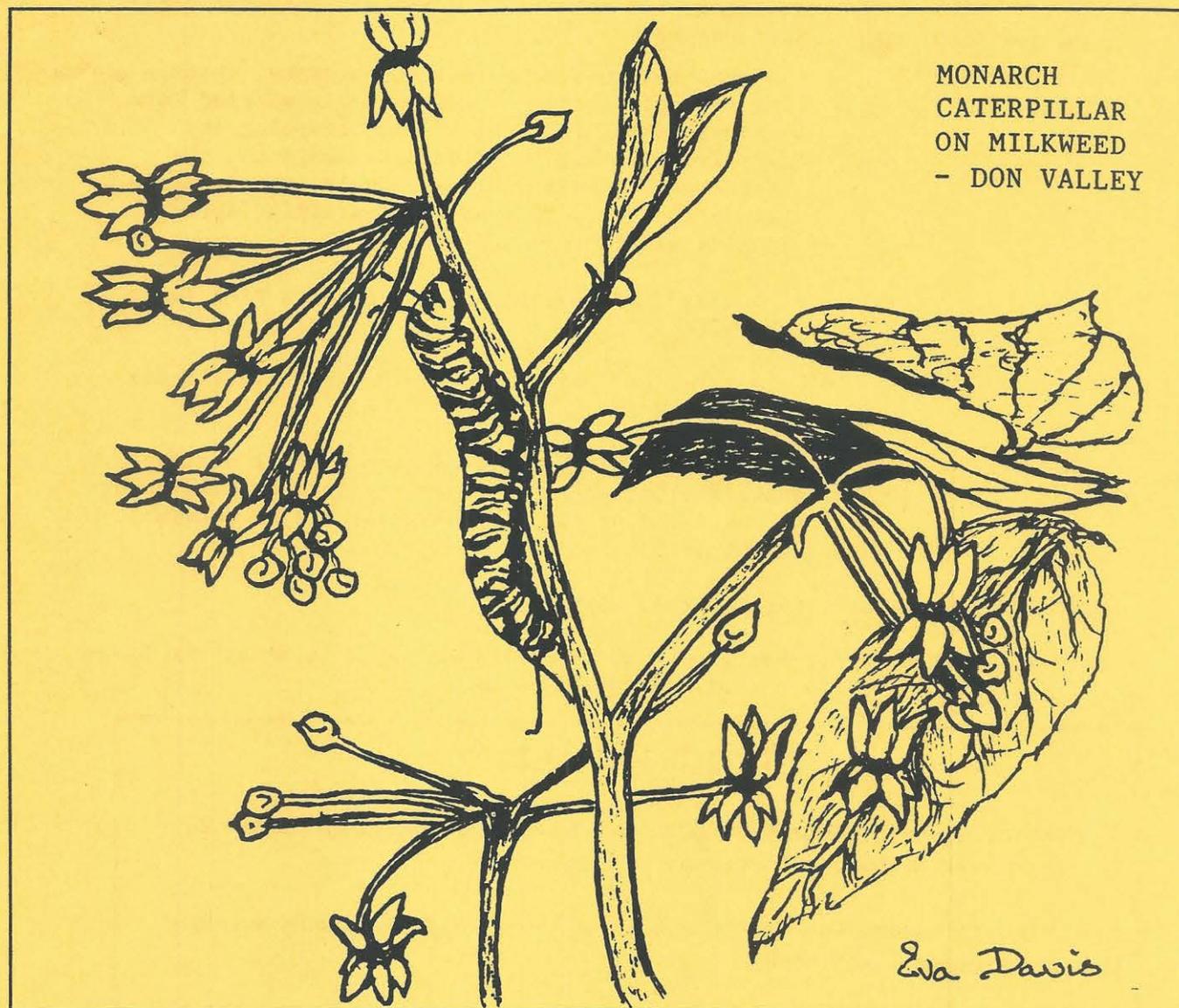


TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 468

May 1997



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TFN MEETINGS

Sunday, May 4, 1997 - METRO TORONTO SPRING WILDFLOWERS (AND MORE)
at 2:30 pm
in the Northrop Frye Hall
Victoria University
73 Queen's Park Cres. East

- A casual interest in nature photography, through a long geological career, has recently mutated into a keen interest in finding, photographing and identifying, among other natural subjects, the wildflowers of Metro. This talk is intended as a prelude and guide to finding/identifying spring-blooming wildflowers in our area.

+ a "Social Hour" beginning at 2 pm with free juice and coffee

+ "Always Alice" cards for sale. Call 767-6149 for special orders.

+ a display and sale of books from Natural Heritage Books/The Collector's Choice, including three books by Charles Sauriol. Other titles are on nature and history.

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, September 7, 1997

NEXT NEWSLETTER: September (to be mailed in mid-August) to those who have renewed their memberships (see page 37).

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A miscellaneous assortment of updates and tidbits:

You will recall from my report in last month's newsletter that the City of Toronto was in a quandary about what to do about four undeveloped but privately owned properties situated entirely within the Rosedale ravines. These properties had been protected under an interim control bylaw, but were zoned residential (notwithstanding that ravines are supposed to be open space under the Official Plan). A staff report had recommended retaining the residential zoning but requiring that all proposed developments go through a kind of environmental assessment process. The TFN argued that this route could not achieve what the Toronto ravine policy intends, which is to prevent development in ravines. Toronto City Council voted unanimously to extend the interim control bylaw, and it has retained an outside planner to reconsider the issue. It will be interesting to see what this planner thinks. For the time being, the decision appears to be a victory for those on the side of firm, clear rules to protect remnant natural heritage in the city.

The High Park Citizen's Advisory Committee has come up with a management protocol document which (following on a series of staff reports) aims at restoring the ecological integrity and sustainability of the Park's Black Oak savannah community. The latest document divides the park into four zones: "developmental", historical, natural and ANSI ("Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest", the most ecologically significant zone). It calls for the control of invasive exotics and the planting of native species in all of these zones, restrictions on mowing in the natural zone, and a policy of strict protection and restoration for the ANSI zone. Most impressive is how prominently the document emphasizes ecological restoration principles, such as only planting species known from historical records (or strongly suspected on the basis of ecological research) to be indigenous to the Park, and, whenever possible, obtaining plants and seeds locally (either from the Park itself or from similar habitats in the Toronto region). Of course, it will not be possible to restore the savannah community without restoring fire to the Park, and by the time you receive this, Park staff will have conducted series of carefully planned pilot burns.

The Sherwood Park Advisory Committee has also released its management plan for 1997. Plans include planting native species, removing invasive exotics (in particular, Norway Maple), closing some paths in the woods and requiring that dogs be leashed in the wooded areas, and

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engaging in various measures to educate users about the "fragile ecology of the ravine".

The extended control bylaws for the Rosedale ravine properties, and the innovative staff/citizen projects in High Park and Sherwood ravine are positive examples of what can be done at the local municipal level. What the impact of amalgamation will be on these and other municipal matters cannot be determined. The TFN put detailed questions about such issues to Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach, and he responded that the (appointed, unaccountable) Transition Team would deal with that kind of thing. It doesn't give me a big warm fuzzy feeling of comfort.

And on a not-so-local note, the Don Watershed Regeneration Council (the inter-agency body set up to help implement 40 Steps to a New Don) is planning to release its first Don Watershed Report Card on April 28. After two years of workshops, consultations and research, the Council has developed 18 criteria in terms of which the regeneration of the Don will be assessed. Under most of the criteria, targets have been established for the years 2000, 2010 and 2030. Here's some of the vision for 2010: the Don will be clean enough to swim in during dry weather; at least 3 monitoring sites will show mainly pollution-intolerant invertebrate species (presently none do); a major wetland will be created at the mouth of the river; 80% of the public will know that stormwater goes directly into the Don, and 10,000 people will be active volunteers; all natural areas will be protected, and half of all watershed residents "will be doing something positive for the Don". By 2030 the goal is to return the river to a natural level of bacteria and to a balance of invertebrate species like that which existed in 1949; to have self-sustaining populations of reddsides, rainbow darter, mottled sculpin, large and small mouth bass, northern pike and rainbow trout; for 75% of the streambanks to be in riparian vegetation; for 10% of the watershed (not just the valleylands) to be woodland and for 5% to be meadow. Some of these criteria necessarily remain pretty crude, but they do provide a kind of standard against which regeneration can be measured, and that is their purpose.

Quantification does, after all, give us an indication of trends in agency behaviour. For example, in my younger days (before I became that care-haggard, grizzle-bearded spectre you see at monthly meetings) I recall always coming across the tireless bulldozers and backhoes of the MTRCA hard at work in the valleys and ravines, rerouting creeks, grading slopes and installing the ubiquitous gabions. Those were the days when there were still jobs in civil engineering and when brute-force erosion control

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was big business for conservation authorities. On the waterfront, the MTRCA is still known to be seized with occasional fits of groyne-building mania (see last month's column again), but we seem to encounter big messy erosion control works in the ravines much less often than we used to. The recent report of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Valley and Shoreline Regeneration Project confirms that impression. A table in the report lists all erosion control works carried out in Metro valleys since 1974. There have been 63 major and 62 minor projects, at a total cost of \$7,645,000. The list shows a sharp drop in the number of projects around the early 1980s, a brief rally in the mid-to-late 1980s, and (except for seven minor projects last year) almost nothing in the '90s. There were 42 major projects and 50 minor projects carried out between 1974 and 1984, but only 21 major and 12 minor projects since 1985. Times have indeed changed; now they talk about "an ecosystem approach" and taking "a non-structural approach to remedial works wherever possible."

Allan Greenbaum

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MICHIGAN LILY or
TURK'S CAP LILY
Rouge Valley



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Joan O'Donnell, recommends the following slate of nominees to the Board for the 1997-98 year:

President:	Morris Sorensen
Vice President:	Phoebe Cleverley
Past President:	Allan Greenbaum
Directors due to retire in 1998:	Alexander Cappell Nancy Fredenburg Aarne Juhola
Directors due to retire in 1999:	Karin Fawthrop Ken Cook Elaine Farragher*
Directors due to retire in 2000:	Helen Juhola Ann Millett Robin Powell

TFN by-law no. 1, section 5(g) provides that "any three members may submit, in writing, to the Secretary-Treasurer by July 15th the name of a candidate accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Such nominations shall be published in the September issue of the newsletter and the names of such nominees shall be added to the list of candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee". The Secretary-Treasurer is Aarne Juhola, 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto, Ont. M4Y 1B3.

According to TFN by-law no. 1, section 5(b), "If an election is required it shall be by ballot mailed to all members. Ballots may be mailed to the auditor or deposited at the Annual General Meeting prior to the commencement of the meeting. The ballots will be tabulated by the auditor who shall announce the results".

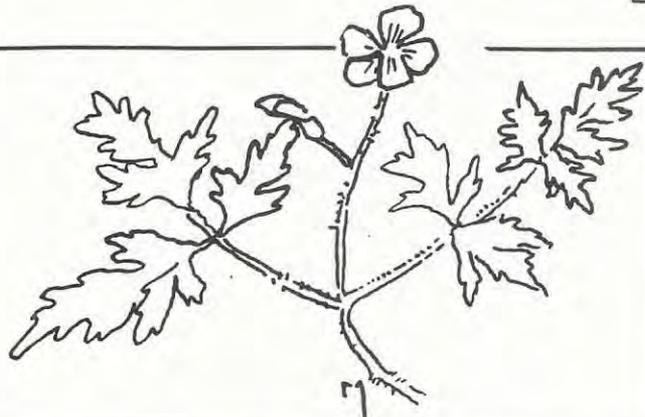
Joan O'Donnell, Chairman
Nominating Committee

* Elaine Farragher has been a TFN member for many years. As a desk-top publisher she has produced the lettering for the covers of a number of our publications. She is also a member of the High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee and a member of the Toronto Ornithological Club.

□

HERB-ROBERT, a geranium of Eurasia, is now established in Toronto, pink flower, occasionally white.

Drawing by
Mary Anne Miller



OUR NATURE RESERVES
JIM BAILLIE EMILY HAMILTON

The TFN Board had been talking for nearly ten years about buying property for a nature reserve when suddenly, on March 31, 1970, a phone call seemed to indicate that a suitable property was available. And that was the beginning.

Many of our newer members—those who joined TFN after 1987—will not know the interesting story of the two reserves, how they came to be, who was involved, how they were paid for and how they are managed. An up-to-date report would seem to be a good thing to do.

Back to March 1970. The phone call was to Jack Gingrich, president of the TFN at the time, and he was asked to call Fred Bodsworth, a former president (and as many of you know a well-known and respected author) who had heard from a fellow author who wanted to sell a 60-acre piece of his property. The following Saturday a trip was made to the site, and waiting to greet Jack and Fred was the landowner, Ian Adams, and his friend, Farley Mowat. The property was examined by struggling through snow and after a highly enjoyable lunch an option agreement was arrived at for a price of \$18,000. Board members visited the site and when the new board was elected in May they decided to go ahead with the purchase. This was the original section of the yet unnamed Jim Baillie Nature Reserve.

In 1973 a decision was made, with the approval of the membership, to buy another 30 acres along the western boundary. This land was higher and drier than the original area, had space near the road suitable for parking, and another open space on part of which the shelter was built.

When the club was considering land purchase it applied for and received recognition as a charitable organization authorized to issue official receipts, so that donations were deductible for income tax purposes. After the purchase, members were invited to make donations and when the campaign closed \$17,519 had been received. This included a grant from the Canadian National Sportsman's Show. A campaign to finance the additional land purchase—\$22,500—raised \$19,778. One gift came all the way from Haines Junction in the Yukon!

It seemed very fitting to name the reserve *The Jim Baillie Nature Reserve* in memory of and to honour Jim Baillie who had died in 1970. Jim Baillie was an outstanding birder and worked at the Royal Ontario Museum as Assistant Curator of Ornithology. He was president of the TFN in 1952-53, on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Audubon Society and for 29 years wrote a bird column in the Toronto Telegram. He was a popular leader of outings where he introduced many people — but especially young people — to the joy of birds and natural history. He was patient and inspirational.

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Once the TFN had acquired the two properties it had the picnic shelter built in the fall of 1976 on the higher ground overlooking the reserve. Mrs. Helen Baillie, the widow of Jim Baillie, donated a substantial amount for the purpose. The work was done by local workers. Later, two picnic tables were built and placed in the shelter.

In May 1977, a ceremony of dedication of the reserve to Jim Baillie was held, attended by Jim's wife, Helen, his daughter, Florence Wilson, and other members of his family. TFN was represented by member John ten Bruggenkate. A plaque was fixed to the east side of a pile of rocks just down the slope east of the shelter. In 1996, the rock pile was used as a memorial to Jim and his daughter when their ashes were brought to the reserve. A second memorial plaque was placed on the west side of the pile.

By 1985 the nature reserve fund had grown through donations to the point where additional land could be acquired. After a search, 77 acres became available to the south and east of the Jim Baillie Reserve, although not adjacent to it. Part of this site is in the Uxbridge Creek Environmentally Significant Area (ESA), a provincially significant wetland, as is most of the Jim Baillie Reserve.

Emily Hamilton was one of our enthusiastic and long-term members and was one of the members of the Nature Reserve Management Committee formed in 1970. She was also a Director of the TFN and a member of the Editorial and Outings Committees. She was a popular leader of botany walks. Emily died in 1992 and it was unanimously agreed by the Board of Directors in 1993 that the new section be known as the Emily Hamilton Nature Reserve. It would be desirable if the TFN could obtain land between the two properties to link them more directly and further protect the ESA.

Generous gifts have been made annually to the TFN by the Fell Foundation. This is added to our special account for use in the purchase of land to augment our current two reserves. Members should read the balance sheet in the September 1996 issue of the *Newsletter* for exact figures on the nature reserve fund.

"Amenities" in the reserve are three outhouses. As these proved to be tasty morsels for porcupines it was necessary to sheath them on the bottom half with galvanized metal.

In 1994, the TFN Board and many members were upset to learn that the Ministry of Transport was contemplating an extension of Highway 404. One of their considered routes would have passed through our two reserves. Local residents were equally opposed and the Ministry agreed to use one of its other options.

Both our reserves can be visited at any time by our members. Call the TFN office (968-6255) to obtain the combination of the lock on the gate. There are several marked trails to guide visitors around (although these are sorely in need of maintenance). The property is quite wet but offers potential for people interested in botany, birds, amphibians, mammals, reptiles and fish. The *Guide to the Toronto Field*

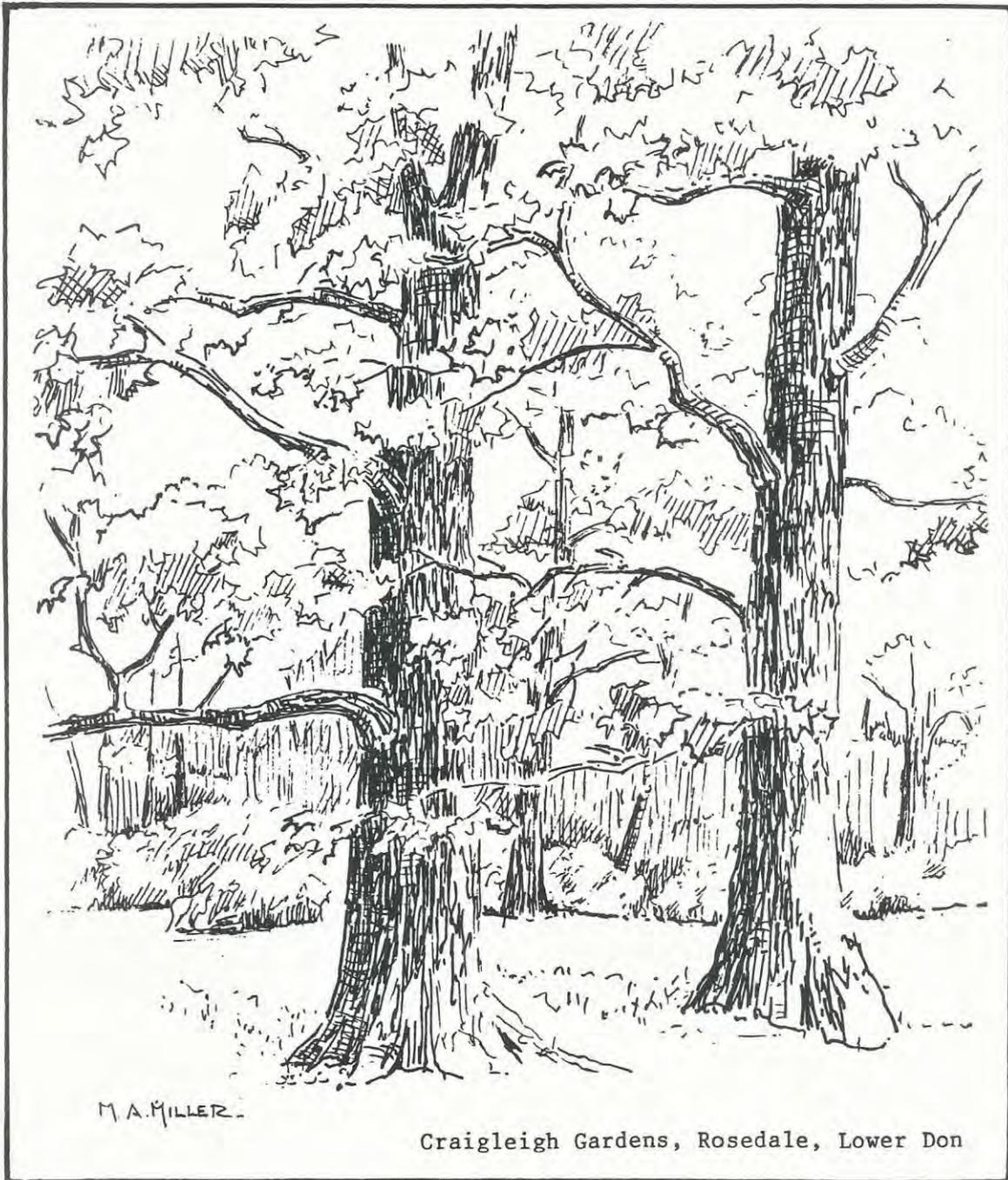


Naturalists' Nature Reserve contains three maps, lists of the various plants and animal species recorded at the sites and a section on what to see in the various seasons. In the early days volunteers spent several week-ends a year opening trails and making boardwalks (duck boards) to enable visitors to get over the very wet spots.

Jean Macdonald

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[See pages 25 and 33 for outings to our reserves.]



Craigleigh Gardens, Rosedale, Lower Don

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Jan. 27, 1997

It was about 7 o'clock in the evening on Friday, May 19 [1996] and I was on my way to Mountain Equipment Co-op when, from the parkette at the corner at Front Street and Scott, I heard a bird call I didn't associate with downtown Toronto.

I waited several minutes for a repeat of the call but heard only the usual calls of starlings and house sparrows. Nevertheless I was sure my ears hadn't misled me, so I hurried into MEC, made my purchases, and was in the parkette within the half-hour.

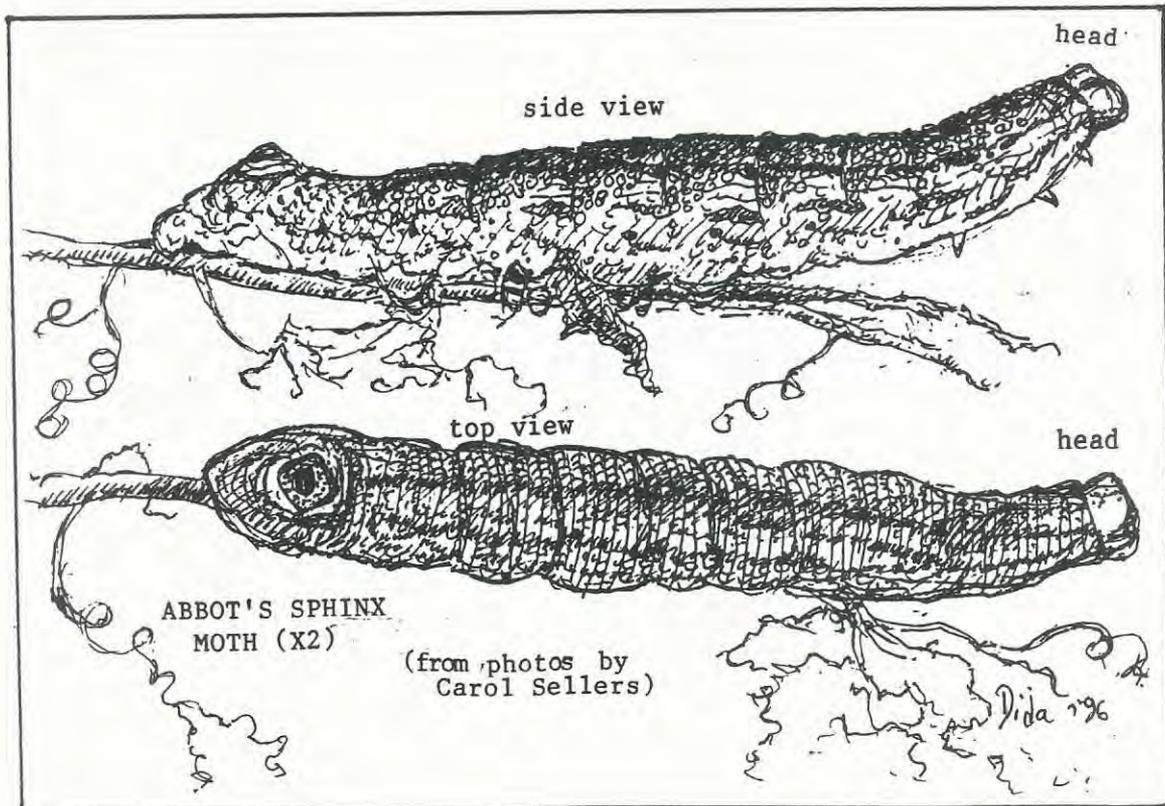
I spent a good thirty minutes searching the ornamental trees, the flower beds (all dried twigs and vines), the shrubs against the concrete walls, but found nothing. A mourning dove cooed at me from a naked branch.

Then, as I gave up and decided to leave, I noticed a little brown bird among the sparrows on the grass. Strutting jerkily this way and that, pushing its striped chest out at every step. An oven bird. Finding who knows what among the cigarette butts and odds and ends of human life.

It was accompanied by two white-throated sparrows, and as I watched them forage in the clipped grass and at the edges of the paved pathways I hoped that these "country birds come to town" would find their way out of the concrete jungle before the season was too far gone.

Merle Young

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KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

March 17, 1997

I have just enjoyed your Toronto Region Wildlife Report in the April issue of the TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST.

I live on Altona Road, the first major road east of the Rouge River and probably out of your official "parish". Most days I have about a dozen kinds of birds attracted to my bird feeders, including my favourite, a Red-breasted Nuthatch and a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches.

Also included are several kinds of mammals, including both phases of Gray Squirrel, Red Squirrels, Eastern Chipmunks, Cottontails, Raccoons and a lovely Red Fox that chases the others up our old slanting lilac, so far in vain.

The first dates when each was noted in 1997 were as follows: Red, Black and Gray Squirrels on Jan. 1, Cottontail and Red Fox on Jan. 2, Chipmunk on Jan. 5 (he didn't read the book on Chipmunks hibernating and has been seen regularly all winter), Raccoons on Jan. 27. The first Skunk roadkill on Feb. 26. I have yet to see my first Woodchuck of 1997.

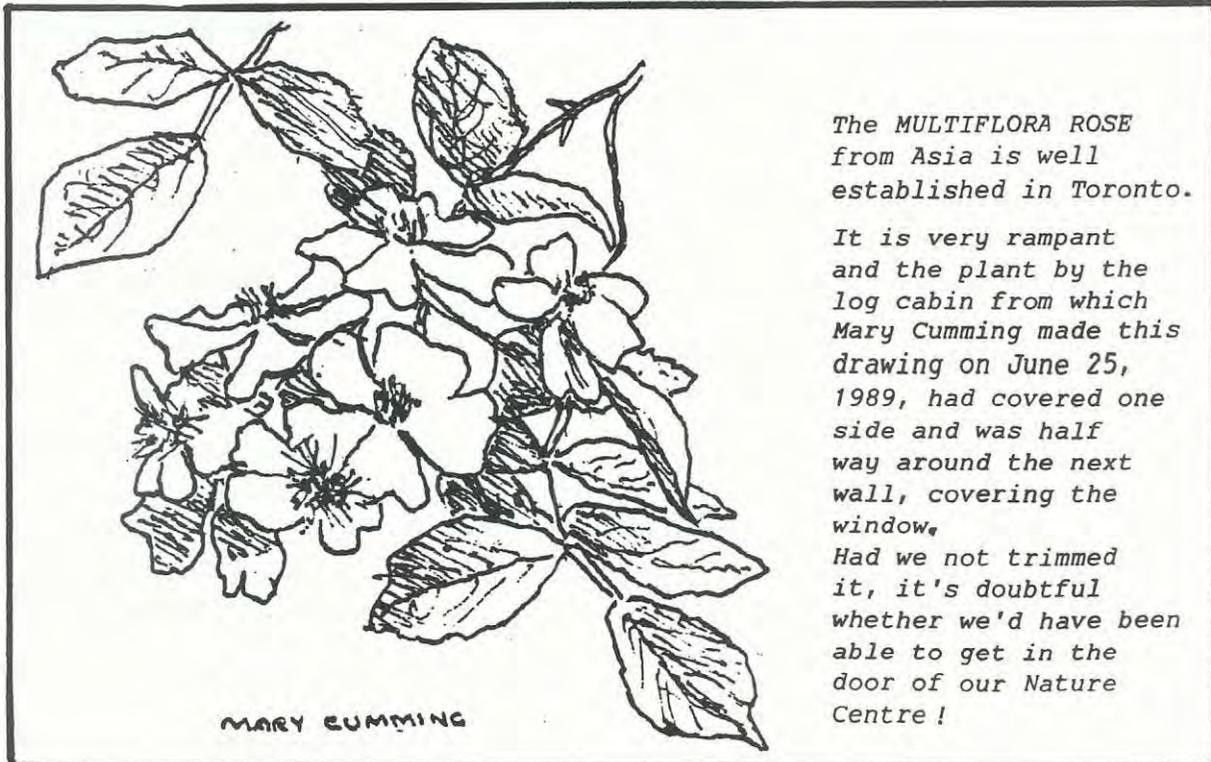
Incidentally I was surprised to see the Woodchuck referred to as a Groundhog in your article. Both Peterson and Banfield call this entrancing mammal a Woodchuck. I only call them Groundhogs when as roadkills they do become Ground!

J. Murray Speirs

Ed. note: Altona Road is well within Toronto Region.

The name "woodchuck" is given as an alternative name for "groundhog" on TFN's "Toronto Vertebrate List", 1993.

D.B. □



The MULTIFLORA ROSE from Asia is well established in Toronto.

It is very rampant and the plant by the log cabin from which Mary Cumming made this drawing on June 25, 1989, had covered one side and was half way around the next wall, covering the window.

Had we not trimmed it, it's doubtful whether we'd have been able to get in the door of our Nature Centre!

MARY CUMMING

FOR READING

Microcosmos: The Invisible World of Insects by Claude Nuridsany & Marie Pérennou. New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang (1997). 159 pages, \$50.00.

A fitting companion to the highly-touted film of the same name currently making the rounds of the repertory circuit. Belying its coffee-table appearance, the text is thought-provoking and the photos set new standards in nature macrophotography. The final chapter discusses the special challenges faced in creating their feature-length movie.

An Inordinate Fondness For Beetles by Arthur V. Evans & Charles L. Bellamy. New York: Henry Holt and Company (1996). 208 pages, \$56.00.

Everything you ever wanted to know about beetles, from biology to beetlephilia. Full-page photos offer more colour and pattern variations than in your wildest dreams. A sumptuous celebration of this vast group of creatures.

The Compleat Cockroach by David George Gordon. Berkeley, Cal.: Ten Speed Press (1996). 178 pages, \$16.95.

Written in a light-hearted style, topics range from the serious (biology and distribution), to the ludicrous (paintings, poetry and films) to the downright weird (don't ask). Fascinating facts and amusing anecdotes abound on every page. Viva 'La Cucaracha'!

The Thermal Warriors: Strategies of Insect Survival by Bernd Heinrich. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press (1996). 221 pages, \$37.95.

A distillation of the author's much larger work on insect thermoregulation (*The Hot-Blooded Insects*, 607 pages), pared down to its essence, while retaining its engaging style. This study of the myriad of ways in which insects regulate their body temperature will be enlightened reading for all keen naturalists.

The Natural History of Pollination by Michael Proctor et al. Portland, Oregon: Timber Press (1996). 479 pages, \$34.95 (*Order: Cavendish Books in Vancouver, 1-800-665-3166*).

This book thoroughly explores pollination in all its forms, namely: wind, water, insects, birds, bats and various mammals. It is a complete revision of an earlier work, *The Pollination of Flowers* (1973) and will be a reference work for years to come.

The Forgotten Pollinators by Stephen L. Buchmann & Gary Paul Nabhan. Washington, D.C.: Island Press (1996). 292 pages, \$35.95 (*Available at U of T bookstore*).

The authors examine the complexity of plant-pollinator relationships through lively discussion and case studies which demonstrate how little is known in many instances. Ultimately, the focus is on the growing threat to pollinators which could ultimately lead to a collapse of natural and agricultural systems.

PROJECTS

BECOME A WILDLIFE WATCHER

If you enjoy spending time outdoors, have a passing knowledge (or better) of birds and/or amphibians, and are able to take accurate notes, you may be able to contribute valuable data to those who monitor the health of local wildlife populations. Here is a sampling of some of the projects that welcome volunteer participants.

Canadian Lakes Loon Survey: This project is designed to monitor the abundance and breeding success of Common Loons on lakes across Canada. Volunteers check lakes (perhaps at your cottage) for loon activity once in each of June, July and August. Data is gathered on loon presence, nesting success and chick survival. Contact Bird Studies Canada (BSC)/Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO), Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont. N0E 1M0; tel: 519-586-3531; fax: 519-586-3532.

Amphibians Call Counts: Two programs, Road Call Counts and Backyard Surveys, are used to estimate the abundance of frogs and toads based on their distinctive calls. Road Call Counts cover designated routes by car three evenings per spring (between March and July) during which frogs and toads are surveyed at 10 three-minute stops placed every 0.8 km along a 7 km survey route on back roads. Backyard Surveys take place in or near backyards for three minutes every night (or as many nights as you have available) from April to August. You should be able to identify about 10 frog calls (tapes are available). Contact Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), 867 Lakeshore Road, Box 5050, Burlington, Ont. L7R 4A6; 905-336-4968.

Ontario Nest Records Scheme: The scheme monitors breeding success of birds by recording data from one or more visits to an occupied bird's nest. Information is gathered on clutch size, length of incubation, number of broods, brood parasitism, predation rates, and aspects of habitat (such as how high up the nest was and in what kind of tree or shrub). Contact Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6; 416-586-5521; fax: 416-586-5863.

Marsh Monitoring Program: The purpose of the MMP is to monitor the condition of marshes in the Great Lakes Basin, using marsh birds and amphibians as indicator species. Volunteers survey marsh birds, or amphibians, or both. Four to eight survey stations comprise a route, which is visited in the evening two or three times between April and July. Species are identified by sight or sound. Contact BSC/LPBO (see address above).

Forest Bird Monitoring Program: This program provides information on population trends and habitat associations of birds that breed in the forest interior. Sites consist of one to five stations in small to large woodlands. Volunteers perform 10 minute point counts at each station twice in June, at which time all birds are identified by song or sight. Contact Canadian Wildlife Service, 75 Farquhar Street, Guelph, Ont. N1H 3N4; 519-826-2094; fax: 519-826-2113.

PROJECTS (cont'd)

Breeding Bird Survey: The BBS is a major information source for population changes of terrestrial birds along roadsides. Volunteers cover routes by car on one morning in June every year. Birds are identified by sight or song at 50 three-minute stops placed every 0.8 km along a 40 km route on back roads. Contact BSC/LPBO (see address above).

Ontario Shorebird Survey: This program is used to identify important sites for shorebirds in Ontario and to follow long-term population trends. Surveys are conducted by volunteers who count shorebirds at regular intervals and specified sites in order to obtain information on distribution and migration. Contact Canadian Wildlife Service, 49 Camelot Drive, Nepean, Ont. K1A 0H3; 613-952-2415; fax: 613-952-9027.

extracted from THE CARDINAL, newsletter of The McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, no. 166, February 1997

BRINGING KIDS AND NATURE TOGETHER -- BECOME A CHILDREN'S TOUR GUIDE

Share your interest for all things in nature with school groups in the beautiful surroundings of Edwards Gardens. Volunteer to join in the Civic Garden Centre program "Bugs, Flowers and Things in the Dirt". This enthusiastic group of varying ages and experience welcomes new members. Training sessions begin in the spring. For additional information, call Shirley Gies at 488-0343 or Barbara Mayer at 922-1097.

adapted from an item in the TRELLIS, Vol. 24, No. 2, March/April 1997

GINSENG SEARCH

Wanted: Ginseng samples from local woodlots for analysis. A graduate student at the University of Ottawa has started a Master's thesis on wild American ginseng. The roots of ginseng contain chemical substances called ginsenosides, which are the active components that make ginseng such a highly prized tonic. The content of these components can vary from one region to another, or among plants from different regions. Now that ginseng is cultivated as a crop, the value of a strain with a high content of ginsenosides is not hard to imagine. If you know you have ginseng in your woodlot and would like to have an analysis done free of charge (analyses normally cost up to \$350), simply dig up a small sample and deliver it to Valerie Assinewe, c/o John Thor Arnason, University of Ottawa, Dept. of Biology, Ottawa, Ont. K1N 6N5 or call Valerie at 613-562-5800, ext. 4768 (FAX 613-562-5765). Specific details on the location of your ginseng do not have to be provided; however, a general indication of the location of your site is requested as geographical distribution of ginseng is part of the study.

extracted from THE ORCHID, Vol. 43, No. 3, March 1997

PROJECTS (cont'd)

NEW CONSERVANCY TO SAVE ENDANGERED ESCARPMENT

In the last few months, many people have become increasingly concerned about the environmental integrity of the world famous Niagara Escarpment. Despite the United Nations designation as a World Biosphere Reserve and the discovery of 1000 year old cedar trees, the provincial environmental controls are being loosened. Gravel pits can expand, funding for land conservation has been eliminated and the Niagara Escarpment Commission weakened.

Two former chairs of the Escarpment Commission, Professor Doug Larson and a dozen others concerned about the Escarpment have founded the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy. Its mission is to set up nature reserves in the most vulnerable wetlands and limestone formations. We hope to help local land trusts and conservancies meet this need in many communities. Many groups are active on the Escarpment. We hope to focus effort and expertise on the creation of reserves.

EIGHT RESERVES NOW POSSIBLE

A number of conservation minded land owners have offered to donate their land on the Escarpment to the new Conservancy. The land includes a spectacular waterfall on 50 acres near Walter's Falls, 102 acres on a tributary of the Beaver River, cliffs and wetlands near the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. All we need is about \$40,000 and some volunteer assistance to secure the first 350 acres, worth more than \$300,000. We hope to extend these lands into a mosaic of conservation reserves by working co-operatively with naturalist groups and by founding local land trusts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We need members (only \$25 to join) and financial support. Every single donated dollar conserves \$10 worth of land (about 39 square metres). The land is being donated; we need only pay for appraisals, surveyors, legal fees and related expenses.

You can join our long distance telephone program. You save 10% from the best rate offered by Bell and the Conservancy gets an additional 20%. You can purchase Biosphere Bonds. These bonds are fully insured like all GICs, but the interest goes to support the environment. You get a tax receipt for the interest earned and you get your principal back like any other GIC.

Please contact Bob Barnett, Vice Chair of the Conservancy at 416-960-8121. Can you spare \$2,000 to \$5,000? That's enough to allow us to set up a new nature reserve. We would appreciate the opportunity to tell you more about our nature reserves. We have pictures or you can visit the land yourself. Please join us by writing: Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, 503 Davenport Road, Toronto, M4V 1B8.

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IN THE NEWS

TORONTO TO GET AQUARIUM

A huge \$80-million aquarium will open in 1999 on the shore of Lake Ontario. The 10,000-square-metre tourist attraction will be based on a prototype in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Construction will start this fall on the eastern side of Ontario Place. Visitors will be able to walk past marine life in submerged glass tunnels. Aquatic life will include sharks, eels, rays, jellyfish, octopuses, live coral and scores of rare fish from around the world. There will be an exhibit dedicated to Canada's marine life but no performing whales or dolphins.

extracted from the GLOBE AND MAIL, Feb. 26, 1997

NUDISTS EYE EAST END BEACH

The Ontario Roaming Bares, a member of the Federation of Canadian Naturists (FCN) is preparing to seek approval from either Scarborough or Metro for the designation which would permit nude sunbathing, volleyball and other beach activities in a "wholesome", family environment at East Point in Scarborough. Nudists have been using a secluded area at the mouth of Highland Creek for beach activities for the last 20 years, but last summer were warned by police that they could be charged with trespassing if they continued. Now they simply want to have it made official. If the organization is successful, the beach would be the first of its kind in Ontario.

extracted from an article by Stuart Green in the SCARBOROUGH MIRROR, March 1-2, 1997

NOTE: Don't let the spelling confuse you. Naturalists (that's us) wear lots of clothes when they visit East Point. See advice on page 22.

RESIDENTS SWING INTO ACTION OVER GOLF COURSE

Residents turned out in full force to oppose a plan to change part of Earl Bales Park into a golf course. [Historically, what is now Earl Bales Park was York Downs Golf Course.] An 18-hole short course is going into the southwest corner of the Bathurst St./Sheppard Ave. West park this summer as part of a bid to raise cash through Metro's parks system. Parks staff estimate the \$700,000, 17-acre golf course will bring \$200,000 a year into municipal coffers. Residents living on Timberlane Ave. which borders the course are furious that the previously open land behind their homes has been slated for redevelopment without their knowledge. Residents are worried that the increased pesticide spraying that a golf course would require would create new health hazards for children and pets, that noise from early-morning golfers would disturb their rest and that the course would once again reduce the space available. For some, it isn't the first time they have fought City Hall for their parkland. In the 1970s, residents on Timberlane Ave. organized to pressure North York and Metro Council into maintaining Earl Bales as parkland in the face of development pressure.

extracted from an article by David Nickle in the NORTH YORK MIRROR, March 29-30, 1997

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

THE ALEX WILSON COMMUNITY PROJECT

This is a non-profit volunteer group dedicated to promoting community gardening and, in specific, to creating a community garden in honour of Alex Wilson, a landscape designer and writer (author of "The Culture of Nature"), who died in 1993. The garden site is a vacant lot at 552 Richmond St. owned by two members of the Project. Discussions are underway with the City of Toronto to donate the land to the city as a permanent public garden. Construction of the garden will begin in the spring of 1997 and be completed by the fall. The south entrance to the garden will reflect the Lake Ontario shoreline, with paving coloured to represent water and plantings of dune grasses. A raised boardwalk will lead people through the garden, with food-growing allotment plots on the east side of the boardwalk and an agricultural hedgerow on the west. At the end of the boardwalk will be a woodland landscape with native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. The garden will be wheelchair accessible and open to all members of the community as a much-needed vibrant, local greenspace. For more information contact Lorraine Johnson at 536-2325.

extracted from a Press Release from the Alex Wilson Community Project, Feb. 18, 1997

ONTARIO UNDERMINING RULES ON POLLUTION, CRITICS ARGUE

The Ontario government has weakened pollution regulations in many areas where a suppressed Environment Ministry report warned that even tougher actions are needed to curb pollution. Although ministry scientists are concerned that the province is beginning to feel preliminary effects of global warming, the province has proposed lower energy-efficient requirements in the building code, weakened land-use planning, and eliminated support for public transport. Despite evidence of contamination from excess nutrients and high fecal coliform counts in some waterways, the province is withdrawing financial support for sewage treatment plants and has cut the mandate of conservation authorities in respect to flood control. The province has eliminated provincial funds for municipal recycling programs and removed the previous government's ban on new solid waste incinerators.

extracted from an article by Martin Mittelstaedt in the GLOBE & MAIL, Mar. 12, 1997

TANKER DUMPS LOAD OF FUEL INTO BLACK CREEK

A tanker truck spilled diesel fuel into the Black Creek on March 31, 1997. City works officials, fire-fighters, a provincial response team and a private firm worked all day to contain the fuel before it spread to the Humber River. Tudhope Cartage twin-tanker flipped over on the north-bound ramp to Highway 400 from Highway 401. The truck may have been going too quickly. Traffic was diverted for most of the day as workers attempted to first contain the spill and then use a vacuum-like procedure to remove it. Tudhope will be charged with the costs of the cleanup. The Spills Action Centre estimated the spill at 15,000 litres.

extracted from an article by Martin Melbourne in the NORTH YORK MIRROR, April 2, 1997

LIGHTS OUT

Buildings and bridges in cities and towns across Japan switched off their lights at night beginning Tuesday [April 1997] so stargazers can get a better look at the Hale-Bopp comet. The kill-the-lights campaign will continue through Sunday as the comet passes relatively close to the Earth and, with clear skies and no obscuring artificial light, should be visible to the naked eye.

from "The Local Story" in the GLOBE AND MAIL, April 5, 1997

Comment: How about cutting the lights during bird migration?

SINGING SANDS SOLVED

Scientists at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ont., believe they have discovered what causes some loud, naturally occurring noises called brontides. Chemists tested sand from places where strange noises have been heard, including "barking" sand on the island of Kauai in Hawaii. They found that grains of the sand varied widely, but all were coated with a compound called silica gel. They found that a jar of silica gel particles, when shaken, emits a loud frequency of about 450 cycles per second -- a note roughly the same as A above middle C. The sound is caused by resonance as huge numbers of the slightly sticky grains slide against one another. In some places, the noise booms like thunder when a sand dune starts to slide. In other places, the dunes sing.

extracted from "Research Digest" in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Mar. 29, 1997

YEWS AND MIGHTY MITES

The yew big bud mite, found only in yew trees on the B.C. coast, could be forcing the trees to create more of the beneficial substance, taxol, as a defence mechanism, say researchers. Taxol, derived from the bark and needles, has been used to treat ovarian cancer and could combat other cancers. The mite, which attacks the buds of the slow-growing yew, is on virtually all the B.C. trees.

extracted from an article in the GLOBE AND MAIL, June 15, 1996

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SUPPLIED US WITH NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Diana Banville, Alexander Cappell, Phoebe Cleverley, Mary Cumming, Nancy Cumming, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Helen Hansen, Louise Herzberg, Mary Hunter, Eileen Mayo, Alen McCombie, Jean McGill, Ruth Munson, Joan O'Donnell, Louise Orr, Betty Paul, Grace Somers, Gloria Somerville, Marjory Tilley, Mary Thomson, Arthur Wade, Mel Whiteside, Starr Whitmore. □

To the degree that we come to understand other organisms, we will place a greater value on them, and on ourselves.

from BIOPHILIA by E.O. Wilson, Harvard University Press, 1984

THE WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

May 1996, Toronto

Cool, wet conditions persisted into May in spite of a sultry Victoria Day weekend. Temperatures averaged about a degree below normal and rainfall was about 25 mm above normal with totals of 90 to 95 mm. It was the wettest May since 1984. Unsettled and cool conditions persisted until May 16th, with frost in the suburbs as late as May 13th. The passage of a warm front on the morning of May 18th brought a drastic shift as it rose to within two degrees of the 30°C mark. The spring migration of warblers, held back for weeks by cool and cloudy conditions, occurred as a three-day stampede over the long weekend. Heavy thunderstorms on May 20th brought over 40 mm of rainfall to Toronto.

Finally, a dry spell set in for the last eight days of the month, with temperatures near or just below normal.

G.M.

June 1996, Toronto

Persistent cloud and wet conditions offset slightly higher than average temperatures in June. In fact, minimum temperatures were well above normal by as much as 3°C away from the urban heat island where overnight temperatures are kept higher anyway. It didn't once go down to 10°C downtown, and only once below that value at the airport. Upper level low pressure troughs lingered over southern Ontario, especially from June 4th to 13th and June 17th. These brought cloud, showers and general dampness. This weather pattern was reminiscent of June 1989. Rainfall downtown was 126.2 mm, almost double normal; and 118.0 at Pearson International Airport. This was the wettest June downtown since 1982.

G.M.

July 1996, Toronto

More rain. 123.4 mm fell downtown, and 97.4 mm fell at Pearson International Airport. The normals are 71.0 mm and 76.6 mm respectively. It was the wettest July since 1977 downtown and since 1992 at the airport. What is more unusual than monthly totals was the persistence of heavy rains continuously since April. Several-month stretches of persistent wetness occurred most recently in 1992, 1986 and 1977. The rain in July occurred as it usually does in a more thundery, short-duration format. It was also a cooler than normal month, though nowhere near as anomalous as the non-summer of 1992. Temperatures were about one degree below normal due to the absence of a heat wave. It was actually quite pleasant, except for the rich crop of mosquitoes that prospered. Downtown reached 30.2°C one day (as well as 31.9°C on the last day of June), but not once had the airport reached the thirty-degree mark this year by the end of July.

G.M.

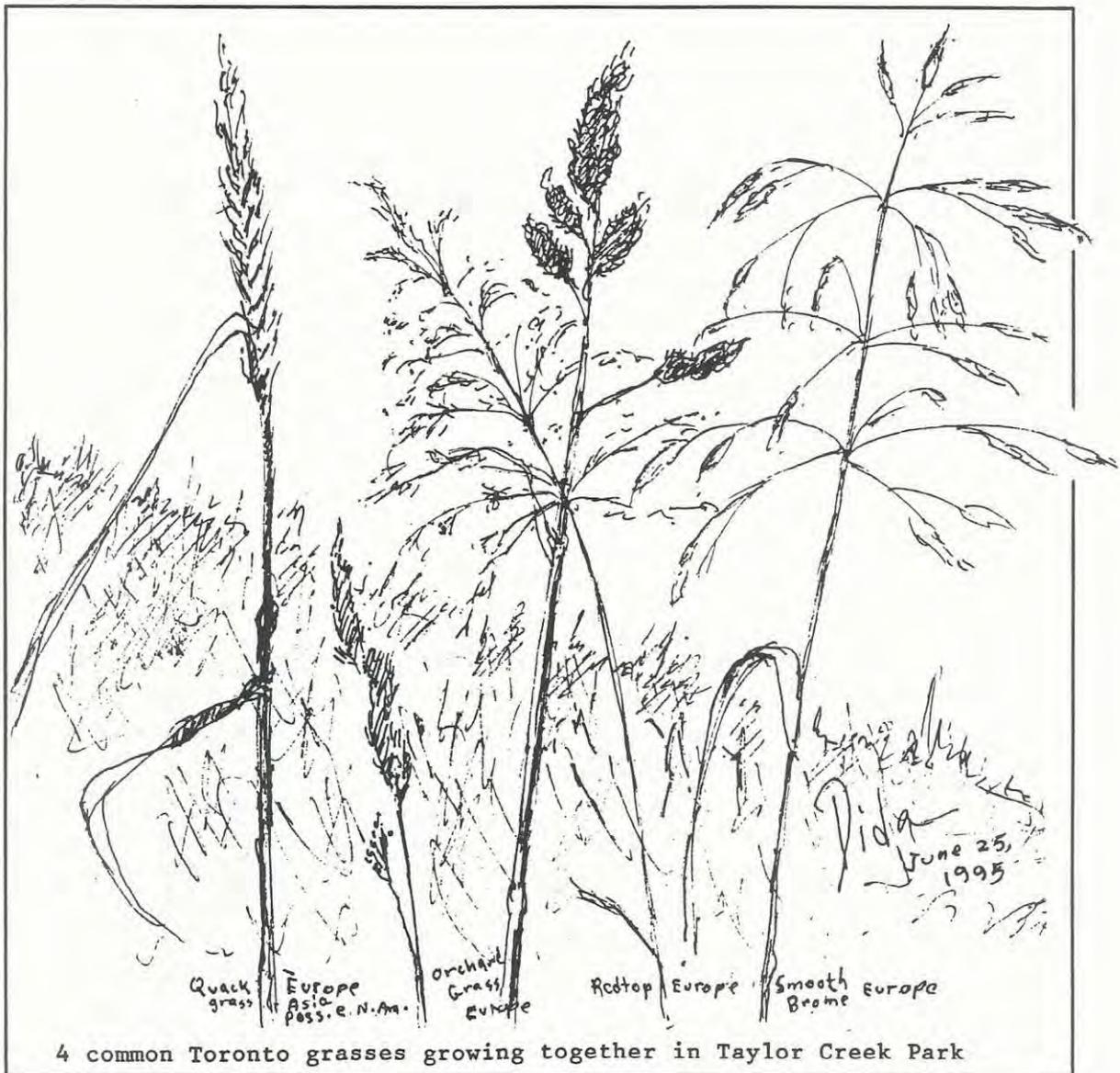
▷

August 1996, Toronto

The hottest part of summer waited until two months after the solstice this year, with warm and *dry* conditions prevailing in August. Soggy crops in southern Ontario could finally catch up, and vacationers headed for the country. Temperatures were one degree above normal and so well within the usual range. Pearson Airport finally struggled up to 30.6°C on one day, August 7th. So there was no unusual heat, just a month of sultry, sunny days with occasional light showers. Rainfall was 47-48 mm, just over half the average and the lightest since 1993. Lawn sprinklers were hauled out in the latter part of August.

Gavin Miller

□

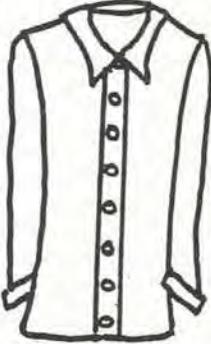
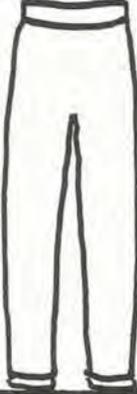
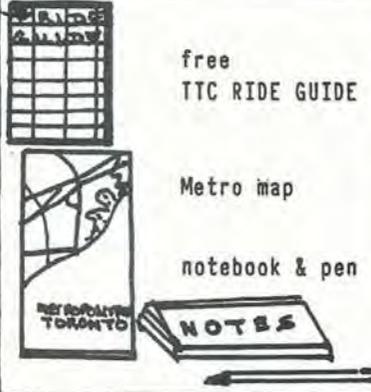
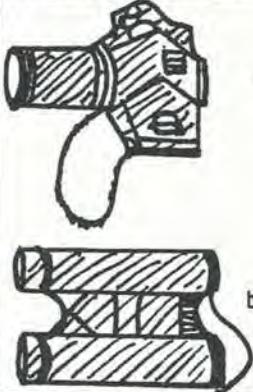


TFN OUTINGS

REMEMBER: Children and visitors are welcome on all outings but please, **NO PETS!**
 To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules by calling 393-4636.
 Check the weather by calling 661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings which go rain or shine.

- Thursday
 May 1
 6:45 pm
 GLEN STEWART RAVINE - evening ramble
 Leader: Fred Bodsworth
 Meet at the parkette on Beech Ave. just south of Kingston Rd. While the days are long, from May 1 to mid August, we will have a weekly evening ramble. This evening we will visit a ravine near Lake Ontario where migrating birds find the forest and creek provide the habitat they need before continuing their way north. Toronto
- Saturday
 May 3
 10:30 am
 SCARBOROUGH WOODLOT - nature arts
 Leader: Diana Banville
 Meet at the exit turnstyle in the Scarborough Centre LRT station. Bring sketching materials and stool or camera. Lunch optional. We will be visiting the woodlot outside the City Hall or the Centre depending on the weather. Hopefully we will be drawing or photographing wild flowers. Lunch in the Civic Centre cafeteria will be followed by viewing of an art exhibit at the Centre. Scarborough
- +
 Saturday
 May 3
 2:pm
 ON THE LONELY COMMON - human & natural heritage
 Leaders: Jeff Stinson & Ian Wheal
 Meet at the northeast corner of Queen St. West and Gladstone Ave. This is a joint outing with the railway and industrial heritage groups to explore the Parkdale section of Toronto. Toronto
- Sunday
 May 4
 2:30 pm
 TFN MEETING [See page 2 for details.]
- Wednesday
 May 7
 10:30 am
 LOWER DON VALLEY - nature walk
 Leader: Catherine Ukas
 Meet on the west side of Broadview Ave. at Pottery Rd. (opposite Mortimer Ave.) Lunch optional. We will be walking south to the Riverdale Farm area along the Lower Don Trail. Bring your notebooks and binoculars. Don, East York/Toronto
- Friday
 May 9
 6:45 pm
 SUMMERHILL - evening ramble
 Leader: Doug Paton
 Meet at the Summerhill subway station. This walk will take us into David Balfour Park where we will be looking and listening for birds. Don tributary, Toronto
- Saturday
 May 10
 9 am
 ROUGE VALLEY - birds
 Leader: Ross Harris
 Meet at the southeast corner of Sheppard Ave. East and Meadowvale Road. Lunch optional. Bring binoculars and notebook and be prepared for lots of hills and wet places. Rouge, Scarborough
- + (over) ▷

FOR ENJOYMENT OF OUTINGS

<p>wide brim on hat for protection from sun</p> 	<p>long sleeves to protect you from: mosquitoes poison ivy thistles</p> 	<p>slacks to protect you from: mosquitoes poison ivy thistles ticks</p> 
<p>long socks to help you avoid ticks</p> <p>hiking boots or running shoes</p> 	<p>rainwear</p> 	<p>sun glasses</p> <p>sun screen</p> <p>insect repellent</p> 
<p>free TTC RIDE GUIDE</p> <p>Metro map</p> <p>notebook & pen</p> 	<p>camera</p> <p>binoculars</p> 	<p>thermos or flask</p> <p>snack</p> 
<p>Bring your family and/or friends</p> 	<p>NO pets</p> 	<p>keys</p> <p>money</p> <p>TTC fare</p> 

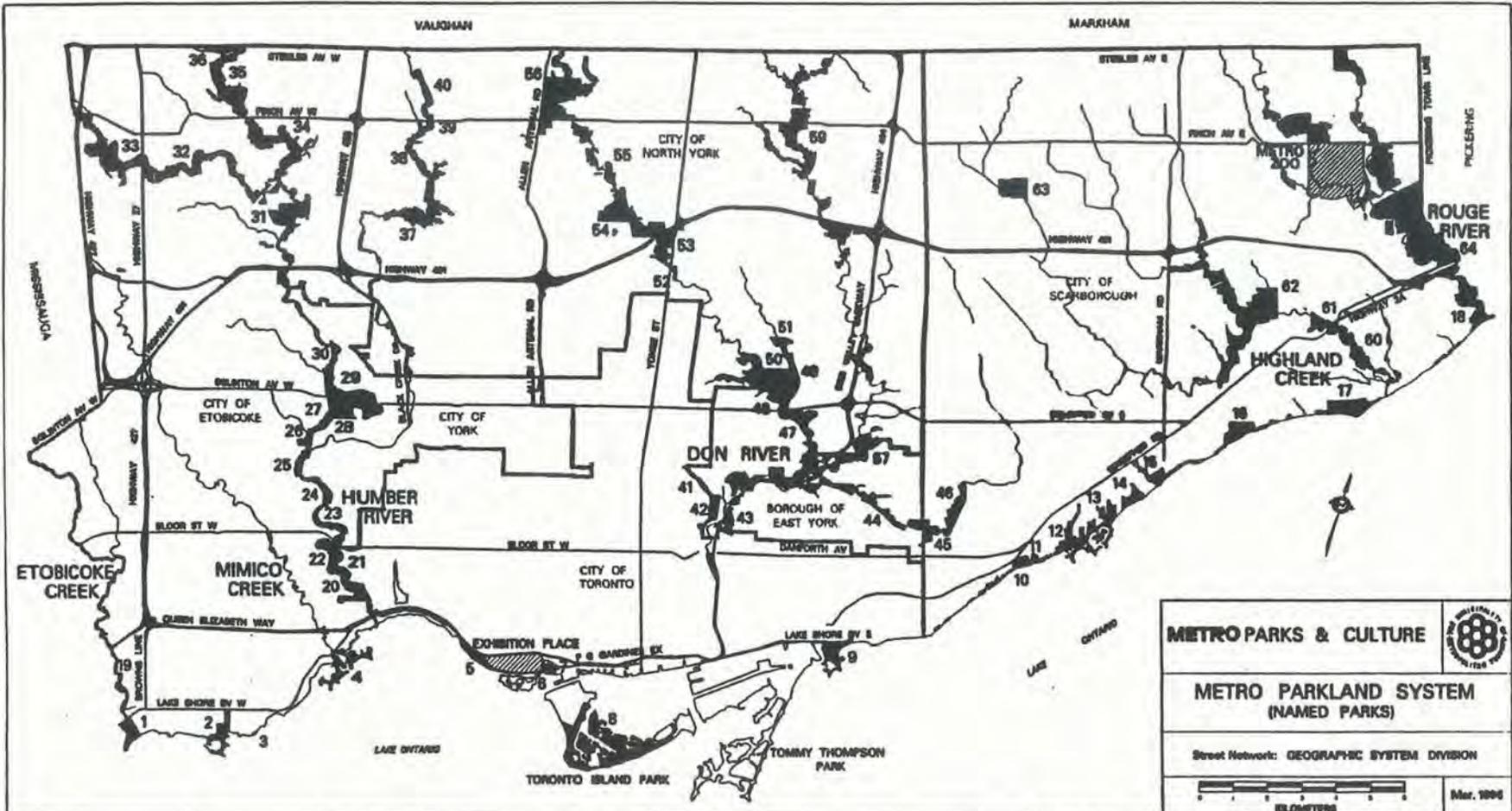
REMEMBER ALSO TO BRING A PLASTIC BAG FOR GARBAGE ALONG THE ROUTE!

E.D.



MAY OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday
May 10
10:30 am
- HUMBER MARSHES - birds
Leader: Ken Cook
Meet at the Humber streetcar loop. Lunch optional.
We will be walking north, following the river, visiting the marshes and woodlands along the way, looking for warblers and possibly shorebirds.
Humber, Etobicoke
- Sunday
May 11
11 am
- DERRYDOWN PARK - nature walk
Leader: Allan Greenbaum
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Finch Ave. West between Keele St. and Jane St. Bring lunch.
Lots of spring flowers and migrating birds to see in this park at this time of year! Bring your notebooks and binoculars.
Black Cr., North York
- +
- Sunday
May 11
2 pm
- LOWER DON VALLEY - flowers & restoration
Leader: Peter Iveson
Meet at the southeast corner of Winchester St. and Sumach St. On the west side of the valley the parks department has planted spring bulbs; on the east side of the valley, restoration efforts are underway.
Don, Toronto
- Tuesday
May 13
10:30 am
- MIMICO VALLEY - human & natural history
Leader: Morris Sorensen
Meet at the northeast corner of Bloor St. West and Islington Ave. Lunch optional.
After visiting some of the wilder parts of the valley here, we will have the option of visiting the historic Montgomery Inn for a tour.
Mimico Cr., Etobicoke
- Thursday
May 15
6:45 pm
- WEXFORD WOODS - evening ramble
Leaders: Morris Sorensen & Starr Whitmore
Meet at the southwest corner of Lawrence Ave. East and Pharmacy Ave. This isolated woodlot still contains many wildflowers of interest to naturalists. Bring your favourite field guide with you as well as your notebook and binoculars.
Scarborough
- Sunday
May 18
2 pm
- MUD CREEK - nature walk
Leader: Helen Mills
Meet at the northeast corner of Wilson Heights Blvd. and Wilson Ave.
We will be exploring the present day remnants of old creeks as well as the Wilson Heights Storm Trunk Sewer which now carries water from Mud Creek and Burke Brook into the West Don River in Earl Bales Park.
Don tributary, North York
- Wednesday
May 21
6:45 pm
- UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO - evening ramble
Leader: Jim Hodgins
Meet at the southwest corner of St. George St. and Harbord St. Visit a sugar maple woodlot, a boreal forest, a Carolinian forest and a prairie on the campus. These are restored habitats and of great interest to those wanting to help heal landscapes in this region.
Toronto
- Thursday
May 22
10 am
- GUILDWOOD PARK - nature walk
Leader: Karin Fawthrop
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of the Guildwood Parkway, opposite Galloway Rd. Lunch optional.
This lovely woodlot, perched above the Scarborough Bluffs, is full of wildflowers and birds at this time of year.
Lakeshore, Scarborough



METRO PARKS & CULTURE

METRO PARKLAND SYSTEM (NAMED PARKS)

Street Network: GEOGRAPHIC SYSTEM DIVISION

Mar. 1996

0 1 2 3 4 5
KILOMETERS

	hectares		hectares		hectares		hectares
• 1 Marle Curtis Park	25.407	• 17 East Point Park	59.681	32 West Humber Parkland	109.490	48 Serena Gundy Park	25.342
• 2 Colonel Samuel Smith Park	78.756	18 Rouge Beach Park	3.652	33 Humber Arboretum	96.237	49 Wilket Creek Park	43.748
• 3 Cliff Lumsdon Park	0.848	19 Etobicoke Creek Parkland	19.748	34 Thistletown Area - N. Humber	83.589	50 Sunnybrook Park	59.558
• 4 Humber Bay Park	140.375	20 South Humber Park	14.080	35 Rowntree Mills Park	91.045	51 Edwards Gardens	13.912
• 5 Marilyn Bell Park	11.332	21 Humber Marshes	31.788	36 Thackeray Park	44.014	52 York Mills Park	4,549
• 6 Battery Park	2.699	22 King's Mill Park	29.677	37 Downsview Dells	75.214	53 Don Valley Golf Course	64.344
• 7 Coronation Park	10.846	23 Etienne Brule Park	20.653	38 Northwood Park	25.188	54 Earl Bales Park	58.607
• 8 Toronto Island Park	230.291	24 Home Smith Park	14.685	39 Derrydowns Park	27.872	55 Hinder Property	14.780
• 9 Ashbridge's Bay Park	121.414	25 Lambton Woods	14.844	40 Black Creek Parkland	22.777	56 G. Ross Lord Park	136.844
• 10 Rosetta McClain Gardens	8.720	26 James Garden	14.479	41 Moore Park Ravine	12.697	57 Sauriol Conservation Reserve	77.362
• 11 Scarborough Heights Park	9.836	27 Scarlett Mills Park	25.935	42 Don Valley Brick Works	12.277	58 Betty Sutherland Trail	42.033
• 12 Bluffer's Park	191.709	28 Scarlett Woods Golf Course	25.744	43 Todmorden Mills Park	10.262	59 East Don Parkland	157.980
• 13 Cathedral Bluffs Park	9.466	29 Eglinton Falls	52.146	44 Taylor Creek Park	73.708	60 Lower Highland Cr. Parkland	34.833
• 14 Cudla Park	16.350	30 Raymore Park / Canadian Ukrainian Mem. Park	11.797 / 5.553	45 Dentonia Park Golf Course	13.455	61 Colonel Danforth Park	57.041
• 15 Sylvan Park/Gates Gully	9.931/3.626	31 Humber Valley Golf Course	49.427	46 Warden Woods	34.455	62 Morningside Park	168.650
• 16 Guildwood Park	32.671			47 Ernest Thompson Seton Park	76.028	63 Tam O'Shanter Golf Course	42.331
						64 Glen Rouge Park	125.279

• PARKS WITH WATER LOYS
 OPERATED BY METRO TORONTO BOARD SERVICES

MAY OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Saturday
May 24
10 am
L'AMOREAUX PARK - nature walk
Leader: Leslie Burns
Highland Creek, Scarborough
Meet at the northeast corner of Birchmount Rd. and Silver Springs Blvd. (one block north of Finch Ave. East). Bring lunch.
This park contains the beginnings of Highland Creek. Not so long ago this area was farmland, but now provides an important park and source of water for the creek.
- Sunday
May 25
11 am
ROUGE PARK - nature walk
Leader: Robin Powell
Rouge, Scarborough
Meet at the southeast corner of Sheppard Ave. East and Meadowvale Rd. Bring lunch.
A wonderful place to visit but participants must be ready to climb hills. Bring your notebooks and favourite field guide.
- Tuesday
May 27
6:45 pm
LOWER DON VALLEY - evening ramble
Leaders: Bryan Bertie & Heather Mackey
Don, East York
Meet on the west side of Broadview Ave. at Pottery Rd., opposite Mortimer Ave.
This is a chance to see some of the work being done to "restore" the Don Valley -- a wildflower garden at Todmorden Mills, a wetland boardwalk, and a newly created "fish run" along the Don River.
- Thursday
May 29
10:30 am
SILVERTHORN STREETScape - nature walk
Leader: Ruth Munson
York
Meet at the southwest corner of Eglinton Ave. West and Blackthorn Cr. (west of Caledonia Rd.). Lunch optional.
This walk will be through streets and Prospect Cemetery so be prepared to enjoy trees and shrubs as well as scenery.
- Saturday
May 31
10 am to 5 pm
PMCL school bus \$10
TFN NATURE RESERVES - a day in the country north of Uxbridge
Leaders: Robin Powell (tour of reserves), Allan Greenbaum (plants & animals)
Call the TFN office (968-6255) and leave your name and telephone number if you want to attend. Confirm by sending a cheque for \$10 (NOT post-dated) and payable to TFN BUS TRIP to TFN at 605 - 14 College St., Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2. Bring lunch and something to drink. Waterproof footwear recommended
The bus leaves from the south exit of the York Mills subway station (on Old York Mills Rd. just east of Yonge St). promptly at 10 am and returns there at 5 pm. No washrooms on the bus, but there are three outhouses at the reserve.
This is your chance to wander through a cedar forest, look at water bubbling out of the ground, enjoy ferns and mosses, listen to the call of the winter wren and even walk along a country lane. Guide available; also, see page 7-9. ▶

Early May morning.
White-throated sparrows singing
throughout thunderstorm.

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- Monday
 June 2
 6:45 pm
 MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY - evening ramble
 Leader: Sheila Van Landeghem
 Meet at the cemetery entrance on the east side of Mt. Pleasant Rd. south of Merton St.
 As well as containing a very fine collection of trees and shrubs from all over the world, this section of the cemetery contains remnant woodlots. Bring your favourite tree or shrub book and a notebook.
 Toronto
- Wednesday
 June 4
 10:30 am
 EAST POINT - nature walk
 Leader: Graham Neville
 Meet at the corner of Beechgrove Dr. and Coronation Dr.
 Bring lunch.
 This park contains the last section of unarmoured bluffs as well as a fine collection of rare wildflowers.
 lakeshore, Scarborough
- Saturday
 June 7
 10:30 am
 VALE OF AVOCA - nature arts
 Leader: Erik Wiersma
 Meet at the St. Clair subway station exit on the south side of St. Clair Ave. East, just east of Yonge St. Bring your sketching materials or camera. Lunch optional.
 We hope to sketch in the ravine, weather permitting, or if necessary we can retreat to a mall for lunch and to compare our works.
 Don tributary, Toronto
- Sunday
 June 8
 2 pm
 HUMBER MARSHES - trees
 Leader: Bohdan Kowalyk
 Meet at the Old Mill subway station.
 We will be walking south in the Humber Valley to look at trees. Bring your favourite field guide and notebook.
 Humber, Etobicoke
- Tuesday
 June 10
 6:45 pm
 HAVERGAL RAVINE - evening ramble
 Leader: Nel Hardie
 Meet at the southeast corner of Avenue Rd. and Lawrence Ave. West
 This school has a project to restore the ravine on the property. It contains a tributary of Burke Brook. Many wildflowers have been planted in an attempt to renaturalize the lands beside the creek.
 Burke Brook, Toronto
- Wednesday
 June 11
 10 am
 DERRYDOWN PARK - nature walk
 Leaders: Marg Canning and Jean Orpwood
 Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Finch Ave. West between Keele St. and Jane St. Bring lunch.
 This is a lovely wild ravine containing a bike path and a number of smaller footpaths.
 Black Cr., North York

▷

- Saturday
June 14
10:30 am WEST DEANE PARK - nature walk Mimico Cr., Etobicoke
Leader: Ken Cook
Meet at the southwest corner of Eglinton Ave. West and Martin Grove Rd. Lunch optional.
We should see two kinds of swallows as well as other birds and lots of wildflowers as we wander along beside this small creek.
- Sunday
June 15
11 am CHAPMAN VALLEY - nature walk Humber tributary, Etobicoke
Leader: Grant Hurlburt
Meet on the east side of Royal York Road at the parkette north of Weston Wood Rd. Bring lunch.
This valley is a great place to look for fossils and is very scenic. The TFN has published a ravine study of this area for those who want to read up on the area before visiting it.
- Tuesday
June 17
10:30 am WINDFIELDS PARK - nature walk Wilket Cr., North York
Leader: Eileen Mayo
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of York Mills Rd. just east of Bayview Ave. Bring lunch.
Though much of this park looks like a golf course, which it once was, there is a lovely woodlot at the south end with labelled trees and pleasant footpaths to follow.
- Wednesday
June 18
6:45 pm HIGH PARK - evening ramble Toronto
Leader: Elaine Farragher
Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West opposite High Park Ave.
We hope to see the lupins in bloom among the black oaks and some of the work being done to restore this lovely habitat.
- Saturday
June 21
7 pm TORONTO ISLANDS - nature walk Lakeshore, Toronto
Leaders: Morris Sorensen & Starr Whitmore
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St.
Sunset is not until after 9 pm this evening of the longest day in the year.
Bring your cameras as we plan to stay until sunset which can be quite spectacular with the city in the background.
\$ ferry tickets
- Sunday
June 22
2 pm WALMSLEY BROOK - nature walk East Don tributary, East York
Leader: Paula Davies
Meet at the northeast corner of Overlea Blvd. and Beth Neelson Dr.
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community to trace the route of another mostly buried creek. Where the creek still runs above ground, much wild habitat remains.
- Wednesday
June 25
9:30 am TORONTO ISLANDS - birds & bugs Lakeshore, Toronto
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. Bring lunch, binoculars and hand lens.
We plan to take the ferry to Hanlans Point where we will be looking for birds and insects.

Thursday LOWER DON - evening ramble Don, Toronto
June 26 Leader: David Stonehouse
6:45 pm Meet at the Broadview subway station.
We will be visiting the Chester Springs Marsh and looking at other projects undertaken in the Lower Don Valley to restore the Don to a more natural state.

Saturday EAST POINT PARK - nature walk Lakeshore, Scarborough
June 28 Leader: Boris Mather
10:30 am Meet at the foot of Morningside Ave. at the east end of Guildwood Pkwy. Bring lunch.
This is quite a long walk so bring extra water and lots of sun protection. East Point contains many interesting habitats -- lakeshore, meadows, bluffs.



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

- Wednesday CABBAGETOWN - nature walk Toronto
 July 2 Leader: Mazette Best
 10:30 am Meet at the southeast corner of Winchester St. and Sumach St.
 Lunch optional.
 This area of the city contains many front yard gardens and laneways as well
 as being adjacent to the Necropolis Cemetery with its fine collection of
 trees and shrubs and Riverdale Farm on the edge of the Don Valley.
- Friday CURITY RAVINE - evening ramble Taylor Cr. tributary, East York
 July 4 Leader: Robin Powell
 6:45 pm Meet at the northeast corner of O'Connor Dr. and Curity Ave.
 This small ravine contains all that is left of one of the tributaries of
 Taylor Creek. It is surrounded by industrial and commercial businesses,
 but still contains much to interest naturalists -- an oak forest with an
 understory of native shrubs and wildflowers.
- Saturday CASSELS GARDENS - nature arts North York
 July 5 Leader: Mary Cumming
 10:30 am Meet at the North York Centre subway exit turnstyles. Bring
 sketching materials or camera. Lunch optional.
 Weather permitting we will be sketching in this garden which is part of
 York Cemetery. We may eat in the mall where we will compare our works.
- Tuesday HUMBER OXBOW - nature walk Humber, Etobicoke
 July 8 Leader: Joan O'Donnell
 10 am Meet at the northwest corner of Albion Rd. and Thistledown Blvd.
 Lunch optional.
 A variety of habitats can be visited in this area so be prepared to find
 many kinds of birds and wild plants. Bring your notebooks and binoculars.
- Thursday EDWARDS GARDENS - evening ramble Wilket Cr., North York
 July 10 Leader: Frances Hay
 6:45 pm Meet at the southwest corner of Lawrence Ave. East and
 Leslie St.
 We will be visiting the formal gardens of the former Edwards Estate.
- Saturday MIMICO CREEK - nature walk Mimico Cr., Etobicoke
 July 12 Leaders: Ken Cook and Diana Karrandjas
 10:30 am Meet on the west side of Royal York Rd. at Leland Ave.
 Lunch optional.
 This is a joint outing with the Friends of Mimico Creek to share our
 concerns about and appreciation of the creek and adjacent parklands.

JULY OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Sunday
July 13
1 pm
WESTERN LAKESHORE - nature walk Lakeshore, Toronto/Etobicoke
Leader: Boris Mather
Meet at the northwest corner of the Queensway and Windermere Ave.
We will be walking along the lakeshore to Humber Bay Park.
- Wednesday
July 16
6:45 pm
TAYLOR CREEK PARK - evening ramble East Don tributary, East York
Leader: Melanie Milanich
Meet just outside the Victoria Park subway station.
We will be walking west in the valley which contains much of scenic and historic interest.
- Thursday
July 17
11 am
ERNEST THOMPSON SETON PARK - nature walk West Don, North York
Leader: Carol Miller
Meet at the southwest corner of Overlea Blvd. and Don Mills Rd. Bring lunch.
We will visit the forks of the Don and then follow the West Don Valley north toward the Ontario Science Centre.
- Saturday
July 19
2 pm
WEST DON TRIBUTARY - nature walk West Don, North York
Leader: Alexander Cappell
Meet at the southeast corner of Finch Ave. West and Bathurst St.
We will be exploring city streets looking for signs of a lost tributary of the West Don.
- Sunday
July 20
2 pm
WALMSLEY BROOK - nature walk West Don tributary, East York
Leader: Helen Mills
Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Ave. East and Bayview Ave.
This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community to look for traces of a lost creek among the city streets.
- Tuesday
July 22
6:45 pm
CENTRAL WATERFRONT - evening ramble waterfront, Toronto
Leader: Phoebe Cleverley
Meet in the park just west of the ferry docks at the foot of Bay St.
Attempts have been made to "renaturalize" the shoreline in the Central Waterfront. We will be looking at these and other signs of nature.
- Wednesday
July 23
10 am
HUMBER CARRYING PLACE - nature walk Humber, York/
Leader: Madeleine McDowell Toronto
Meet at the northwest corner of Bloor St. West and Jane St.
Lunch optional.
We will be walking south along streets which is where the original trail along the Humber went. Much remains the same -- the large oak trees for example, and the marshes in the valley.
- Saturday
July 26
10 am
MORNINGSIDE PARK - birds & bugs Highland Cr., Scarborough
Leader: Carol Sellers
Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Morningside Ave., north of Lawrence Ave. East. Bring lunch, hand lens, binoculars and jar for looking at insects.
This large park contains many habitats for us to enjoy and explore.

JULY OUTINGS (cont'd)

Sunday HIGH PARK - birds & butterflies Toronto
 July 27 Leader: Margaret Liubavicius
 10:30 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Bloor St. West
 opposite High Park Ave. Lunch optional.
 Bring binoculars and hand lens and your favourite butterfly book to help
 you as we look for both birds and butterflies.

Monday LANES OF LEASIDE - evening ramble East York
 July 28 Leader: Jo Croft
 6:45 pm Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Ave. East and Bayview
 Ave.
 This walk will take us through Leaside, ending at the Lake Iroquois Bluff
 at Bayview Ave. and Moore Ave.

Tuesday ROUGE VALLEY PARK - nature walk
 July 29 Leader: Sue Russell
 10:30 am Meet at the Pearce House, the first bus stop north of
 Sheppard Ave. East on Meadowvale Rd. Bring lunch.
 We will be visiting the new headquarters for the new park -- the historic
 ValleyHalla House. ▽



TFN OUTINGS

REMEMBER: Children and visitors are welcome on all outings but please, **NO PETS!**
 To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules by calling 393-4636.
 Check the weather by calling 661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings which go rain or shine.

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| <p>Saturday
August 2
10:30 am</p> | <p>HARBOURFRONT - nature arts
 Leader: Diana Banville
 Meet at the Harbourfront Terminal Building inside the entrance at the southwest corner of Queen's Quay West and York St. Bring sketching materials and stool or camera and lunch is optional.
 We will be drawing and photographing the lakeshore and wildlife or genre indoors. We will have a disussion of our work after lunch in the cafeteria.</p> | <p>Lakeshore, Toronto</p> |
| <p>Tuesday
August 5
6:45 pm</p> | <p>IROQUOIS SHORELINE - evening ramble
 Leader: Alexander Cappell
 Meet at the northwest corner of Bathurst St. and Davenport Rd. This walk will involve some climbing -- on and off the old shoreline bluff. We will be visiting Wychwood Pond (the source of Taddle Creek) and the source of Garrison Creek.</p> | <p>Toronto</p> |
| <p>Wednesday
August 6
10 am</p> | <p>SAM SMITH PARK - bugs & birds
 Leader: Carol Sellers
 Meet on the south side of Lake Shore Blvd West and Kipling Ave. Bring lunch, binoculars, hand lens and jar.
 This large new lakefill park with its newly created wetlands along the original shoreline should be a good place to find both insects and birds at this time of year.</p> | <p>Lakeshore, Etobicoke</p> |
| <p>Saturday
August 9
9:30 am</p> | <p>ECHO VALLEY PARK - trees
 Leader: Tom Atkinson
 Meet at the park entrance on the west side of Kipling Ave. just north of Burnhamthorpe Rd.
 Echo Valley Park contains a remnant of the nut tree farm owned by Mr. Corson who grew many kinds of nut trees there. Many specimens still survive. Binoculars are helpful for looking at some of the taller trees.</p> | <p>Mimico Cr., Etobicoke</p> |
| <p>Sunday
August 10
1:30 pm</p> | <p>LOST CREEKS & INDUSTRY - geology
 Leader: Ed Freeman
 Meet at the southeast corner of Yonge St. and Davisville Ave. This walk will be along streets at first, then we will visit the old Pottery Road Ravine and end up at the Don Valley Brick Works. The creeks we will learn about are buried and the industry out of business.</p> | <p>Toronto</p> |
| <p>Wednesday
August 13
6:45 pm</p> | <p>BELT LINE - evening ramble
 Leader: Nancy Fredenburg
 Meet at the Eglinton West subway station.
 This final evening ramble for 1997 will be along the route of a former railway line, now a park. This route is shady and level for those wanting a comfortable walk. It is also off the streets, so is a good place to listen.</p> | <p>York/Toronto</p> |

AUGUST OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Thursday EAST POINT - nature walk lakeshore, Scarborough
 August 14 Leader: Boris Mather
 10:30 am Meet at the foot of Morningside Ave. at the east of Guildwood Parkway. Lunch optional.
 Prairie species should be flowering at this time of the summer. This is also a great place and time for birds and butterflies.
- Saturday HUMBER VALLEY - nature walk Humber, north of Metro
 August 16 Leader: Robin Powell
 10:30 am Meet at the northwest corner of Steeles Ave. West and Islington Ave. Bring lunch.
 This walk will take us north to see what is left of this lovely valley since the Hwy. 407 was built. Be prepared for lots of hill climbing.
- Sunday WALMSLEY BROOK - nature walk West Don tributary, Toronto
 August 17 Leader: Helen Mills
 2 pm Meet at the northwest corner of Yonge St. and Albertus Ave.
 This is a joint outing with the North Toronto Green Community to look for the source of this long-buried creek.
- Wednesday YELLOW CREEK - nature walk Don tributary, Toronto
 August 20 Leader: Peter Hare
 10 am Meet at the Davisville subway station. Lunch optional.
 We will be walking north at first and be looking at trees and for signs of this creek.
- Sunday THOMSON MEMORIAL PARK - insects Highland Cr., Scarborough
 August 24 Leader: Merne Powers
 1:30 pm Meet at the park entrance on the east side of Brimley Rd., north of Lawrence Ave. East.
 Bring binoculars, hand lens and jar to hold insects. This is a great time of year to find these small animals.
- Tuesday EDWARDS GARDENS - nature walk Wilket Cr., North York
 August 26 Leader: Jo Croft
 10:30 am Meet at the southwest corner of Leslie St. and Lawrence Ave. East. Lunch optional.
 The gardens themselves are only one point of interest on this walk. We may also follow the creek south along asphalt paths to the West Don and a series of wild parks.
- PMCL Saturday TFN NATURE RESERVES - a day in the country north of Uxbridge
 school bus August 30 Leaders: Robin Powell (tour of reserves), Karin Fawthrop (birds)
 \$10 10 am to See page 25 for details. [See also pages 7-9.]
 5 pm
- Sunday WEST DEANE PARK - birds Mimico Cr., Etobicoke
 August 31 Leader: Ken Cook
 10:30 am Meet at southwest corner of Eglinton Ave. West and Martin Grove Rd. Lunch optional.
 Many species of birds begin to migrate by this time so bring binoculars and your favourite field guide. Lots of flowers and possibly insects even, if the birds are moving.

COMING EVENTS

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

- First Wave - High Park - Sat. May 3 from 7:30 am to 12 noon with Bob Yukich. Meet in the parking area inside the Bloor St. entrance at High Park Ave.
- Warblers - Lambton Woods - Sat. May 10 from 7:30 am to 12 noon with Don Burton. Meet in the parking lot at James Gardens (access from Edenbridge Dr.)
- More Spring Migration - Col. Sam Smith Park - Sat. May 17 from 7:30 am to 12 noon. Meet in the main parking lot south of the old Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital grounds. Access from Lakeshore Blvd. West at Kipling Ave.
- Peak Migration - Toronto Islands - Sat. May 24 from 7:45 am (all day) with Norm Murr. Meet at the Toronto Islands ferry docks at the foot of Bay St. to catch the 8 am ferry to Hanlan's Point. Bring a lunch. The next Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk will take place in September.

High Park walking tours - beginning at the Grenadier Restaurant south side

- May 4 at 1:15 pm - Signs of Spring
- May 11 at 9 am - Spring Migration
- May 18 at 1:15 pm - Exploring High Park (Human & Natural History)
- May 25 at 1:15 pm - Spring Flowers
- June 1 at 1:15 pm - Native and Non-native Trees
- June 8 at 1:15 pm - Invasive Plants & Weeds - hands on workshop
- June 15 at 1:15 pm - Lupins and butterflies
- June 22 at 1:15 pm - Is there Life in Grenadier Pond?
- June 29 at 1:15 pm - Exploring High Park - Art in High Park

Tuesday evening walks at 6:45 pm begin July 8 and run to Aug. 26. Meet at Grenadier Restaurant. Last three will be to look for moths, stars and bats. For more information, call 392-7276, ext. 301.

Canadian Wildflower Society events

- Wildflower Plant Sale - May 10 from 10 am to 1 pm at the Markham Civic Centre (Hwy. # 7 and Warden Ave.)
 - Garden Tour - May 25 from 10 am to 4 pm; admission: \$15.
- For more details or to register, call Carolyn King at 222-5736.

Black Creek Project events

- May 3 at 10 am at Trethewey Park - work party
 - May 14 at 6:30 pm at York City Hall, 2700 Eglinton Ave. West - meeting
 - May 24 at 10 am at Trethewey Park - work party
 - June 4 at 7:30 pm at York City Hall - meeting with speaker
 - June 7 at 10 am at Trethewey Park - work party
 - June 11 at 6:30 pm at York City Hall - business meeting
 - July 5 at 10 am at Trethewey Park - work party
 - July 9 at 6:30 pm at York City Hall - meeting
 - August 9 at 10 am at Trethewey Park - picnic and work party
- To confirm these events, call Gavin Miller at 921-9305 or Kristin Geater at 661-6600, ext. 364.

Tour of Toronto Bay by water - May 10 at 1 pm and 3 pm. For details, call Leslie Wu at 314-9498. ➤

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Bancroft Gemboree - Aug. 2-4. Contact Bancroft District Chamber of Commerce for more details (1-613-332-1513).

Heritage Toronto's 1997 Summer walking tour program - May 4 to Oct. 5 - includes 23 different topics and 6 heritage organizations to provide 35 free walks exploring the fascinating history of Toronto. To receive a detailed schedule call 392-6827.

Metro Parks 1997 walking tours include spring walks, gardens in bloom, heritage walks, meadows, bobolinks and butterflies, fall colours, and special events. Call Metro Parks and Culture at 392-8186 for a detailed schedule of these free events.

Casa Loma Gardens - free viewing - Tuesdays from 4 pm to 9 pm and the second Monday of each month from 9:30 am to 4 pm - from May 1 to Oct. 31. Call 923-1171 for more information.

Todmorden Mills - heritage museum and arts centre

- Sun, June 8 from 12 noon to 5 pm - Don of Spring - special event for environmental groups
 - Mon, Aug. 4 from 12 noon to 5 pm - Simcoe Day celebrations - special event with the Simcoes and various environmental groups.
- Call 396-2819 for more information.

TFN
displays

Civic Garden Centre 10th annual garden tour - featuring the gardens of Spadina House and Davenport Hill - Sat. June 14 and Sun. June 15 from 12 noon to 5 pm. Tickets: \$17 from the CGC, 777 Lawrence Ave. East, North York, Ont. M3C 1P2.

Task Force to Bring Back the Don

- Tree Planting - Sat. May 3 at 10 am at former Domtar site in the Don Valley (foot of Beechwood Dr., off O'Connor Dr.)
- Paddle the Don - Sun. May 4 - starting at Serena Gundy Park. Call Beth Williston at 661-6600, ext. 334 for more details on this event.
- Celebrate your Watershed Week walk - Tues. May 6 at 6 pm starting at the Broadview subway station.
- Mayors' Cleanup Day - Sat. May 10 at 10 am at Rosedale subway station.
- 12th annual Don River walk - Sat. May 24 at 12 noon with Dalton Shipway starting at Chester Springs Marsh in the Don Valley.

For more information on these and other events, call 392-0401.

Kortright Centre for Conservation - daily nature walking club - starting at 10 am any day during the week of May 12 to May 18 to register and walk. After that walking will be every day of the year for flora, fauna, fitness and friendship. Call Peter Attfield at Kortright (905)832-2280 for more information.

The Urban Naturalist - outings for beginners

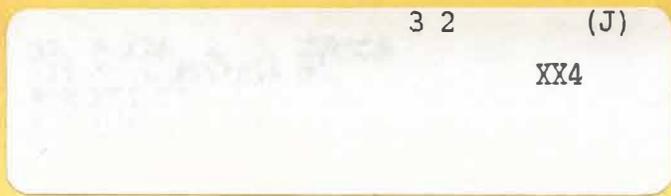
- May 4 - Trout lilies and trilliums - a celebration of spring at Edwards Gardens at 10 am. This is an introduction to the early flowers of spring and includes advice on field guides and techniques. Pre-registration necessary (\$5 per session). Call Morris at 755-6030.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS

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