

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB NEWSLETTER

Visitors welcome!

OCTOBER MEETING

Visitors welcome!

Monday, October 2, 1967, at 8:15 p.m.  
at the  
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Speaker: DR. GEORGE PECK

Subject: NEST AND EGG PHOTOGRAPHY (illustrated with colour slides)

Dr. Peck, whose extensive travels include Gaspe, Newfoundland, Southern and Eastern United States, and the Dry Tortugas, will discuss some of the techniques and scientific uses of this phase of nature photography. Dr. Peck is a director of the South Peel Naturalists' Club.

In the rotunda - TFNC armbadge, \$1.00. Wear one and publicize your Club.

- TFNC history written by Dr. R. M. Saunders, 50¢. Fascinating & informative
- FON Christmas cards, \$1.50 per doz., plus tax. 1967 design - Snow Buntings, by Robert Bateman
- Toronto Bird Finding Guide, by Peter Iden. Just published! To TFNC members, \$1.25 (regular price \$1.50).

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES ARE LISTED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Audubon Wildlife Films. Last season was the most successful ever, due in part at least to the fine co-operation of TFNC members in "spreading the word". This year's programme is promising. Tell your friends about it!

- |        |             |                        |                              |
|--------|-------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tues., | October 10  | - Allan D. Cruickshank | - "Land of the Giant Cactus" |
| "      | November 21 | - D. J. Nelson         | - "Three Seasons North"      |
| "      | January 9   | - John D. Bulger       | - "Scandinavian Saga"        |
| "      | March 12    | - Charles T. Hotchkiss | - "Queen of the Cascades"    |
| "      | April 9     | - Mary Jane Dockeray   | - "These Things Are Ours"    |

TFNC FEES FOR 1967-68 ARE NOW DUE. This form is provided for your use.

OCTOBER OUTINGS

Saturday WILKET CREEK PARK - Botany

Oct. 7 Meet at the parking lot at the entrance on Leslie St. just north of  
10.00 a.m. Eglinton Ave. E. Morning only.

Sunday TORONTO ISLAND - Birds

Leader - Mr. Paul Catling

Oct. 15 Meet inside the Island Ferry Terminal. We will take the first available  
9.00 a.m. ferry (usually 9.15) to Centre Island. Bring lunch, which must be carried  
all morning.

Saturday BRUCE TRAIL - Birds, Botany, Hiking -

Leader - Mr. Eric Lewis

Oct. 21 A bus will be chartered for this outing; the fare is \$2.50.

8.00 & Passengers may board at the following points:

10.00 a.m.	N.E. corner Yonge & Bloor	8.00 a.m.
	" " Yonge & St. Clair	8.05 a.m.
	" " Yonge & Eglinton	8.10 a.m.
	" " Yonge & Lawrence	8.15 a.m.
	Glen Echo loop (City Limits)	8.20 a.m.

Note: Passengers may not board the bus at the terminal, Bay & Dundas.  
The bus will arrive back in Toronto around 5.00 p.m. Members wishing  
to travel by bus must make reservations by phoning Mrs. Norah Stuart,  
485-5824, between October 10 and 19. Drivers, meet at Primrose (the  
intersection of Hwys. 10 and 89) at 10.00 a.m. and wait for the bus.  
Bring lunch.

Sunday CLAREMONT CONSERVATION AREA - Birds

Leader - Miss Rosemary Gaymer

Oct. 29 From Brougham (north of Pickering) travel east on Hwy. 7 about 2 miles to  
10.00 a.m. the fourth road north. Go north about 1 mile to the entrance. Meet at the  
parking lot. Bring lunch.

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JUNIOR CLUB Please note change in date for this month only. Children from 8 to 16  
Saturday years of age may enroll in the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club in the  
Sept. 30 Museum theatre. Fee \$1.00. Enrolment will commence at 9.30 a.m.  
10.00 a.m. Film - "Bear Country" (Walt. Disney)

Director - Mr. Robt. MacLellan, 488-9346

BIRD STUDY Please note the change in meeting date to the 2nd Thursday of each month.  
GROUP Meet at St. James-Bond United Church, on the west side of Avenue Rd.,  
Thursday two blocks north of Eglinton. Discussion led by Mr. Peter Iden, on  
Oct. 12 "Birding Areas in the Toronto Region". All TFNC members welcome. No  
8.00 p.m. additional fee required.

Chairman - Mr. Clive Goodwin, 241-1572

BOTANY Meet in Hodgson School, Davisville Ave. just east of Mt. Pleasant.  
GROUP Parking entrance from Millwood Rd., one block north. Speaker:  
Thursday Dr. G. MacGregor Grant, "A Beginner's Look at Botany". All TFNC members  
Oct. 19 welcome. No additional fee required.

8.00 sharp Chairman - Miss Edith Cosens, 481-5013

Looking forward with pleasure to another TFNC season (our 45th!)

President - Dr. Peter A. Peach

Secretary - Mrs. H. C. Robson,  
49 Craighurst Ave.,  
Toronto 12 (481-0260)



## NEWSLETTER

Number 229

Authorized as 2nd Class Mail by  
The Post Office Department, Ottawa  
and for payment of postage in cash

September 1967

### Executive

#### 1967-68 Season

President	- Dr. Peter A. Peach
Vice-President	- Mr. John A. Gingrich
* Secretary	- Mrs. H. C. Robson
Director, Junior Club	- Mr. Robert MacLellan
Editor	- Mr. Elmer Talvila
Executive members	- Mr. Paul Catling
	Miss Rosemary Gaymer
	Miss Edith Cosens
	Prof. J. Cranmer-Byng
	Mr. Eric Lewis
	Mr. Gerald McKeating
	Mrs. A. H. Parsons
	Mr. Jack H. Saker
	Mr. Kenneth Strasser
Past President	- Mr. Ronald F. Norman

\* The following secretarial assistants have been appointed:

Treasurer	- Mrs. Floyd Mathers
Audubon Wildlife Films)	- Miss Hattie Beeton
Newsletter mailing )	
Newsletter production	- Mrs. R. M. Smith

#### Committee Chairmen:

Programme	- Miss Ruth Marshall, 928-3646
Outings	- Mr. John A. Gingrich, 489-9953
Publicity & Membership	- Miss Rosemary Gaymer, 481-2651
Audubon Wildlife Films	- Mr. Ronald F. Norman, 277-4827
Botany Group	- Miss Edith Cosens, 481-5013
Bird Study Group	- Mr. Clive Goodwin, 241-5172

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For the year ending April 30, 1967

Receipts

Membership fees		\$ 2,349.00
Donations		110.00
FON Cards		371.85
FON Check Lists		9.00
Club History		19.50
Crests		147.00
Interest - stocks & bond		127.72
- savings account		28.08
Sale Bell Telephone rights		23.76
Bus tickets		598.00
Sundries		190.05
Audubon Wildlife Films		3,797.00
Total receipts		7,770.96
Add balance on hand April 30, 1966		3,171.95
		\$10,942.91

Disbursements

Printing		1,131.11
Postage		209.79
Office supplies		121.63
Crests - design	\$97.18	
- manufacture	<u>296.89</u> (325 crests)	394.07
Theatre & film rental		438.75
Salaries & honoraria		975.00
FON Cards		276.35
FON Camp scholarships, 1966		275.00
Donations - Junior Club, 1966 - \$100.00		
- FON - 200.00		
- St.Jas.-Bond U.C. - <u>25.00</u>		325.00
Affiliation fees		86.00
Bus charter fees		587.00
Sundries		121.33
Audubon Wildlife Films		1,839.36
Total disbursements		6,780.39
BALANCE April 30, 1967 - Guaranty Trust Co., Yonge & Castlefield		4,162.52
		\$10,942.91

Assets in safety deposit box - Guaranty Trust Co.,  
Yonge & Castlefield:

\$1,000 D. of C. bond, due 1983,  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$   
44 shares Bell Telephone Co. of Canada

Mrs. H. C. Robson,  
Secretary-Treasurer.

We have checked all entries, additions and vouchers with certain exceptions where vouchers were not available, and found the books in good order and in accord from the period May 1/66 to April 30/67 and we confirm to the best of our knowledge the balance sheet to be correct. Assets in safety deposit box not seen.

(signed) R. W. Trowern

## BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

We hope you will enjoy some of the new features being introduced in this season's Newsletter.

Our philosophy this year is--diversify. We hope the articles will broaden your horizons and perhaps show you that there are "more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy." With this in mind we are introducing the following new features which will appear regularly during the season. Please take the time to tell us what you think about them, so that we can do better next time.

News and Views: Any recent article from newspapers, magazines, or journals which is news for the naturalist may find its way here--often mutilated beyond recognition.

Plant Families: Botany, that much-neglected subject, is going to get a better deal this season. We hope to discuss a different family in each issue and introduce a bit of painless taxonomy as well.

The Heavens Above: A little calendar of astronomical events of the month padded with an article of the "gee-whiz!" kind about anything that tickles the editor's fancy.

We want the Newsletter to present you with the news, to entertain you, and to edify you--perhaps in that order. So read your Newsletter and keep informed, learn something, and have fun--we hope!

E. Talvila

P.S. If anyone wishes to become a sub-editor and contribute one of the above columns, the editor would be pleased to talk with you. Imagine a by-line of your own!  
Call 231-1064.

P.P.S. Next month we would like to publish an issue of members' field trips and experiences. Got any tales to tell? Please send them to Elmer Talvila at 11 Hartfield Court, Islington, Ont.

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

. . . A chairman for the Centennial Sanctuary Fund has not yet been appointed, as of press date. However, we expect this appointment momentarily and no doubt will have some news for you in the next Newsletter.

. . . The tiny coral atoll of Aldabra in the Indian Ocean is the scene of a real battle these days--a verbal one so far. It seems that the British Ministry of Defence wants to build an airfield, harbour, and road. The scientists object. The island is the last remaining home of the great land tortoise Testudo gigantea, the last breeding place of the frigate bird in the Indian Ocean area, the home of a flightless rail, and the nesting site of such rare birds as the sacred ibis and the pink-footed booby. The proposed developments would cause serious changes in the plant and animal life of this island and certain extinction for the rail. At last report the Royal Society is proposing that the island be made a sanctuary.

If worst comes to worst maybe Toronto could offer a helping hand. What better place for a flightless rail than the City Hall Council chambers? And the pink-footed booby obviously belongs in Yorkville.

. . . Musk-oxen are worth \$4,000 apiece--to the trophy-hunter. This year the Canadian Wildlife Service is permitting the shooting of 32 musk-oxen out of an estimated population of 12,000. It doesn't seem much but it looks to us like the thin end of the wedge.

. . . The newspapers are full of garbage these days. Etobicoke residents are fighting a garbage landfill scheme for 600 acres of ravine land. The Canadian Tourist Association says it costs Canadians more than \$50 million a year to remove litter from the highways, cities, and resort areas. (How do they get these figures?) And now Toronto's own Hydro-Electric System has been charged by Metro with air pollution at its Simcoe St. plant.

The world's going to end not with a bang or a whimper--but with a gasp as we choke on our garbage.

. . . Congratulations to Fred Bodsworth for winning the Doubleday Canadian Prize Novel Award for 1967! As most of you know, Fred Bodsworth is also an outstanding Canadian naturalist, and past president of the FON and the TFNC. His winning novel, published July 14th by Doubleday, is called The Sparrow's Fall. I haven't read the book yet, but the jacket talks about "the savage oppression of a relentless and impersonal nature." (Not Fred's, of course.)

. . . More parks have gone the way of all high-rises. The south side of Queen St. opposite City Hall must go, says the Board, and Aura Lee playing field near Ramsden Park is lost, and they never come back once they are gone.

. . . John Woods wrote this summer to say there would be no spring field notes for the TFNC. Reason? Only four observation forms were returned. This winter he is studying owls in the Toronto area with the assistance of a grant from the FON. Any member wishing to help John in this worthwhile study can best do so by letting him know of any owl roosts and concentrations of owls. Please contact Mr. John Woods, 69 Firwood Crescent, Islington (231-6673).

. . . My on-again off-again romance with postage stamps was definitely on-again when I saw that display of bird stamps in the ROM rotunda called "The Enchanting Bird World". Look for it at the October meeting.

. . . So the snowy owl is nesting for the first time in the British Isles. I hope the good islanders of Fetlar can guard the nest from its worst predator--the oologist or egg collector. He loves poached eggs. Fortunately his numbers have dwindled since the "great" egg-stealing days of the 1890's and 1900's.

. . . Space is bugged now. The latest group of passengers to make the rounds (47 orbits) included 10,000 vinegar gnats, 560 wasps, 1,000 flour beetles, 120 frog eggs, 875 amoeba, 13,000 bacteria cells, 78 wheat seedlings, 9 pepper plants, 10 million bread-mould spores, and 64 blue wildflowers. Seems they came down safely too--proving that humans resembling vinegar gnats, wasps, or frog eggs should do the same?

. . . Never underestimate the power of a bit of bad publicity. Those bloody shots of the seal pups last spring have caused a massive European boycott of Canadian sealskins, according to Dr. Sprules of the Dept. of Fisheries. Guess who's suffering the most? The Eskimo of the Far North who wasn't even there. That's ecology for you!

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COMING EVENTS

CBC-TV "True North" Series includes "Animals without Number", Thurs., Oct. 5, 10.30 p.m. EDT.

University of Toronto extension course in Natural Science taught by Armson (Trees), Baillie (Birds), and Cruise (Ferns and Wild Flowers) begins Wed., Oct. 4 at 8.00 p.m. For further information call 928-2398.

Royal Ontario Museum extension course in Archaeology, "Digging into the Past", begins Wed., Oct. 4, at 8.00 p.m. (10 lectures). For information call 928-2393.

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AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

With the noted Allan Cruickshank starting things off on October 10th, this year's series of Audubon Films appears to be at the same high level as last year's memorable series.

Allan Cruickshank needs no introduction to a Toronto audience. Many of us have seen his photographs, read his books, and enjoyed his films. For over 20 years Mr. Cruickshank has been photographing and writing about the wildlife of North America. He has photographed nearly all of the 800 species of native birds. His photographs have graced the pages of numerous periodicals: Life, National Geographic, Audubon Magazine, among others. His books include Flight Into Sunshine, Birds around New York City, and Wings in the Wilderness. His coming to Toronto is always an event.

On this visit he brings his film adventure, "Land of the Giant Cactus"--a seven-month photographic study of the mountains and desert of Saguaro National Monument and the surrounding country near Tucson, Arizona. To whet your appetite, here is a short list of some of the birds you will see: Bell's vireo, vermilion flycatcher, pyrrhuloxia, Mexican jay, acorn and Arizona woodpeckers, painted redstart, bridled titmice, five species of hummingbird, and much more.

All this and monsters (Gila), toads (horned), and rattlesnakes too!! It's too good to miss!

Remember--one of the best things you can do for yourself and the Club is to attend the Audubon Wildlife Films--with a friend.

Let's make every Film Night a sell-out!

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The following announcement was recently received from Peter Iden. As most of you know, Peter was the hard-working editor and publisher of the highly successful Toronto Bird-Finding Bulletin which stopped publication last spring. His latest endeavour, the Toronto Birdfinding Guide, is a worthy successor. I have studied this guide and found it to be everything he claims--an invaluable companion for the local bird-watcher.

Get your copy now--while there are still some left!

Announcing the Toronto Birdfinding Guide

Compiled and edited by Peter Iden  
Sponsored by the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club

- Features:--More than 100 birding places in the Toronto Region
- Two maps showing locations of birdfinding places
  - Detailed directions on how to get there
  - Best times for visiting each area
  - Special features of all birding spots
  - Records of notable bird sightings
  - Notes on public transportation and maps
  - Information on the 12 natural history groups
  - A consolidated index to all place names and bird species mentioned in the text

This comprehensive, 52-page travel guide for birders has no equal anywhere else in Canada. Twenty-eight well-known Toronto birders have contributed their records, their knowledge, and their efforts to making the T.B.G. an authoritative reference book for any birder resident in or visiting the Toronto Region. The regular price is \$1.50--to TFN members \$1.25--including tax and postage. An order form is provided for your convenience at the bottom of this page.

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EXPO-BOUND?

A word for those of you who haven't been to Expo yet--Go! And while you're in Montreal take an extra day to visit the spectacular Botanical Gardens on Sherbrooke St. It came as a real eye-opener to learn that Canada has such an internationally famous Gardens, ranking just behind the Kew Gardens and Berlin Gardens in the size of its plant collection.

With October almost here it's probably too late in the season to fully enjoy the outdoor gardens with their 20,000 species of plants--Indian garden, medicinal garden, aquatics, experimental and children's gardens, and many others. But take heart--you will now have all the more time to enjoy the wonderful indoor collection arranged in nine big greenhouses, each with its own theme. Here we wandered through rooms full of ferns, rain forests, begonias (350 kinds), cacti, bromeliads, and tropical flowering shrubs. One particularly fascinating room was full of tropical commercial plants such as coffee, tea, cocoa, guava, sugar cane, vanilla, and many others. Equally fascinating was the cacti and succulents collection which included a very rare and unusual plant,

.....  
To Mrs. H. C. Robson, Secretary,  
Toronto Field Naturalists' Club,  
49 Craighurst Avenue,  
Toronto 12, Ont.

Please mail \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the Toronto Birdfinding Guide to the name and address shown below. Cheque or money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

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Welwitshia bainesii, from S.W. Africa, featured recently in the National Geographic; Euphorbia obesa (a perfect name for it); Pereskia grandifolia, a beautiful cactus tree from Brazil; Araucaria angustifolium, the prickliest tree I've ever seen; and countless others.

Give yourself lots of time. I wandered about in a daze and emerged three hours later--reluctantly!

P.S. There's no nature at Expo--if you exclude lumber, tea plants, and the Mauritius pavilion.

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#### THE HEAVENS ABOVE--OCTOBER

- Oct. 2 - Sunrise at 7.16 D.S.T.; sunset at 6.59 D.S.T.
- Oct. 5 - Venus at greatest brilliance as a morning star.
- Oct. 8 - Mercury at greatest elongation from sun as an evening star, but hard to see.
- Oct.16 - Saturn disappears behind the moon about 8.00 p.m. D.S.T. and pops out an hour later. Saturn is bright all night this month in the constellation Pisces.
- Oct.18 - Full moon. Hunter's moon. A total eclipse of the moon visible throughout North America. The moon enters the umbra (earth's shadow) at 5.45 a.m. D.S.T. and leaves at 8.05 a.m. D.S.T. The middle of total eclipse is at 6.15 a.m. D.S.T. So get up early and look!
- Oct.21 - Orionid meteor shower. Interestingly enough this shower has been connected with Halley's Comet. But don't wait around for the comet--it isn't due until 1986! You should be able to see about 25 meteors per hour at the peak. The shower occurs from about Oct. 17 to Oct. 25.

(Above facts "transcribed" from The Observer's Handbook 1967 with the kind permission of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, 252 College St., Toronto 2B.)

#### What are Quasars?

Nobody knows--yet--what quasars are. The first of these quasi-stellar objects was discovered about seven years ago as the source of enormous radio energy. Surprisingly enough it turned out to have many characteristics of a star--the first radio star known. Now over 120 have been observed and astronomers are hard put to explain what they are.

One theory supposes them to be the most distant objects in the universe, receding from us at enormous speeds and emitting unbelievable amounts of energy--in fact 40 times as much energy as a typical galaxy of 100 billion stars.

Another theory proposes that they are actually comparatively nearby objects which somehow have acquired enormous speeds--perhaps from an explosion in our own or a nearby galaxy.

Which theory is right? Nobody knows--yet!

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## PLANT FAMILIES

### The Mustard Family--Cruciferae

The name of this family helps to identify it: crux, "a cross", and fero, "I bear", referring to the four flower petals which are arranged in the form of a Maltese cross. The family is a large one containing about 350 genera and 3,000 species, and mainly found in the north temperate and arctic zones. About 40 species of the family grow wild in the Metro Toronto region.

To identify this family look for the following characteristics:

1. The flowers are usually small and inconspicuous, the 4 petals forming a Maltese cross. Rarely, the petals may be missing.
2. Yellow is the commonest flower colour, but white, blue, and orange also occur.
3. There are 6 stamens, of which 2 are usually shorter than the other 4.
4. There are 4 sepals which are arranged alternately with the petals and usually fall soon after the flower opens.
5. The flowers are arranged in the form of a corymb, i.e., a flat-topped or convex flower cluster with pedicels (flower stalks) arising at different points on the stem, the outer flowers opening first.
6. The leaves are alternately arranged with no stipules and frequently form a whorl or rosette at the base of the stem. They may be simple or pinnate in shape.
7. They are all hairy herbs (not shrubby) and may be annuals, biennials, or perennials.
8. The fruit is peculiar to this family and is a kind of pod called a silique or silicle. The shape may vary a great deal but it is always divided internally by a thin partition into 2 compartments, each one usually containing many seeds. It usually splits upward when ripe.

Finally, here are the names of some prominent members of this family:

The eaten ones: cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, brussels sprouts (all Brassica oleracea); turnip (B. rapa), black mustard (B. nigra), radish (Raphanus sativus), garden cress (Lepidium officinale). Incidentally, the "hot" taste is due to mustard oil.

The beautiful ones: wallflower (Cheiranthus), stocks (Matthiola), candytuft (Iberis), sweet alyssum, rock arabis, honesty (Lunaria), dame's violet (Hesperis)

The wild ones: wild peppergrass (Lepidum virginicum), shepherd's purse (Capsella bursa-pastoris), yellow rocket (Barbaria vulgaris), watercress (Nasturtium officinale), tumble mustard (Sisymbrium altissimum), pennycress (Thlaspi arvense), charlock (Brassica arvensis)

The colourful one: woad (Isatis tinctoria), used by the ancient Britons to give them that blue look

The live one: the resurrection plant (Anastatica hierochuntica), which can be kept for many years on a shelf as a dry bale but which will expand and grow if put in water

The healthy ones: scurvy grass (Cochlearia) and Kerguelan cabbage (Pringlea), eaten by early mariners to prevent scurvy.

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#### ORCHID HUNTERS

The following letter was received last May, too late for entry in the May Newsletter.

"A group of members of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has had a long-term project to accumulate sight records of the occurrences of native orchids in Canada and to prepare easily usable consolidated listings of the sites. The method involves individual field work by each participant, the recording of species, abundance and location in an agreed format, and the submission of lists of data to a coordinator for collation and consolidation in a master list at the end of each growing season. The listing will provide the essential basis for studies of distribution and population changes, habitat characteristics and other subjects, eliminating in many cases the need for searching out plant colonies.

"With conservation of the orchid populations in mind, distribution of the locality listings will be severely limited. It is intended to deposit copies with the herbaria of the National Museum of Canada and the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa and to selected university departments, in addition to the copies received by participants.

"Early results from the project work are most encouraging, and it is intended to expand the coverage to the whole of Canada.

"Will you please bring this project to the attention of your members, and give them our cordial invitation to participate. Should anyone be willing to devote serious attention and considerable time and effort to this work, he should write and request detailed instructions.

Write to: E. W. Greenwood,  
Ramsayville, Ontario."

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Elmer Talvila,

Editor