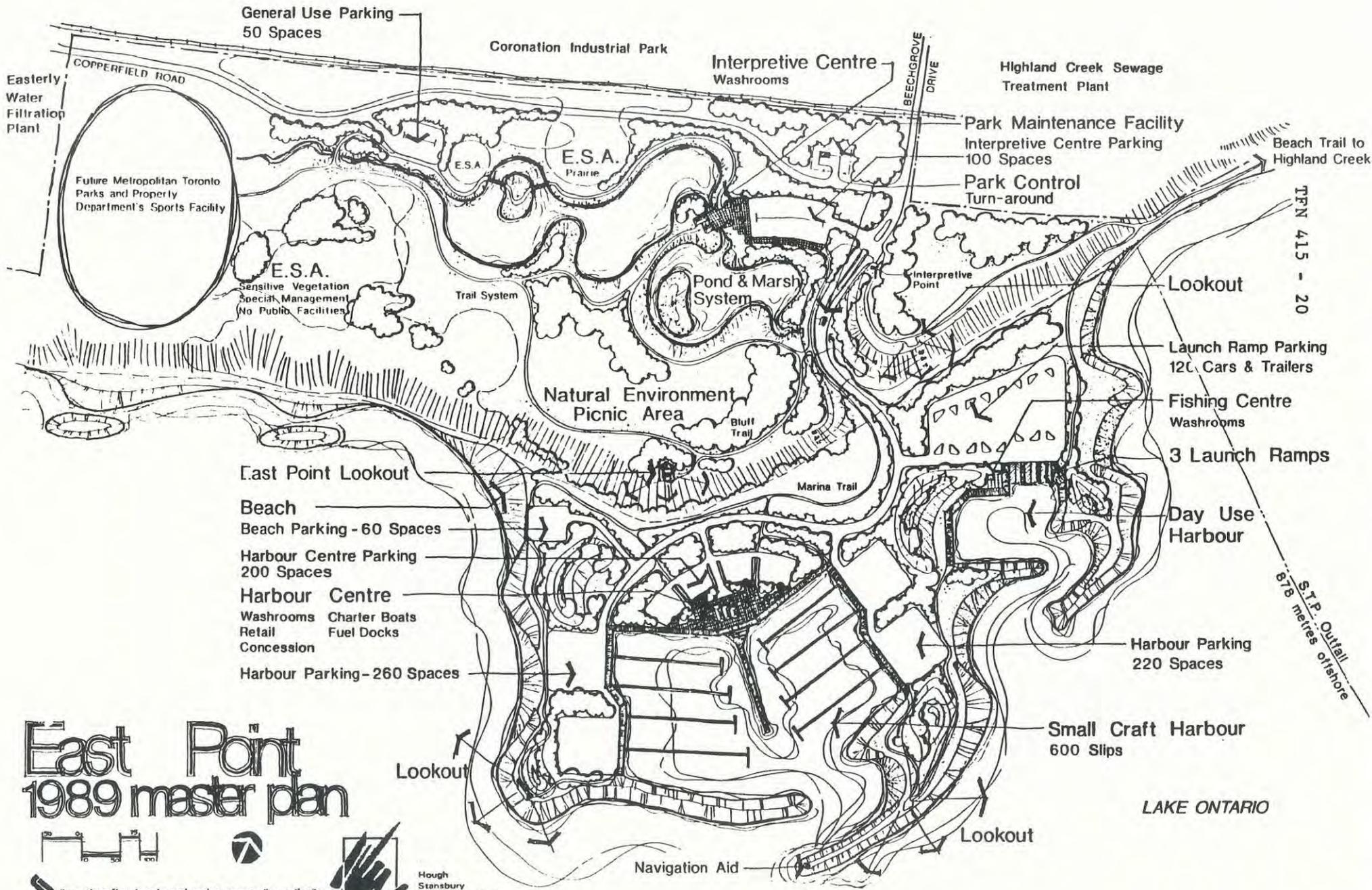
from the TORONTO STAR, Sept. 27, 1990 (an article by Jim Byers - adapted)

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THE WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH actually can "hatch" nuts, for example it can open a cherry-stone to eat the contents. They enjoy the contents, be they nutmeats or larvae. Although noticed more in winter, this species also nests in Toronto but is quieter in breeding season. Still it was observed in Wilket Creek Park on July 2, 1989, feeding young. (Drawing, from photo and specimen, is by Tim Hough.)

ref.: ATLAS OF THE BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO, Cadman et al., 1987  
LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN NUTHATCHES...AND ALLIES, Bent et al. 1948.



# East Point 1989 master plan



the metropolitan toronto and region conservation authority

Hough  
Stansbury  
Woodland Limited

LAKE ONTARIO

## IS IT WORTH BEING SIGNIFICANT?

In 1983 the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority published a list of significant natural areas in the region of their jurisdiction. Much energy went into determining criteria for choosing these sites and many people including staff of the Conservation Authority and members of TFN participated in the study. In theory, these sites were worth preserving. In fact, the listing has not appeared to have any value in protecting any site in the region from the "creative" ideas of politicians, staff of the Conservation Authority, the Metro Parks Department, or the consultants hired to carry out plans.

East Point in Scarborough is an example of an area considered significant for five reasons. Plans for "developing" the site appear to be insensitive to any of these.

- 1 This eastern terminus of the Scarborough Bluffs contains some very large deformational structures which are not fully understood at present.

Plans call for the removal of part of this area to create access to a marina.

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- 2 The cliffs and gullies support an impressive display of attractive wildflowers not common elsewhere in the region.

The gullies are not even shown on the plan.

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- 3 The prairie community along the railway embankment contains the largest and healthiest colony of blazing star in Ontario and is 225 kilometres from the nearest other colony.

This is not shown on the Master Plan for the area.

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- 4 East Point contains various habitat types and varying moisture regimes which have resulted in a high diversity of plant and animal species.

These are not indicated on the Master Plan.

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- 5 East Point contains a number of nationally, provincially and regionally rare species of plants.

Again, the locations of these are not indicated.

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To quote from the report: "The East Point area is a landmark for migrating birds because of its position on the shore of Lake Ontario and variety of habitat types. Shrub, woodland and natural meadow communities of the area provide excellent cover and food sources for migrants".

The Master Plan shown on page 20 is being presented to the public for comment at a meeting in the Scarborough City Hall on Wednesday, November 14 at 7:30 pm. If you can attend, do, but more important, let your elected representatives (Metro, Provincial and Federal) know what you think about this kind of "development" of significant natural areas.

Meantime, visit the site. [See page 3 for next TFN outing to site.]

At the moment, it is a place where one can feel truly far from the city. From the beach which is easily reached by one of the gullies mentioned in the report, but not shown on the plan, one can see for miles -- to the west, the rest of the bluffs; to the east, the Pickering nuclear energy plant. Plants that grow only on undisturbed shorelines of the Great Lakes, erosion patterns of the bluffs and the pock marks left

TFN

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EAST POINT (cont'd)

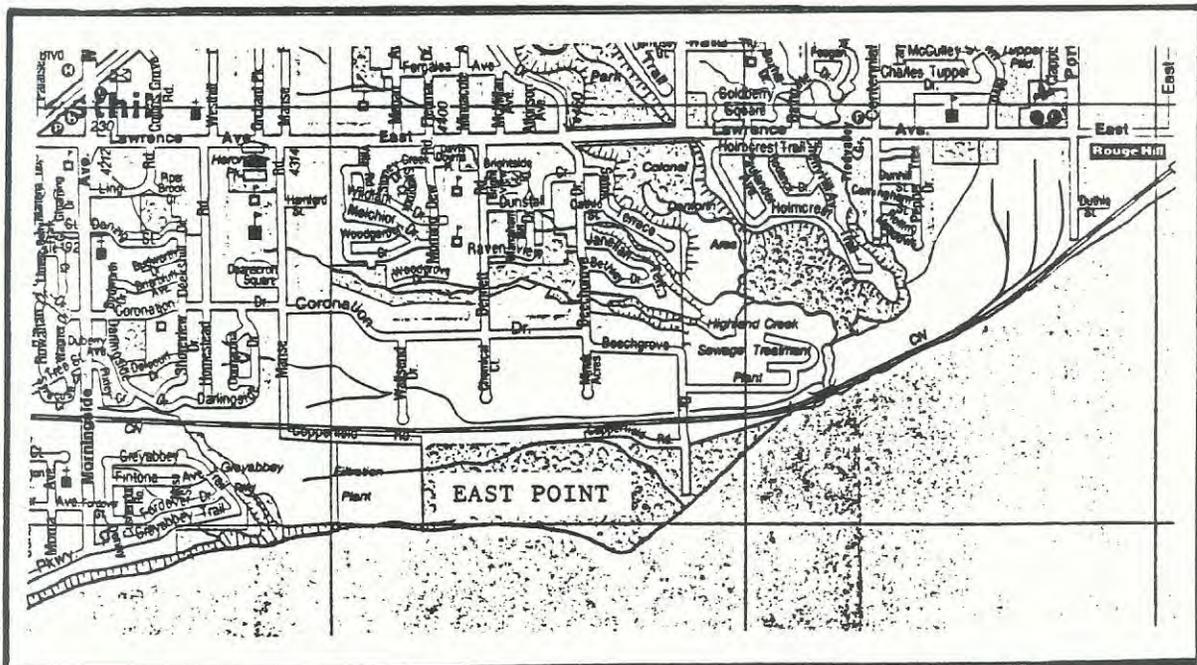
by nesting swallows are but part of what you will see from the shore. From the top of the bluffs one can look down on carp feeding in the shallows, gulls and geese flying by, shorebirds running freely along the water's edge. In the fall migrating monarch butterflies float past and may be found resting by the hundreds on the shrubs and trees of the area. In the long grass, white bottle gentians, blue fringed gentians and white ladies tresses, not to mention the purple, white and gold of fall asters and goldenrods will thrill anyone visiting the site.

As the last undeveloped section of bluffs this site provides us with the only example we have of what the bluffs were like before we began to try and control their erosion. For the mammals, amphibians and reptiles, invertebrates and birds whose home it is, there is no place else to go.

Do we really need one more marina? Or four more baseball diamonds (to be "built" for \$4 million plus \$204,000 for consultants to see the area is "built" properly?) (See the oval marked on the Master Plan.) Floodlights needed for this particular development will be yet another hazard for insects and migrating birds.

▷ As members of TFN we have a responsibility to "encourage the preservation of our natural heritage". If you've never contacted any of your elected representatives, this is the time to start.

Helen Juhola



adapted from MAPART, 1981

TTC ACCESS TO EAST POINT:

Monday to Friday: #114 bus to corner of Coronation Dr. and Beechgrove.  
Walk east and south to East Point.

Saturdays and Sundays: #116 bus to Morningside Ave. just south of CN tracks.  
Walk east along trail south of tracks to point.

## BELTLINE RAILWAY PARKS TO BE LINKED

After approximately 30 years of discussions and negotiations, the former Belt Line Railway has been acquired from CN at a cost of \$4,565,975, paid by the City of Toronto.

The Belt Line is a former railroad right-of-way, running from Eglinton Avenue at Bathurst, diagonally across the City of Toronto to Mount Pleasant Avenue, just south of Merton Street. The section through Mount Pleasant Cemetery has been retained as publicly accessible open space by Toronto Trust Cemeteries, and the portion south of Moore Avenue is owned and maintained by Metro Toronto Parks and Property Department.

The critical linkages, until now owned by CN Rail, are the bridge crossing the Yonge Subway and Yonge Street, and the rear yard areas on the south side of Merton Street, between Yonge and Mount Pleasant. As well, there was a large potential development site at Frobisher Avenue owned by CN Rail that comprises a section of the Belt Line. These specific areas have not been open to public access for many years. Although the price seems high, the cost is far less than other recent public acquisitions such as Ataratiri housing site and the Don Valley Brick Yards site. Indeed the Belt Line links these sites and provides public access for neighbourhoods to the north and the lakefront and eastern beaches to the south.

Acquisition of this linkage greenspace is critically important to the health of our City. This is the single most important, now-secured green space in the middle of Toronto, linking three local municipalities (North York, Toronto and East York) and providing a badly-needed relief valve from our built-up City for all residents.

Support for this acquisition was forwarded to the City of Toronto Executive Committee by the South Rosedale Ratepayers' Association, Deer Park Ratepayers' Group, ABC Residents' Association, North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association, Toronto Field Naturalists, and the City of Toronto Commissioners of Parks and Recreation, Planning and Property and Ron Kanter, MPP (Greater Toronto Greenlands Strategy).

Many thanks to those who supported this important public space acquisition. The next step will be the opening of a multiple-use trail along the closed sections of the trail now in City ownership.

Bill Granger (928-0006)

□



CRAB SPIDER ON BOTTLE GENTIAN,  
Jim Baillie Nature Reserve (TFN)

Some species of crab spiders have the ability, within a limited range, of matching the colour of the flower they are on. The challenge, however, was too much for this little member (blue is beyond their capacities) and the result was a striking shot of its translucent, lemon-yellow body curled against the dense, vibrant cobalt of this bottle gentian. E.D.  
(ref. SPIDERS, A Golden Nature Guide)

## THE ERROR OF WELL MEANING

One day this past summer I glimpsed a brown ball of a mouse skittering around the bottom of a Blue Box. Afraid the box's owner might simply clobber the minute creature, I reached to remove it, whereupon it gave a leap of positively Olympic proportions and landed on my trouser-leg. Shaking it off, I proceeded, replete with good deeds, until it dawned on me I was in no "condition" to board a bus.

Distancing myself from the queue I slithered out of my raincoat. Mouse was by then conducting an orienteering course across my back. I could hardly approach anyone with the request, "I've got a mouse up my blouse, kindly remove it", and in any event I must have been presenting an alarming appearance, slapping away ("Drugs, dearie!"), with bulges and ripples manifesting under my clothing like so much ectoplasm struggling to get out. Things were becoming desperate, when the mouse, doubtless equally fed up, spied an exit, slide down my sleeve, and hurled itself towards the safety of a nearby fence.

It could have been worse. I might have sat on the poor thing in the bus. I might have occasioned consternation in the subway train. Somebody might even have pulled the safety cord, such is the automatic human reflex to this least fearsome of nature's wild creatures. On such unlikely phenomena does the fate of transit systems hang.

Next time I'll let mouse look after itself.

Eva Davis

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EASTERN GARTER SNAKE, Don Valley

This lady was spring-minted - bright yellow stripes on olive-green body, scarlet tongue testing the air. She recoiled at my intrusion and within seconds had disappeared under nearby shrubs.

Eva Davis

Further reading:  
FAMILIAR AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES  
OF ONTARIO by Bob Johnson  
published by Natural  
Heritage/Natural History Inc.  
Toronto, for the Toronto  
Field Naturalists



## CHRISTMAS GIFTS YOU DON'T HAVE TO WRAP

Suggestions for the naturalists on your gift list:

## 1) Memberships in

The Canadian Nature Federation (includes 4 issues of NATURE CANADA, yearly)  
453 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6Z4  
Call toll free 1-800-267-4088.

Many organizations, including the TFN, support CNF in its efforts on behalf of Canadian wildlife. So, too, do 34,000 individual members. Yearly membership fees: Individuals \$25, Families \$30.

The Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation (includes newsletter & Open House)  
R.R. #1, Vineland Station, ONT. LOR 2E0

This outstanding facility has earned the affection and respect of naturalists across a continent. Injured owls are healed and returned to their natural environment whenever possible. Owls, too badly hurt to be released, may be used to breed offspring that will be released when ready. Yearly membership for general support: \$50 or more. Sponsorship (for a specific owl): \$100, \$150, \$200.

## 2) Subscriptions to

Wildflower  
Canadian Wildflower Society  
75 Ternhill Crescent, North York, Ontario M3C 2E4

"North America's only magazine devoted entirely to the study, conservation and cultivation of our continent's wild flora".

Rates: Regular 1 year \$20, 2 years \$35  
Family 1 year \$25, 2 years \$45

Bird Watcher's Digest  
P.O. Box 110, Marietta, Ohio 45750

Entertaining and authoritative articles on bird identification and behaviour. Tells about good birding spots -- not confined to U.S. Excellent colour illustrations.

Rates: 1 year \$15 U.S.

H.T.

## DISPLAYS AT TFN MONTHLY MEETINGS

Displays of art, photographs, and sale of books relating to nature, have been of considerable interest to our members.

As space is limited, please submit in writing to the TFN office, six weeks prior to the meeting at which you wish to have material displayed, the content of the display and your space requirement, so that your display may be announced in the newsletter. You will be notified by telephone, if and when your display can be accommodated.

The TFN office address is: 20 College St., Suite 4, Toronto M5G 1K2.

## THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

November 1989, Toronto

This was the coldest November since 1986 with extremely frequent storm passages. Toronto Island had an average monthly wind speed of 24.1 km/h, the highest since 1950. The average temperatures in our area ran about 1°C to 1.5°C below normal and the mean minimums both downtown and at the airport were the lowest since 1976. Rainfall and snowfall were both above normal; snowfall downtown was the highest since 1983, and rainfall and total precipitation were the most since 1985. In northeastern Ontario, this was the coldest and snowiest November on record. Sunshine hours ran just about ten hours above normal in Toronto, due to a prevalence of Arctic air later in the month.

The first half of November was cloudy with rain almost every day and near-normal temperatures. Winds were strong, as storm systems passed just to the north of Toronto. We had one nice day: Nov. 13th. This regime came to an end on Nov. 16th with the passage of the first of a series of powerful cold fronts which brought snow squall activity across southern Ontario and afternoon maximums well below freezing on a number of occasions. There were outbreaks of arctic air on Nov. 16th to 19th, Nov. 20th to 24th, Nov. 28th to 30th. The second of these was particularly powerful, with gusts as high as 96 km/h and some blowing snow. This storm brought loss of life and property in the northeastern United States. Brief, heavy flurry activity on Nov. 30th during morning rush hour played havoc with the traffic. The month closed with a by-now thoroughly established arctic vortex over eastern North America and rather mild, dry conditions over the west, which continued into December.

Gavin Miller

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COME

TO THINK

ABOUT IT...



Cartoon by Diana Karrantjas

# COMING EVENTS



The Secret Life of Mushrooms, an illustrated talk by Dr. Linda Kohn, University of Toronto, at 3 pm in the Medical Sciences auditorium, A JOINT MEETING OF THE TFN AND THE ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE, Sunday Nov. 4. Free, everyone welcome! For more information call the RCI at 928-2096.

The Origins and Future of Food and Drugs, an illustrated lecture by Dr. Adrian Forsyth, Director of Conservation International, at 3 pm on Nov. 11 at the Medical Sciences auditorium, University of Toronto. Call 928-2096 for details.

Leprosy -- from the Bible to Biotechnology, an illustrated lecture by Dr. Jay Keystone, University of Toronto, at 3 pm on Nov. 18 at the Medical Sciences auditorium. Call 928-2096 for details.

What are we doing to our atmosphere?, an illustrated lecture by Dr. Harold Schiff, formerly of York University at 3 pm on Nov. 25 at the Medical Sciences auditorium, University of Toronto. Call 928-2096 for details.

Toronto Entomologists' Association monthly meeting at 1 pm on Saturday, Nov. 24 in the McLaughlin Planetarium lecture room.

The Common Loon - spirit of northern lakes, an illustrated lecture by Dr. Judy McIntyre. The Long Point Bird Observatory 1990 Fall Meeting at the Royal Botanical Gardens on Nov. 9 from 7 pm to 10:30 pm. For tickets (\$7.50 each) contact LPBO at P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0.

Wildlife Images in Painting and Sculpture at the Royal Ontario Museum from Nov. 21 to March 24. Call 586-5549 or 586-5551 for details.

Canadian Wildflower Society Annual General Meeting at the Civic Garden Centre on Nov. 10 from 12 noon (lunch) to 4 pm (AGM and speakers).

Walk through the 14,000 Tree Project, a nature walk led by Robert Marshall for the Save the Rouge Valley System on Nov. 25 at 1:30 pm. Meet at Mural Street south of 16th Avenue in Markham. For details, call 287-1776.

Waterfowl and other late migrants, a Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk, Nov. 25, from 9 am to 12 noon starting at the parking lot at Humber Bay Park East. A free walk organized by the Toronto Ornithological Club.

A tree-o of discoveries, a tree walk with kids' activities such as "barking up a tree" at Todmorden Mills at 1 pm on Nov. 18. For details, call 425-2250.

Antarctica: Saving the last great wilderness, an illustrated talk by Will Steger on Fri. Nov. 16 at 8 pm at Convocation Hall, 31 King's College Circle, U of T campus. Tickets \$15.00 each at Ticketmaster outlets or Zoocheck Canada, 5334 Yonge St., #1830, Tor. M2N 6M2.

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## Travel

If you enjoy TFN outings but long to visit areas beyond Metropolitan Toronto, you might consider taking a trip with a professional naturalist or attending a nature conference.

"In November the Niagara River comes alive with birdlife, perhaps inland North America's best winter bird haunt. Seventeen species of gulls -- some in outstanding numbers, creating a blizzard-like scene, have been recorded. Additionally, most ducks, some geese, lingering shorebirds and Carolinian species such as red-bellied woodpeckers, Carolina wrens, tufted titmouse and northern mocking-birds are usually present."

The above trip is led by Gus Yaki of Nature Travel Service, 127A Princess St., Kingston, Ont. L7L 1A8 (Call 613-546-3065). It starts in Toronto on Nov. 10 and costs \$129 for two days of intensive natural history. This is only one of many trips run all year, all over the world, for varying lengths of time, that it is possible to take.

"Close to the hurly-burly of Miami and the thronged beaches of the Gulf Coast is a Florida most tourists never see. For naturalists it is legendary: the home of sub-tropical plants and animals that occur only here in North America. This winter trip starts with the birds of the pine flatlands, and goes on to the contrasting delights of the Everglades, Corkscrew Swamp, Sanibel Island and much more."

This trip is led by Clive and Joy Goodwin, 45 LaRose Ave., Apt. 103, Weston, Ont. M9P 1A8 (416-249-9503). A list of courses and trips led by these two well-known naturalists can be obtained by contacting them.

As well, Rosemary Gaymer, 1103 - 205 Queen Mary Dr., Oakville, Ont. L6K 3K8, has a list of courses and trips she leads.

The 20th Annual Conference of the Canadian Nature Federation will be held in Red Deer, Alberta from July 4 to 7, 1991. The theme will be "Flowing through Alberta". The sessions of the conference and the trips which will bracket it, will follow the Red Deer River as it flows through the mountains, parklands and prairie zones of Alberta. Speakers will deal with environmental issues of the three zones and the pleasures of seeing and understanding their natural history. Details for this conference can be obtained by writing to the Red Deer Naturalists, Box 2980, Lacombe, Alberta T0C 1S0.

And if that's not enough you can contact the Canadian Nature Tours, 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2W8 (416-444-8419), and ask for their calendar of trips.

The Long Point Bird Observatory is also providing a program of special weekends. Contact them by writing to LPBO, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0.

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists will be holding their annual general meeting and conference in Orillia in 1991. You might also ask them about the details so you can plan your summer vacation now to include an educational element. Call 444-8419.

H.J.

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## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

To quote from the BBC WILDLIFE magazine, "Where are the essayists who can move between the worlds of nature and the arts? Where is the poetry, the passion, the insights, the breadth of learning that is precisely what we value about our heritage of nature writing?"

Yes, we do encourage members to submit their essays (no longer than 1000 words), poems, and sketches.

What are we looking for? Well, we need news about plants, animals, and natural areas in the Toronto region - especially reports of your personal experiences with wildlife. As with any newsletter, we may have to edit submissions for space considerations.

As well as your original contributions, please send in any newspaper clippings that you believe members would enjoy reading. Just remember to note the source and date on each clipping. And if you are interested in seeing our file of clippings or would like to help us keep them organized, we would like to hear from you.

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.

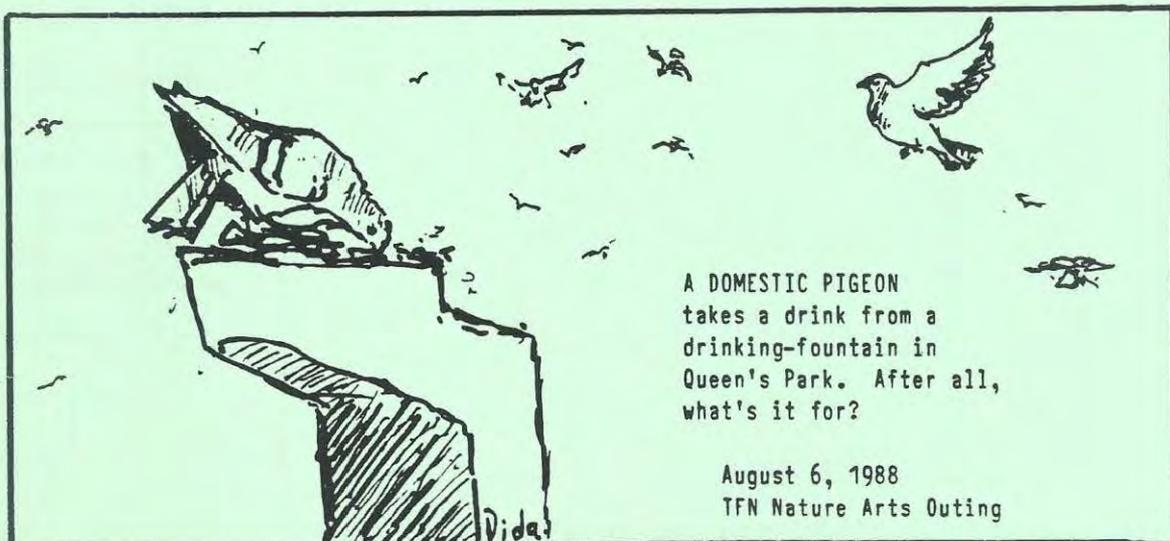
Please include your address and telephone number so submissions can be acknowledged.

Thanks to the more than thirty members who have submitted newspaper clippings during the past year, not to mention the eighty authors and sixteen illustrators.

## Editorial Committee

Helen Juhola (924-5806) 112--51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3  
 Diana Banville (690-1963) 710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7  
 Eva Davis (694-8928) 203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5  
 Toshi Oikawa (425-3161) 1063 Pape Ave., Toronto M4K 3W4  
 Harold Taylor (225-2649) 264 Horsham Ave., Willowdale M2R 1G4

□



A DOMESTIC PIGEON  
 takes a drink from a  
 drinking-fountain in  
 Queen's Park. After all,  
 what's it for?

August 6, 1988  
 TFN Nature Arts Outing

**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS**

20 College St., Suite 4  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1K2

SECOND CLASS MAIL  
Registration Number  
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(416) 968-6255



**TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST**

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