



# TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER

Number 317

September, 1978



A new plant for Toronto

See Page 14

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND PUBLICATION SALES

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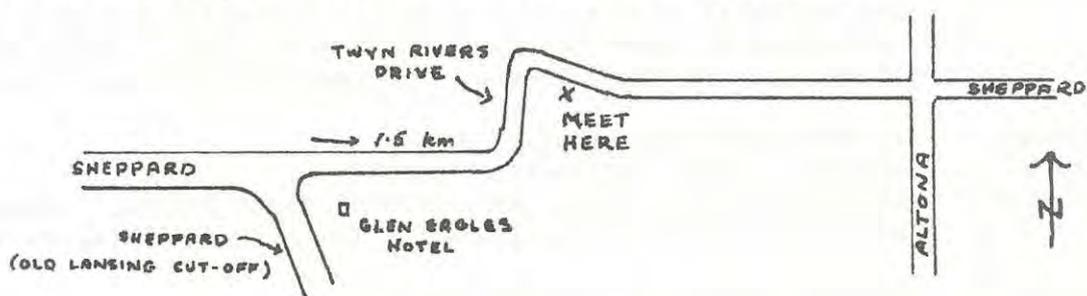


- Saturday  
Sept. 2  
10.00 a.m.      **BLACK CREEK - Ravine Walk**  
Leaders: Gwynneth Jones, Madeline Webb  
Meet in the parking lot on the north side of Shoreham Drive just east of Jane. (Shoreham Drive south of and parallel to Steeles.) Morning only.
- Sunday  
Sept. 3  
10.00 a.m.      **LESLIE STREET SPIT - Botany and Birds**  
Leader: Pat Temple  
Meet at gate entrance at the south end of Leslie Street. (Queen street car to Leslie Street; walk south. A "SPECIAL" bus serving the spit may be boarded at Queen and Leslie. Trip is free. Leaves Queen Street at 10.00 a.m. and every hour.) Wear good footwear and bring lunch to carry.
- Wednesday  
Sept. 6  
10.00 a.m.      **G. ROSS LORD PARK - Nature Walk**  
Leader: Jerina Jelinowicz  
Meet in parking lot on north side of Finch Avenue. (Take a Finch West bus at the Finch subway station. Get off at Wilmington Avenue.)
- Saturday  
Sept. 9  
9.00 a.m.      **TORONTO ISLAND - Birds and Botany**  
Leaders: Emily Hamilton, Steve Varga, Sheila MacKay, Peter Wukasch  
Meet at the Island Ferry Terminal at the foot of Bay Street to take the first available ferry. Bring your membership card and a lunch to carry.
- Sunday  
Sept. 10  
10.00 a.m.      **THOMSON MEMORIAL PARK - Nature and Historical Walk**  
Leader: Bill Dibble  
Meet at the parking lot on the west side of Brimley - 1 km north of Lawrence. Walk finishes at 12.00 noon.
- Wednesday  
Sept. 13  
10.00 a.m.      **GUILD INN WOODLOT - Nature Walk**  
Leader - Charlie Crosgrey  
Meet at the Guild Inn gate. (Take any Scarborough East bus at the Warden subway station. At the intersection of Eglinton Avenue and Kingston Road transfer to Eglinton East bus 34B going east. This bus goes into Guildwood Village. Get off at Phillips Road.)  
Cars go east on Kingston Road to Guildwood Village gateway. Turn south and follow road which turns east, to large Guild Inn sign.
- Saturday  
Sept. 16  
11.00 a.m.      **JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE - Nature Walk and Picnic**  
Leader: John Lowe-Wylde  
Cars only. Take Hwy. 401 to the Brock Road (interchange 64A). Brock Road to Uxbridge. Continue north on Durham Region Road #1 about 7 miles to Leaskdale, then a further 2.5 miles to Stevenson Side Road on right. Note TFN sign. Drive 0.5 miles to parking on south side of road. Much of the reserve is boggy - waterproof footwear would be practical. Bring lunch.
- Saturday  
Sept. 16  
10.00 a.m.      **CEDARVALE RAVINE - Ravine Walk**  
Leader: Jack Cranmer-Byng  
Meet in the Loblaws parking lot on the north side of St. Clair Avenue west, just east of Bathurst Street.

Sunday  
 Sept. 17  
 10.00 a.m. EARL BALES PARK RAVINE - Ravine Walk  
 Leader: Molly Campbell  
 Meet in the first parking lot on the right side of driveway just inside Bathurst Street entrance. Park is at Bathurst and Sheppard (south side). Lunch optional.

Wednesday  
 Sept. 20  
 10.00 a.m. TORONTO HUNT CLUB - Nature Walk  
 Leader: Laura Greer  
 Meet at gate. (Take Kingston Road #12 bus at Victoria Park subway station. Get off on Kingston Road at Hunt Club Property.)  
 Cars - Kingston Road 6 blocks east of Victoria Park Avenue.

Saturday  
 Sept. 23  
 10.00 a.m. CAPER VALLEY and ROUGE RIVER - Nature Walk  
 Leader: John Lowe-Wylde (284-5628)  
 Meet in the Caper Valley ski parking lot. Bring lunch.



Sunday  
 Sept. 24  
 10.00 a.m. ETOBICOKE CREEK - Ravine Walk  
 Leader: Paul McConnell  
 Meet at Marie Curtis Park, east side parking lot. (Take Horner bus from Islington subway station to the Long Branch loop. Walk a short distance west along Lakeshore Boulevard to the park.)

Wednesday  
 Sept. 27  
 10.00 a.m. GLEN STEWART RAVINE - Nature Walk  
 Leader: Fred Bodsworth  
 Meet in the parkette by the Nature Trail sign on Kingston Road just west of Beech Avenue traffic light.

Saturday  
 Sept. 30  
 10.00 a.m. ECHO VALLEY - Nut Tree Identification  
 Leader: Mary Smith  
 Meet in Echo Valley on the west side of Kipling Avenue. (Take Kipling bus and get off at bridge over Mimico Creek near Islington Golf Course.) Bring lunch and reference material about nut trees. Maps for locating trees will be supplied. This is a serious outing to identify nut trees in the area, and representatives of the Parks & Recreation and Southern Ontario Nut Growers have been invited.

Sunday  
 Oct. 1  
 8.30-4.00 LAKE ONTARIO - Birds  
 Boat Trip  
 See other page for complete details. (page 13)

Wednesday  
 Oct. 4  
 10.00 a.m. SHERWOOD PARK - Forest Walk  
 Leader: Mary Sudden  
 Meet at park entrance. (Take Nortown Eastbound bus from Eglinton subway station. Bus turns north on Mount Pleasant. Get off at Sherwood and walk east a block or two to park entrance.)

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the absence of Wes Hancock who is travelling in Western Canada and the U.S.A. until the first of October, I am reporting on what has been happening with the Toronto Field Naturalists since mid-April when the May newsletter was placed in the mail.

First is the news about the club's Ontario Municipal Board Hearing regarding the redevelopment of ravine land in East York. Although the decision which the Board released in mid-July was not what we wanted, we did make some points and I am sure that everyone participating in the hearing has no regrets. Not only did we learn more from listening to each other's evidence, but we carried the message about why natural resources are so important to people who would not normally have to listen to our point of view. For a further discussion of this issue, read page 10 by Brian Gray who presented our case to the Board.

Many issues of interest to naturalists were in the news this summer. One of the most important is the fate of the Niagara Escarpment Planning Commission. Our voices need to be heard. The escarpment is a natural resource of importance which must not be allowed to be destroyed by indiscriminate development. Letters to your local provincial members of parliament are essential. For further information on this issue, contact Lyn MacMillan at the office of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (444-8419) or at her home (485-5821).

Many of you have probably heard about the mowing of the wet meadows (a rare habitat in our region now) on the Toronto Islands by the Metro Parks Department this past summer. Others will be aware of the large pile of wood chips that is gradually choking out the vegetation in a wet meadow near the Toronto Bird Observatory. Although a letter has been sent from the club on this issue, letters from individuals are also needed. Club policies on the management of natural areas may be found on pages 30 and 31 of "Toronto the Green". Let your representative on Metro Council know that you care. (If you aren't sure who your representative is, call 367-8010.)

We are still looking for someone (a couple, perhaps) to take charge of mailing our monthly newsletter. The job involves being in charge of addressing envelopes (by an Elliott machine), stuffing envelopes (volunteers are provided), stamping envelopes (by postage meter), and getting the mail to the post office. Please call Muriel Miville at 463-8066 if you are interested.

A Chairman for the Botany Group is also urgently needed. Anyone with ideas about a program for the group, or who would be willing to expedite other people's ideas on this matter should contact Muriel Miville, our volunteer coordinator, at 463-8066.

And last, but not least: membership fees for 1978-79 are due now! A necessary increase in fees (due to rising costs) was approved by the members at the general meeting in May. We hope you will find renewal worthwhile and will consider the green sheet enclosed with this newsletter as your official renewal notice.

Helen Juhola, Vice-President

AUDITOR'S REPORT

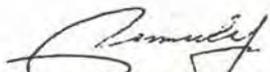
To: MEMBERS OF THE TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

I have examined the balance sheet of the Toronto Field Naturalists as at February 28, 1978 and the income statement and the statement of changes in financial position for the year ended February 28, 1978. My examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of the accounting records and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

Memberships, donations and other revenues are as shown in the books. These receipts have been tested by me to bank deposits. However, because of their nature, these revenues are not susceptible to complete audit verification.

In my opinion, subject to the limitation of the scope of my audit as explained above, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the corporation as at February 28, 1978 and the results of its operation and the source and use of cash for the year ended February 28, 1978, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

TORONTO, CANADA  
April 26, 1978

  
ALISTAIR J. KENNEDY  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB  
(Incorporated without share capital under the laws  
of the Province of Ontario)

BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT FEBRUARY 28, 1978

	<u>ASSETS</u>	1978	1977
		\$	\$
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash		12,811	2,519
Accounts Receivable		426	1,906
Accrued Interest		90	110
Short Term Investments		2,500	6,800
Inventory - at cost		2,099	2,547
		<u>17,926</u>	<u>13,882</u>
<u>Property and Equipment</u>			
Land		42,770	42,770
Building	3,050		
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>250</u>	2,800	3,050
		<u>45,570</u>	<u>45,820</u>
		<u>63,496</u>	<u>59,702</u>
Total Assets			
<u>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</u>			
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Accounts Payable		759	175
Government Grant (Note 2)		2,870	-
Unexpired Subscriptions		1,356	1,304
		<u>4,985</u>	<u>1,479</u>
<u>EQUITY</u>			
Balance at beginning of year		58,223	55,197
Income for year		288	3,026
		<u>58,511</u>	<u>58,223</u>
		<u>63,496</u>	<u>59,702</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity			
Working Capital: Dollars		12,941	12,403
Ratio:		3.60	9.40
APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD			

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 1978

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
	\$	\$
Cash Provided by:		
Operations		
Net Income for year	288	3,026
Add: Depreciation	250	-
	<u>538</u>	<u>3,026</u>
Current Accounts		
Accounts Receivable	1,500	(1,809)
Short term investments	4,300	4,251
Inventories	448	(2,058)
Accounts Payable	584	( 11 )
Wintario Grant	2,870	-
Unexpired Subscriptions	52	( 276 )
	<u>9,754</u>	<u>97</u>
	10,292	3,123
Cash Used for:		
Shelter at Baillie Nature Reserve	-	3,050
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,050</u>
Net Increase in cash for year	10,292	73
Cash at beginning of year	2,519	2,446
Cash at end of year	<u>12,811</u>	<u>2,519</u>

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 1978

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Membership Fees	9,098	9,321
Donations	2,883	634
Income earning programmes:		
Audubon Wild Life Films	947	482
Publications	595	1,023
	<u>13,523</u>	<u>11,460</u>
EXPENSES		
Subsidized programmes:		
Outings	56	( 218 )
Ontario Field Biologist publications	328	-
Advertising and Publicity	197	80
Donations and Affiliation fees	375	450
Honoraria	1,720	1,720
Legal	100	( 100 )
Mailing Expense	1,058	600
Meetings Expenses	1,313	1,571
Nature Reserve Insurance & Maintenance	1,024	217
Office Expense	267	565
Postage	3,119	2,556
Printing	3,925	2,456
Ravine Preservation - O.M.B. costs	438	-
Telephone	214	190
	<u>14,134</u>	<u>10,087</u>
Operating Margin (Loss)	( 611 )	1,373
Interest Income -		
Current	1,149	516
Refund of Mortgage Interest	-	1,137
	<u>1,149</u>	<u>1,653</u>
Cash Flow (Loss)	538	3,026
Depreciation	250	-
Net Income	<u>288</u>	<u>3,026</u>

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

DEPARTMENTAL INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED FEBRUARY 28, 1978

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Outings</u>	<u>Donations</u>	<u>Publi-</u>	<u>Ontario</u>	<u>Audubon</u>
	<u>\$</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>cations</u>	<u>Field</u>	<u>Films</u>
		<u>Activities</u>			<u>\$</u>	<u>Biologist</u>	
		<u>\$</u>				<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Revenue	26,358	9,098	3,988	2,883	2,570	2,895	4,924
Costs							
Advertising & Publicity	827	197				630	
Donations & Affiliation Fees	375	375					
Honoraria	2,070	1,720				50	300
Legal	100	100					
Mailing Expense	1,566	1,058					508
Meetings Expense	2,467	1,313					1,154
Nature Reserve Insurance and Maintenance	1,024	1,024					
Office Supplies	267	267					
Outings Expense	4,044		4,044				
Postage	3,675	3,119				556	
Printing, Publications, Films	9,902	3,925			1,975	1,987	2,015
Ravine Preservation - OMB costs	438	438					
Telephone	214	214					
	<u>26,969</u>	<u>13,750</u>	<u>4,044</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,975</u>	<u>3,223</u>	<u>3,977</u>
Operating Margin (Loss)	( 611 )	( 4,652 )	( 56 )	2,883	595	( 328 )	947
Interest Income	1,149	1,149					
Cash Flow (Loss)	538	( 3,503 )	( 56 )	2,883	595	( 328 )	947
Depreciation	250	250					
Net Income (Loss)	<u>288</u>	<u>( 3,753 )</u>	<u>( 56 )</u>	<u>2,883</u>	<u>595</u>	<u>( 328 )</u>	<u>947</u>

The attached notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT FEBRUARY 28, 1978

NOTE 1 - ACCOUNTING POLICIES

PROPERTY VALUATION

The Land and Shelter at the Baillie Nature Reserve are recorded at cost. The cost of the Shelter is being amortized on a straight line basis over its estimated useful life of 15 years.

NOTE 2 - GOVERNMENT GRANT

The Club received a Wintario Grant of \$2,870 to finance the production and publication of a Toronto Bird Finding Guide Book. No costs had been incurred at February 28, 1978.



"Let's call this Bird-Watch off --  
it's getting too dark to see!"

"FEATHER BRAIN"  
'78

# HELP WANTED

To keep our large club functioning properly we need volunteers for all kinds of activities. If you are interested in helping, either regularly or occasionally, please call Muriel Miville at 463-8066 (evenings or weekends). Just to get you thinking, here are some of the ways you can help:-

MEETINGS - Do you have ideas about:-

- a particular speaker,
- a particular topic,
- special meetings and/or activities, or
- how to make our meetings more warm and friendly?
- can you run a projector?

OUTINGS - Would you:-

- lead outings,
- assist in leading outings, or,
- like to help to coordinate our outings program?
- do you have suggestions for interesting places to visit?
- do you have a special interest in a natural history topic other than birds or botany?

STUDY GROUPS - Our study groups are:- Botany; Birds; Ravines; Waterfront.

Much can be learned from attending our study groups and we need people to report on these meetings to the editor of the newsletter.

We also need people who can represent our club at public meetings (both days and evenings) and people to write, type and prepare reports on such meetings.

JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE - We need people who will maintain trails at the Reserve and do occasional construction work.

JUNIOR FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB - Leaders and helpers are always needed for this group. Helping the junior club is a good way to learn as well as contribute.

NEWSLETTER AND PUBLICATIONS - We need people to write, edit, proofread, research, draw, type, write book reviews or clip articles of interest from the newspaper. Last, but certainly not least, we need people to stuff envelopes on the third Thursday evening of each month from August to April.

PHOTOGRAPHY - Did you know that the club has a photograph collection? Are you interested in taking photographs for club projects or letting us make copies of some of your photographs?

PUBLICITY - The club is represented at various meetings every year. We need people to man booths, make telephone calls, sell publications, prepare displays, prepare signs and artwork, write letters, etc.

If you can help, please give Muriel a call. When help is needed some one will telephone you to ask you to assist with a certain task on a certain day. You are under no obligation to say "yes" at any time and you won't have to explain why you say "no". Just having names and telephone numbers to call is half the battle when we are in need of help.

## TAYLOR CREEK OMB HEARING

It is my duty to report the results of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing in which the Toronto Field Naturalists participated in April. (The first part of the hearing which took place in January was described in the club's March newsletter.)

In short, in spite of objections by the Toronto Field Naturalists, the development of 22 luxury-priced homes on ravine land in East York was approved — although in a slightly modified form.

We had some strong witnesses; for example, Dr. John Andresen, a tree expert, testified that most of the trees on the site would die as a consequence of the cutting and filling necessary to develop the site. We had a planner from the Ministry of Natural Resources, our own planner, and a planner from the Borough of East York. All opposed the project; and the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Commissioner testified that some redesign of the project back from the valley slope would be mandated if the proposed Metroplan were in force. An East York science educator, David Joyce, testified as to the value of the site for science education. An East York alderman and three ratepayers spoke against the project. Helen Juhola presented the club's ravine study of the area, and Mary Smith criticized the landscape architect's report which had been presented on behalf of the developer. Nevertheless, we lost, and basically for the following reasons:

1. The area is zoned single-family residential and shown that way on East York's Official Plan. Of course, its use has been low density single-family residential, but the laws were drafted in a loose way to allow a much higher density redevelopment than presently on the site. In fact, it was probably not considered when the laws were drafted that a higher density could be engineered or that such could be economically feasible. So, in effect, there was a loophole in the zoning and official plan, and the Board refused to consider whether the existing zoning presented good or bad planning.
2. The development was approved by East York Council and by the local ratepayers although neither group really liked it, but they despaired of being able to stop some form of redevelopment on the site and "feared apartment buildings". If only they had held out a bit longer and had had more energy they might have been able to maintain the site as estate low-density residential.
3. The development was approved by Metro Council probably for the reasons given above. As well, Metro Council has no clearly articulated policy regarding land use in and abutting valley lands and ravines.
4. Both the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (MTRCA) and the Ministry of the Environment had reservations about the project, but both felt they lacked jurisdiction to consider the proposal as a whole. Only the Ministry of Natural Resources commented officially on the project as a whole. Unfortunately, the lack of clear policy guidelines and regulatory authority made these of little value before the Board.
5. We had great difficulty in getting public employees to state their professional views on the stand. Indeed some municipal planners who had stated they were personally opposed to the development became conveniently confused or unfamiliar with the development when testifying. They were

afraid to speak out against their employer's official position.

6. Experts. I could write volumes about experts, but the basic problem is that so many of them are employed by the development-construction industry and they just don't want to bite the hand that feeds them.
7. Finally, it is the basic philosophy of the OMB — and really of all planning and zoning law — to protect an owner's right to develop; therefore, a strict determination of the public interest is clouded by an allegiance to vested private development rights.

In its official decision, the OMB said: "It is perhaps disturbing that these lands should develop for the reasons given in evidence but at the same time, it should be recognized that an owner has a right to develop within the law". This appears on the same page that the Board says that it will not look behind the loosely drafted zoning by-laws, which allow this development, to determine if it is good or bad planning.

All is not doom and gloom, however. The development was pulled back from the valley edge a bit, although not enough. The sewer easement will be relocated to prevent some destruction of the wooded slope. Public access to the ravine will be provided, and the fill will have to be non-cohesive to prevent earth slides. As well, conditions of the draft agreement will be supervised by Metro Toronto rather than East York.

The role of the field naturalists was described by the Board as "invaluable if for no other reason than to demonstrate to the responsible authorities the degree of care and supervision that must be given to this proposed subdivision if the least possible damage under the circumstances, is to be done to the landscape".

Could another Trimontium happen in a ravine near you? Unhappily, the answer is yes, although there are some encouraging developments. Metro Toronto is preparing an Official Plan (Metroplan) with some strong statements about ravines, but it is a long way from approval. The City of Toronto is slowly adopting ravine control by-laws. A Metro Valley Land Study is underway which will hopefully make recommendations to curb development in and abutting major river valleys. Perhaps also this study will encourage consistent coordinated policy guidelines from the various Ministries. Such guidelines with respect to the environment and biological consideration of development are now lacking. The preliminary Metro Valley Land Study was submitted to the OMB, but disappointingly, it was given no weight and not mentioned in the decision. Only the strongest zoning and Official Plan statements can prevent development along ravines, and we have certainly not obtained these yet.

Brian Gray

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When you defile the pleasant streams  
And the wild bird's abiding place  
You massacre a million dreams  
And cast your spittle in God's face.

John Drinkwater.

OLTON POOLS: TO THE DEFILERS

**NATURE STUDIES - Fall and Winter 1978-79**



Sheridan College will be offering BIRD STUDY II (Intermediate to Advanced), commencing Wednesday, September 27, 1978, and continuing for 12 weeks. The instructor will be Rosemary Gaymer, and the course will be suitable for persons who have some understanding of birds beyond basic identification. Sessions will be varied in format and there will be a strong emphasis on the development of each participant's identification skills and observation.

Location: Main Campus, Sheridan College, Trafalgar Road, Oakville  
Time: 7.30 p.m. Wednesdays, commencing September 27, 1978  
Fee: \$40.00 (\$5.00 reduction for paid-up members of TFN)  
Further information: Continuing Education Division, Sheridan College, Trafalgar Road, Oakville. L6H 2L1  
Telephones -- 845-9430 (Oakville)  
823-9730 (Clarkson line)  
632-7081 (Burlington line)



**TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS BOAT OUTING**



Date: Sunday, October 1, 1978. 8.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Leaders: Red Mason and Jerry White  
Location: Lake Ontario, aboard the CAYUGA II  
(The boat will leave from the foot of York Street)  
Purpose: To see migrating birds such as jaegers, phalaropes, gulls, ducks, cormorants, etc.  
Transportation:  
By TTC - Bay bus to foot of Bay Street, walk west one block  
By private car - Pay parking lot opposite dock  
Requirements: Warm clothing; lunch; binoculars; cameras; your favourite bird book (Coffee will be available)  
Cost: \$11.00 per person. NO REFUNDS!! Tickets will be distributed at the dock just before boarding the boat.

Reservations must be received by September 22, 1978.  
Further information may be obtained from Bruce or Jerry White - 741-2363



Mr. Jerry White  
8 Monterrey Drive, Rexdale, Ontario. M9V 1S8

No. of reservations . . . . . Cheque enclosed \$ . . . . .  
(Make cheque payable to "Toronto Field Naturalists Boat Outing")

Name(s) . . . . .

Address . . . . .

. . . . . Telephone . . . . .

# OUTINGS REPORT...

## MIDSUMMER NIGHT PICNIC, 1978

Summer began with a bang for 84 members who attended our picnic at Serena Gundy Park. Although June 21st started out cloudy and threatened to spoil our plans, the evening was PERFECT with a full moon, and a good time was had by all. Why, we were even called "rowdy" by a mounted policeman!! I won't tell you the circumstances under which the policeman referred to us as rowdy, but I will say that both the police officer and his horse lingered and enjoyed our company.

Picnic dinners ranged from simple sandwiches to elegant repasts (worthy of any food advertisement) of chicken, fresh fruit, grilled steaks, etc. Brian Gray brought his banjo, Reid Wilson his guitar, and Wes Hancock a tape recorder filled with sing-along songs. These gentlemen helped to make our fire (and the picnic) a very enjoyable time for all. Yes, marshmallows were toasted!!

We all had a good time at the picnic and had an opportunity to meet and GET TO KNOW other club members. Let us continue this friendly spirit when we attend the outings listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Muriel Miville  
Co-ordinator of Volunteers

## LESLIE SPIT WEEK-END

The July 8th and 9th week-end at the Leslie Spit organized by the Waterfront Committee was a rewarding success. A booth set up at the gate and scopes in two separate spots attracted attention from the 200 visitors on Saturday, and Sunday's crowd of 700 visitors. Information on TFN's policy regarding the future of Spit was distributed and also literature from the Friends of the Spit. The public's response was very favorable; a number of people expressed interest in taking further action to help preserve the natural area. Visitor use in general has been way up this year, perhaps due to increased publicity. The week-end itself was given publicity by local newspapers and radio including the Sun, the Star and CFRB.

The Waterfront Committee would like to thank the dedicated volunteers who put in long hours in the sun. Special thanks are also given to the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Conservation Authority and the Canadian Wildlife Service who helped provide leadership and equipment.

Melanie Milanich,  
Secretary,  
Waterfront Committee

## A NEW WILD PLANT FOR TORONTO

On May 5, 1978, Elna Whiteside was searching a hillside in the Don Valley on an annual pilgrimage to admire a remnant stand of skunk cabbages and marsh marigolds when she spotted a plant that she could not identify and that she had certainly not seen on other outings to the area. After consulting all her plant books she was still mystified, so a sample of the plant was shown to Emily Hamilton who, after some searching, came up with the answer: Petasites japonicus. (See drawing on page 1.)

Checking with the Herbarium in the Botany Department at the University of Toronto revealed that a similar plant had been collected from Dufferin Island in the Niagara River. As well, Paul Catling suggested that Emerson Whiting might have collected a similar plant from Black Creek Valley.

A conversation with Mr. Whiting determined that he had indeed collected a plant of this species -- on April 25, 1975, from a colony of plants growing near a pond among soft maples and willows on the west side of Black Creek south of Lawrence Avenue. Mrs. Whiteside's plant was part of a colony growing among dogwood and cranberry viburnums on a wet hillside off Pottery Road on the east side of the Don Valley.

Where had these plants come from? Perhaps the following quotation from The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture by L.H. Bailey (Volume III, P-Z), 1917 holds a clue:

"The stalks are eaten as a vegetable after being boiled, and are also preserved in salt or sugar. The flower buds, which appear in February, are used as a condiment, as they have a slightly bitter but agreeable flavour. The plant has been advertized in America since 1900 by several dealers. Grows as high as a man and is useful for bold effects in the subtropical garden."

The plant, which is a native of Japan, produces a pale green flowering stalk about one foot tall early in the spring. As with native Petasites, or butterburs, the plant can be identified in summer by the large basal leaves which are produced after the flowering stalk has died down. Usually butterburs are found growing in disturbed areas and the colonies tend to disappear after a few years. It will be interesting to see how long these colonies persist and if more examples of this species will be discovered growing in other areas.

Helen Juhola

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The School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto, will be offering the following courses related to Natural History:

- The bog, the marsh, the swamp
- Canadian woods: their properties, uses and care
- Edible and poisonous mushrooms
- Endangered flora and fauna of Ontario
- Mushrooms - an advanced course

Details available from the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto, 158 St. George Street, Toronto. M5S 2V8. Telephone -- 978-2400

# TFN PROGRAM 1978-79

Tuesday  
September 5

Film Night --  
The Funks (seabird island off Newfoundland)  
The Rocky Mountains  
(From The Nature of Things - CBC)

Monday  
October 2

The Galapagos  
Mr. Don Baldwin  
Teacher, Upper Canada College, Toronto

Monday  
November 6

Spruce Grouse  
Dr. James Bendell  
Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

Monday  
December 4

Marsh Life  
Mr. Bill Carrick  
Free-lance film maker

Monday  
January 8

Plant Propagation  
Mr. R. Halward  
Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton

Monday  
February 5

Peregrines  
Mr. David Bird  
Macdonald Raptor Research Centre  
McGill University, Montreal

Monday  
March 5

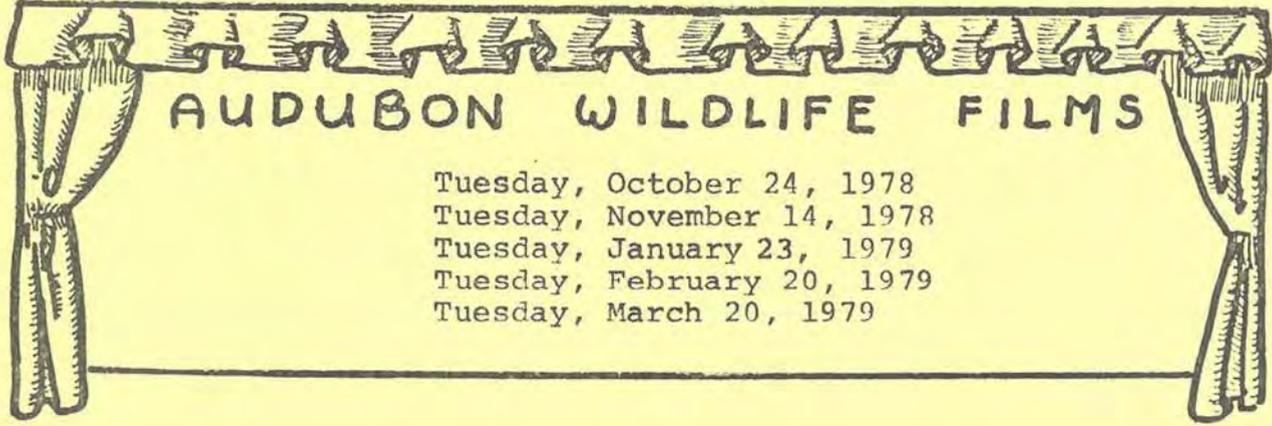
Penguins - Antarctica  
Dr. George Benjamin  
Benjamin Film Laboratories, Toronto

Monday  
April 2

Point Pelee  
Mr. J. Robertson Graham  
Chief Park Naturalist, Point Pelee National Park

Monday  
May 7

Annual Meeting  
Bird Photographs  
Mr. Ken Carmichael  
Free-lance wild life photographer



## AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Tuesday, October 24, 1978  
Tuesday, November 14, 1978  
Tuesday, January 23, 1979  
Tuesday, February 20, 1979  
Tuesday, March 20, 1979

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Articles and/or drawings for the Newsletter will be welcome and must reach a member of the Editorial Committee by the first day of the month. Articles may be anywhere from one or two sentences to 1500 words in length.