

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 457

February 1996



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TFN MEETINGS

- Sunday, January 28, 1996 - KEEPING AN ILLUSTRATED NATURAL HISTORY JOURNAL,
at 2:30 pm an illustrated talk by Aleta Karstad, author of
"A Place to Walk" (see review in TFN 456:13:DEC).
- in the Northrop Frye Hall - Aleta Karstad has kept a natural history diary since 1969
Victoria University and will talk about how her journals have changed during
73 Queen's Park Cres. East -- in ink, pencil and watercolour -- with slides and
anecdotes.
- + "social hour" starting at 2 pm with free coffee and juice.
 - + TFN memberships and publications will be for sale from 2 pm.
 - + "Always Alice" cards will be for sale. For custom or individual cards, call TFN member, Alice Mandryk, at 416-767-6149.
 - + a display and sale of books published by Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., including "A Place to Walk".
 - + a display and sale of the author's books: Canadian Nature Notebook; Wild Seasons Daybook; Queen Charlotte Islands; Cumshawa Head Trail; A Place to Walk.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, March 3, 1996

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

Newsletter Committee members: Helen Juhola, Diana Banville, Jenny Bull, Eva Davis, Nancy Fredenburg, Eileen Mayo, Joan O'Donnell, Toshi Oikawa.

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.

- Saturday DEERPARK LIBRARY - nature photography Toronto
 Feb. 3 Leader: Robin Powell
 2 pm Meet on the second floor of the Deerpark Library which is on the north side of St. Clair Ave. East, one block east of Yonge St.
 Robin Powell will show a selection of slides from the TFN photo library. Members are invited to bring their own nature photos, up to 20, or just come and enjoy the afternoon.
- Sunday WEST HUMBER - birds West Humber, Etobicoke
 Feb. 4 Leader: Joan O'Donnell
 10:30 am Meet at the corner of Albion Rd. and Barker Ave. Lunch optional. Lots of choice here. We can walk in the valley, looking for birds or we can visit Joan and Ron's bird feeders.
- Tuesday TORONTO ISLAND - birds Lakeshore, Toronto
 Feb. 6 Leader: Louise Orr
 10:30 am Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. in time to catch the 10:30 am ferry. Bring lunch & a hot drink.
 \$ ferry tickets Even when it is very cold, there is usually open water where waterfowl gather during the winter to feed.
- Saturday TODMORDEN MILLS - leadership training for TFN outings leaders Don, East York
 Feb. 10 Leader: Morris Sorensen & others
 1:30 pm Meet at the old paper mill (the building with the chimney) at Todmorden Mills (on Pottery Road, west and downhill from the corner of Broadview Ave. and Mortimer Ave.),
 to 4:30 pm Have you ever considered leading a TFN outing but shied away because you didn't think you had enough experience? Attend this afternoon's session and learn how easy it really is. We will start with an indoor session including a slide show, followed by brief talks by experienced leaders, and provide hand-outs with valuable tips. Weather permitting, we will follow this up with a walk on the Todmorden Mills trails to illustrate the points made in the classroom session. Many well-known leaders will be there to assist. Admission is free, but if possible, please confirm your attendance by calling Morris Sorensen at 755-6030, or leave a message on the TFN answering machine at 968-6255. If you have any questions or if you would like to help out, please give Morris a call. All TFN members and friends are invited. So whether you^{are} a seasoned "pro" or a complete novice, please come so that we may all learn from each other.



FEBRUARY OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Sunday
Feb. 11
2 pm
HUMBER VALLEY - human & natural heritage
Leader: Marj Mossman
Meet on Lawrence Ave. West where it crosses the Humber River, west of Weston Rd.
This is the fourth in a series of walks to explore the Humber and its tributaries.
Humber, York
- Tuesday
Feb. 13
10:30 am
HIGH PARK - nature walk
Leader:
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West, opposite High Park Ave. Lunch optional.
Whatever the weather there is always lots to see in High Park for the keen naturalist. Bring your note book, pencil and favourite field guide.
Toronto
- Saturday
Feb. 17
1:30 pm
TORONTO'S UNDERGROUND - urban geology
Leader: Ed Freeman
Meet at the southeast corner of Yonge St. and Adelaide St.
This walk may not be underground all the way, but come and learn a new way of looking at the city and its structures.
Toronto
- Sunday
Feb. 18
2 pm
BURKE BROOK - nature walk
Leader: Jerry Belan
Meet at the southeast corner of Yonge St. and Lawrence Ave.
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community to look at another tributary of the Don. We will be walking through the ravine which runs east from Yonge, mostly on park pathways which may or may not be clear of ice and snow. Dress warmly and with non-slip footwear.
West Don tributary, Toronto
- Wednesday
Feb. 21
10:30 am
ST. LAWRENCE MARKET - nature arts
Leader: Margaret Emminghaus
Meet at the entrance to the south market at the southwest corner of Front St. East and Jarvis St.
We will find interesting genre subjects in the market to sketch and photograph. We will look at our sketches and recent photos after lunch on the lower level. Come and enjoy the market activities.
Toronto
- Saturday
Feb. 24
10:30 am
MIMICO CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Robin Powell
Meet on Bloor St. West where it crosses Mimico Creek (between Royal York Rd. and Islington Ave.). Morning only.
We will be following the creek south, where possible. Some walking on streets and some in parks. Waterproof footwear is recommended.
Mimico Cr., Etobicoke
- Sunday
Feb. 25
1:30 pm
WARDEN WOODS - nature walk
Leader: Graham Neville
Meet at the Victoria Pk. subway station.
We will follow the creek east to the Warden subway station.
Taylor Creek, Scarborough
- Wednesday
Feb. 28
10 am
ALLAN GARDENS - exotic plants
Leader: Arthur Wade
Meet at the entrance to the greenhouses, on Carlton St.
You can pretend you are in the tropics without leaving Toronto.
Morning only.
Toronto

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Some scientists have argued that the "lawn-and-lollipop-tree" park decor we find in so much public open space is not a cultural aberration. A preference for this kind of landscape, they say, is inscribed in our genes. It all goes back to when our species was evolving in Africa. Our ancestors were adapted to a savannah habitat. Those of their kind with an instinctive liking for, say, swamps would end up with malaria; those with an instinctive liking for savannah would end up with lots of descendants. We are those descendants, and we have inherited that instinctive liking for savannah. Lawns and lollipop trees are a reasonable facsimile of savannah. That's why, the story goes, getting people to like lawns is as easy as falling off a picnic table, but getting them to like wetlands takes a major propaganda effort on the part of naturalists.

What this theory does not explain is why, when twentieth century Euro-Canadian folks got hold of some real savannah, they set about trying to turn it into fake savannah with lawns and lollipop trees. This is what has happened to High Park over the course of several decades. Now that real savannah is coming into fashion, plans are afoot to restore the Black Oak, the bluestem grasses, the lupines and so on. With a bit of luck, we may live to see the Karner Blue butterfly again fluttering through the sunny glades overlooking Grenadier Pond. The fly in the restoration ointment is that alien lawn grasses such as fescues now form a dense turf over much of the park, which inhibits the re-establishment of native prairie plants.

The good news, it turns out, is that lately the native plants have been holding their own or even making inroads on the lawn grasses. Those working on ecological restoration in High Park are finding that "invasive exotics" like fescues are not invincible demons. (As Dr. Spencer Barrett pointed out at the November TFN meeting, the case against even the much-maligned Purple Loosestrife is based on fairly flimsy evidence. Swallowwort may be a different story, but that's a different story.) Lawn grasses have ecological Achilles' heels, and the very same vulnerabilities that create headaches for those who tend lawns can create toe-holds for native plants. Two in particular are worth noting. First, lawn grasses are "cool season" species that grow best in the spring and fall. That is why lawns shrivel up and turn brown in the heat of summer unless they are given regular and copious libations of water. Most prairie plants, on the other hand, are "warm season" species that love to soak up the blazing rays. Mowing and raking the grass early in the spring (or better still, burning it off--an option that is for some reason regarded as impolitic) will remove the dense fescue thatch and give the native plants (who cope better with summer conditions) a competitive edge.

The second factor came as a surprise to the High Park restorationists. The best part is, they don't have to do anything

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

in order to take advantage of it--nature does it all. According to High Park staff gardener Terry Fahey, it seems that those grubs which attack the roots of lawn grasses don't like the native grasses. The grubs are a menace to lawns and commonly invite the application of powerful insecticides. If they're not sprayed, they will kill fescue to their hearts' delight. Better still, they are scrumptious morsels themselves, and they attract skunks and raccoons who proceed to tear up the dead turf to get at the grubs. All this provides ideal conditions for the establishment of some native plants, especially Little Bluestem.

All this is not to suggest that savannah plants are about to take back High Park en masse. The failure of Black Oaks to reproduce in the park is still a matter to be addressed. The park's ecology is also affected by forces far beyond its boundaries. At a TFN meeting last year, Dr. David Waiden suggested that nitrogen oxides deposited from air pollution were, in effect, fertilizing the entire region. As a rule, adding nutrients to a plant community has the effect of reducing its biological diversity, because a few species best able to take advantage of the increased nutrient levels will grow vigorously and choke out everything else. Grasslands are particularly vulnerable to this effect. Lawn and forage grasses, which have been selected over the centuries to respond to fertilizer treatments, thus have an added advantage over prairie grasses, which are adapted to relatively low nitrogen levels.

Prairie plants are adapted to low nitrogen because they are adapted to fire. Fire releases back into the air some of the nitrogen fixed in biomass and humus, resulting--at least temporarily--in lower levels of nitrogen available to plants. This is another reason why fire is regarded as an indispensable prairie and savannah restoration tool.

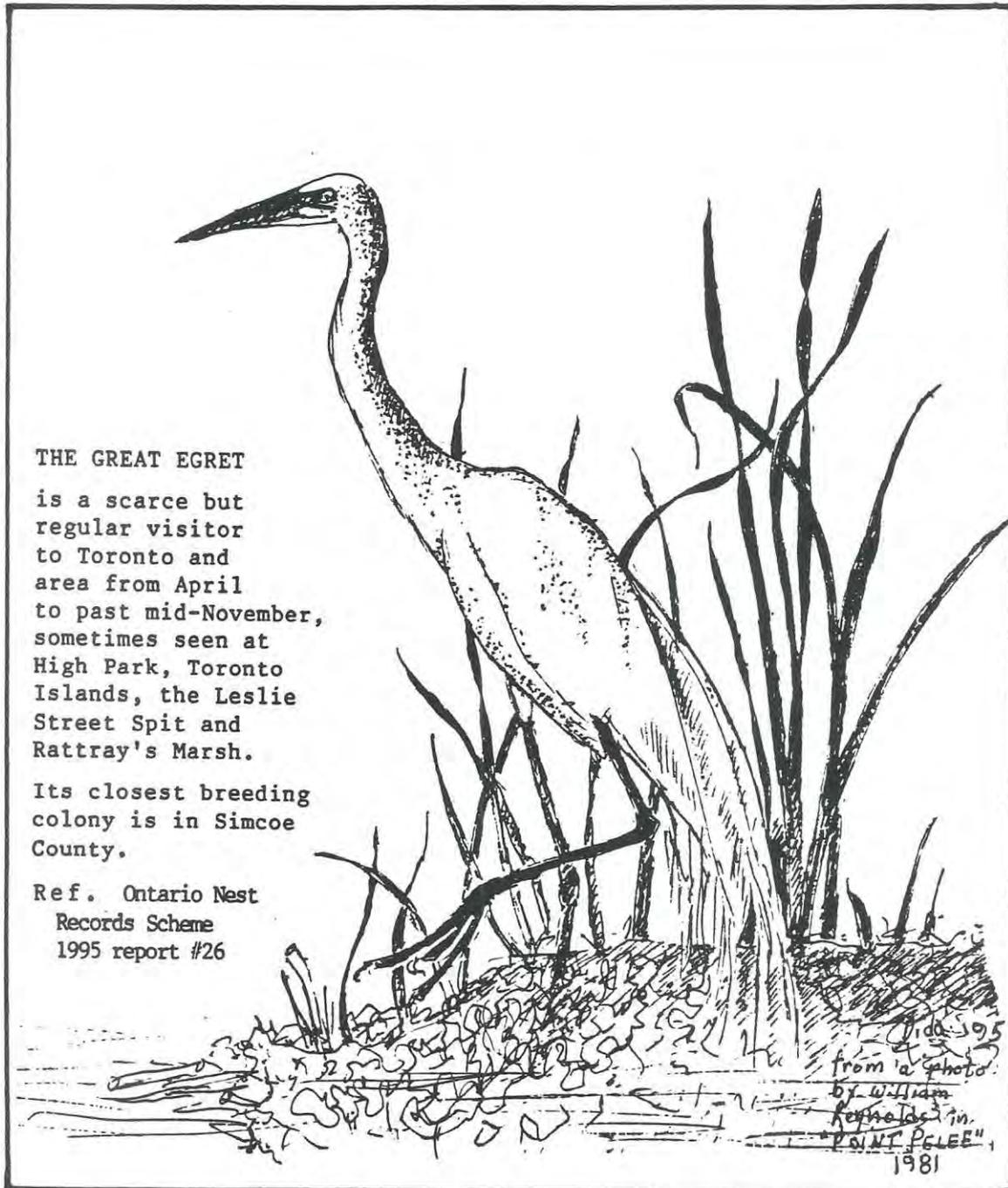
While I'm on the topic of High Park, I should mention some restoration initiatives under way having to do with Grenadier Pond. A shoreline naturalization pilot project, using some plants propagated by the Royal Botanical Gardens and some others salvaged from the condemned part of Altona Forest, seems to have been a success. There are also plans to modify the weir at the mouth of the pond so as to allow a fluctuation in water level. One effect of such a fluctuation should be to create pike spawning beds. Those who attended our September meeting will recall Dr. Anne Zimmerman's account of the complex and fascinating ecological tailspin that Grenadier Pond has gone into. To crudely oversimplify, there is too much phytoplankton (algae), in part because there are too few zooplankton (little crustaceans) to eat it, in part because there are too many small fish eating the zooplankton, in part because there are too few big fish eating the small fish. As it is, Northern Pike are not surviving and reproducing in the pond. The good news from a recent fish survey is that Large-mouth Bass are now surviving and reproducing in healthy numbers, and there are some large ones in the pond.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont'd)

Pollution is still a big factor driving the ecology of the pond, though. Some of that comes from the surrounding neighbourhood by way of run-off, and a lot of it comes from goose poop. Replacing the lawns around the edge of the pond with natural vegetation (the denser and bushier the better) would go a long way toward controlling the goose problem.

Allan Greenbaum

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KEEPING IN TOUCH

November 19, 1995

TFN readers may be interested to learn that when it comes to fall colours "only two places in the world have this brilliant foliage -- New England and part of Japan". This is emphatically stated in an interesting little leaf guide, Autumn in New Hampshire's White Mountains. I must admit the colours were magnificent this September around Franconia Notch -- probably as brilliant as the sumachs and maples on the Don Valley Parkway. In Ontario we have the added bonus of large shimmering lakes to reflect and double the effect.

On Sunday November 12, while sitting at our breakfast table, about 100 metres from the Summerhill subway station, I saw a beautiful red fox trot through our backyard. At noon today, November 19, he dashed past once again flushing birds from our various feeders. Is he after the pigeons? There is always something interesting to see in Toronto!

Mary Anne Miller

November 26, 1995

It is a pleasure to have joined TFN. My family and I have begun to learn and take interest in trees, wildflowers, grasses, mushrooms and the incalculable other species of nature, besides obtaining information from books, magazines and television.

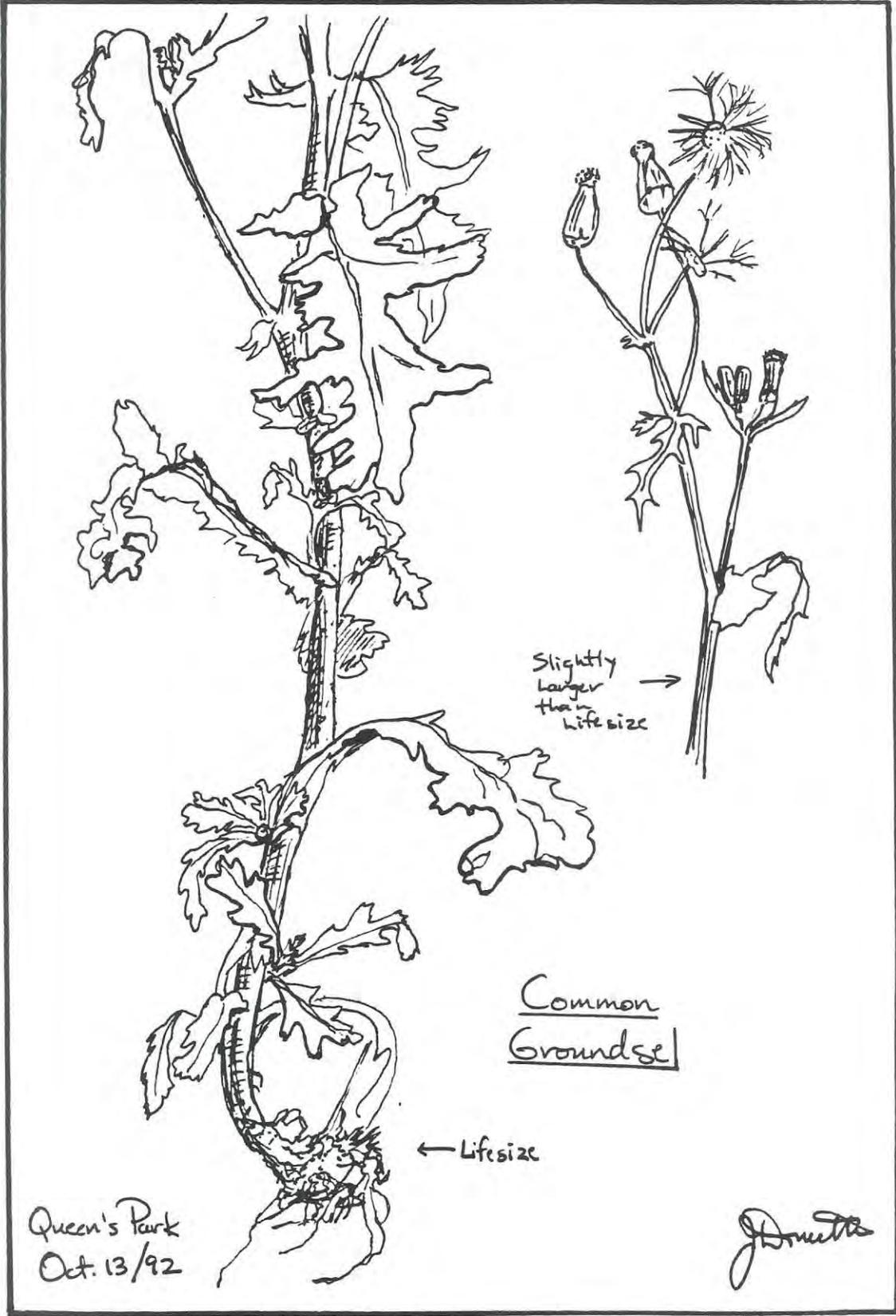
As more and more perennials and vegetables are planted into my backyard, I have found that ladybugs and the monarch butterfly are frequent visitors. About three years ago a hummingbird was seen sucking the nectar out of my red pole bean flowers. Too bad it has never come back since. Last winter I came across a blue jay on a neighbourhood street and was thrilled. Likewise a dark heron was spotted at Milliken Park before that winter season. This summer I was alerted by a song, much like a whistling sound at the back of our house. After looking around, sure enough a red cardinal was perched singing on top of our neighbour's roof, one house across from us. Then one August morning, at around 5:54 am I happened to look out my kitchen window and saw a skunk moving towards the cedar and heading to the fence. I have also seen rabbits, big black cats and a pair of raccoons which often roam around the neighbourhood.

Speaking of animals, why are there so many animals [squirrels] being killed on streets these days (or did I just recently catch up to this fact?). I drive my husband to the Finch bus stop every morning and have discovered many dead animals on the city streets. Wouldn't a honk or slow driving help prevent such accidents?

Thanks to all the volunteers and leaders who help make TFN so marvellous.

Jeannie Wu

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Queen's Park
Oct. 13/92

Common
Groundsel

J. Donnell

(See TFN 407 & 430 for information on common groundsel.)

Toronto Region Wildlife Report 1995

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

MAMMALS: THE BIG BROWN BAT was identified in the vicinity of Highland Creek by the teeth-chattering sound it was making, from May 5 to Sept. 5, on 29 occasions between the hours of 20:10 and 21:33 - our only local bat to vocalize. At Thistletown, the MINK was reported 3 times between Feb. 8 and April 30, when it was seen twice scrambling over and under rip-rap beside the river. The COYOTE was reported in 4 locations including Lake Ontario at Thickson's Woods, where it was seen chasing a SNOWY OWL. Increasingly casual about the human presence, the RED FOX has been seen pursuing its prey, including the EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL, EASTERN COTTONTAIL, MOURNING DOVE, and DOMESTIC CAT, often successfully, according to reports from 14 locations. It was heard barking and screaming (inexcusably while TFN Board members were trying to have their dinner). More denning activity was reported, including two pups sparring on their hind legs, until the adult female made a clacking noise and broke it up. RACCOONS were reported from 8 locations, some eating corn and Siberian elm buds; a cub had to be rescued twice from the same pipe. EASTERN GREY SQUIRRELS were seen picking and eating small green apples and crab apples. The BEAVER was reported from 8 locations including, on July 19, Ontario Place "munching contentedly on shoreline vegetation", ignoring a passing paddle-boat. Only 4 reports of WHITE-TAILED DEER have been received so far, including one under the Lawrence Avenue bridge where several are reported to live - an area to be paved. One VIRGINIA OPOSSUM turned up on a window-sill in Mississauga. These are only some of the adventures related with 18 Toronto Region mammals.

BIRDS: (in addition to report in TFN 453:10) The King-Vaughan bluebird trail had a successful year with 107 EASTERN BLUEBIRD young fledged from 16 pairs (compared with the all-time low of 37 young from 7 pairs last year). As well, 5 pairs each of BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES and HOUSE WRENS, and 55 pairs of TREE SWALLOWS used the bluebird-boxes. There was evidence of the NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD nesting in Etobicoke Valley Park, with young seen. Winter visitors are appearing, including a HERMIT THRUSH downtown on November 21. Temporary roosts of EUROPEAN STARLINGS and COMMON GRACKLES were reported from Thornhill and Thistletown, in August and September. 7 species on our Regular list have not yet been reported. For some reason 56 "irregular" species have been reported, compared with 40 in 1994.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES: 14 species have been reported on. This information will be sent to Bob Johnson at Metro Zoo. An AMERICAN TOAD hid under a deck-chair pillow during a thunder storm. A NORTHERN WATER SNAKE was seen at the Leslie Street Spit, a RED-BACKED SALAMANDER in Crothers Woods, SPRING PEEPERS at Kortright Centre.

FISHES: 12 species were reported from 7 locations, the BLACK-NOSED DACE and WHITE SUCKER were described.

INVERTEBRATES: Over 150 reported including 40 species of BUTTERFLIES and 23 MOTHS, with interesting rearing notes on some. ANTS were crawling around on compost January 30; the last MONARCH was reported at East Point on October 24.

Please send any further reports you have for 1995 to me at 7 Crescent Place, Apartment 710, Toronto, Ont. M4C 5L7, and continue the good work for the rest of the decade.

Diana Banville

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FOR READING

WILDFLOWER: North America's Magazine of Wild Flora, published by the Canadian Wildflower Society, 4981 Highway 7 East, Unit 12A, Markham, Ont. L3R 1N1; regular: \$30/yr; family, library, U.S.: \$35/yr.

"Wildflower" magazine, a Toronto quarterly, calls itself "North America's Magazine of Wild Flora" and receives fan mail from as far away as Texas. No wonder, "Wildflower" is a handsome, well-edited publication. One issue I've saved from Autumn, 1994, is slightly atypical in that it is almost entirely about oak trees and oak tree savannas. Within that tight theme, however, "Wildflower" delivers lots of variety. Three articles -- two scholarly, one more political -- deal with the small black oak savanna in Toronto's High Park; companion pieces cover similar savannas in Texas and the U.S. Mid-west. There's a page on how to produce great oaks from tiny acorns; another page analyzing savannas in general. Five pages out of 50 in the issue are advertising. Except for its cover, "Wildflower" is black and white only, but an object lesson in monochrome art direction, making skillful use of pen-and-ink botanical drawings, mainly by society members, and incorporating well-chosen archive photographs. After a few minutes in its glossy (recycled paper) pages, you don't miss colour.

a review by Charles Oberdorf in the TORONTO STAR, Oct. 21, 1995

RECENTLY PUBLISHED:

The Flora of Hamilton-Wentworth by Anthony Goodban, published by the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, 838 Mineral Springs Rd., P.O. Box 7099, Ancaster, Ont. L9G 3L3; cost: \$20 (postage & handling included).

Poster showing winter garden-feeder birds of southern Ontario and the northeastern United States published by the Canadian Society for Endangered Birds and illustrated by Barry Kent MacKay. Cost \$6 each; \$10 laminated; from the Society for Endangered Birds, P.O. Box 243, Markham, Ont. L3P 3J7.

TFN Index for 1993 newsletters and TFN Index for 1994 newsletters, prepared by Diana Banville and published by the TFN; available at monthly meetings for \$1 each.

A Checklist of Vascular Plants for Bruce and Grey Counties Ontario, published by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Owen Sound Field Naturalists and Saugeen Field Naturalists, 1995. Available for \$6 (includes postage) from the Owen Sound Field Naturalists, Box 401, Owen Sound, Ont. N4K 5P7.

ENIGMA FOR SOLOMON

So people who roll in 2-4-D
lose 95% in "2-4-P"...
where does the other 5% go?
That's what the rest of us want to know.

Diana Banville

PROJECTS

TFN BOARD NOMINATIONS INVITED

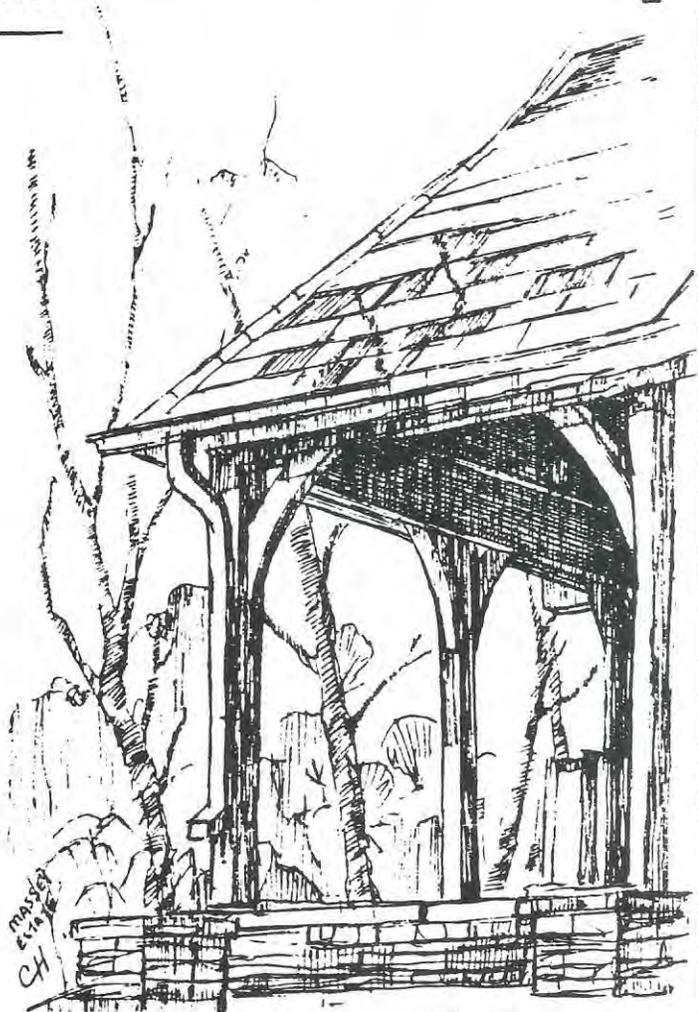
The Toronto Field Naturalists are looking for people with initiative who are willing to devote time to working as members of the Board of Directors. Please send your suggestions to Joan O'Donnell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, c/o TFN, 20 Colleg St., Unit 11, Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2. (The report of the Nominating Committee will be published in the May newsletter.)

THE DOUG TARRY BIRD STUDY AWARDS FOR YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS

Recipients of the awards attend a weeklong workshop/natural history camp at Long Point Bird Observatory. The Workshop is offered free to selected applicants. It is being held from Fri. Aug. 2 to Fri. Aug. 9, 1996. "Hands-on" learning and training for like-minded teenagers to enhance and broaden their technical knowledge and skills. Space is limited to 6 participants, ranging in age from 13-18 years old. Prospective participants are invited to request an application from: Rosie Kirton, Long Point Bird Observatory, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. NOE 1M0. Applications are due May 1, 1996. □

RENT A HISTORIC SITE?

Are you interested in leasing the Goulding Estate from Metro for \$2,000 a month? The former Massey Estate neighbours Taylor Creek Park at 305 Dawes Rd. Historically designated in 1994 for its significant architectural, historical and natural heritage, the estate is a willing host for your private or community group activities. Interested parties should contact Metro Hall, 55 John St., Suite 216, Toronto, Ont. M5V 3C6 or call 392-4032 (FAX: 392-4120).



CITY OF TORONTO TREES BYLAW REAFFIRMED BY COUNCIL

In the spring of 1995, the City of Toronto adopted a bylaw prohibiting the unauthorized destruction of mature trees outside of ravines (the City of Toronto already has a bylaw protecting vegetation within ravines). The bylaw, chapter 331 of the Toronto Municipal Code, prohibits the "removal, cutting or injuring of a tree having diameter of 30 cm. (12 inches) or greater measured at 1.4 metres above ground level unless authorized by permit to do so". It also prohibits cutting or damaging trees of any size in certain designated areas, such as that surrounding Grenadier Pond and Ellis Avenue ravine. The City of Toronto is the only municipality in Metro to have such a bylaw.

The bylaw spells out the criteria to be considered by the Parks Commissioner and Neighbourhoods Committee in deciding whether to issue a permit. Removing a tree is not to be allowed if the tree is a Heritage tree, or if its removal will affect views, environmentally sensitive areas, natural landforms, ecological systems or flood or erosion control. No healthy tree anywhere is to be removed unless the Committee is satisfied with the way the applicant proposes to replace it. When a landowner applies to remove a tree, neighbours must be notified and may comment.

In the fall of 1995, City staff reviewed the bylaw. Staff recommended that the bylaw be retained with a few minor amendments (such as to exempt trees in courtyards and rooftop gardens, to permit or expedite permission of pruning in cases where trees interfere with utility lines or threaten foundations, and to modify the public notice requirement). They also recommended that on sites subject to development, the issue of permitting the destruction of trees be incorporated into the site plan approval process.

Significantly, the staff report considered, but declined to recommend, exempting so-called "weed trees" from the bylaw. The report listed as possible examples of "weed tree" species: Manitoba maples, Tree-of-Heaven, Siberian Elm, mulberries, and willows and poplars generally. The report noted that these species are environmentally beneficial in an urban setting, providing shade, trapping air pollutants and storm water run-off, providing wildlife habitat and aesthetic benefits, and so on. They observed that many different tree species have traits that may render them undesirable to some people under some circumstances, so that it would be arbitrary to come up with a list of "bad" trees that can be cut without permission. The issue of "invasive exotics" (including non-weedy species such as Norway Maple) was not considered.

The report indicated that the bylaw had been a success in practice, and that the application process is a valuable tool for educating landowners. Tree owners have had to rethink landscaping and construction plans so as to avoid harm to trees. In its first six months, the bylaw saved 40 trees from injury and resulted in the planting of 46 more.

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TREE BY-LAWS (cont'd)

In November, City Council voted to accept the report and to have staff draft a bylaw to implement the proposed amendments. Council went further, and requested staff to study more ways that the City could make life better for its trees, including requiring porous materials for driveways and parking pads. Although the tree protection bylaw evidently has political support at the municipal level, there is concern among City officials that the bylaw may not survive the current provincial government.

To understand why this is so, it is necessary to keep in mind that municipal governments have only those powers granted to them by provincial legislation (such as the Planning Act, the Municipalities Act, the City of Toronto Act and so on). Toronto could pass its trees bylaw only because of provisions in Bill 163. Bill 163 was a piece of legislation passed by the NDP government which amended the Planning and Municipalities Acts so as to implement the recommendations of the Sewell Commission. The purpose of the bill was to further integrate environmental considerations into the planning process, and to give municipalities more powers to protect nature. Now, the Conservatives have introduced legislation to repeal Bill 163. They say that Bill 163 put too much emphasis on protecting the environment. If you think otherwise, you might want to write to the Hon. Al Leach, Minister of Municipal Affairs, 124 North Wing, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, M7A 1A8.

All this provincial law business is important in the context of the trees bylaw, because if the relevant provisions of Bill 163 are repealed, the trees bylaw will cease to be within the power of the City of Toronto. Lest one suppose that this change is motivated by a pure belief in the sanctity of private property and the free market, note that the government is also planning to give back to municipalities the power to prohibit flats in houses. Apparently, it's OK for municipalities to make things harder for folks seeking modest accommodation and for homeowners struggling to cover the mortgage, but heaven forbid that municipalities should be able to make things harder for those who want to destroy trees!

Allan Greenbaum

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Without a concerted effort aimed at transforming modern culture in order to rid it of ecologically destructive values, environmentalism becomes an unwitting appendage of liberal ideology at best and a co-opted fad of North American consumerism at worst.

from "The Environmental Movement as a Transformer of Culture" by Alexander Roman in
PROBE POST, Vol. 12, No. 2, Sept. 1989

THE BARN OWL: A BRIEF ENCOUNTER

On November 17, 1993, a Mississauga birder, Terry Osborne, phoned my husband, Ron Scovell, to explain that he had been given a female Barn Owl, and that he had no time to deal with it. An Italian-Canadian construction worker had spotted the owl on a pole near highway 403. Noticing that the bird wore jesses (leather straps used by falconers), he raised his arm and fist and the owl flew to him.

When Terry delivered the owl to us in a cardboard box, it appeared healthy, a beautiful bird. After a call to the Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation we were on our way to Vineland. Everyone there was appalled that someone had put jesses on an owl; Kay McKeever declared it illegal. With us gathered around to watch, she put on her leather gloves to lift it out of the box. The owl flew straight up, grazing my forehead and hair, and moved sideways into the kitchen. When Kay approached, it lay on its back with its talons up, a defence mechanism. Kay removed the jesses, and later would file off the leg rings to which they had been attached. She thought the bird had not been imprinted, and that it could be taught to hunt, and be released the following spring. We were to keep quiet about it in case a former owner demanded its return. Then we were treated to a private tour of the extensive facilities. For a few weeks before its release live mice would be placed in its cage to make certain it could fend for itself later.

Eventually in 1994, we were informed that it had indeed been released in an undisclosed location, because Barn Owls are classified as vulnerable in Canada.

Joan O'Donnell

TYPICAL WILLOW SILHOUETTE

by Mary Smith

Of the common native Toronto willows, sandbar willow and rigid willow are shrub-size to 3 metres, and pussy willow may grow to 6 metres.

Ref. Soper &
Heimbürger,
SHRUBS OF
ONTARIO

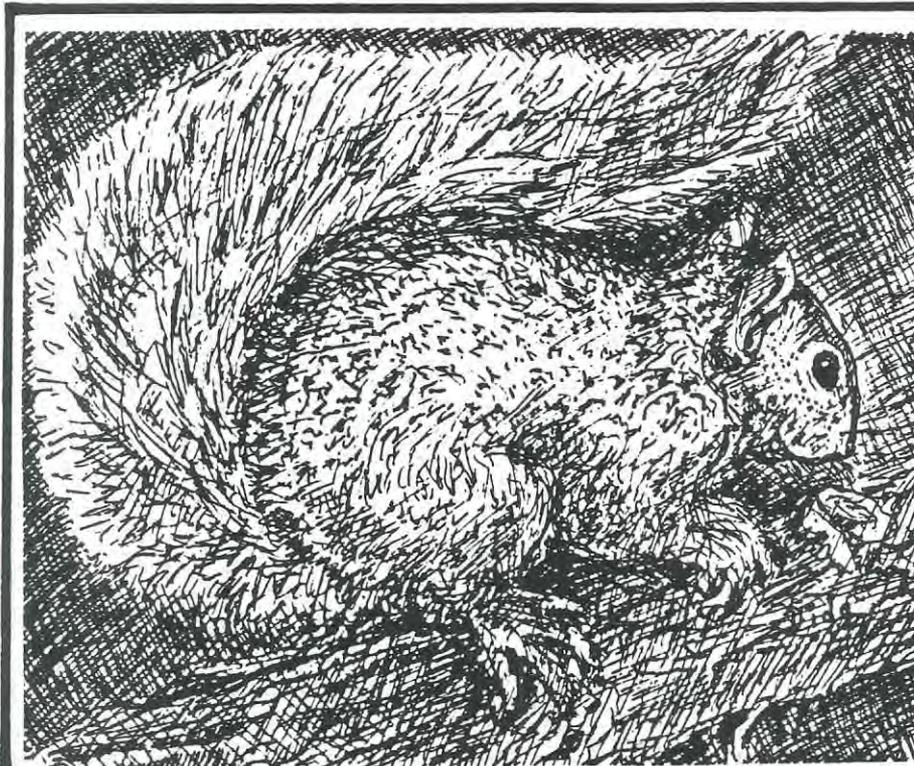


TORONTO PEREGRINE WATCH

1995 will be long remembered by 19 Toronto Ornithological Club (TOC) members, as the year of the peregrine. A pair attempted to nest at the Sheraton Hotel at Queen and University in early April but they were disturbed by hotel guests and soon moved to 18 King Street East where they found an ideal nesting site on the east face of the building. Two eggs hatched May 26 and the 40 day countdown to fledging began. Sure enough on the evening of July 5 both eyasses took their first short flight (really a glide) over to 20 Toronto Street where the parents had cached a good supply of pigeons and other birds and even one squirrel! The young birds were given the nicknames Laurel and Hardy, although they both appeared to be females. Hardy, the bigger and bolder bird, set out northwest on her maiden flight but the result was disaster. She crashed into a window, smashing a dual thermopane window, then fell 10 stories to a balcony below. After a few days of moping and dining on MNR-supplied quail, she completely recovered. On July 17, Hardy again got into trouble when she mistimed her landing on a chimney and fell about one storey down to an oven which was fortunately not in use at the time. At times watchers were amazed to see 2 or 3 other adult peregrines in the downtown area. The visitors always interacted with our pair in a series of spectacular dives and chases high above the 70 storey Scotia Plaza or above BCE Place. The watch continued until the end of July and the young had left the area by August 10.

extracted from an article by Hugh Currie in the TOC NEWSLETTER, no. 57, September 1995

□



Eastern
Grey Squirrel
(grey phase)

-Toronto
Native

-from a
Hugh
Halliday
photo

drawing by
Diana Banville

BIRD AMBUSH

No kidding! Driving to work one wintry morning I rounded the corner onto Carter Avenue and found the road blocked by Evening Grosbeaks! A large flock spread out across the road, on the ground, pecking away at the well-sanded road surface. Approaching cautiously closer was not enough. Those birds were not about to fly. Only a dead stop a couple of feet from their "salted sand feast", and a good blast on the horn, had the desired effect. They flew for cover and I and my car regained control of the road and continued on our way.

article by Jean Nixon in PEEP (Kirkland Lake Nature Club), vol. 37, no. 1, Jan 1995

□



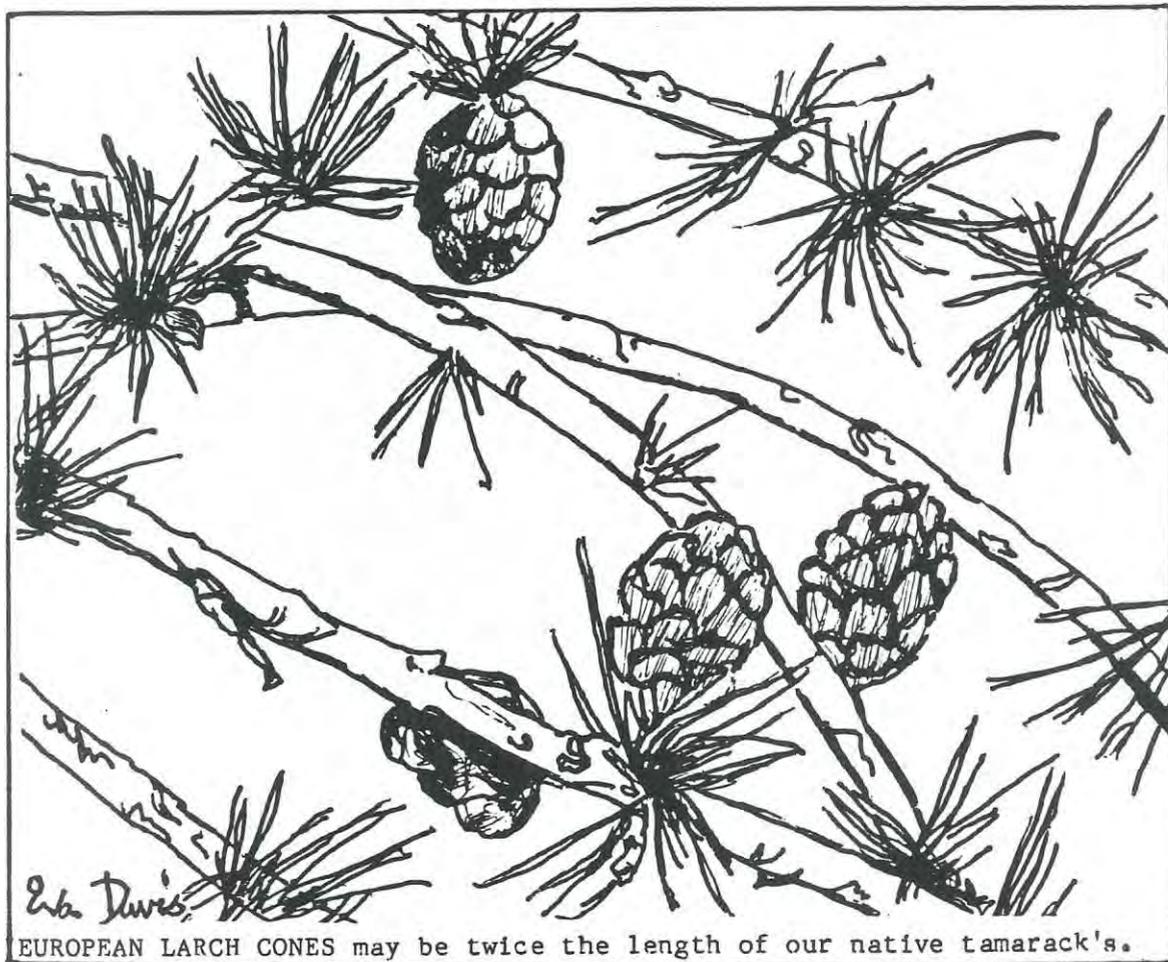
IN EARL BALES PARK, the canopy allows in just the right amount of light to allow the trilliums to bloom in May, beneath the great hardwoods, such as the American beech in Mary Cumming's field sketch made on a TFN Nature Arts outing.

C R O W S

Most people, including birders, dismiss crows as common, everyday, no-account nuisances, if they give them a thought at all. My belief is that for brains, brawn, cunning, ingenuity and an all-round colourful character, the common crow has more going for him than any two of our less common birds put together. He is a villainous lout and he plays the rogue's role with sincerity and enthusiasm. He is a ruffian, but he has a sense of humour. He can be a raucous loudmouth or as stealthy as a shadow. He appears to be a contemplative loner, but at sundown in summertime he becomes a gregarious party bird and carouses far into the evening with a host of hell-raising friends. He eats anything that's free and calls the whole continent his home, winter or summer. He's always either trying to beat up on bigger birds or getting roughed up himself by smaller birds. He swaggers around dressed in gunslinger black and the only time he blows his cool is when he sees an owl...

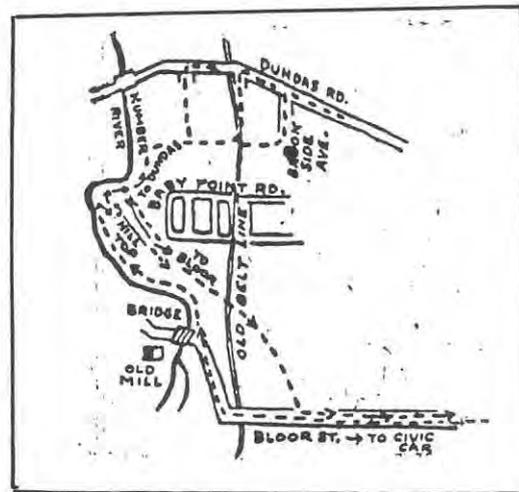
from BLACKFLIES AND WHITE WATER by A. Tony Sloane, McClelland & Stewart, 1977

□



From the Past BABY POINT AND HUMBER RIVER

... you will return to Bloor along the hill top. When you reach the hill top turn to your left for a few yards, even though you take the Bloor street route. There on the top of the hill, as though bits of the summer sky had tumbled through the trees to the grass below, are great patches of blue lupins. As the path twists and turns you get a view of the Humber river, silver in the sunshine and on your other hand, the lupins in the grass, well, one wonders there are not more artists transferring the scene to canvas...



extracted from *Favourite Walks about Toronto* by Ivy Maison, THE TORONTO STAR, 28 May 1921 □

SHAGGY MANE (*Coprinus comatus*)

drawing by Eva Davis

Also known as "lawyer's wig", this is a common Toronto mushroom, found on hard ground or grassy areas.

Cap cylindrical
5-10 cm tall
Bell-shaped
White with reddish-brown scales
Black spore-print

ref.: MUSHROOMS OF NORTH AMERICA
by Orson K. Miller, Jr.



IN THE NEWS

CHARLES SAURIOL RAISED MILLIONS TO PRESERVE LAND

Few people live as long and as fulfilling a life as Charles Sauriol who died Dec. 17 at the age of 91. A noted conservationist, he was honoured for his work on Metro-area nature preservation with the naming of the Charles Sauriol Conservation Reserve on the banks of the Don River. He raised millions of dollars to buy up land and preserve it in its natural state. As a child, Mr. Sauriol was a Boy Scout who hiked up and down the river lands. Eventually he built a cottage overlooking the Don and later converted it to a home. Mr. Sauriol served on the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for 14 years and spent 21 years with the Nature Conservancy of Canada. As early as 1940, Mr. Sauriol was involved in a project to plant 10,000 tree seedlings in the Don Valley. Another of his efforts resulted in the preservation and transportation of Roblin's Mill in Prince Edward County to Black Creek Pioneer Village in North York. His interests included bee-keeping, the subject of one of his books. Other titles are Remembering the Don; Green Footsteps: Recollections of a Grass-roots Conservationist; and last year's Pioneers of the Don.

extracted from an article by Susan Walker in the TORONTO STAR, Dec. 18, 1995

▷ Comment: Donations in memory of Mr. Sauriol may be sent to the Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto, 5 Shoreham Dr., Downsview, Ont. M3N 1S4. Money sent to them will go toward the purchase of Milne Hollow, the last project on which he was working.

COUPLE SHOWS WHAT CAN BE DONE IN OWN BACKYARD

On Oct. 27 a plaque paying tribute to Dr. J. Murray Speirs and his late wife, Doris Huestis Speirs was unveiled in **Pickering**. Murray and Doris moved to their cobblestone house on a rise overlooking Altona Rd. 27 years ago. Since then the 2.8 hectares (6.9 acres) of property have been lovingly protected and managed for ecological studies while being enjoyed and studied by countless students, naturalists, environmentalists and conservationists, as well as many others, always welcomed by the Speirs. For decades the features of the woods have been measured, monitored, tabulated and cherished. Now Murray has donated the property as an ecological reserve to the Charles Sauriol Environmental Trust Fund for use by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. It is a major part of the Altona Forest complex, which environmentalists have been fighting for years to save from the kind of destruction of our natural heritage that is, ironically, called "development".

extracted from an article by Barry Kent MacKay in the TORONTO STAR, Nov. 5, 1995

...Old people carry history about in their minds, but we often wait too long to ask them for the details. They leave us before we are ready to ask the right questions or memory fades before the recollection is recorded. With each death and with every fading memory something of the reality of the past slips away...too often we have waited too long to hear them describe their first-hand impressions of a lost Canada that we can only imperfectly imagine...

from "The Great West, Summer 1887" by Christopher Dafoe in THE BEAVER, Aug./Sept. 1993

▷

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

GHOST SITE OCCUPIED

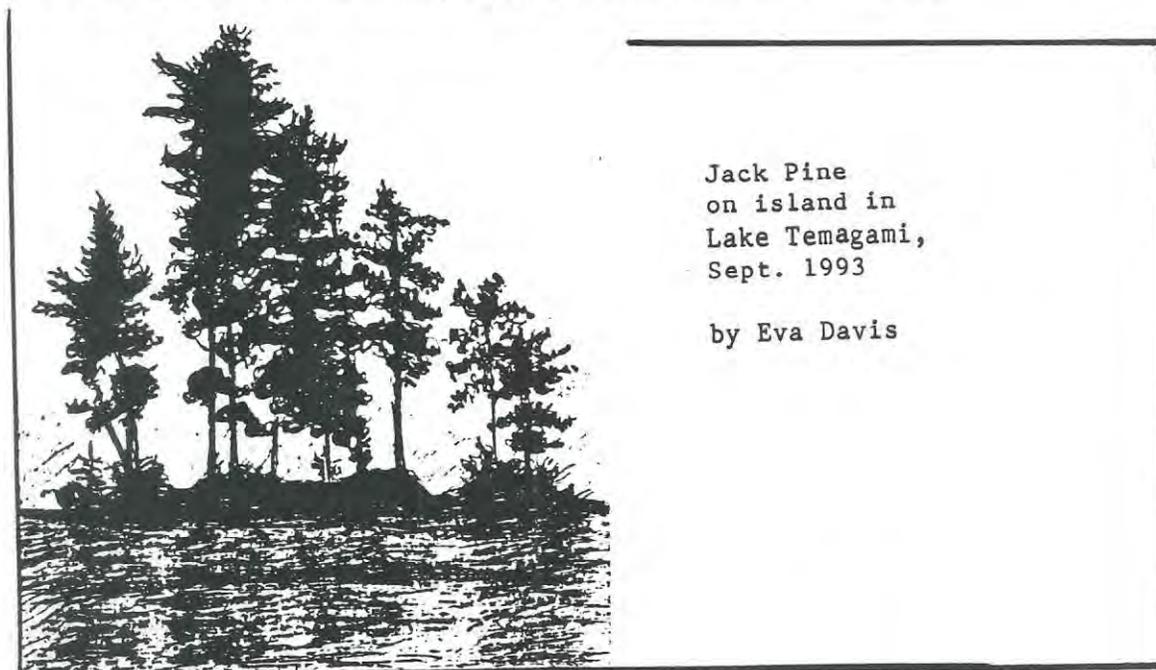
The old Bayview Ghost site on the west side of the Bayview Extension south of Nesbitt Drive, East York, may soon be occupied by a 69-lot sub-division. Formerly called Hampton Park and now renamed Moore Park Estates, the plot was the site of an unfinished apartment building erected in 1957, known as the Bayview Ghost for 24 years until it was demolished. The Moore Park Estates single family plan is a preferred development plan drawn by the borough and submitted to the Ontario Municipal Board. Ratepayers okayed an access road off Nesbitt Drive. The owner has had more than 300 eight-foot conifers planted on the perimeter of the property along the Bayview Extension.

extracted from an article in LEASIDE-ROSEDALE TOWN CRIER, December 1995.

CITY BACKS PLAN TO BUILD 30 NEW HOMES ON THE ISLAND

A plan to build 30 new homes on the Toronto Islands has been backed by city council. The new homes would be built where others have been demolished and occupy only 0.9 hectares of the islands, which boast 334 hectares of park. The 30 new homes, along with the 80-unit Flying Toad co-op, were specified in legislation passed by the previous New Democrat provincial government that ended a decades-old battle over the islands' future. Premier Mike Harris' government cancelled funding for the co-op last summer, but the decision didn't affect the 30 private homes.

extracted from an article by Paul Moloney in THE TORONTO STAR, November 8, 1995



Jack Pine
on island in
Lake Temagami,
Sept. 1993

by Eva Davis

CITY COULD BECOME HOME TO WORLD CLASS AQUARIUM

Scarborough is in serious contention to become the home of a new \$90 million world class aquarium. According to a staff report two waterfront sites are being considered: East Point Park and a site a little further east at the foot of Port Union Road. Currently Scarborough is the only city being considered. Canada's only other national aquarium is in Vancouver. The new centre would be unlike Marineland in Niagara Falls or other similar attractions which are more for entertainment purposes than research. This will be an architectural icon. Politicians positively endorse the idea. The Canadian National Aquarium Conservatory is still in the process of securing funding for the five-year-old project. Once built the aquarium will employ 180 full-time employees and 100 part time. More than 1,500 spin off jobs will result.

extracted from an article by Stuart Green in THE SCARBOROUGH MIRROR. November 11-12. 1995

MUSIC MAN WINS FIGHT TO HALT LAKE DREDGING

Ontario Natural Resources Minister Chris Hodgson cited Toronto board of health worries over a potential pollution threat to drinking water for denying Bedrock Resources Inc. a mining permit to mine sand from the bottom of Lake Ontario off the Metro Toronto waterfront. Bedrock, a Windsor company supplying sand and gravel to the construction and concrete industries, had hoped to dredge 1 million tonnes of sand annually from a 14 square kilometre patch offshore between the Beaches and the Scarborough Bluffs. Part of the dredging would have come within 400 metres of the intake pipes for the R.C. Harris filtration plant, the largest of four local water treatment plants with the ability to produce 45 per cent of Metro's drinking water supply. The lake bottom sediment contains low levels of toxic chemical contamination, including arsenic, cadmium and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). The health board feared dredging would release contaminants into the surrounding waters. Scarborough and Metro councils opposed the project and Toronto City Council reversed a 1993 rubber-stamp endorsement of the dredging plan after intense pressure from the coalition of five citizens groups led by Beaches music composer, Michael Leibson. Bedrock, or any other company, could reapply for a permit. But Hodgson says the ministry would require proof that water quality would not be threatened.

extracted from an article by Brian McAndrew in THE TORONTO STAR, November 25, 1995



 IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

HORSE MANURE LEAVES HARBOUR SMELLING SWEET

Contaminated soils from the industrial lands -- isolating Cobourg's historic downtown from its harbour for years -- are being rendered harmless. This is being done by mixing the soil with horse manure in large piles, adding moisture and heat and leaving the concoction to steep and simmer under large plastic sheets. It is an ideal recipe for the growth of bacteria that exist naturally in the soil -- bacteria that break down hydrocarbons. The use of horse manure is proving cost-effective in this farming community. This is just one of several soil restoration projects now underway in the province. Before horse manure went to work, the initial cleanup plan involved hauling away the polluted soil -- using it for cover at a dump site -- and replacing it. That plan was just getting started when dumping fees leaped to \$1,800 from \$95 a truck load, which no longer made cleanup affordable.

extracted from an article by Don Dutton in THE TORONTO STAR, 4 November 1995

CLIFFHANGER RESCUE SET FOR DREAM HOME PERCHED ON THE EDGE

Rafael Nebres has signed an agreement that allows him to move his retirement house away from Scarborough bluffs, where it has been hanging 150 feet above the Lake Ontario shoreline since last spring. City council has approved his application to move the house to its new location at an estimated cost of \$135,000. Even then, the conservation authority estimates the house may only be safe for another 38 years. It's a foregone conclusion that nature's force will continue the erosion. The property that once measured 372 feet from the street line has eroded to 116 feet. The situation isn't uncommon along the 19-kilometre Scarborough shoreline. Sandy bluffs, made more unstable by ground water seeping through the porous soil, and wave action from the lake are eating away at the perpendicular cliffs. Two houses on Springbank Avenue, near Birchmount and Kingston Roads -- one owned by Nebres and the one next door -- are both threatened. Remedial work to prevent the loss of more property has been carried out by the authority, which deals with flood and erosion control problems. Plans are being studied to install wells to eliminate some of the water seepage that makes the banks more unstable. Even if that stabilization work is completed, there is no cost-effective option to ensure the long-term protection of the two properties, authority reports say.

extracted from an article by Sterling Taylor in THE TORONTO STAR, October 26, 1995

This century's class conflict over land use [is between those who use the term "multiple use" [and see] the land as a source to be exploited carefully but fully [and those who believe in] the conflict between management and hands-off preservation in which humans [are] just another wild species on a wild planet.

from "Earth First!ers wield a brass monkey wrench" by Micahel Parfit in SMITHSONIAN, Vol. 21, No. 1, Apr. 1990

MILLIONS OF YOUNG TREES SPARED AFTER NURSERY WORKER COMPLAINS

The province axed three provincial tree nurseries earlier this month in its drive to cut costs. Employees of the nurseries at Orono (east of Oshawa), Kemptville (near Ottawa), and Thessalon (in the Sault Ste. Marie area), got their layoff notices and the nurseries were told to plough under three-quarters of their 40 million trees. The remaining 10 million had already been purchased for planting next spring. Initially at the Orono station, 18 million seedlings which include one-, and two-year-old white and red pine, Norway spruce, red oak, silver maple, and green and white ash, were to be killed. However, on October 13, Ministry of Natural Resources officials hastily cancelled a plan to destroy the trees after employees at the Orono station protested and the media started asking questions. The 1,240-hectare Orono station was opened in 1922 with the main purpose of reforesting the Ganaraska area near Port Hope. Its closure affects 20 full-time and 100 part-time workers. The Ministry is now open to suggestions and would consider some sort of plan to sell any homeless seedlings to the public next spring. A spokesperson for the MNR said that the government is prevented by legislation from giving trees away, as this would seriously damage for-profit nursery business.

extracted from THE TORONTO STAR, October 15, 1995

PARKS FINALLY GET THEIR NAMES

After more than three years of research and discussion, Lawren Harris Park, Severn Creek Park and Hazeldean Park have been officially named. The Toronto Historical Board had to research the names, to ensure their historical accuracy and make sure the names selected were not derogatory in any way. One park, comprised of two parcels of land situated between Aylmer Road and the TTC tracks extending south from the Rosedale subway station to Park Road, was named Lawren Harris Park. The Group of Seven artist once had a studio at 25 Severn Street immediately adjacent to the park. Severn Creek Park was named for John Severn, one of the first aldermen of the original part of Crescent Road, and extends south to Crescent Road. The name commemorates one of the city's more important vanished streams that once flowed through the Rosedale Valley Ravine and provided water for John Severn's Brewery, which opened in 1835. Hazeldean Park is named after lands once used by Chief Justice Draper as his rural cottage, which he named Hazeldean. This park is comprised of three parcels of land along Rosedale Valley road.

extracted from an article by Ian McMillan in LEASIDE-ROSEDALE TOWN CRIER, November 11, 1995

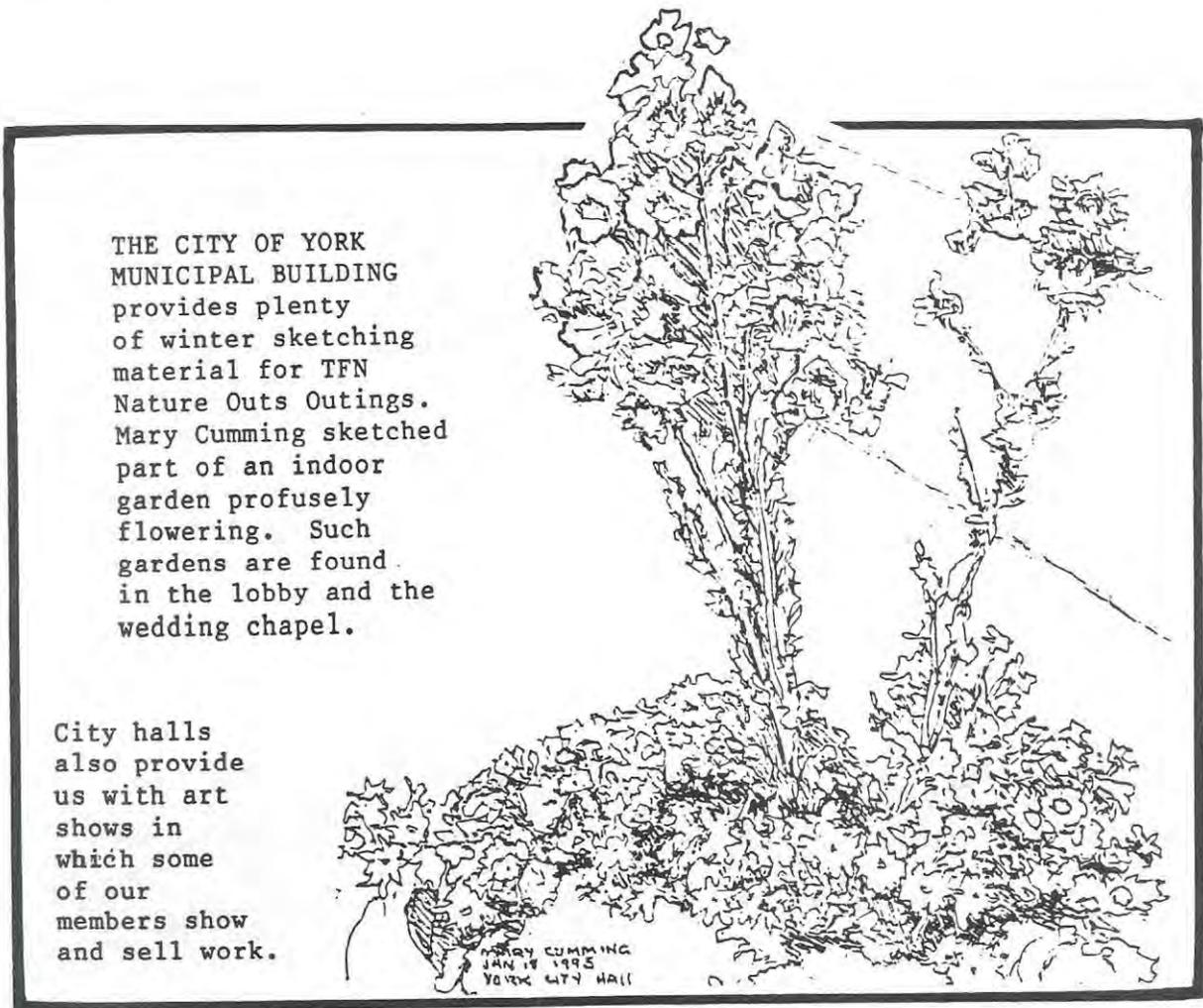


IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

CLEVER, BAD BEARS

The B.C. Environment Ministry has issued a warning that black bears and grizzly bears seem to have made a startling new adaptation to their environment: they are making the connection between gunshots and readily available food. Some bears are so used to eating the remains left by hunters that they appear to associate the sound of a gun with their next meal. With their keen sense of smell, bears can easily find fresh-killed game and are not hesitant to claim it as their own. In the past 10 years, bear attacks in B.C. have accounted for about four maulings a year, and a total of six deaths. Earlier this month, bears killed two hunters near Radium, apparently while they were dressing a fresh kill. The latest attack, the ninth this year, occurred near Fort St. James last weekend when a grizzly seriously mauled a hunter. The man stabbed the bear to death.

extracted from "Digest" in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, October 28, 1995



BIRD KILL

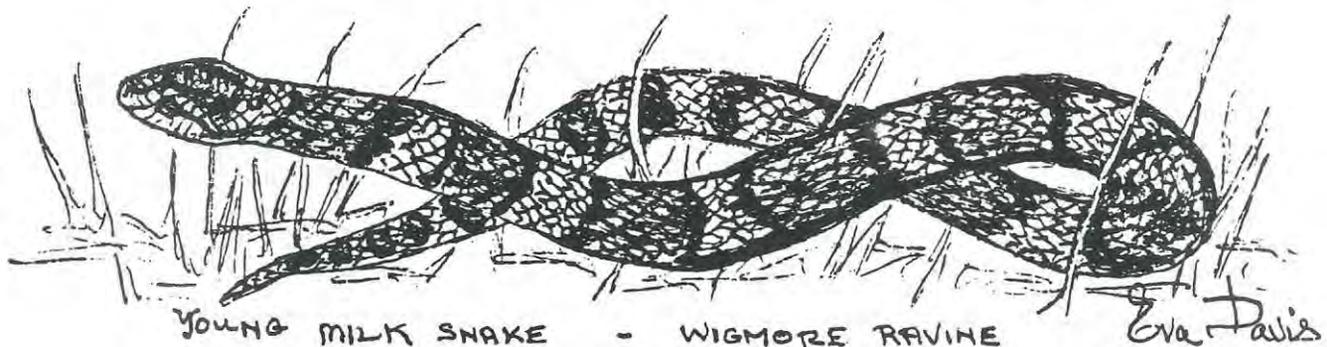
A catastrophic outbreak of botulism and industrial pollution at a reservoir in central Mexico has killed 40,000 migratory birds that were feeding in the area, according to a report released by a NAFTA environmental commission inquiry. The scientific panel found that exposure to chromium, lead, mercury and other heavy metals also played a role in the birds' death and could have contributed to the botulism. The Turbio River, which fed the reservoir before it was diverted, is polluted by tanning and textile firms upstream in the city of Leon. The panel suggested detonation of explosive devices to frighten away any other birds that may try to nest at the Silva Reservoir, about 240 km north-west of Mexico City. A feeding program at an alternate site was also suggested to help resolve the matter.

extracted from "Earthweek" by Steve Newman in LONDON FREE PRESS, October 21, 1995

COYOTES HAVE RESIDENTS WORRIED OVER SAFETY

Howling coyotes have taken up residence in small ravines behind a Richmond Hill subdivision at the south-west corner of Major Mackenzie Drive and Bathurst Street. A number of residents are very concerned about pets and think the coyotes have already annihilated the rabbit population in the Don Head ravine. Some residents have posted signs warning people to keep their pets indoors at night. According to Kortright Conservation Centre's Dan Stuckey, coyotes are natural predators and they usually get their food supply from rodents, groundhogs, rabbits, although they can be a threat to livestock. Coyotes originated in the southwestern United States. They fashion their dens by burrowing into the ground. A coyote family usually comprises the male and female and three or four offspring. There are probably not all that many coyotes in the Richmond Hill area. It just seems that way when they're all barking. Coyotes are a very shy animal and not a threat to human beings. In fact, they try to stay clear of humans whenever possible. Coyotes are also very adaptable animals and can happily take up residence in an urban neighbourhood.

extracted from an article by Fred Simpson in Newmarket's THE ERA-BANNER, October 26, 1995



IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

LONG LIVE THE MONARCH

Every fall across Canada, millions of monarch butterflies prepare to embark on the 4,000-kilometre journey to their wintering ground in the mountains of central Mexico. Riding rising air currents, navigating no one knows how, they travel as many as 200 kilometres a day until they reach their destination in Mexico's Transvolcanic Range, where they hang in stands of oyamel fir trees until spring. As the Canadian Geographic has put it, "no other butterfly travels as far as the monarch, nor in such numbers, nor toward such a precise destination. It is a migration unmatched in the insect world." Sadly, this continental free trade in butterflies may now be in danger. One threat comes from Mexico. Logging pressures have put the insect's mountain hideaway in peril. But Fred Urquhart, the retired University of Toronto zoologist who, along with his wife Norah, discovered the Mexican site, says the bigger threat lies here in Canada. The heavy use of pesticides and herbicides is a continuing threat to the monarch and its host plant, the milkweed. So is urban sprawl.

What can be done? Under an agreement reached between the Mexican and Canadian governments this month, Canada will step up research into the monarch migration and increase protection for the insect at five lakeside areas in Ontario where it gathers for the trip south: Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Rondeau Provincial Park, Long Point Provincial Park, Point Pelee National Park and Prince Edward Point. But this need not be the end of it. Provincial governments can help by reconsidering whether they should classify the milkweed as a noxious weed, as all ten now do. If they have not already done so for financial reasons, they can also stop mowing highway edges, where the milkweed flourishes.

Individuals can do their part too: by sparing the milkweed in back yards and roadsides; by starting butterfly gardens (goldenrod, zinnias and asters are the best plants); by reporting unknown monarch gathering sites to wildlife authorities; and by joining butterfly tagging and observation groups. As with so many conservation efforts, knowledge is the key to preserving the monarch. Thanks to Fred and Norah Urquhart and others, we now know where the butterfly goes on its awe-inspiring journey. Not until we know the hows and whats and whys will the monarch truly be safe.

an editorial in THE GLOBE AND MAIL, October 23, 1995

CONTRIBUTORS OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS: Diana Banville, Shelley Bond, Sandy Cappell, Mary Cumming, Nancy Cumming, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Alen McCombie, Jean McGill, Eileen Mayo, Ruth Munson, Joan O'Donnell, Louise Orr, Wesley Porter, Jim Purnell, Arthur Wade, Mel Whiteside, Grace Somers.

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

Toronto, February 1995

Winter finally hit Toronto this month. Two cold fronts early in the month led to bitter windchill conditions on Feb. 5th-6th, with temperatures below -20°C . Thereafter, fluctuating conditions occurred, with a strong thaw for a little while on the third weekend -- but the month came out about 1° to 1.5°C below normal, similar to 1993 and 1994. The -21.2°C minimum downtown on Feb. 5th was the lowest February temperature since 1980, although definitely exceeded overall as recently as the fierce January of 1994. Rainfall and snowfall were both below normal, with only a scant snow cover all month. This was stressful for plants, especially following extreme warmth in mid-January. The 23.0 mm of precipitation downtown was the lowest for February since 1980.

Winds averaged above normal, and at Toronto Island rose above normal for the first time since January 1991. It was the windiest February since 1989 at Toronto Island, and since 1988 at Pearson Airport. Sunshine hours were close to normal.

Gavin Miller

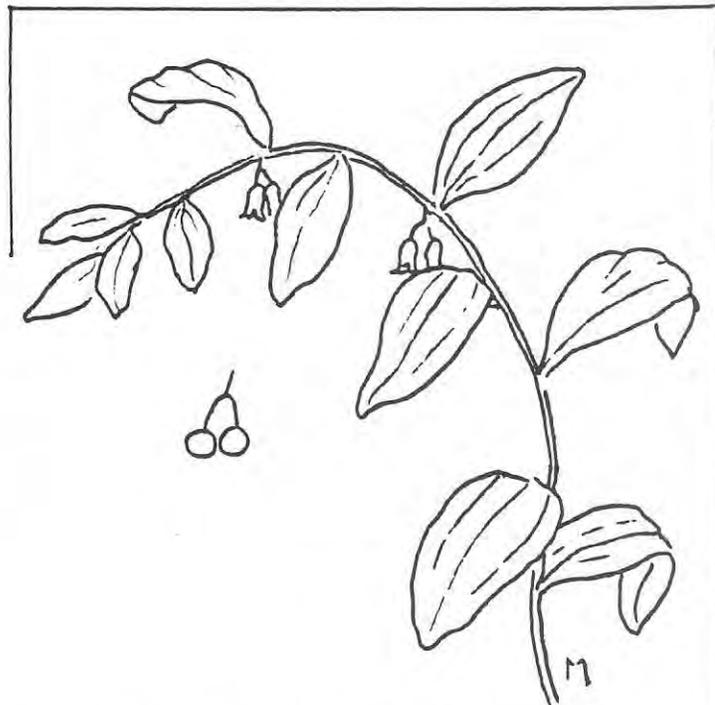
□

HAIRY SOLOMON'S SEAL

(Lily family)

- Toronto native

(from the portfolio
FLOWERS OF LONGFORD
by Mary Anne Miller)



Fl. cream-green. 1-2 bells in axils
L. alt., lance; hairy vein. blue berry
Hab. woods 30-90cm.
Spr.

COMING EVENTS

Toronto Ornithological Club - no February outings

Toronto Entomologists' Association meeting - Sat. Feb. 24 at 1 pm in the lecture room of the Planetarium. For more information call Alan Hanks at 905-727-6993.

Mycological Society of Toronto - for information about meetings and forays call HI-FUNGI.

Save the Rouge Valley System - monthly walk in the Rouge Valley at 1:30 pm on the last Sunday of each month. Call 289-6643 for details about this and other possible events.

Black Creek Project - monthly meeting - Wed. Feb. 7 at 6:30 pm in the Centennial Bldg. (Senior's Lounge), York Municipal Centre, 2694 Eglinton Ave. West. For more information about this and other activities call 661-6600, ext. 364.

Simple Pleasures - 41st Annual Flower Show of the Garden Club of Toronto - Feb. 28 to Mar. 3 at the Civic Garden Centre; admission: \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and students. For more details call 447-5218.

TFN
display

Heritage Week - displays at the Scarborough Town Centre - Feb. 23 to Feb. 25 (Feb. 23 - 10 am to 9 pm; Feb. 24 - 9:30 am to 6 pm; Feb. 25 - 12 noon to 5 pm). TFN will once again have a display at Heritage Showcase. Anyone wanting to help with the display should call Sandy Cappell at 663-7738 or the TFN office (968-6255).

Meeting by the Rapids - 1996 Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists - May 24-26 in Sault Ste. Marie. For a copy of the full program call the FON at 444-8419.

A Natural Meeting Place - 1996 Canadian Nature Federation Conference - August 15-18 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Conference package available from CNF Conference Registrar, 401 - 63 Albert St., Winnipeg, Man. R3B 1G4.

Natural History Tours with George Bryant. For a schedule of trips, contact G.D. Bryant Enterprises Ltd., 58 Fairmeadow Ave., Willowdale, Ont. M2P 1W7 or call 223-6284.

The Urban Naturalist. For information about these unique outdoor experiences with Morris Sorensen, contact The Urban Naturalist, 2085 Lawrence Ave. East., Suite 5-140, Scarborough, Ont. M1R 2Z4 or call 755-6030.

Nature Travel Service - For information about natural history tours with Gus Yaki, contact Nature Travel Service Ltd., P.O. Box 1334, Kingston, Ont. K7L 5C6.

Citizen Arborist Workshop - Feb. 17, 1996 - 400 Clyde Rd., Cambridge. Contact Martin Neumann at the Grand River Conservation Authority, 519-621-2761, ext. 258.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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