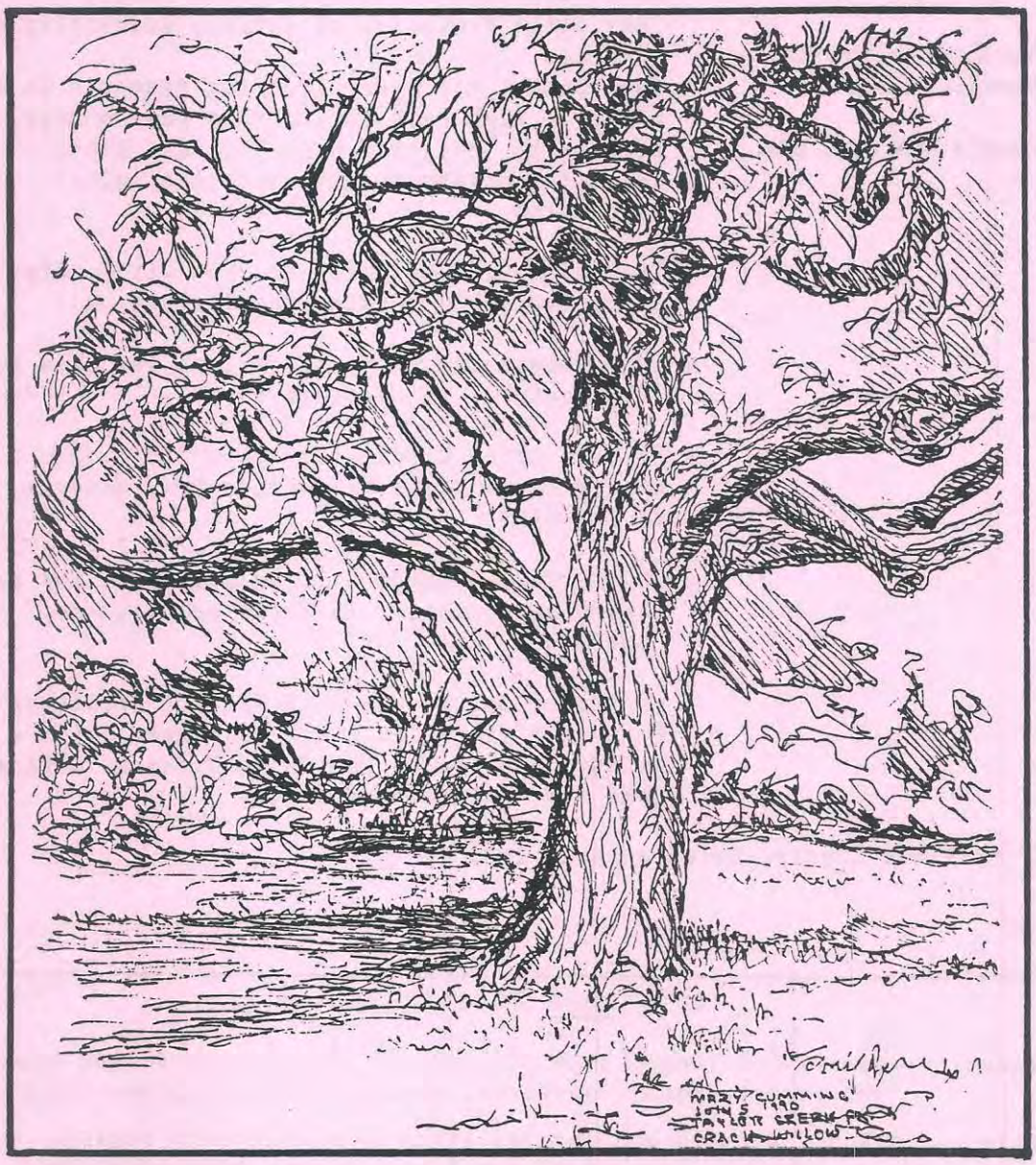
TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 447 November 1994



Inside

TFN MEETINGS

Monday, November 7, 1994 - ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF EASTERN PRAIRIE AND SAVANNAH REMNANTS

at 8 pm

in the Northrop Frye Hall
Victoria University

73 Queen's Park Cres. East

an illustrated lecture by David Wedin, Assistant Professor of Botany, University of Toronto

- The speaker has been directing research in test plots in High Park during this past summer. Efforts to "restore" High Park and other remnant habitats involve many ecological principles.

+ "social hour" beginning at 7 pm with coffee and juice available outside the lecture hall

+ TFN memberships and publications for sale from 7 pm, outside the lecture room

+ "Always Alice Cards" for sale. To order custom cards, call TFN member Alice Mandryk at 767-6149

+ FON Christmas Cards will be available for sale ($6.00 per package, 10 cards per package, Bateman's "Snowy Owl")

+ publisher Barry Penhale of Natural Heritage/ Natural History Inc. will be present with a selection of newly published books as well as some old favourites for sale

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, December 4 at 2:30 pm

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

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

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

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

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

Send material to: Toronto Field Naturalists
20 College St., Unit 11
Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2

TFN OUTINGS

REMEMBER: children and visitors are welcome on all outings but, please, NO PETS!

To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules by calling 393-4636.

Check the weather by calling 661-0123 so you'll know what to wear on outings which go rain or shine.

Wednesday
Nov. 2
10:30 am

FINCH EAST PARK - nature walk — East Don, North York
Leaders: Marg Canning & Jean Orpwood
Meet at the park entrance on the north side of Sheppard Ave. East, just west of Leslie St. Morning only.
Good walking on an asphalt trail from Sheppard to Finch. A good time to view the valley, when the leaves aren't on the trees.

Saturday
Nov. 5
11 am

GALLERY HOPPING - nature arts — Toronto
Leader: Mary Cumming
Meet at the Cumberland exit of the Bay subway station.
We will be spending some time touring the various galleries in Yorkville before we meet for lunch and discussion. You may want to bring some of your own work to share during the lunch hour. Bring your own sandwich or pick up some food in a mall.

Sunday
Nov. 6
10 am
$ ferry tickets

TORONTO ISLANDS - birds — lakeshore, Toronto
Leader: Ross Harris
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. Bring lunch and dress for cold, windy conditions.
The island is an excellent place to view wintering waterfowl and late migrants, but it can be very cold.

Nov. 7

TFN MEETING [See page 2.]

Thursday
Nov. 10
10 am

ALBION CREEK - nature walk — West Humber tributary, Etobicoke
Leader: Joan O'Donnell
Meet on the west side of Islington Ave. at Sandhill Dr., one block south of Albion Rd. One or two hills to climb. Morning only.
We will be exploring one of the small tributaries of the West Branch of the Humber River. In this area the creeks cut into the shale underlying our whole region and you get a chance to find fossils as well as birds.

Sunday
Nov. 13
1:30 pm

SOURCES OF THE DON - nature & history — Don, North York
Leader: Diana Park
Meet at the corner of Flemington Rd. and Varna Dr., just north of Lawrence Ave. West, east of the Allen Rd. (Ranee 109 bus).
This is the second in a series to find remnants of the sources of various tributaries of the Don River. Many examples of both human and natural history to be observed.

NOVEMBER OUTINGS (cont'd)

Wednesday
Nov. 16
10:30 am

TAYLOR CREEK - nature arts — East Don tributary, East York
Leader: Cathy Holland
Meet at the Victoria Park subway station. Lunch optional. Bring camera, sketching materials and stool or just come and enjoy the valley at this time of the year. If weather is suitable we may picnic and compare our "works".

Thursday
Nov. 17
10 am

ROYAL WINTER FAIR - nature arts — Toronto
Leader: Diana Banville
Meet at the east entrance to the coliseum at Strachan Ave.
This is an extra nature arts outing for this month. Bring camera, sketching material and stool. Lunch optional. We will arrange to meet for lunch and compare our "works".

Saturday
Nov. 19
9:30 am

NORTH TORONTO SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT - tour — Don, East York
Leaders: Melanie Milanich & staff of plant
Meet at the corner of Millwood Rd. and Overlea Blvd. Morning only.
We will be walking to the plant which is the only sewage treatment plant left in Toronto's valleys. This tour is an unusual opportunity to learn about how water from our homes (and streets) is directed to the valleys, treated and eventually released into our rivers and Lake Ontario. (Fr. of the Don EY outing)

Tuesday
Nov. 22
10:30 am

CEDARVALE RAVINE - nature walk — Don tributary, Toronto
Leader: Ruth Munson
Meet at the Heath St. exit of the St. Clair West subway station (Spadina line). Morning only.
This ravine, until a few years ago, contained part of Castlefrank Brook. The creek has been put into a pipe and a subway placed under the ravine floor. In spite of this, much that is natural remains to be enjoyed. It is always amazing, too, how many kinds of flowers can be found blooming this late in the year. This deep ravine with many wet spots and lots of vegetation is an ideal place for sheltering birds.

Saturday
Nov. 26
1 pm

SAM SMITH PARK, etc. - nature & history — lakeshore, Etobicoke
Leader: Wayne Reeves
Meet on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. at the foot of Kipling Ave.
See page 13,14 for a full description of this walk.

Sunday
Nov. 27
1:30 pm

L'AMOREAUX PARK - trees — Highland Creek, Scarborough
Leader: Leslie Burns
Meet at the northeast corner of Birchmount Rd. and Silver Springs Blvd., 1 block north of Finch Ave. East.
The topic of this walk will be trees. Bring your notebook and pencil and perhaps your favourite field guide and learn about how to identify trees throughout the year.

Wednesday
Nov. 30
1 pm

OLD MILL - nature walk — Humber, Etobicoke
Leader: Nancy Fredenburg
Meet at the Old Mill subway station.
Much to see in this scenic section of the Humber Valley -- plants, animals, fossils. □

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Two years ago when the dog and I were doing a prewalk for a TFN outing a vehicle was spraying the Hydro property adjacent to the local bicycle path. It was at the end of June right after school was out, and there were a lot of people in the area. The spraying was halted temporarily when anyone approached, but we could smell the herbicide, and therefore it was affecting our bodies. The next day the same area had been mown. Signs were still up on the day of the outing, so Helen Juhola suggested that we copy the telephone number and complain.

Many of you must have done just that, because we were invited to a meeting with Ontario Hydro officials. Helen and Eileen Mayo and I attended and brought along Bill Granger, Chair of MTRCA, and David Stonehouse, representing the Task Force on the Don. We explained that the herbicide would get into the nearby West Humber River, and eventually into the lake, and our drinking water. In addition, it would affect the food chain, from insects to the young of ground-nesting birds, such as killdeer, as well as mice and the redtailed hawks that eat them. As an alternative, couldn't they just mow, or better still, allow the area to naturalize? Various reasons or excuses were given, and after lengthy palaver, we were informed that the policy of spraying Hydro fields every two years would continue.

So, of course, I ventured forth again around Canada Day this year, fearing the worst. To my amazement no spraying or mowing had taken place, and the Hydro field was transformed with grasses and wild plants in bloom. There are even recent introductions from seed dispersal or the seedbank in the soil!

This change of direction may have taken place because of attrition of personnel with traditional views, because of financial constraints, or because of complaints by employees with health problems caused by pesticide use. At least these clouds have a silver lining.

Last month's speaker, Ken Towles, mentioned how important Toronto's river valleys and ravines are because they stretch north-south in the very direction that migrating birds fly. They provide a safe alternative to the tall buildings and forbidding concrete of the rest of the city. As well they contain trees and food and, in contrast to many urban lawns, are pesticide free.

Alas, however, our beloved greenspaces are still on drugs. A while ago we were pleased when Metro voted to cut back the amount of spraying that occurs in the park system. Pesticides are still applied, however, within the reduced guidelines. Those who attended Ann Millett's outing north from the Old Mill encountered spraying in progress. A herbicide had been used for weed control, because the weeds had spread beyond the level of acceptability. There was a similar occurrence in Derrydown Park. In addition, spot spraying took place at a sports field on the Eglinton Flats, because weeds don't afford the foothold for play that turf does. In James Gardens the high quality turf had fungicide applied to a diseased area.

For every call from a citizen who is environmentally concerned, nine complaints are received about weeds and allergies from ragweed. Therefore

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

if we want pesticide use ended, the only way to change the status quo is for a lot of citizens to become involved in the political process. With municipal elections coming up this month we encourage you to attend an All Candidates Meeting in your area. Find out which contestants would be environmentally aware representives. Ask what their positions are on pesticide use in greenbelts and schoolyards.

Another issue is that the Leslie Street Extension across the Don Valley is still in the Metroplan. Why, when it would have such a horrendous impact? Development proposals are continually nibbling away at our valleylands. Recently Etobicoke Council approved a plan to incorporate the Old Mill ruins within the Humber Valley into a hotel connected to the Old Mill Restaurant. David Orsini and I opposed the project, but our environmental, heritage, and safety concerns were ignored.

Just yesterday Etobicoke Council voted to allow an expansion of an existing apartment which the Ontario Municipal Board approved in 1977. Comfort Living, on Islington Avenue, north of Albion Road, juts into the valley now. The extension will intrude even further, and necessitate the removal of a stand of trees the OMB had ordered to be saved. Some of these trees are hickories, which are uncommon in Metro. The slope east of the apartment adjoins the Environmentally Sensitive Area of the Humber Oxbow. In his letter to Council, Allan Greenbaum wrote that "the expansion is... in clear violation of the letter and spirit of valley policies developed over the past two decades by Etobicoke, Metro, the Conservation Authority and the Province; as such, it should not be permitted." At the Public Meeting on the issue, a majority of the residents were opposed, and vociferously so. There was a lengthy and sometimes nasty debate before the meeting ended at 1:00 a.m. But Council chose to ignore the advice of MTRCA and their own planners who advocated turning down the application.

In conclusion, it will be interesting to see what happens on Election Day. Do we want to elect SAVERS or PAVERS; those motivated by short-term gain or long-term sustainability? If enough of us speak up, competent politicians will be elected, sound advice will be heeded, and eventually improvements will result.

Joan O'Donnell □

The happy
orange foliage
of those tall trees
says hi
to the steel grey sky.

R.A. Foor

KEEPING IN TOUCH

August 23, 1994

On August 22 I was hanging the washing on the line in our backyard on Grenadier Road near High Park when a kestrel flew by, closely pursued by three smaller birds crying "keep, keep." I believe the smaller birds were starlings but as I was concentrating on the falcon I cannot be sure. The noise of the pursuit continued for some time into the distance. Is this unusual behaviour or have other TFN members observed kestrels chased by other birds?...

Richard Pathak

Ed. Note: It is not unusual for small birds to pursue larger predators, including domestic cats, grey squirrels and red-tailed hawks, according to TFN's TORONTO REGION RECORDS. There is an entry for May 20, 1992, of 3-4 American robins chasing an American kestrel which hovered briefly and fled (in Leaside). By the way, angry robins do say "Keep! keep!".

DB

August 25, 1994

For a number of years an osprey nest has occupied a platform built by the Hydro atop one of their hydro poles. This is quite near the bridge that crosses the narrows of Lake Dalrymple. One day a few weeks ago, a local resident noticed an adult wing hanging over the edge of the nest. With the help of the M.N.R. and the Hydro, a cherry-picker was used to see if there were any young in the nest. One large chick was found in the nest with several fish. Local residents felt sure the nest had two adults so the decision was made to watch the nest for a few days. Fortunately an adult bird continued to feed the chick and two weeks later the chick was doing well.

In late July, a robin and a blue jay were creating a commotion at the back of the cottage. I saw the two birds fighting on the ground amid Clintonia leaves and then they flew off a short distance. I wondered if the blue jay had attacked a young robin on the ground. To my surprise I found an almost completely feathered, healthy-looking young blue jay lying face down. When I turned it over it was breathing its last but still had a fat grub protruding from its beak. There were no signs of visible injuries. An adult blue jay returned and after hopping cautiously from branch to branch in the low trees and shrubbery, it flew to the ground where the young bird lay. The adult began pecking, I thought at the dead bird, but it really was trying to get hold of it. Finally the adult picked up the dead chick, flew a few feet before it slipped from its beak. This procedure occurred about six times. The last time the dead chick fell from the adult's bill, it fell in the water at the shoreline. The adult bird did not return...

Ethel Day

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

September 6, 1994

Your item about seeing the Fall Colours in and around Toronto is so true. The colours in King and Whitchurch Townships are as good or better than anyplace. [Refer to TFN 445:26:SEP.]

A suggestion for a self-conducted tour is to use the GO trains and buses.

One of the nicest trips would be to catch the 8:48 am GO train to Richmond Hill. This goes up through the Don Valley and is beautiful at any time of the year. At Richmond Hill you can transfer to the GO bus for Newmarket. The return buses run every half-hour (Monday to Friday) to the GO Station at Finch and Yonge where you can catch the subway or use the Yonge Street bus. When getting your ticket at Union get it through to Aurora or Newmarket (it's cheaper that way - and don't forget to ask for the Senior rate if you are a Senior). At Newmarket you can go over to Upper Canada Mall or take a bus to Sutton or to Barrie. Either bus takes you through beautiful country. Be sure to check about return buses from these points. At Aurora, get off at Orchard Heights. There is a small plaza there which has three restaurants, plus you can get coffee and a sandwich at the IGA. Then on the street in front of the IGA you can get a town bus which leaves shortly after the hour and takes you on a very scenic drive all around town.

You can also go by train to Oshawa and come back by bus to York Mills. Or you can go to Oakville by train and back by bus to Yorkdale or York Mills. Timetables are available at (416) 665-0022.

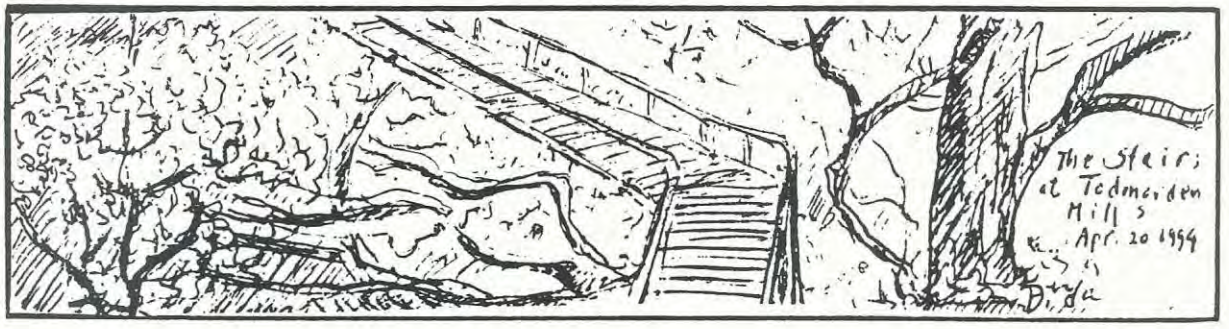
Truly we don't know our own back-yard!

V. M. Clarke

Comment:

Our thanks to V.M. Clarke. How marvellous to find someone who has learned to take the very best advantage of public transit. Being without the "necessary" automobile need not render any of us housebound.

E.D.



PUBLICITY REPORT

In 1994, the TFN has participated in many exhibition and display events at the invitation of a variety of host organizations. This summer, for example, TFN volunteers prepared, transported, set up and staffed displays at the Metro Works Envirofest in East York, North York Environment Week at the Yorkdale Shopping Centre, Rendezvous for Seniors at Harbourfront, Simcoe Day at Todmorden Mills and the Riverdale Farm Fall Festival.

Our most recent event was High Park Environment Day on September 25 - and the club is already scheduled to be at Heritage Showcase 1995 next February at Sherway Gardens in Etobicoke.

The work is quite labour-intensive. Our display at Yorkdale involved almost twenty volunteers, fifteen alone to staff the TFN information table and photo display during the five days of Environment Week. But volunteering is not all work; there is time to enjoy the event, watch performances and visit other displays. At a recent show, our volunteers got free lunch and two were invited to a post-event evening meal for participants.

The TFN continues to advertise, where it is free, in community newspapers and magazines and there is fairly good response, as measured by the numbers of people who phone the Club or attend outings who say they read about it in a local paper. We have four events listed in the NOW Magazine Fall Guide.

There are many nature and environment events; it is sometimes a burden for our volunteers to go to all of them, even though the "work" is fun. If you would like to participate, call the TFN at 968-6255 or Sandy Cappell at 663-7738 and we will put you on the list.

Alexander Cappell □

Cumberland Street from the rear, 1967 - by Leslie Mirylees

Toronto Region Wildlife Report

(within a 48km radius of the Royal Ontario Museum)

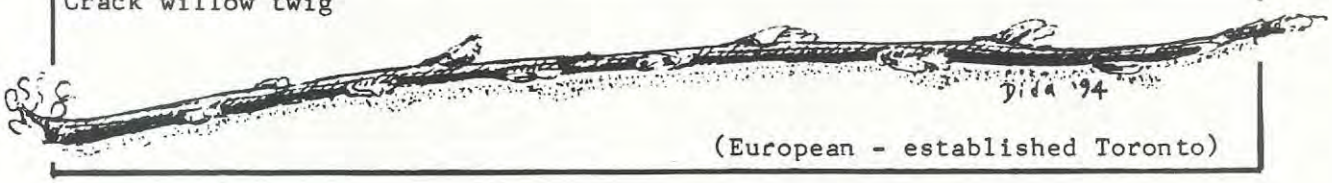
The notes on breeding and behaviour which we started at the beginning of 1994 have grown to cover 65 species of birds and 10 of mammals. In the case of the birds, 55 are confirmed breeders in Toronto Region; the others include unconfirmed breeders, wintering species, and the peregrine falcon which attacked a red-tailed hawk at Toronto City Hall in March. (We have not received behavioural information on passage migrants so far, but reports of these species are noted in our on-going status records.)

Active nests of double-crested cormorant, mute swan, Canada goose, northern harrier, killdeer, rock dove, great horned owl, northern flicker, bank swallow, barn swallow,marsh wren, blue-gray gnatcatcher, eastern bluebird, American robin, chipping sparrow, red-winged blackbird, northern oriole, house finch and house sparrow have been reported. Post-nesting activity with young was reported on some of these species, as well as mallard, sora, common moorhen, American coot, European starling, northern cardinal,common grackle, and the four song sparrows feeding five brown-headed cowbirds at Humber Bay on July 23. The nesting-site of the ring-billed gull at Leslie Street Spit was visited after the breeding season. Children were counting remains of the casualties; foliage was whitened with droppings except for the fresh crop of lamb's-quarters enjoying the fertilizing effect of the guano. Courtship behaviour, singing on territory and other nesting evidence was also reported, as well as breeding evidence of mammals. This included an active fox den with five kits "chasing, lolling, wrestling, digging and rolling in the earth". Raccoon families were observed, including an abortive rescue attempt of an apparently "lost" young. The Toronto Wildlife Centre advised that young are often allowed to wander during the day and are usually not lost. Does and yearlings of the white-tailed deer were photographed at a feeding station. They ate milo seed and corn and drank from the bird-bath in Thistletown.

We are expecting to receive more information on invertebrates and fishes for the year 1994. Send reports to me at 7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7, Apt. #710. We have less material than usual on amphibians and reptiles this year; reports in this category may also be sent to Bob Johnson, Metro Zoo, P. O. Box 280, West Hill, Ont. M1E 4R5 (phone 392-5900, evenings 839-7139). Our thanks to all reporters - individual, outings leaders, newspaper-clippers, compilers for exchange newsletters and all those who have contributed to the growing picture of the status of Toronto wildlife.

Diana Banville □

Crack willow twig



(European - established Toronto)

FOR READING

BRING BACK THE BIRDS: A COMMUNITY ACTION GUIDE TO MIGRATORY SONGBIRD CONSERVATION by Ken Towle, illustrations by Dean Passarelli, layout by G. Irish, D. Hitchmough and K. Towle. Toronto: Conservation International - Canada, 1994. 62 pages.

Designed chiefly as a teaching resource for use in secondary schools, this publication would be of interest to anyone seeking a brief, accessible introduction to the problems of migratory songbird conservation in eastern North America. The editor and principal writer, Ken Towle, is Program Coordinator with Conservation International and spoke at the TFN's October meeting.

The body of the book is divided into three parts. The first part discusses the evidence for songbird decline and surveys what is known about the possible causes for this decline in both the breeding and wintering grounds, and in between. The second part suggests some activities that high school students and other members of the general public can undertake to help halt the decline in migratory songbird populations. The third part discusses in more detail one of those activities--planting trees and shrubs that provide habitat for songbirds. The appendices include a table of information on useful tree and shrub species. This table indicates the range of the plant, its habitat preferences, the species of songbirds that use the plant for food and the species that use it for nesting or cover.

The book provides a balanced treatment of threats to songbirds on their breeding and wintering ranges. The effects of forest fragmentation and Cowbird parasitism on the breeding success of many songbird species in eastern North America are now quite well known to naturalists. The steep decline of some birds such as the now-endangered Loggerhead Shrike cannot be explained by habitat loss and remains a mystery. Loss of wintering habitat is also a serious threat to songbirds. As the book points out, the greatest threat to wintering migratory songbird populations is not the loss of rainforests in South America, but the loss of a wide range of different habitat types in Central America and the Caribbean.

The causes of songbird decline are vast in scale and poorly understood. As the publication concedes, the kind of neighbourhood-scale planting and restoration that it describes is more likely to be of educational, aesthetic and symbolic value than it is to be of direct benefit to migratory songbird populations. Nevertheless, it is a place to start.

BRINGING BACK THE BIRDS is available from Conservation International, 174 Spadina Ave. Suite 508, Toronto M5T 2C2. [$10]

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FOR READING (cont'd)

THE NATURAL HERITAGE OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO'S SETTLED LANDSCAPES: A REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION ECOLOGY FOR LAND-USE AND LANDSCAPE PLANNING by John Riley and Pat Mohr. Aurora: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1994. 78 pages.

This publication is well-described by its title. It is a review of the current thinking in the sciences of conservation biology and landscape ecology, as applied to the planning context of Southern Ontario.

The book is divided into three sections. The first section is an overview of conservation biology concepts, with emphasis on the notions of fragmentation, connectivity (habitat corridors), forest interior and exterior, and "minimum viable population". These concepts are all-important in planning for the conservation of biodiversity in a landscape like that of Southern Ontario, where forests and other natural habitats have in some districts been reduced to scattered fragments. For those interested in songbird conservation, this section contains a handy compendium of recent findings on minimum habitat requirements of forest-interior breeders. These species tend to require woods at least 500 metres wide in all directions. In Metro Toronto, only the Rouge Valley contains sufficiently large stands of unbroken forest that forest-interior species such as Ovenbird, Veery and Scarlet Tanager can breed successfully.

The second section deals with landscape design applications, such as the protection of Environmentally Significant Areas, the retention of natural corridors such as valleylands and hedgerows, and the restoration of lost and degraded habitat. The third section briefly discusses various approaches to developing "natural heritage strategies" on the basis of the ideas presented in the previous two sections.

The extensive list of cited references constitutes a valuable bibliography of scientific works and planning documents. The publication would be a useful reference document for anyone involved in natural heritage conservation in Southern Ontario and thereabouts. It is available from the OMNR Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, McDonald Block, 77 Wellesley St. W., Toronto M7A 3A1, and may be consulted at the MNR Library, 90 Sheppard Ave. E., 5th floor. □

First snow.
Children dance
in shirtsleeves.

Haiku by Giovanni Malito

Historical Notes on the New Toronto and Long Branch Waterfront

Compared to Toronto and Scarborough, Metro's western waterfront in Etobicoke is not as well-known but is just as interesting. Until 1967, this area formed part of four municipalities: the Township of Etobicoke, the Town of Mimico, the Town of New Toronto, and the Village of Long Branch. A TFN walk scheduled for Saturday, November 26, 1994 will explore portions of two of these former municipalities. The notes below introduce the itinerary for this walk.

Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, originally occupying the area between 14th and 23rd Streets in New Toronto, was established in 1888 as a permanent branch hospital of the Toronto Asylum. The first patients took up residence in eight 2½ storey "cottages" in 1889, and the "Mimico Hospital" was officially opened the following year. It was the first Ontario asylum to use the modified cottage system, the first branch hospital built specifically for patient accommodation, and the first designed especially for the incurably insane.

The cottage system aimed at reproducing the appearance of a country village on a large tract of arable land. A leading Toronto psychiatrist of the time felt this setting would have a positive effect on the patients: "Their condition could be stabilized if they were kept in tranquil surroundings where they could benefit from accommodations that were more home-like, constructed and furnished with special attention to daily use that permitted useful employment." The patients grew much of their own food, tended the grounds, and helped construct various buildings, many of which date (and survive) from the 1890s. The Hospital closed in 1979. In 1993, the Province restored the quadrangle cottages, though their future use is undetermined.

The grounds surrounding the Hospital's quadrangle have been put to a number of other uses. Humber College and Metro's R.L. Clark Filtration Plant and Lakeshore Lodge occupy former agricultural lands. Colonel Samuel Smith Park (another Metro facility) is comprised of the Hospital's recreational grounds along with recent lakefill. In 1993, a segment of the Metropolitan Waterfront Trail was built through the Hospital site, providing an important pedestrian and cyclist link between New Toronto and Long Branch. Natural habitats are being created on the lakefilled portions of the park.

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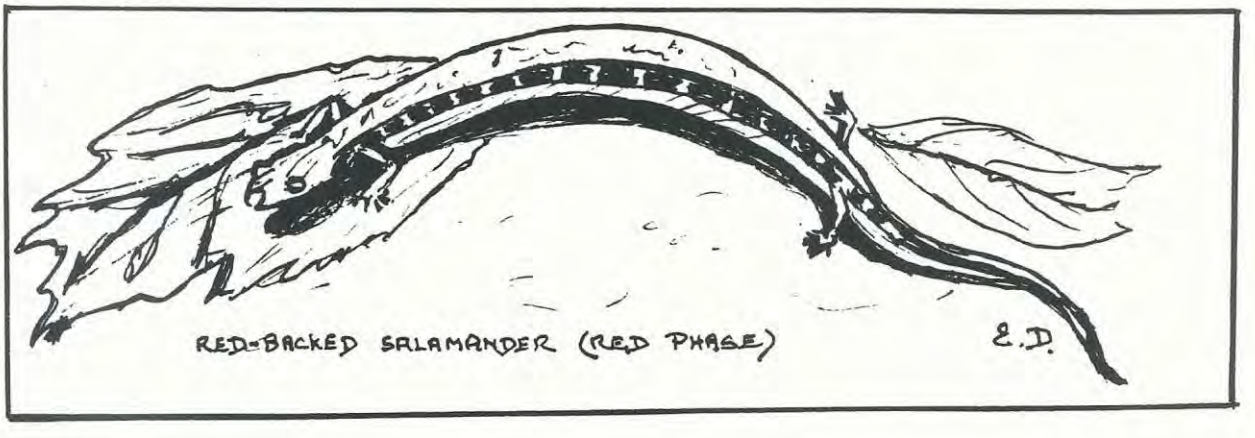
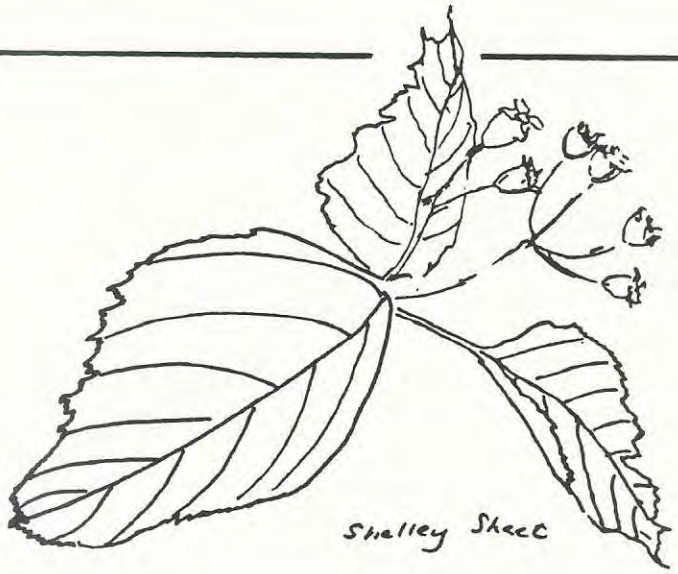


"Long Branch Park" is the oldest residential subdivision on the Etobicoke waterfront. The idea of a summer resort community was first sketched out in 1884. The plan's basic features — three streets running perpendicular to the lake, a wharf at the foot of Long Branch Avenue, and a 10-acre park at the water's edge — formed the nucleus of the new settlement. "Idle Wyld", the first cottage, was erected on Lake Promenade in 1886 and faces the water to this day. Some 250 lots were developed on the original 75-acre property grid, and a number of 19th-century dwellings survive.

Recreational and residential development proceeded in tandem. In 1887, the Long Branch Hotel opened to serve excursionists. Other facilities included a boat house, a "Coney Island Carousal", and what was allegedly Canada's first water toboggan slide; promenaders could enjoy a 600-foot lakefront esplanade. Long Branch became something of a steamboat suburb. Said one pleased commuter-cottager in 1889: "The proximity of Long Branch to Toronto, with good steamboat service, offers the advantages which city residence affords for business, combined with those of residence at a summer resort for health and pleasure."

The character of Long Branch altered greatly in the 20th century. Arrival by ship gave way to arrival by car and streetcar. Year-round settlement began about 1910, with cottaging persisting until the 1930s. Areas flanking Long Branch Park were converted from farms to housing tracts. The curvaceous "Pine Beach" (Arcadian Circle) subdivision west of Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital was laid out in 1911. Population growth enabled the community to gain village status in 1931. While the Long Branch Hotel burned down in 1954, the site was not redeveloped for apartments until the mid-1960s. The excavation material from this project became lakefill for what is now known as Long Branch Park.

Wayne Reeves ◻



NATIVE TORONTO
HAWTHORN

with young haws

Don Valley

drawing by

Shelley Skeet

June 11, 1994

IN THE NEWS

WAGNERIAN DEATH

The Copenhagen Zoo announced that one of its okapis, a rare African mammal related to the giraffe, died from stress apparently triggered by opera singers rehearsing 300 metres away in a park. The 6-year-old female started hyperventilating and collapsed after Royal Theatre performers began singing selections from "Tanhauser." Okapi can be severely affected by unusual sounds, according to zoo spokesperson Peter Haase. He said that neither a calf nor a male okapi, also at the zoo, appeared to react to the singing. The Royal Theatre "very deeply regretted the animal's death" and will move the upcoming concert away from the zoo.

From "Earthweek" by Steve Newman in THE TORONTO STAR, August 13, 1994

NEW FLY FOUND

A new type of fly that appears to thrive on algae in water containing human and animal feces has been identified in Manitoba. Discovery of the fly, which resembles a worm with six legs, could affect the development of waste-producing hog operations proposed for the Interlake area of the province. The insect was found by Professors Brenda Hann of the University of Manitoba and Gordon Goldsborough of Brandon University.

From THE GLOBE AND MAIL, September 3, 1994

RACCOON RABIES A BIG CONCERN

A new strain of rabies, seen mostly in raccoons, is moving up from New York and is expected to cross the border into Ontario within the next couple of months. The best protection is to have pet dogs and cats regularly vaccinated. Other advice includes keeping away from wild animals that try to come close to humans, never making a pet of a raccoon, capping chimneys with screens to prevent raccoons from finding a home, placing trash in cans with tight-fitting lids and possibly tying the lids on, teaching children about the dangers of petting or feeding raccoons, and reporting any animal bite or exposure to the East York Health Unit (461-8136). If you find a dead animal, or see one acting strangely, don't touch it or try to trap or harm it in any way. Call a public health inspector at the health unit, or East York Animal Control (778-2090).

Extracted from the NORTH TORONTO HERALD, June 23, 1994

The windows are shut
this late November evening,
yet the curtains stir.

haiku by Diana Banville

SOMETHING FISHY BY THE DON

Nature lovers can expect to see plenty of fish if they take a walk by the Don River. However, most, if not all, won't be of the swimming variety. The Don Watershed Task Force, which is in the process of developing a regeneration plan for the Don River and its tributaries, will be placing signs next to areas of the Don that are slated for regeneration. One of the signs will be a fish symbol. The colour of the fish will indicate the seriousness of the problem. For example, a red fish means an extensive effort is needed to restore the aquatic habitat. There will also be signs indicating water quality, water quantity and terrestrial habitat.

From LEASIDE ROSEDALE TOWNCRIER, May 1994

THE DON LIVES

Twice this summer articles appearing in NOW have referred to the Don as a "dead river". The Don is far from dead. The valley is home to a wide range of wildlife including red-tailed hawks, great blue herons, muskrats and foxes. Despite continuing problems with water quality, degraded green space, general neglect, etc., the Don continues to function as an important and viable natural environment within our city. The Task Force to Bring Back the Don is working with a number of other groups to encourage the regeneration of the Don. Over the past four years, we have implemented projects, including tree planting, that have improved the environment of the valley and raised awareness about the great potential of the Don. It may take 20 to 50 years before we can declare that we have brought back the Don, but the most important first step is to stop declaring the Don dead. We need to encourage Torontonians to recognize the tremendous resource that still exists in the valley.

A letter to the editor of NOW by Mark Wilson, Task Force to Bring Back the Don, September 1, 1994

RESOURCE CENTRE RECEIVES DONATION ON GREEN SPACE CREATION AND CONSERVATION

Are you one of the increasing number of gardeners, landscapers, and planners who are working to bring some diversity and greenspace into our urban world? The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) library has recently received an exciting donation of books, articles and reports on green space creation and conservation from Professor Roy Merrens of York University. This special collection reflects both theoretical and practical approaches to providing diverse natural landscapes in rural as well as urban areas. Greening the city, alternatives to lawns, wild native plants in our parks and urban agriculture are just a few of the topics included in the collection, with reports of real "green happenings" in Toronto, New York, England and many other places. Here are a few titles: Nature Areas for City People, Urban Agriculture, Wild in London, Tifft Farm Nature Preserve, A City Fit for Wildlife and Redesigning the American Lawn. Library hours are Tuesday to Friday, 1 to 5 pm (but best call 960-2284 before you visit).

Extracted from the INTERVENOR (CELA newsletter), Vol. 19, Issue 3, May/June 1994

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

BEAVER RIVER WETLANDS ACQUISITION

The Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) has purchased an abandoned spur line from CN Railways. The purchase includes a 19 kilometre section of the line running north from Blackwater Junction in the Township of Brock, to the Village of Woodville. The Authority made the purchase as part of the initial step in the proposed acquisition of 765 hectares of the Beaver River Wetlands. The line travels through the Beaver River Wetlands adjacent to the Beaver River. As a right of way, the former rail bed provides the basis for an access trail through the wetland area. The area containing rare indigenous species such as purple clematis and cuckoo flower, has long been recognized for its importance in providing habitat for wildlife through a large and unbroken corridor along the Beaver River. The Conservation Authority designated the Beaver River Wetlands as an Environmentally Significant Area in 1982, and it has been evaluated as a Class 1 Wetland by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Purchase of the line was made possible largely through the efforts of Charles Sauriol and the generous donations received from a number of foundations including the McLean Foundation. The Ministry of Natural Resources provided a grant for 50% of the purchase cost. Total cost for the purchase of the spur line was $22,000. No immediate plans are scheduled for the property. In its present state, the former gravel bed remains. The tracks, ties and some drainage culverts have been removed. Barriers are being placed at road crossings to restrict motorized vehicle access. The abandoned spur line provides a unique opportunity to recreational benefits by providing a trail through the interior of the wetlands.

Extracted from CONSERVATION CLIPS (LSRCA newsletter), Vol. 13, No. 1, 1994 □

HELP POLITICIANS MAKE CLEAR CHOICES ABOUT CLEAN WATERS

If you want clean, swimmable beaches next summer, do something about it. If you want healthy streams and rivers in Metro Toronto and region where you and your family can enjoy yourselves, this is the time to tell your municipal politicians. Municipal elections are this month.

Clean Waters, Clear Choices, the Metro Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan to restore and protect water quality in this area of the Great Lakes, was recently presented to the federal and provincial governments. They have promised to come up with a response in about nine months. However, without pressure from citizens like you, this plan for action and implementation may never be fully realized. So if you have something to say about the issue, municipal elections are a great time to be heard. Seasoned and aspiring politicians are listening.

You may wish to ask your local candidates some of the following questions about water quality:
- How can the municipality encourage individuals and local community groups to take action to restore and protect water quality?
- Does our municipality have a policy for the region's most serious problem, storm water management? Does it take an ecosystem approach, treating storm water as a resource?
- Does our municipal Official Plan work for or against the environment? Does it protect natural streams and river bank habitats? Does it minimize sediment loss during construction and maximize the permanent on-site absorption of water?
- Have you been involved in any valley and stream corridor cleanup and restoration activities?
- Given the current budget situation, what can we do to protect and restore the environment?

You could also join environmental and community groups working to improve the watershed in your area. For the Don River, there is the Task Force to Bring Back the Don (392-1255) and Friends of the Don East York (467-7305).

Only through individual and collective action by people like you can we make our waters swimmable, drinkable, fishable. According to John Sewell, former mayor of Toronto and chair of a recent provincial land planning commission, cleaning our waters will demand "action in individual municipalities pressured by strong citizen groups and astute staff."

The Metro Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan "Clean Waters, Clear Choices" is the culmination of work begun in 1988 by volunteers and professionals - supported by the federal, provincial and municipal agencies, environmental and community groups, educators, agriculturalists, those in business, recreation and tourism. The plan contains 53 recommendations for restoring and protecting our waters. If you would like a free copy, send your name and address to Metro RAP, 7 Overlea Blvd., 4th floor, Toronto M4H 1A8.

Letter from Don Young, Public Consultation Coordinator, Metro and Toronto Region Remedial Action Plan, extracted from the NORTH TORONTO HERALD, July 7, 1994. [adapted from] □

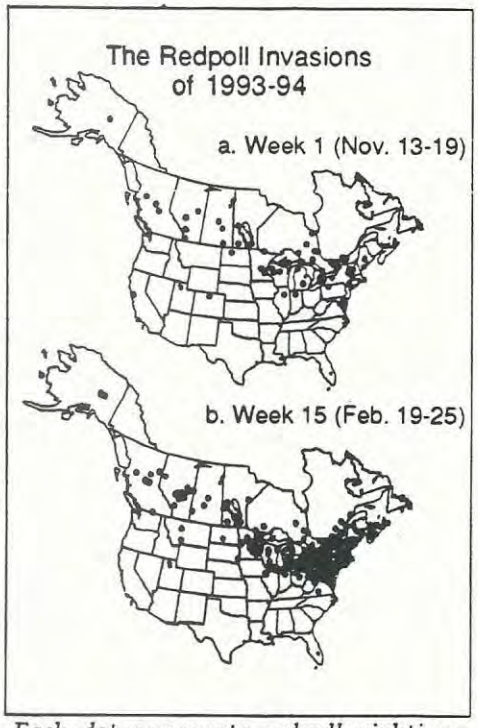
THE YEAR OF THE REDPOLL

Folks who feed backyard birds were "seeing red" this past winter -- Common Redpolls and Red-breasted Nuthatches, that is. Volunteer bird scientists enrolled in Project FeederWatch reported big increases in the "red" species compared to the previous winter, especially in the Northeast.

Project FeederWatch is a long-term study of feeder birds in winter. This is the eighth straight winter that the project's "kitchen window scientists" have counted feeder birds, tracking changes in bird numbers across the continent. The project is a joint program of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and Canada's Long Point Bird Observatory.

When flocks of redpolls searching for food abruptly invade areas far south of their usual winter ranges, scientists call the phenomenon an "irruption". The irruptions of 1993-94 were the largest in eight years. FeederWatchers reported redpolls at 28% of feeders continent-wide, up from 8% in the winter of 1992-93. The Northeast saw the most spectacular invasion: redpolls visited 48% of FeederWatch sites, up from only 3% the winter before. FeederWatchers also reported higher-than-normal numbers of Hoary Redpolls, a species that ordinarily winters above the Arctic Circle.

Red-breasted Nuthatch, the other "red" invader, was reported at 36% of the FeederWatch sites, up from 29% in 1992-93. The north-central part of the continent saw a virtual explosion as these nuthatches visited 61% of all FeederWatch sites, up from 8% the previous year.



Each dot represents redpoll sightings

One of the special strengths of Project FeederWatch is its ability to track dynamic changes in bird numbers. Other volunteer-based bird counts, such as the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, collect information over a very short period of time, providing a snapshot view of bird numbers and distribution. In contrast, FeederWatch data provide a virtual video, mapping changes in bird numbers week by week over the course of the winter. The maps shown compare redpoll numbers at the beginning of the winter and at the height of the invasion.

The majority of Project FeederWatch participants live in north-eastern states and provinces, but the project has observers in every US state except Hawaii and every Canadian province, including the Yukon Territory. Together they have added 311,686 records to the ornithological database.

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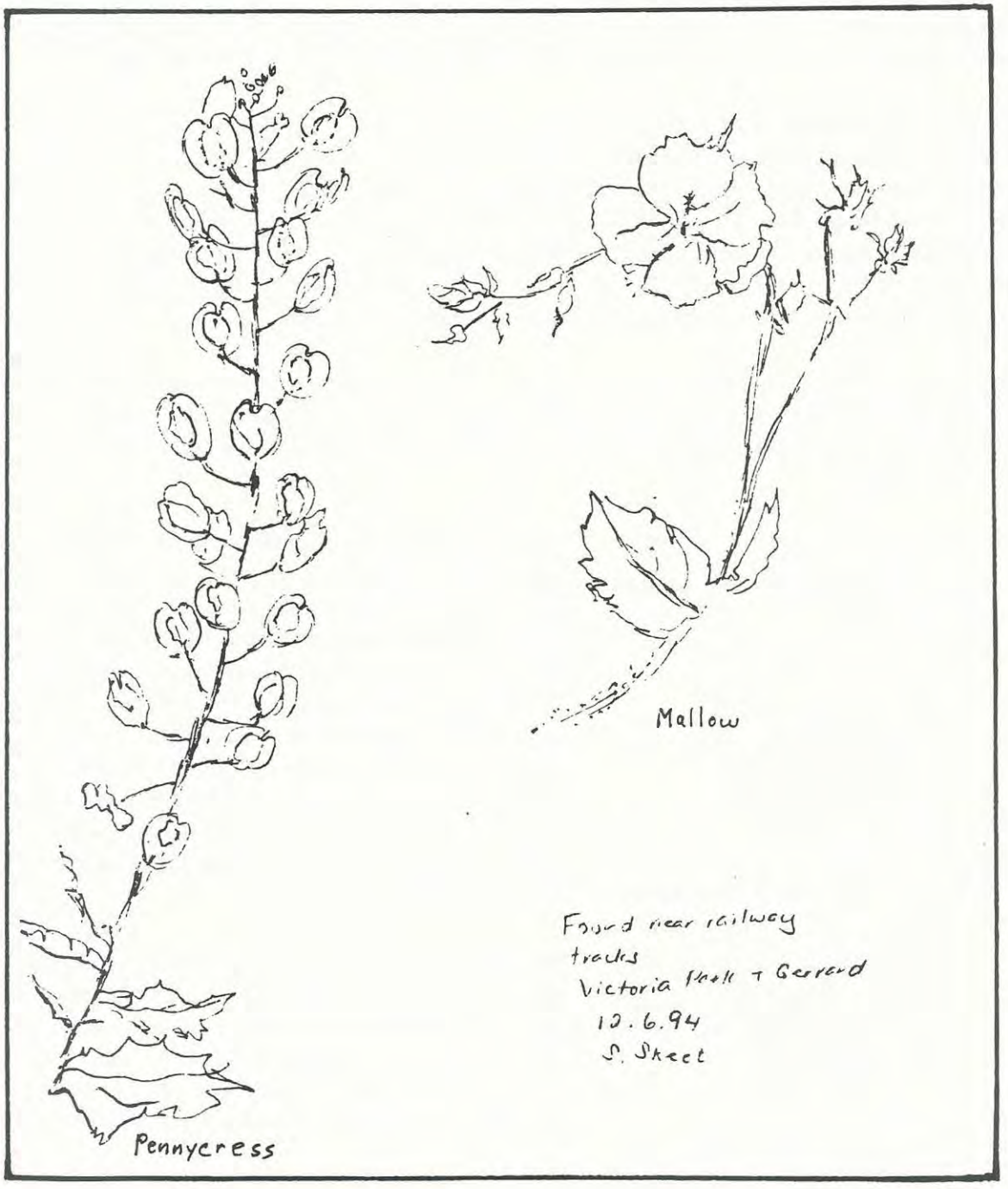
FEEDERWATCH (cont'd)

To join Project FeederWatch send $16.00 to Project FeederWatch, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0 or for more information, call (519) 586-3531.

From a news release of Project FeederWatch. □



RESTORATION ECOLOGY - THE TIME HAS COME

Over the past few decades, government agencies and resource industries have been tentatively moving toward a more sustainable approach to resource management. Some may claim that this move is driven by market forces and public opinion rather than ecological sensitivity. Nevertheless, environmental management techniques are currently under review and we may expect some radical changes. Single species management has and continues to be a common method employed to achieve goals such as maximizing game species and forest yields. However, the ecosystem approach is being touted as the new model for resource management. Perhaps the main rationale for this change is the notion that in the long term a healthy self-sustaining ecosystem can produce the same yields as single species management at a lower cost, financially and environmentally.

Restoration ecology is an expanding branch of science that shares similar philosophies with ecosystem management in that it aims to sustain biodiversity and to establish a more positive relationship between the natural environment and human society. These aims are achieved through a variety of methods and are slowly becoming part of public policy; for instance, the restoration section in the recent Aggregate Resources Act, and the no-net-loss of habitat component of the Federal Wetland Policy and Fisheries Act.

Effective ecological restoration requires information that many agencies do not yet have available. Fortunately, a recent upsurge of research in ecological restoration research is now providing important data in this regard. A brief sampling of recent restoration ecology journals provides a wealth of articles on applied experimentation. Examples include: natural controls to purple loosestrife, methods for propagating pickerelweed, methods for restoring canebrakes, ecological methods to reverse loss of coastal habitats, and the establishment of native seed stock reservoirs.

The words ecological restoration may conjure up images of foul smelling, abandoned industrial sites transformed into forested oases for wildlife: or perhaps unproductive lowland farm fields returned to their natural wetland state. These may be the more obvious examples of what restoration work can achieve. No matter what the project, restoration methods must employ basic biological principles that create self-sustaining systems to maximize their effectiveness. For example, restored sites should be able to maintain their own hydrologic cycle, have a stable substrate, and exhibit a significant degree of sustainable biodiversity. It would be economically wasteful and short sighted to situate a wetland where existing hydrological processes cannot sustain it. Similarly, restoration projects should import plant species from a suitable and diverse gene pool that allows for dynamic interactions. Over time, most ecosystems do not remain static but are continually transformed through various successional processes. These processes must be considered in the overall goals and objectives of the restoration project. If there is not reasonable guarantee that these basic principles will be fulfilled, the long term success of the project will be jeopardized.

On a global level, there is growing recognition that our diverse societies are inextricably

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linked with the natural processes of our world. Economists now calculate the potential financial impacts of environmental damage such as deforestation, global warming and ozone depletion. Locally, environmental issues such as waste management, groundwater pollution, and greenspace reduction are becoming increasingly topical. In addition to environmental concerns, municipal decision makers must also contend with the often conflicting issues of continual urban and industrial growth. Restoration projects must be designed with these issues in mind if they are to be compatible with the long term goals of the community. In other words, both biological and cultural principles must be considered to produce a self-sustaining system. The Sewell Commission has described many of the problems and it is comforting that the recent series of draft policies by the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs incorporates these issues into the land-use planning process.

It is now recognized that healthy ecosystems are dependent not only upon individual habitats, but on how these habitats are interconnected within regional landscapes. For example, the continuing decline in migrant songbird populations has been linked to the continuing fragmentation of our forests. To address this problem, resource managers are attempting to establish larger conservation lands, greenbelts, buffers and wildlife corridors. There is much debate as to what constitutes effective reserves and buffers, and research continues. Nevertheless, these ideals are being incorporated into public policy such as seen in the recent Ontario Wetlands Planning Policy Statement.

Recently, financial support for research into sustainable forest management has come from federal support of Canada's Green Plan. With this backing, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (with guidance from non-government agencies such as the Federation of Ontario Naturalists) is developing sustainable resource management programs such as the Eastern Ontario Model Forest initiative (EOMF). Various projects have been funded under this program, including habitat restoration and species recovery efforts. Interestingly, many of these projects are being initiated and conducted by individuals and private consultants.

For those who would like to learn more about restoration ecology, the following journals routinely provide relevant information:

Aquatics; Biological Conservation; Conservation Biology; Diversity; Environmental Ethics; Journal of Soil and Water Conservation; Landscapes; Landscape Ecology; Natural Areas Journal; Restoration Ecology (includes Restoration and Management Notes); Wetlands Ecology and Management; Wetland; Wildflower.

Extracted from an article by Rob Snetsinger and Dale Kristensen in THE BLUE BILL (Kingston Field Naturalists), Vol.41, No.1, March 1994.

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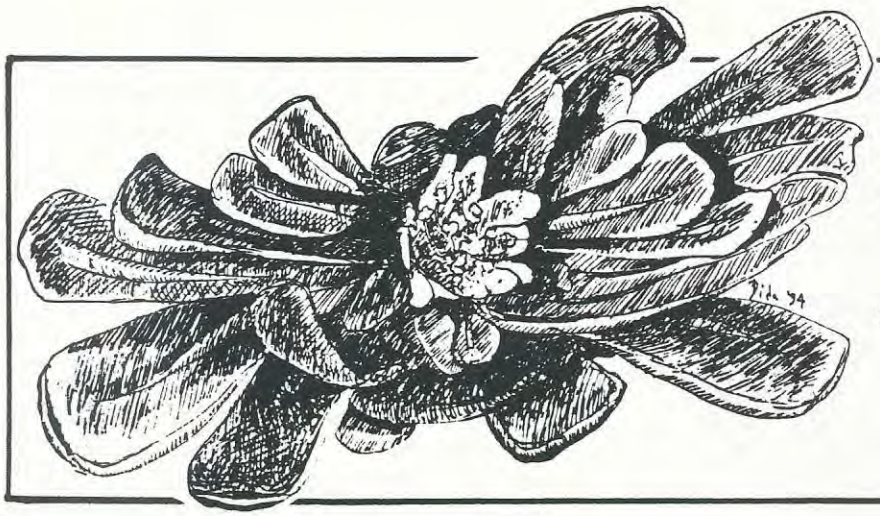
WANTED: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

I am constantly told by enthusiastic visitors how clean Ontario is, and I tend to take this with a huge grain of salt. In the Toronto area, after all, there are countless patches of No-Man's-Land where garbage accumulates relentlessly, even in the "best" neighbourhoods. Outside Toronto, however, and north to the Soo, the statement is no longer travellers' hyperbole. There are miles upon miles, incorporating village community and small town alike, where the highway runs clean as the proverbial whistle. Only occasionally an escaped Kleenex caught in the grass verge, even more occasionally a pop can. Entry to the large centres, it is true - Sudbury, Sault Ste Marie - remain (apparently) inevitably littered, but the marvellous pristine miles inbetween are attributable to a movement within communities whereby business and citizen groups pledge responsibility for a certain stretch of highway, and magnificently live up to it. The names of the various sponsors appear on small blue signs dotted along the highways which carry the exhortation: "Adopt A Highway". Indeed, the whole concept was exemplified by a woman we passed who was working around the monster ugliness of a McDonald's hoarding and filling several plastic bags with discardings.

The people responsible for this initiative should be honoured by the provincial government, and it is certainly a principle which could be adopted with advantage by Torontonians. I have never understood why it is seemingly impossible to pass a law whereby shopkeepers and homeowners alike should be held responsible for the state of the yardage leading from the front of their property to the edge of the sidewalk. In the absence of municipal nerve for such a move, however, couldn't businesses and local communities be encouraged to Adopt-A-Street, a boulevard, a crescent, a shopping centre, a bus shelter, a ravine? If such wonderful results can be achieved along highways carrying thousands of vehicles daily, many of whose drivers stubbornly regard the great outdoors as their legitimate open garbage-can, surely Torontonians could aim for similar awareness?

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY, indeed. A magnificent idea.

Eva Davis



Common Purslane (Portulaca oleracea) - origin W. Asia, established in Toronto

from an R. Wilcox photo (x7)

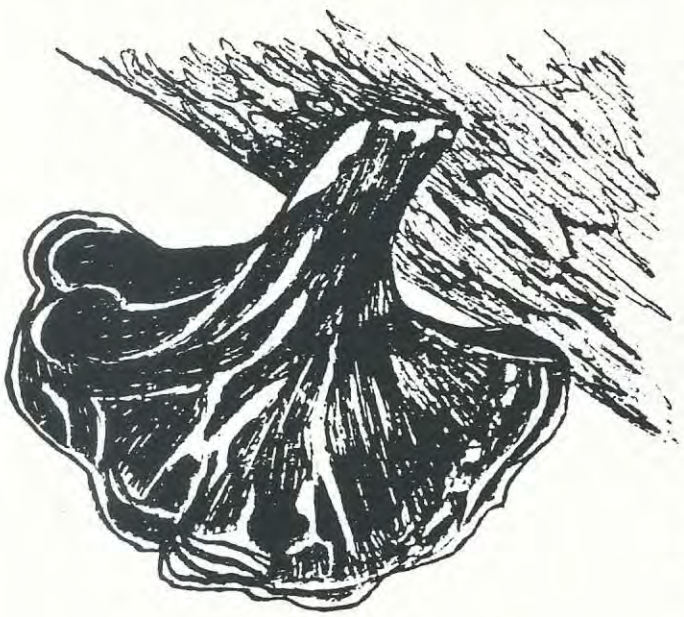
SHELVES AND BRACKETS

Sulphur Shelf
Laetiporus sulphureus

Fruiting body: shelf up to 16" across, in overlapping, fan-shaped masses, fleshy, orange-yellow to salmon; lemon pores; forming huge clusters on dead or dying hardwoods and conifers. A gorgeous find.
Stipe: none.
Flesh: white to pinkish-yellow.
Odour: fungsy.
Spore deposit: white.
Season: May to November.
Ediblity: "With caution". Some people experience digestive upset. In 1990 a specimen was found in England weighing 100 pounds.

Hen of the Woods
Grifola frondosa

Fruiting body: caps 3/4" - 3" across, fan-shaped, gray to gray-brown in a clustered mass; pores white to pale yellow; at the base of deciduous trees, especially oak.
Stipe: white, tough, many branched from the central core.
Flesh: tough, white.
Odour: sharp, pungent.
Spore deposit: white.
Season: September to November.
Edibility: "Edible, choice". this species can reach a span of 10" - 20" and weigh more than 50 pounds.



Hemlock Varnish Shelf
Ganoderma tsugae

Fruiting body: cap 2" - 10" across, fan-shaped, red-brown when young, appearing lacquered with age; pores creamy, bruising brownish; singly or in clusters on dead or dying conifers.
Stipe: lateral, red-mahogany or black.
Flesh: 2" thick, upper part spongy, lower corky when dried.
Spore deposit: rusty brown.
Season: May to November.
Edibility: inedible.
Now if one found its relative Ganoderma lucidem, one would have found the Mushroom of Immortality! This fungus has been used in the Orient medicinally for over 5,000 years, and has, historically been reserved for the Chinese emperor and his household.

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THREE BEAUTIES

A lot of people think of mushrooms as being white, brown, or pallid yellow, but some species can be positively dazzling.

Hygrophorus coccineus

Many of the Hygrophoraceae are vivid, but this is possibly the most brilliant member.

Fruiting body: smooth, moist cap, scarlet, blood red, or orange-red, 3/4"-2" across, convex then umbonate; gills thick, waxy, adnate, bright red to orange; in soil or humus in coniferous and deciduous woods.

Stipe: hollow, fluted, orange-red, paler at base.

Flesh: yellow-orange.

Spore deposit: white.

Season: July to October.

Edibility: "Edible" according to some reports.

Cortinarius violaceus

Fruiting body: dry, scaly cap, dark purple to violet, 2"-6" across, convex to flat; gills broad, violet flushed with brown as spores mature; in mixed woods.

Stipe: solid, dark violet.

Flesh: firm, violet.

Spore deposit: rusty brown.

Season: September to October.

Edibility: "Edible, but unattractive" best sums up the differing viewpoints.

Stopharia aeruginosa

Green mushrooms are rare, so this specimen is unmistakable.

Fruiting body: viscid, convex, blue-green cap, 3/4"-3" across, yellowing in age; gills close, broad, violet-gray, then purplish brown; in rich woods.

Stipe: viscid, smooth, white above ring, greenish blue below.

Flesh: soft, whitish-blue.

Spore deposit: purplish-brown.

Season: August to November.

Edibility: Not recommended.

Eva Davis

COUNTRY ROADSIDES

Even in November I am still running into people who ask, "How was your summer?" To say one stayed home and went for the same walk around 7 am every morning may sound a bit boring, but it was in fact one of the most interesting summers I've ever had.

It's just an ordinary county roadside in Muskoka, one of many to be found in this lovely part of Canada, but there's nothing ordinary about the dozens of species of wildflowers, shrubs, mosses, sedges and trees growing in harmony there. Mostly they are familiar faces looking up at us as they come into bloom, and we pretty well know when to expect each flower to open. One day in late July a happy find for me was a patch of the little greenish-white flowers of the Habenaria clavellata, the small woodland orchis, growing right beside the road. This is not a rare orchid, of course, but I had not seen it before so I felt that special "rush" when the plant growing at my feet matched the description in the field guide!

As the summer wears on and fruits begin to ripen, the luscious perfume from a raspberry patch fills the early morning air, and a handful of juicy berries is a welcome treat. The flowers of August are very showy compared with the modest little pale blooms of earlier in the season and nature mixes colours with a lavish hand. Consider the shady spot where purple Joe-Pye weed, yellow goldenrod, orange jewel weed and asters of dark blue, light blue and white, all with their different shades of green foliage, are blooming riotously together. One would have to be very daring to decorate with such a mixture but nature does it and it looks just fine!

Perhaps the little early flowers have the last word though, for what can compare with the bright scarlet berries of wintergreen and bunchberry and the shining ruby-red fruit of the Canada mayflower still rewarding the walker even in November. Even more rewarding in the dark days of late fall is the sight of nature's reassurance of a promise that will be kept in spring. There on the trees and shrubs are the preformed leaf buds and male and female flowers ready and waiting for just the right time to burst forth in all their glory once again. Nature, with infinite generosity, has forgiven us once more.

an article by M. Withers in THE CHICKADEE (Huntsville Nature Club Notes), Vol. 36, No. 2, Nov./Dec. 1993

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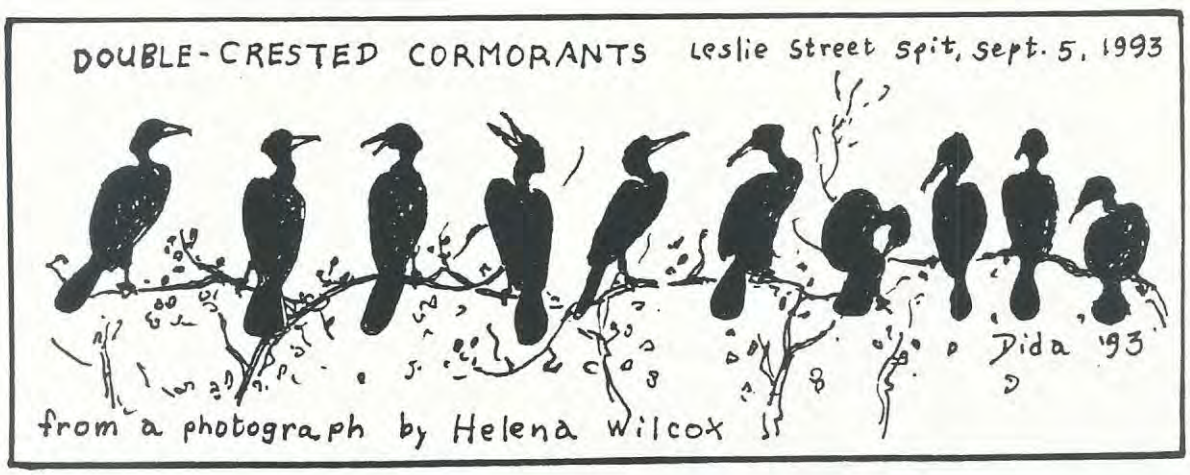


THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

November, 1993, Toronto

Not very much happened in Toronto this month, as most of the weather statistics were close to normal, and no extremes occurred throughout November. Average temperatures were fractionally below normal, rainfall slightly above normal, sunshine near or slightly below normal (there were several bright sunny days but also a couple of long overcast periods). Winds were near normal at Pearson, and again below normal at Toronto Island, the lowest since 1986 but well above the record low wind speed of 15.4 km/h set in 1961. The warmest it got all month was 14.7 °C at Toronto City and 15.3 °C at Pearson Airport, the lowest monthly maxima since 1980.

The main events of the month occurred in its final third. A snow streamer off Lake Huron delivered one to two centimetres of snow on November 20th; this was noteworthy not for the snowfall, but for the distance of the lake effect band. (This band later rejuvenated itself across Lake Ontario and hit Rochester.) On November 24th, cold air tried to ease itself into southern Ontario, but was rapidly replaced by a disturbance which was warm enough to bring soaking rain on 26-27th: 40 - 50 mm. This brought an end to what could have been a very dry month, as it was in parts of northwestern Ontario.

Gavin Miller □

Toronto native...

A YOUNG RACCOON, after weaning at 16 weeks, starts to roam alone at night, rejoining its mother at times. In the south families disperse in the fall but in the north the adult female and young may den close to each other for the winter, dispersing in the spring.

Ref.: STOKES' GUIDE TO ANIMAL TRACKING AND BEHAVIOUR

Drawing by Geraldine Goodwin.

COMING EVENTS

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

- Waterfowl - West Toronto Lakeshore - Sat. Nov. 19 from 8 am (all day) with George Bryant. Meet in the parking lot at Humber Bay Park east. Bring lunch. Carpool if necessary.

Mycological Society of Toronto - monthly meetings, forays, etc. For more information, dial HI-FUNGI (416-443-8644).

Toronto Entomologists' Association - monthly meeting - Sat. Nov. 26 at 1 pm promptly in the Multi-Room on the main floor of the Planetarium (south of the Royal Ontario Museum). For more information call 905-727-6993.

Canadian Wildflower Society - East Toronto Chapter - November meeting - Nov. 23 at 7:30 pm at the Beaches Recreation Centre, 6 Williamson Rd. For more information, call Paul McGaw at 261-6272 or Carolyn King at 222-5736.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don - regular monthly meeting - Nov. 8 at 6:30 pm in Toronto City Hall. For more details, call David Stonehouse at 392-1255.

Black Creek Project - regular meetings and restoration projects. For more information, call 661-6600, extension 345.

Save the Rouge Valley System - for information about monthly nature walks in the Rouge Valley, call 289-6643.

Friends of the Don East York - regular monthly meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the East York Civic Centre. For more details, call 467-7305.

School Ground Naturalization training session - Nov. 4 & 5 at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ont. To register, send $70 or $60 (students) to Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ont. L8N 3H8. For more details, call 519-824-4120, extension 6443.

Tree planting opportunities - Call TREES (The Really Effective Environmental Solution) at 767-2028 to register. Plantings will be October 22 & 23, Oct. 29 & 30, Nov. 5 & 6 and Nov. 12 & 13. About 11,000 trees will be planted near Finch and Hwy. 427 in the Humber Valley.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

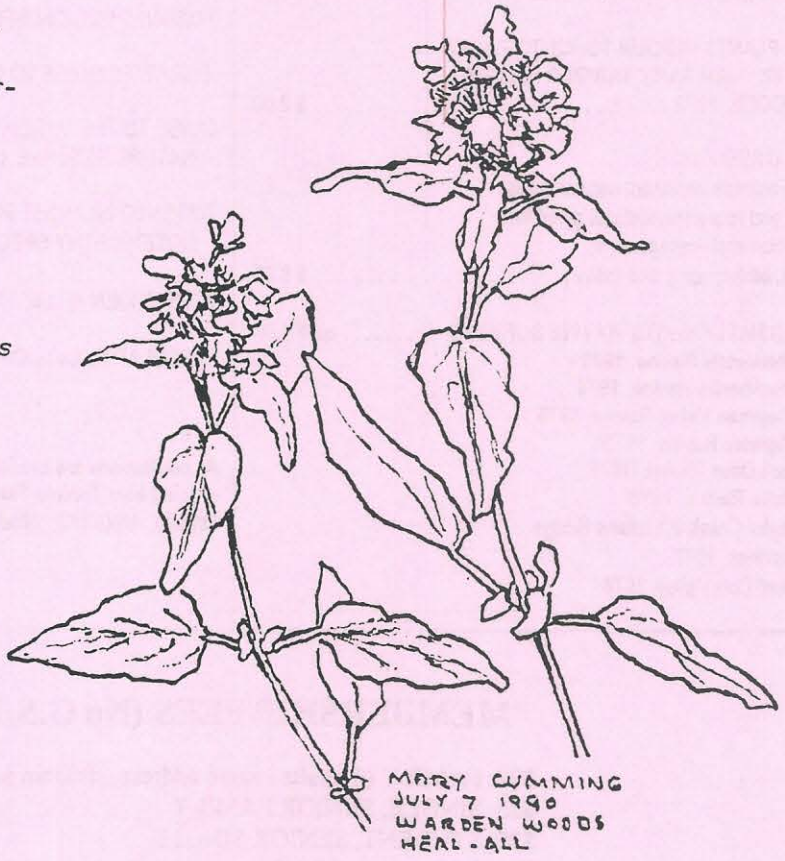
Conserving Canadian Reptiles - a one-day symposium presented by the Centre for Endangered Reptiles - Sat. Nov. 5 from 10 am to 3 pm in the Fountain Dining Room, Queen Elizabeth Bldg, Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto. Admission: $10; lunch $5. Tickets available at the door or in advance. All proceeds support the Centre for Engdangered Reptiles, a Canadian registered charitable organization dedicated to the conservation of endangered reptiles and amphibians through research and education. Tickets for fund-raising dinner and charity auction following the Symposium are $37.50 and must be purchased in advance. For tickets or more information contact Mr. Malcolm Enright, EPI, Inc., Unit 2, 445 Midwest Rd., Scarborough M1P 4Y9 or call 285-6646.

Royal Canadian Institute - free science lectures - Sundays at 3 pm in the J.J.R. Macleod Auditorium, Medical Sciences Bldg., 1 King's College Circle. For more information, call 928-2096.

- Nov. 6 - Diatoms to dinosaurs: the size and scale of living things, an illustrated lecture by Chris McGowan
- Nov. 27 - The solar system: insights since Apollo, an illustrated lecture by D.W. Strangway

HEAL-ALL or SELF-HEAL, though resembling superficially a clover-head, is in the mint family. Like many others in its family, it has been used as a herb, reputed to have medicinal value - hence the name. Its genus name, Prunella, was originally Brunella from German "Bräune", throat infection, for which it was thought to be a cure. It was later softened to Prunella which could be thought of as descriptive of its plum colour, though that was not the origin of the name.

It is a common native Toronto plant with a wide distribution in both New and Old Worlds.



Ref. Blanding's NATURE'S GARDEN 1907

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' RAVINE SURVEYS ..... ea $ 4.00
- Survey #1 - Chatsworth Ravine, 1973
- Survey #2 - Brookbanks Ravine, 1974
- Survey #3 - Chapman Valley Ravine, 1975
- Survey #4 - Wigmore Ravine, 1975
- Survey #5 - Park Drive Ravine, 1976
- Survey #6 - Burke Ravine, 1976
- Survey #7 - Taylor Creek-Woodbine Bridge Ravines, 1977
- Survey #8 - West Don Valley, 1978

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