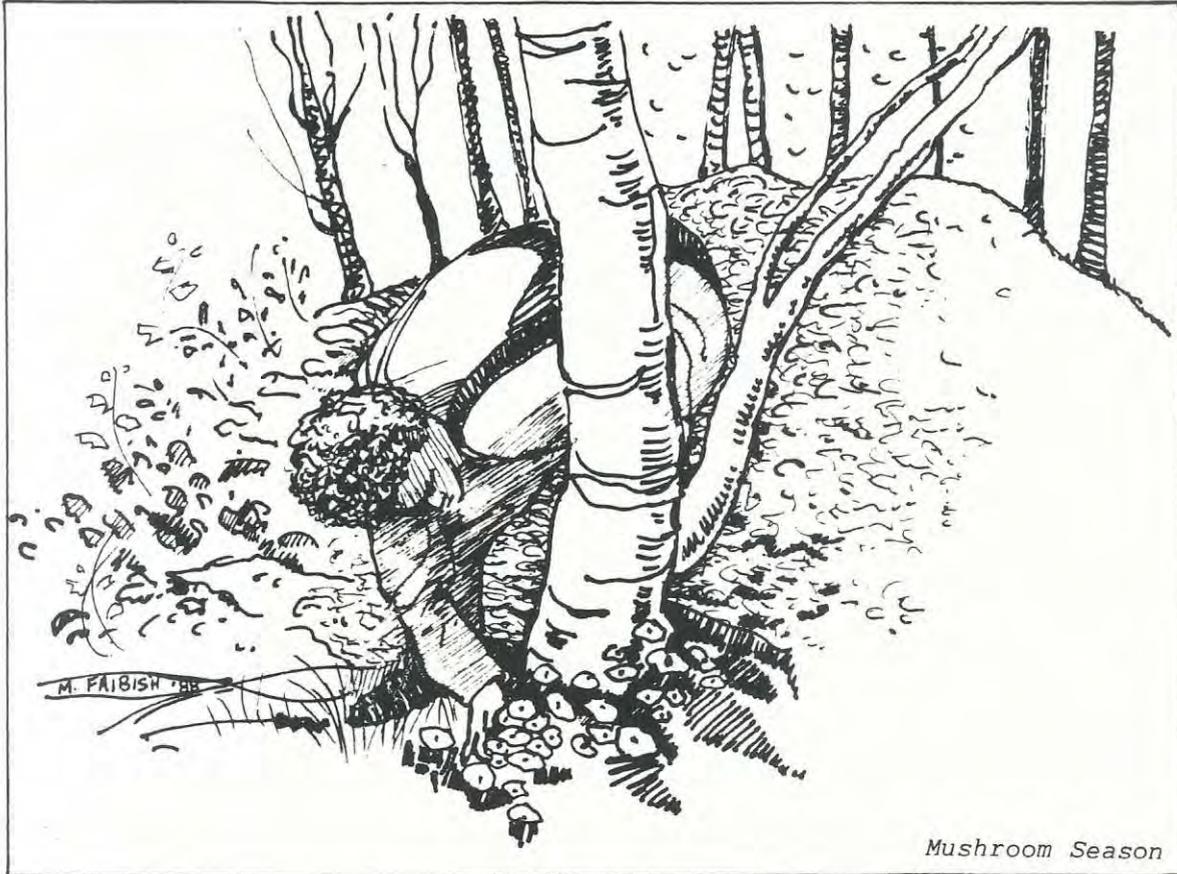




TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 403, April 1989



Mushroom Season

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TFN MEETINGS

Visitors welcome

General Meetings

Board of Education Centre, 6th Floor Auditorium
155 College Street, at McCaul

Monday, April 3 at 8 pm - WAINFLEET BOG: A CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY--
SO FAR by John Middleton of Brock University

- + social hour from 7 pm to 8 pm
- + a display of photographs by Helena Willcox
- + an opportunity to purchase TFN publications, hasti-notes, prints of selected newsletter covers, pins, decals and crests
- + easy TTC access (building is one block west of Queen's Park subway station)
- + free parking in the Board of Education garage on the west side of McCaul Street just south of College Street

Next General Meeting: Monday, May 1

Group Meetings

BIRD GROUP: Meetings will resume in September or October.
Call Ross Harris (921-5975) for more information.

BOTANY GROUP: Meetings will resume in September or October.
Call Dennis Clarke (255-1696) for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP: Meetings will resume in September or October.
Call Jenny Low (654-2439) for more information.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Helen Juhola (924-5806) 112-51 Alexander St., Toronto M4Y 1B3
Diana Banville (690-1963) 710 - 7 Crescent Place, Toronto M4C 5L7
Eva Davis (694-8928) 203 - 1080 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1N5
Eileen Mayo (445-4621) 405 - 44 Stubbs Dr., Willowdale M2L 2R3
Toshi Oikawa (425-3161) 1063 Pape Ave., Toronto M4K 3W4
Harold Taylor (225-2649) 264 Horsham Ave., Willowdale M2R 1G4

Please submit notices, reports, articles (up to 1500 words in length) and illustrations at least six weeks before the month in which the event is to take place or the material is required to appear. Please include address and telephone number so submission can be acknowledged.

Send news clippings to Louise Herzberg, 59 Hillside Dr., Toronto, Ont. M4K 2M1.

 (NO DOGS)	Upcoming OUTINGS	TFN 
RAIN or SHINE	Everybody Welcome!	

APRIL

Saturday KLEINBURG - nature arts northwest of Metro
 April 1 Leader: Mary Cumming
 1:15 pm Meet at the northwest corner of Steeles and Islington Avenues
 to take the bus north. Bus leaves at 1:15 and returns at 5:30.

Sunday MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY - trees Toronto
 April 2 Leader: Emily Hamilton
 10 am Meet at the entrance to the cemetery on the east side of
 Yonge St. north of St. Clair.

Wednesday LAWRENCE POND - nature walk East Don, North York
 April 5 Leader: Margaret Shanks
 1:30 pm Meet on the north side of Lawrence Avenue East at Woodcliff
 which is just west of the Don Valley Parkway.

Saturday THYRA RAVINE - treasure hunt Taylor Creek, East York
 April 8 Leader: Eva Davis
 10 am Meet just outside the Victoria Park subway station on the
 east side of Victoria Park, north of Danforth Avenue. Wear
 sturdy shoes and gloves. Bags will be provided.

OUT OF
TOWN

Sunday TINY MARSH - birds north of Metro
 April 9 Leaders: Phil Joiner & Ross Harris
 10 am to 6 pm Call Eileen Mayo (445-4621) if you want to attend. Confirm
 by sending a cheque for \$20.00 payable to TORONTO FIELD
 NATURALISTS TINY MARSH TRIP to Eileen at 405 - 44 Stubbs Dr.,
 Willowdale M2L 2R3. Bus leaves southeast corner of Yonge
 and Old York Mills Rd. (south exit of York Mills stn.).
 Bring lunch and drinks. Washroom on bus.

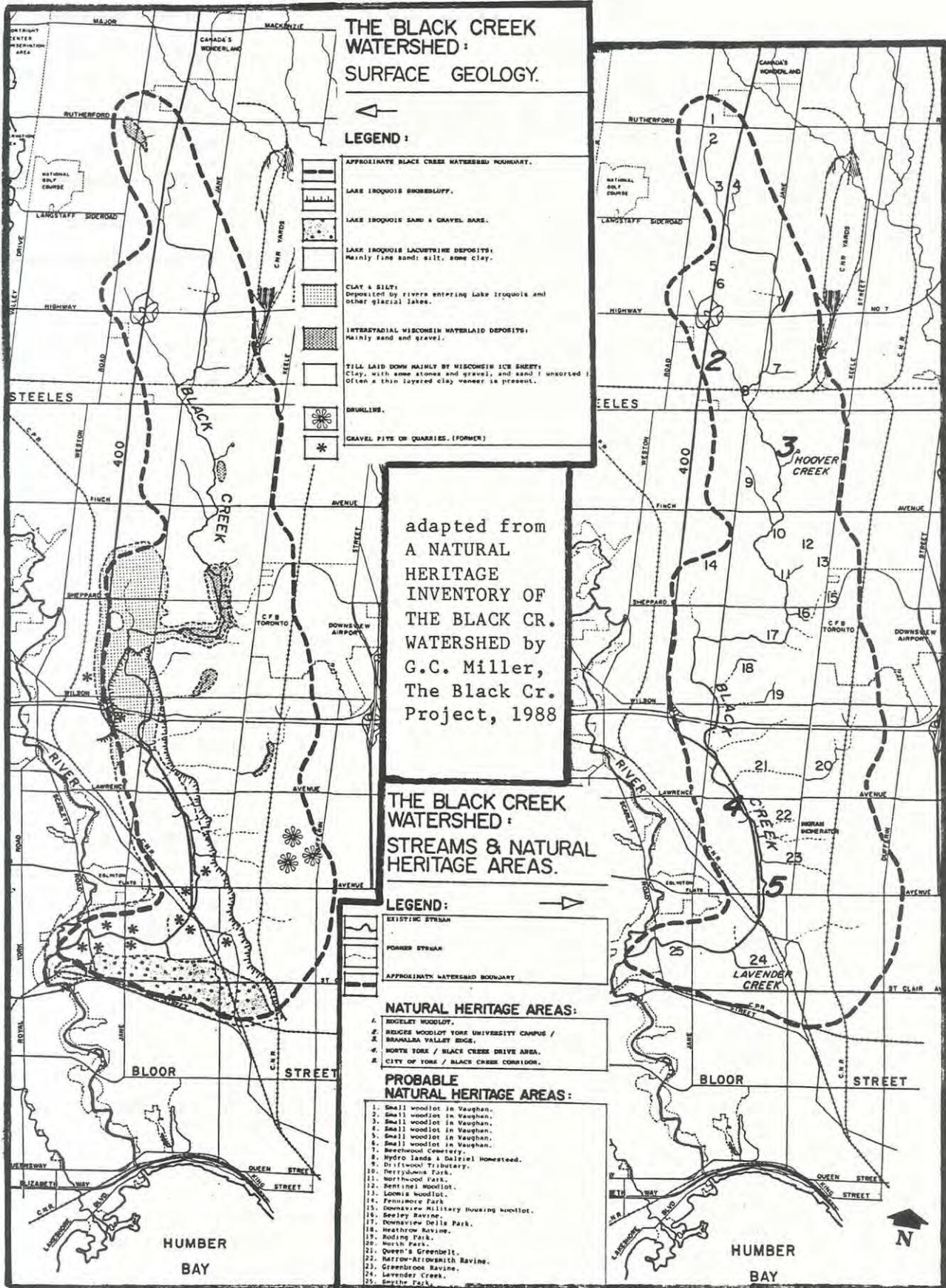
BUS
 FILLED
 See page 5
 for other
 bus trips.

Wednesday URBAN FOREST & OLD SHORELINE - nature walk Toronto
 April 12 Leaders: Mary Ruth Dakin & Helen Juhola
 1:30 pm Meet on the northeast corner of Mt. Pleasant & St. Clair Ave.
 East. Walk will end at another public transit stop.

Saturday TODMORDEN MILLS - treasure hunt Don, East York
 April 15 Leader: Eva Davis
 10 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Pottery Road
 which is west of Broadview and Mortimer. Wear gloves and
 waterproof footwear. Bags will be provided.



APRIL OUTINGS (cont'd)



APRIL OUTINGS (cont'd)

- Tuesday METRO ZOO - nature arts Rouge, Scarborough
 April 18 Leader: Betty Paul
 10:30 am Meet at the zoo entrance. Lunch optional. Bring sketching materials and a stool, cameras, or just come and enjoy.
- Wednesday HUMBER FLATS - nature walk Humber, York
 April 19 Leader: Nancy Fredenburg
 1:30 pm Meet on the southeast corner of Eglinton Avenue West and Jane Street.
- Saturday HUMBER BAY EAST - birds lakeshore, Etobicoke
 April 22 Leader: Howard Battae
 9 am Meet at the park entrance on the south side of Lakeshore Blvd. opposite Parklawn Ave.
- Sunday SMYTHE PARK - environmental issues walk Black Creek, York
 April 23 Leader: Gavin Miller
 2 pm Meet at the park entrance on the east side of Scarlett Road north of St. Clair Ave. West. This walk will end at a different public transit stop and will be a joint outing with the Black Creek Project. (the first in a series to be held the fourth Sunday afternoon each month) to learn about the protection and restoration of this "urbanized" waterway.
- Wednesday WEST POND - nature walk Toronto
 April 26 Leader: Isabel Smith
 1:30 pm Meet at the northeast corner of the Queensway and Coe Hill Dr.
- Saturday MORNINGSIDE SWAMP - botany
 April 29 Leader: Paul McGaw
 10 am Meet at the entrance to Morningside Park on the west side of Morningside Avenue, south of Ellesmere Rd. Bring lunch.
- Sunday HUMBER VALLEY - human & natural history Humber, York
 April 30 Leaders: Mary Lou Ashbourne and others
 2 pm Meet on the north side of Eglinton Avenue West at Emmett Ave. Walk will end at a different public transit stop.

...

- OUT OF TOWN Saturday CRAWFORD LAKE - birds, botany, archeology west of Metro
 May 13 Leader: Phil Joiner
 8 am to *Call Eileen Mayo (445-4621) if you want to attend. Confirm
 5 pm by sending a cheque for \$22.00 payable to TORONTO FIELD
 NATURALISTS CRAWFORD LAKE TRIP to Eileen at 405 - 44 Stubbs
 Dr., Willowdale M2L 2R3. Bus leaves southeast corner of
 Yonge and Old York Mills Rd. (south exit of York Mills stn.)
 Bring lunch and drinks. Washroom on bus.

...

- OUT OF TOWN Saturday JIM BAILLIE NATURE RESERVE northeast of Metro
 June 10 Leaders: TFN Directors
 8 am to Same as above but make cheque payable to TFN NATURE RESERVE
 6 pm TRIP.
 BUS *A reservation must be made before cheques can be accepted.
 NO post-dated cheques, please.

□

Keeping in touch

Dear Ms Juhola:

Feb. 1, 1989

As environment critic for the N.D.P. I receive the Toronto Field Naturalists' newsletter and have been meaning to write for some time to say thank you and that I enjoy reading it.

What prompted me to write at this moment was noticing, not for the first time, that one of the birding walks was to visit Humber Bay Park East. This park is in my riding and is a special interest of mine--I was unhappy that the lake was filled in the first place to create the park, but now that it's there I like it the way it is!

However, now that the City of Etobicoke has persuaded the Toronto Seaquarium Corp. to build Toronto's aquarium in the park I am concerned about the impact that will have on the peaceful setting. There has been no public comment on the effect of building the aquarium at Humber Bay (it is to be located on the existing parking lot) and most of my constituents are delighted that it is to be in Etobicoke. The City is not planning to have any public meetings or opportunity for discussion of the proposal and I am curious to know if your membership, for example, are happy with this plan.

I am enclosing a copy of a recent article on the aquarium for your information. (See page 35.)

Ruth Grier, MPP 965-8192 (Queen's Pk.)
Etobicoke-Lakeshore 259-2249 (Etobicoke)

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Jan. 23, 1989

Thank you for your letter addressed to the Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Finance. A copy of your letter was forwarded to me for reply.

The maple tree dieback issue which you raise is a problem for which the causes have not been assessed in a scientifically acceptable manner. While there are no satisfactory remedial actions known as of yet, your suggestions regarding companion planting and sugarbush management are among the measures which are being assessed. I am sure you can appreciate that it takes a long time before we can arrive at conclusive answers on the merit of any given technique. However, given the urgency of the matter, we have initiated an experimental sugarbush fertilization program which we hope will at least slow down, if not reverse, maple tree decay.

As you indicate, we will have to reassess our farming and forest management practices and find new ways of conducting them in a manner which is more ecologically responsible.

Thank you, once again, for raising your concerns with me. Please do not hesitate to write again should the need arise.

Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa
Dan Mazankowski

▷

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

To whom it may concern:

Feb. 1989

I live in the Bathurst, Eglinton area and have two feeders in my yard.

On Dec. 7, 1988 I saw two ringed turtle-doves ground feeding under a feeder. They were there again Dec. 11, 1988. I assumed they were escapees and probably wouldn't survive the winter.

On reading about ringed turtle-doves I discovered they are quite common and wild in warmer climates and now wondered if they had just strayed north.

They disappeared and I didn't see them for approximately seven weeks.

They reappeared, seemingly, in good health, Feb. 5, 6, 8, 9. It was then I realized that every day on which I saw them the temperature was -8°C or lower.

No sign of them Feb. 9 or 10.

If anyone has a sighting or knowledge of these two ringed turtle-doves please contact me. I am curious about them.

Saul Glickman (782-6716)

Dear Helen,

Feb. 22, 1989

As per your request I would report as follows on the Karner Blue Reserve situation near Port Franks. Lambton Wildlife Inc. [Sarnia Field Naturalists] completed the purchase of about 35 acres of prime Karner Blue habitat in the Port Franks Estates area of Lambton Co. This property is fenced and has a large sign on the adjacent street. Ben and Brenda Kulon and Gerry Clements deserve a lot of credit on this as well as the Ministry of Natural Resources, especially Terry Crabe.

On Jan. 19, 1989 the Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority chairman Don Lithgow announced that the Authority had purchased a 70-acre property adjoining the Lambton Wildlife property to further aid the survival of the Karner Blue butterfly and other Carolinian flora and fauna and their oak savannah habitat.

The Conservation Authority property has a 20-acre wetland and a 50-acre sand dune complex and was known locally as the Armstrong property.

The Nature Heritage League through their Carolinian Canada Program provided 100% funding for the purchase. The Authority will manage the property for Carolinian species. The public may visit the property but no hunting is allowed.

The Karner blue was first reported in the Pinery area on June 25, 1936 by me. This was where Pinery Provincial park is now located. On July 6, 1978 I discovered the Port Franks/Yogi Bear area had Karner blues. If interested in reading further history please refer to the Toronto Entomologists' Association Occasional Publications Numbers 12-81, 13-82, 14-83, and 15-84 as well as the Dr. Dale Schweitzer and Dr. Laurence Packer reports since then.

Quimby F. Hess

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Dear Environmentalists:

Feb. 20, 1989

As you know, the Prime Minister has confirmed my appointment as Minister of the Environment.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve as Acting Minister since last December 12. Canadians confronted by threats to their environment have impressed me greatly by their dedication and hard work.

Recently, I witnessed first-hand the dreadful effects of a major oil spill on our west coast. That event has strengthened my determination to work with organizations such as yours to ensure that Canada remains a world leader in the struggle to protect the increasingly threatened global environment.

I am very enthusiastic about my new and challenging appointment, and I look forward to working with you on a comprehensive environmental agenda and action plan for Canada. You can count on my firm commitment and leadership in this vital task.

Lucien Bouchard, Ottawa
Minister of the Environment

Comment: Write to him with any concerns you have:

The Honourable Lucien Bouchard, Minister of the Environment
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0H3 (no postage required)

Dear Sir:

Feb. 17, 1989

During the last few months, Canadians have expressed a growing concern over the environment. Environmental Activists have been quick to point out that it is time we address environmental problems in both a global and local manner. That is why Canadians will play host to the first Summit on the Environment.

For one week in September, the Don Valley in Toronto will be the setting of conferences and expositions highlighting environmental concerns. Hopefully, the Summit will also provide the necessary impetus to return the approximately 2,000 wasted valley acres to their natural state.

Thanks to the support of Loblaw Companies and the Canadian Environmental Network, we are certain that the Summit will be of the highest calibre. Friends of the Earth will also use this occasion to launch an Environmentally Friendly Consumer Campaign.

We are certain that the ideas emerging from the Summit will form the basis of a new Industrial Strategy for Canada which will reflect the reality of global economic integration while responding to the Bruntland Report's recommendations of sustainable development.

We hope to see you in Toronto.

Dennis Mills, M.P.
Broadview-Greenwood

Comment: Environmental!!!--on the floodplain of the Don Valley!!! Money spent on so-called "cleaning up" of the Don would be better spent on buying land in the rapidly developing headwater area of the Don.

HJ

▷

KEEPING IN TOUCH (cont'd)

Some thoughts on the Summit on the Environment in the Don Valley and the letter from Dennis Mills, M.P.

- "During the last few months..."?? We want to be as positive as possible about the Summit. At the same time we wonder how much value it will have when its leaders don't seem to recognize that naturalists have been pressing for attention to environmental problems (including those of the Don Valley) for 40 years or more.
"wasted valley acres" - "wasted" by whose definition?
- These lands are a home for wildlife and a place of enjoyment for people who enjoy nature. Does "wasted valley acres" mean no one is making any money out of them!
- Governments and industry are fond of quoting the term "sustainable development" as applied to concerns for a better environment. Are they prepared to admit--and act upon--the realization that, in some directions sustainable development means less development, or even no development?

We urge members to become as informed as possible about the Summit. Comments - pro or con- should be addressed to Mr. David MacDonald, M.P. or Mr. Dennis Mills, M.P. Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6.

HT



AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE

We are interested in hearing from members who have nature hobbies and crafts they would like to show during the Social Hour preceding General Meetings. Those willing to display their art, photographs, crafts, hobbies, please contact Betty Paul at 224-0793.

*The first day of spring,
I reflect. Water reflects
white clouds in puddle.*

haiku by Helen Juhola

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

THE SUMMIT ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE DON VALLEY

The site chosen for The Summit on the Environment is reclaimed parkland in the Don Valley, right in the heart of Toronto, judged one of the world's most liveable cities. The same techniques and equipment that were utilized so successfully to create Summit Square for the 1988 Toronto Economic Summit will be used to form an exciting conference and exposition centre for The Summit on the Environment in the Don Valley.

Over 300 Industrial Products
Over 300 Consumer Products
Environmental Groups

September 10-17, 1989
Toronto, Canada

Rosedale Valley Rd.

Beginnings

J. Murray Speirs and Doris Huestis Speirs are among the best-known of Ontario's naturalists. Indeed, their work has been recognized and applauded far beyond our provincial borders. Following his retirement from the Zoology Department at the University of Toronto where he taught for many years, Dr. Speirs has been the Ontario Coordinator of the Breeding Bird Survey. Many of his own findings were published in his widely-read two-volume BIRDS OF ONTARIO, (Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., 1985). For over 50 years he and Mrs. Speirs have been birding companions. Doris Huestis Speirs was President of the Toronto Junior Field Naturalists Club in 1950-51. Her long and keen interest in the evening grosbeak led to her contributions to the authoritative LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS compiled by Arthur C. Bent. Her published papers were on the eastern evening grosbeak, the western evening grosbeak, and the Mexican evening grosbeak. In the same series of life histories Mrs. Speirs also co-authored, with Dr. Speirs, the paper on the Lincoln's sparrow. It's a pleasure to present the following accounts of two naturalists' beginnings.

H.T.

My interest in birds dates back to age 5, when an older brother obtained, as a prize for excellent violin playing, a copy of Neltje Blanchan's BIRD NEIGHBOURS. This was a copy with good colour illustrations (the copy we now own has only one colour illustration--of goldfinches). With this book I was able to identify a ruby-crowned kinglet that was passing through our Toronto garden during migration. This accomplishment was much praised by parents and stimulated other identifications and I was hooked on "birding".

One of my public school teachers further stimulated my interest in birds and other fields of natural history. In my early teens I was compiling yearly lists of birds seen and this soon blossomed into daily lists of birds seen or heard. This led into numbers of birds noted each day, and then into daily diaries with notes on species of special interest, both birds and other vertebrates. Frequent field trips with other boys and girls followed.

I was a member of the Toronto Field Naturalists Club from its earliest beginnings and one of the earliest presidents of the Junior Field Naturalists (I believe that Dr. Fred Ide was earlier and perhaps Barbara Jaquith). This would be in the early 1930s. I was also active in the Intermediate Field Naturalists in the later 1930s (when Jim Baillie headed up this group). We published a magazine called THE CHAT and undertook the first detailed "quadrant study" done in Canada, in a field in Armour Heights (northwest of the junction of Bathurst and Wilson Avenues)--now well built up.

J. Murray Speirs

BEGINNINGS (cont'd)

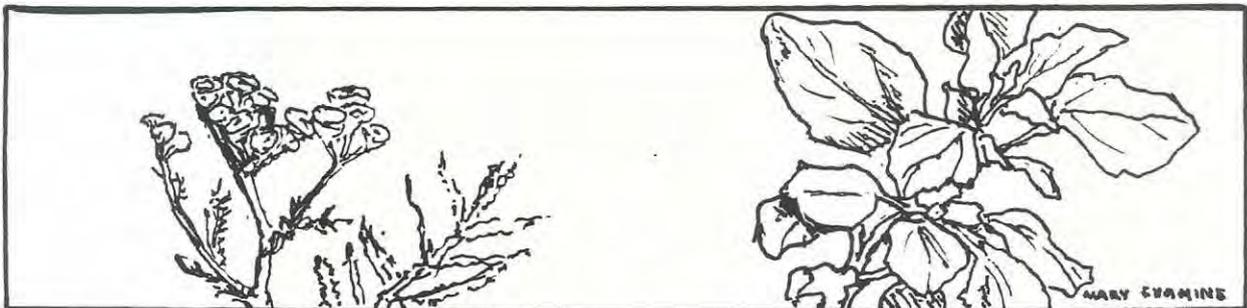
As a baby, I have been told, my first word was "See". I had been placed on the library rug, as soon as I could sit up. A great dictionary was put on the floor beside me. Very carefully I commenced turning each page, and at each picture of a bird or animal, I would point upwards to nurse or mother above and say: "See?" As my older sister was not quite two years older, and my younger sister just recently born, I was happy and occupied for long periods on the library rug. And out of the way. A bird-watcher had arrived.

Our nursery in Toronto had two wide dormer windows facing south, with radiators beneath them. I was soon learning to reach the east dormer and keep warm so near the radiator. I spent much time looking down at the neighbour's conservatory, in which were nesting canaries. "Old Mr. Knowlton" loved children and would greet me and take me into the conservatory. It was like a forest wonderland for me, as he had beautiful tropical plants and flowers, as well, and the yellow birds flying freely among them. When I was older he encouraged me to turn the east dormer into a nesting place for a pair of my own canaries. I studied every movement of the birds and was even successful in having my precious pair produce fledglings. But, alas, the father died suddenly. I was taken in haste to Easton's to buy another Hartz mountain canary. But they had none. I bought then an English canary (of a much darker yellow). Alas, he was no father, although a male had been purchased. But he knew nothing of the "breeding cycle", this strange bachelor. So the young did not survive. "Mrs. Dicky" had to be just a canary in a cage. But I had learnt a great deal in the meantime. I was ready then to discover our Canadian birds.

A few years later when I was grown up, I was at an inn by the sea. At the next table were two ladies who were experts at identifying birds. It was May and many warblers were on migration. During meals they would see something through a window and jump up to find out the owner's identity. They showed us pictures of the bird discovered, and I was amazed at the beauty of these tiny visitors. Each mealtime introduced us to another little marvel. By the time the holiday was over, I had become a bird-watcher in truth. The fascination and joy of this research (so much more than a "hobby") is enriching my days.

Doris Huestis Speirs

□



common tansy

lamb's quarters

Nature Arts Group Report

SPRING AND SUMMER, 1988

On May 7, a group of eight, including three new members and Betty Paul, enjoyed a warm, 17°C, sunny day at Riverdale Farm. Young goats, pigs, and guinea hens and flickers provided background music for the sketchers. After lunch, and viewing each other's work, some continued to paint and sketch into the afternoon.

On May 18, at Metro Zoo, sunny 17°C, five attended. I quote from Diana's report:

"Since we were such a small group, we took one of the trails in the core woods to find wildflowers. It was so pleasant there that the outing almost turned into a botany walk, identifying violets, ferns, and other plants. We decided to eat our lunch on the logs scattered about, along with the chipmunks and squirrels - after sketching trilliums, blue cohosh and general forest scene with denizens. Emerging from our hideaway in the woods, we found a picnic table at which to compare our work and look at photographs."

On the day of Paul Harpley's outing to the Metro Zoo on May 28 it was sunny and clear but very hot, 30°C. The four who attended had a good day and sketched rhinos, cougars and wapiti.

July 2 was also sunny and hot, 30°C; part of the group studied trees on the tableland at Glendon Hall with Helen Juhola while others, with Diana Banville, sketched views of the West Don from a bridge in the valley below - where both groups met later to walk through the valley to Sunnybrook restaurant for lunch. After lunch they examined some examples of botanical art, compared materials and viewed the sketchers' morning work and other recent work. Several new members were among the participants. We felt pleasure walking on wood-chip trails instead of asphalt, and many expressed the enjoyment of a "feeling of wilderness".

At Ernest Thompson Seton Park on June 4 - a sunny and pleasantly warm day, 22°C, Betty Greenacre had both sketchers and photographers in a large group of fourteen. On any one of Betty's outings she first gives a few pointers (e.g. how to reflect more light on to the subject by using a card covered with tinfoil), then as photographers go to work, she will answer questions and help where needed. On this



A potted aroid sketched by Lenore Patterson at Harbourfront

NATURE ARTS GROUP REPORT - cont'd

particular outing one member was learning to use a new camera, and Betty was very helpful. At lunchtime we placed two picnic tables in the shade, had lunch and passed around photos and sketches.

Other outings during the summer were at Colborne Lodge, Muir Gardens, Queen's Park, and Harbourfront. The weather continued to be sunny. As we head into another summer, more "sunny and warm" weather would be "nice" - only a little less humidity, please!

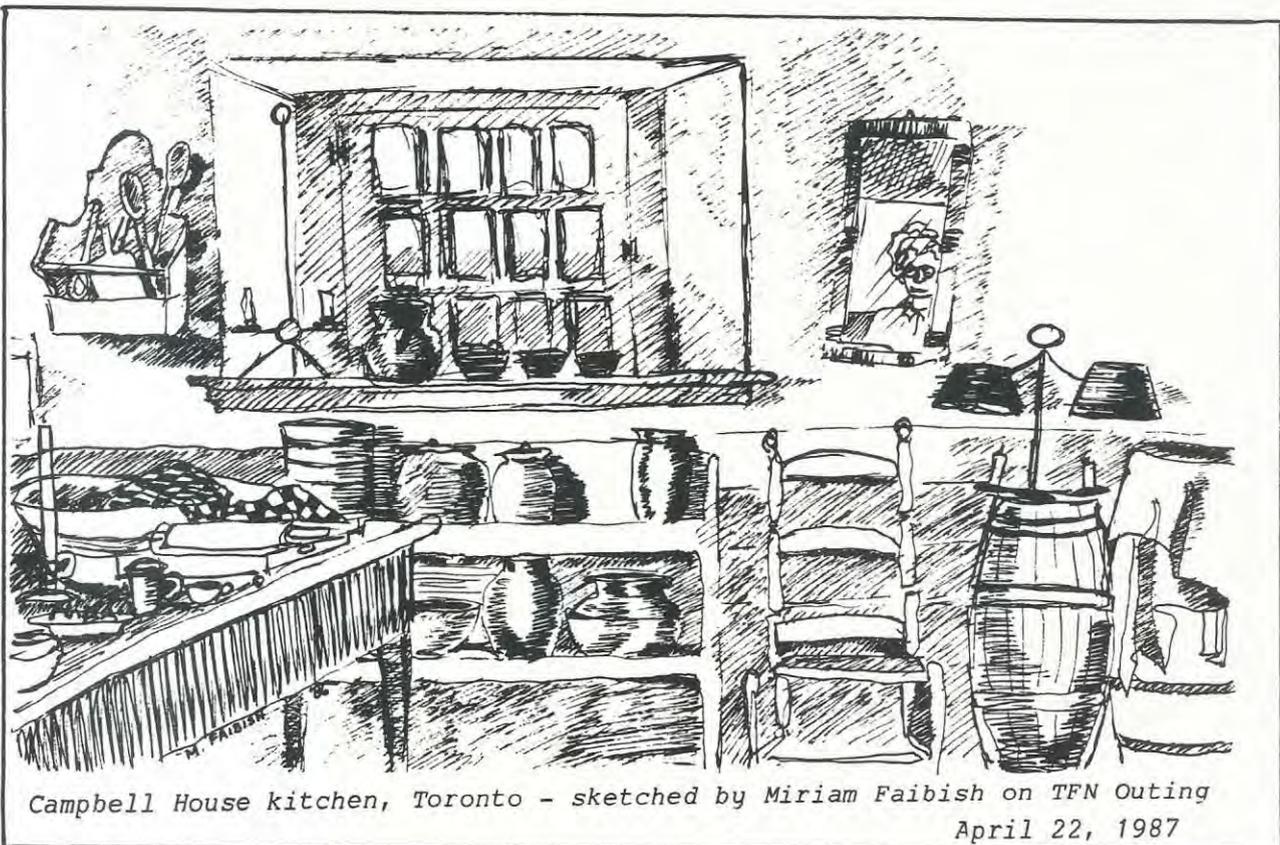
The Nature Arts Group would like to hear from anyone who can:

1. suggest a new location for an outing
 - a. must be accessible by public transportation,
 - b. if an outdoor location, must have shelter near in case of rain,
 - c. must have washroom available
2. act as leader for an outing, or knows someone else interested in some aspect of the arts who could be a leader.

Please contact: Helen Juhola 924-5806
 Betty Paul 224-0793
 Mary Cumming 699-6532
 or TFN Office 968-6255 (leave message on answering machine)

Joye Cave

□



Campbell House kitchen, Toronto - sketched by Miriam Faibish on TFN Outing
April 22, 1987

Nature Reserve Report

Yes, the TFN has benefited from the "untaxing of nature" described in the article on page 18.

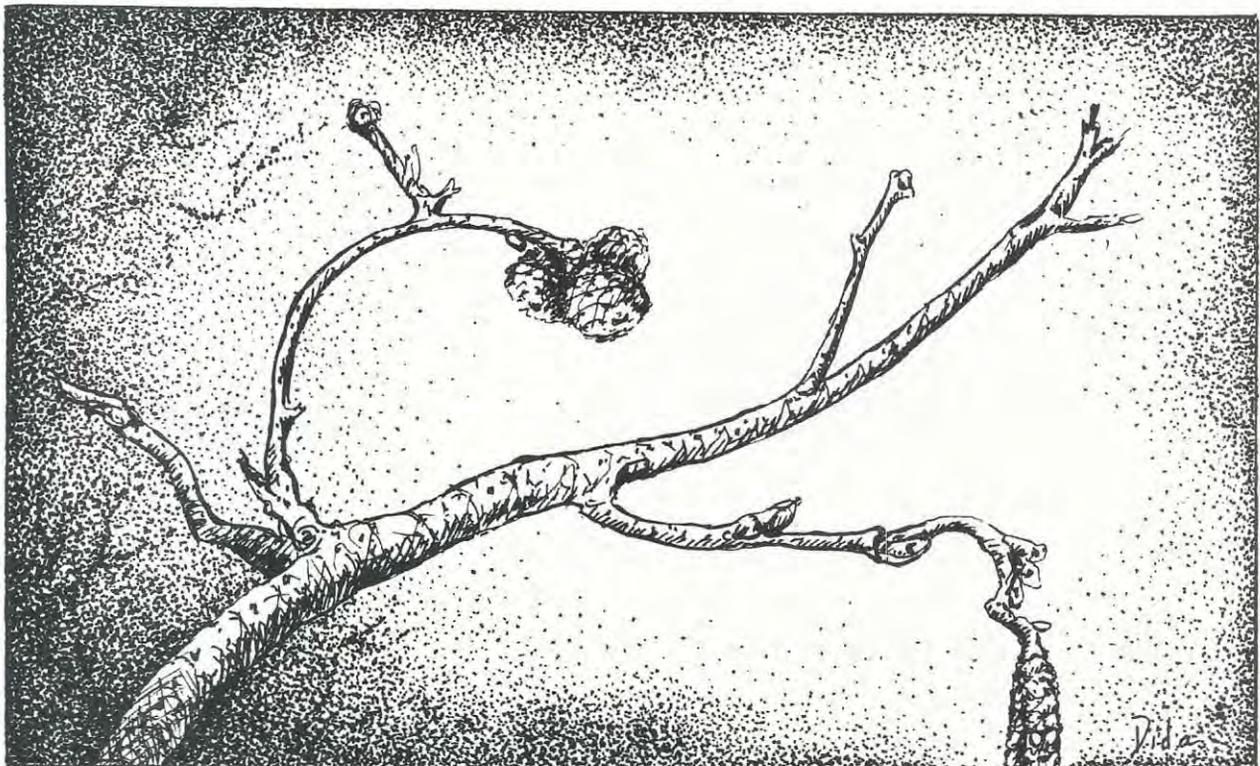
On the original reserve the TFN receives a 100% tax rebate on 82 of the 87 acres under the Managed Forest Rebate program. On the new reserve, the TFN receives a 100% tax rebate on the entire 75 acres, 1/3 under the Farm Tax Rebate program for the portion rented to the tenant farmer and the balance under the new Conservation Land Tax Reduction program.

Aarne Juhola
Secretary/Treasurer TFN

Comment: Our thanks and a bouquet to Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources, whose new policy rewards environmental stewardship.

Send your remarks on this excellent new policy to
Mr. David Peterson, Premier, Province of Ontario, and
Mr. Vincent Kerrio, Minister of Natural Resources, Queen's
Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2.

□



Speckled Alder with second-year male catkins ready to dispense pollen to fertilize the female flowers. Pictured, however are persistent female "cones" of other years. Spring, Jim Baillie Nature Reserve.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORT

for February 20, 1989

"Lake Ontario really is a sinkhole for what comes out of all the other lakes", says Sarah Miller, of the Canadian Environmental Law Association. She and Pam Millar, of Pollution Probe, were the guest speakers at our February meeting on water pollution.

They have helped put together the Lake Ontario Organizing Network (LOON), which is a lacework of local environmental groups from all around Lake Ontario interested in nursing the lake back to health.

The stated goal is to get source reduction of pollutants, working towards zero discharge. According to Sarah Miller there has been pretty even participation by citizens both north and south of the border.

An International Joint Committee between Canada and the U.S. meets every two years to discuss the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. It meets again later this year from October 11-14 in Hamilton. To juxtapose the concerns of citizens to the governments' agenda, LOON is rallying support for a parallel citizen's summit. Citizen participation is remedial action plans (RAPs) is one of the ways in which LOON is getting vital ideas from the grassroots.

The Source of Problems - Lake pollution is caused in large part by discharge from industry and sewage treatment plants.

The dischargers who are dumping directly into the lake are difficult enough to stop, halting indirect dumping is even harder. Indirect dumping occurs when industries discharge into sewage treatment plants.

Sometimes during storm run-off the plants can't handle everything, so sewage bypasses the system without being treated, rather than being held in detention tanks until it can be handled properly.

Pollutants are also coming from areas that no official body is monitoring i.e. toxics filtering in from the Upper Lakes.

Lake Facts - It has been estimated that it would take 20 years to flush 90% of the pollutants from the lake--if no new pollution enters it.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 505 kilograms of toxics are dumped into the Niagara River each day. Over half of these are legally permitted discharges.

A draft Lake Ontario Toxics Management Plan (1988) lists 46 industrial dischargers in New York and Ontario, and 15 large municipal waste treatment plants.

According to a 1988 report by the environmental group Great Lakes United, there are no enforceable standards governing pollution under Canadian law. Ontario has developed the Municipal and Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA), which monitors 300 direct industrial dischargers. However, MISA has been criticized for its failure to address indirect discharge.

According to a LOON newsletter, there have been PCBs found in mothers' milk, trace amounts of dioxins in foods grown in and around the lake, and reproductive problems in lake wildlife.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT (cont'd)

"One-third of the Canadian population lives on the shores of the Great Lakes. More money should be spent cleaning them up", says Sarah Miller. "We hope that we can get strong cooperation from citizen groups and individuals for LOON. People realize that this has got to be a lake-wide campaign since it takes an ecosystem approach to reach our goals", says Pam Millar.

How you can get involved - Attend a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) meeting. The next one is on March 20, at OISE, 252 Bloor St. West, Room 4-468, from 7 pm to 10 pm. This is your chance to learn about what can be done. You don't have to be an expert on lake pollution. For more information about other meetings and how to get involved, call RAP facilitator, Jim Martin at 453-7422.

Jennifer Low

Water Pollution Action Line

For chemical or industrial spills observed, call:
Ministry of the Environment 424-3000.
After hours call Susan Arakqi, Enforcement Officer,
at 965-9619.

For silts and sediments causing turbidity, such as
from construction sites call: Metropolitan Toronto
and Region Conservation Authority,
Dave Williams at 661-6600.

from THE MILNE MONITOR,
spring 1988, the newsletter
of the Milne Park
Conservation Association.

Milne Park is in the Rouge
River watershed just south
of Markham, Ont.

RECYCLE . . . RE-USE . . . REDUCE . . . REJECT

Maybe what we need is a new definition for the word "Garbage".

"Garbage: A mixture of resources waiting to be sorted and reused."

...We can't throw anything out. There is no out. Everything is in the system. Everything we put into the system comes back to us. When we put poison into the sea, it comes back to us in our fish. When we put poison in our soil, it comes back to us in our bread. When we put poison into our air, it comes back to us with every breath.

Recycling is nature's way of handling wastes, and it must be ours. One creature's wastes are another's food. Toxins are transformed. Crumbling rock remineralizes soil. The great circle turns.

Recycling is the only sustainable, ecologically responsible system for transforming our waste problem into new economic opportunities which enhance, rather than degrade, our quality of life.

from The Permaculture Activist's February 1988 reprinting of an article from ECOLUTION, the Eco-Home Newsletter, 1987.

TFN Library Report

August, 1988, to January, 1989

At the beginning of this year, Yuji Sakuma made a donation of seven books, for the most part on bird subjects: Two by Roger Tory Peterson: BIRDS OVER AMERICA and THE BIRD WATCHER'S ANTHOLOGY, as well as WILD AMERICA by Peterson and James Fisher, NORTH WITH THE SPRING by Edwin Way Teale, L. L. Snyder's ONTARIO BIRDS and his ARCTIC BIRDS OF CANADA. A GUIDE TO BIRD SONGS is the seventh, by Aretas A. Saunders.

Emily Hamilton has again sent us a subscription to NATURE SOCIETY NEWS. You may have noticed we use this newspaper as a source of photos from which drawings of birds are made as illustrations for our newsletter.

As well, much material for our library files has come in: From Christine Hanrahan, West Canada and Temagami conservation literature; from Gloria Somerville, Florida checklists, butterfly gardening literature, summer/fall edition of DO IT newsletter of Pollution Probe, spring and summer editions, 1988, of PROBE POST, ZOO NEWS, NATURE CANADA BOOKSHOP catalog, 1988-89. From Melanie Milanich we received FRIENDS OF THE TREES 1988 INTERNATIONAL GREEN FRONT REPORT. From Irene Hector we received a TWEED NEWS item on the cattle egret. Molly Campbell donated a GLOBE & MAIL item on monarch butterflies. We also have received the Rainforest Action Network ALERT #31 of November, 1988, from Christine Hanrahan. Bird pictures were received from Mary Cumming and an article on cranberry plantations from Mary Louise Stewart.

From this variety, perhaps there is something that interests you; if so, give us a call, at 690-1963.

Diana Banville

The common garden daffodil

(Narcissus pseudonarcissus)

originated in Europe, and has become naturalized locally in North America.

However this is not its status in Toronto. The best we can hope to find is some old garden where it has managed to survive without cultivation for a few decades. Please report any observation of a daffodil in some unlikely spot.

The illustration at right is from a pencil drawing by Shelley Bond.

REF.: Fernald - GRAY'S MANUAL OF BOTANY
8th Edition



CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE LAND TAX REBATE

Certain lands in Ontario may be privately owned, but by their very existence, they benefit all Ontarians. They are our conservation and natural heritage lands. These include:

1. land classed as significant wetlands (Class 1, 2, or 3)
2. provincially significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSIs)
3. areas designated as Escarpment Natural Area in the Niagara Escarpment Plan
4. non-revenue producing Conservation Authority land
5. other conservation lands owned by non-profit organizations that, through their management, contribute to provincial conservation and heritage objectives even though they may not fit specifically into one of the above categories.

Bear in mind that the conservation land must be considered highly significant in order to qualify for the tax rebate. Not every wetland or Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, for example, is eligible for the rebate.

The Ontario Conservation Land Tax Reduction Program is one way the Province of Ontario recognizes the contribution made by these lands.

The intent of this program is to support landowners who are willing to commit themselves to the long-term stewardship of conservation and natural heritage lands.

The Ontario Conservation Land Tax Reduction Program offers the owners of these lands a rebate on the municipal property taxes levied against those conservation lands.

The rebate equals up to 100% of the taxes paid on eligible lands. The minimum rebate is \$20, even if taxes are less than that amount. The maximum rebate is \$25,000 per property owner, excluding Conservation Authorities. The smallest parcel of land eligible for the rebate is 0.2 hectares (one half acre).

The owner of conservation land must agree to the long-term maintenance of the conservation land in its natural state. Landowners who cease to maintain a conservation land in its natural state must repay an amount equal to the total rebates received by all owners during the previous 10 years, plus interest at the rate of 10% a year, calculated annually.

For more information on the identification of conservation land, please contact your local district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Inquiries about the application and other program details should be directed to: Subsidies Branch, Ministry of Municipal Affairs,
777 Bay St., 12th floor, Toronto M5G 2E5 or call 416-585-7626.

adapted from "Conserving Ontario's Special Places: The Ontario Conservation Land Tax Reduction Program Guidelines, a pamphlet of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources,

□



THE MUSHROOM YEAR BEGINS

Spring brings the first of the year's mushrooms. During wet periods lawns may sprout the fairy rings of the visually unremarkable *Chlorophyllum molybdites* which is nevertheless poisonous and the only fungus to produce a green spore print. In the country there are the cup fungi (the Pezizas), the most beautiful member being the fairylike *Sarcoscypha coccinea*. I once found its scarlet cups nestling in glittering snow and have ever since regretted my (then) lack of a camera. Though now "equipped", I have never again come across this lovely sight. Amongst the early Amanitas the fly agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) is supposedly attractive to flies. It is possibly the mushroom which proves most noticeable to non-enthusiasts with its fleshy orange cap spiked with white warts. It is both poisonous and hallucinogenic, though someone had to have survived ingestion to be able to report on the hallucinations --which is more than anyone has been able to do with the pure white *Amanita virosa* which is poisonous and deadly and rightly called the Destroying Angel. There are also the early polypores. The gorgeous lemon-orange brackets of *Polyporus sulphureus* can run the length of a tree trunk. The plentiful *P. squamosus*, its creamy caps embroidered with brown scales, can grow to large soup plate size and it also owns the charming name of Dryad's Saddle. There are the colourful Ganodermas, one of which I am told (*G. lucidum*) is known to the Chinese as the mushroom of immortality! And there are, of course, the innumerable small, frilled, delicately zoned turkey tails which begin in late spring.

However, the high point for the mushroom gourmet is the morel. The various species are all "edible, choice". They fruit only in spring and any morel-like fungi encountered in summer and fall are probably false morels and should be avoided. There are the black morel (*Morchella angusticeps*), the white morel (*M. deliciosa*), the yellow morel (*M. esculenta*)--the very names make the mouth water--and the half-free morel or cow's head (*M. semilibera*). Habitat conducive to their fruiting is a matter of great debate amongst aficionados and people swear by various locations: on oak ridges, amidst May apples, in old apple orchards. To those hot on the trail, good hunting!

Eva Davis

RECOMMENDED: MUSHROOMS OF NORTH AMERICA by Orson K. Miller, Jr., E.P. Dutton publishers, 5th printing, 1981.

THE NEW NATURALIST (cont'd)

In case you wondered

What, exactly, are mushrooms? Plants? Animals? Technically, they are neither. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of certain fungi. Biologists formerly considered fungi members of the plant kingdom. But because of important differences in structure and life cycle, in recent years fungi have been awarded their own kingdom. This taxonomic coup confirms what fungi-lovers have always known: Mushrooms are unique.

When you pluck a mushroom from the soil, you are actually picking only a small part of the organism. The remainder, a tangled network of threadlike strands called mycelium, remains below ground. Although a mushroom may be only a few inches high, its mycelium may twine through several cubic feet of soil. Thus mushrooms, it would seem, are just the tip of the fungal iceberg.

from "The Joy of Mushroom-watching" by Kerry T. Givens in MODERN MATURITY, Vol. 30, No. 4, Aug./Sept. 1987

HOW BIG CAN A MUSHROOM GET?

The giant puffball (*Calvatia gigantea*) often grows to human head size and more. A really large specimen might produce 100 trillion spores. It has been estimated that if each of these spores could grow into a mature fungus, the resultant mass of living matter would be nearly one thousand times the volume of our planet.

The largest known specimen of the giant puffball was found in New York State in 1877. It measured over 3 feet wide and was almost 5½ feet long. At a distance it was mistaken for a sheep!

adapted from THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MUSHROOMS AND OTHER FUNGI by Helen L. Pursey, Hamlyn Publishing Group Ltd., 1977

HOW OFTEN DO THEY FRUIT?

But it was here last year...! Mushrooms fruit only when conditions are suitable, so they may appear only once in 4 to 9 years. For example, a 100-foot wide ring of *Amanita muscaria* was seen in 1977, and did not re-appear until 1986 in the same area.

from "A Study of Mushrooms of the Niagara Peninsula" by R.W. Fisher, in the Mycological Society of Toronto newsletter, the MYCELIUM, Oct./Dec. 1988

REMEMBER: There are old mushroom-hunters and bold mushroom-hunters, but there are no old, bold mushroom-hunters!

IN EXCHANGE

WOODLOT MANAGEMENT FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT

In my opinion the woodlots of Southern Ontario are the nicest environments in the world. Or, to be more precise, I should say that the edges of these woodlots are the nicest place to be, especially when you are next to a gently rolling meadow. Then you have a great variety of things to see and study--in the open meadow, on the edge of the wood, and within the forest. Variety is the key here. Commercial forestry methods often tend to reduce the variety of life forms. But I manage my woodlot to create as much variety as possible. Here are some of the ways to manage a woodlot so it will give you many kinds of pleasures and profits.

1. Roads should be curved, not straight.
2. Leave the dead trees uncut. They are valuable for wildlife.
3. Don't cut the so-called weed trees such as hornbeam. This species produces food for ruffed grouse. Unfortunately some government agencies encourage owners to cut all the weed species under the mistaken belief that all woodlot owners wish to maximize commercial forest production.
4. If you need a supply of wood, give some consideration to other harvesting methods than selective cutting. Selective cutting seems to be favoured by naturalists. However, selective cutting encourages regeneration of those tree species that are tolerant of shade. So if you always use selective cutting, your woodlot will become more and more dominated by shade tolerant trees such as sugar maple. If you want to encourage a variety of other species to grow, then try clear cutting small areas. Regeneration will then likely include ash, cherry, birch and aspens. You will also be creating interesting and useful edge effects for wildlife. Clear cuts should, in most cases, be no more than one half acre.
5. Logging must be done with appropriate equipment. Most logging is done for one reason only--to maximize the profit. Hence the equipment is very large and powerful and the site damage is great.
6. If you must plant trees, then be sure to plant a variety of species. There is nothing more monotonous than a solid plantation of one species in straight rows.

adapted from an article by Mark Cressman in the Saugeen Field Naturalists' Newsletter, Jan./Feb. 1989

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*A tree is a tree.
A tree is not a painting.
A painting is itself.*

haiku by Peg McEwan

ENJOY SPRING IN ONTARIO'S CONSERVATION AREAS

Many pleasant places to hike, picnic, birdwatch, study plants and take pictures are within easy driving distance of Metropolitan Toronto. All are open to the public at little or no cost. These oases in a growing desert of high rises, concrete, and shopping malls are the approximately 60 conservation areas administered by the 10 regional conservation authorities listed below.

A conservation area can supply front-row seats to some spectacular spring spectacles. On stage are returning birds in all their courting colours, shy hepaticas and violets, and showy trilliums, sometimes growing 15 feet in the air on the roots of up-ended trees. And if you're a nature photographer, don't miss a spring visit to the waterfalls in Hamilton, Halton, and Credit Valley regions.

Some of the areas show visitors how man and nature have related to each other in earlier times. An excellent example is Crawford Lake, a few miles west of Toronto in Halton Region. The bottom of this unique lake has collected seeds and pollen for centuries and preserved them. A few years ago an examination of sediment disclosed the presence of corn pollen. This led to the discovery nearby of a site of a long-abandoned Indian settlement. This, in turn, led to the construction of a typical longhouse depicting life of the time. Perhaps as the Indians did, today's visitors hike to the nearby lip of the Niagara escarpment to marvel at the aerobatic skills of turkey vultures.

The facilities provided by each conservation area are shown in CONSERVATION AREAS GUIDE. To obtain a copy call the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, (416) 965-6283. The current guide was published in 1986 and does not show changes made since. For more detailed, illustrated information write the conservation authority in the region you intend to visit.

- o Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview M3N 1S4 (416) 661-6600
- o Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority
100 Whiting Ave., Oshawa L1H 3T3 (416) 579-0411
- o Credit Valley Conservation Authority
Meadowvale General Delivery LOJ 1K0 (416) 670-1615
- o Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority
P.O. Box 328, Port Hope L1A 3W4 (416) 885-8173
- o Grand River Conservation Authority
Box 729, 400 Clyde Road, Cambridge N1R 5W6 (519) 621-2761
- o Halton Region Conservation Authority
P.O. Box 1097, Station "B", Burlington L7P 3S9 (416) 878-4131
- o Hamilton Region Conservation Authority
Box 7099, 838 Mineral Springs Road, Ancaster L9G 3L3 (416) 525-2181
or 648-4427
- o Kawartha Region Conservation Authority
Box 819, Fenelon Falls KOM 1N0 (705) 887-3112

CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (cont'd)

- o Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority
Box 282, Newmarket L3Y 4X1 (416) 773-6482
- o Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
R.R. 1, Angus L0M 1B0 (705) 424-1479

My thanks to the MTRCA office for their help in updating this list.

Harold Taylor



**CONSERVATION
AUTHORITIES
IN ONTARIO**

map adapted from CONSERVATION AUTHORITY REVIEW, Summer 1988, Ont. MNR

Strange Sightings

PLAYFUL SNOWY OWL

SNOWY OWL - March 6, 1988: I observed the "juvenile" bird on the ice at the Leslie Street Spit as it moved about from place to place. At one point in my observations I watched as it took a feather and seemed to be playing with it, tossing it in the air and pouncing on it as it fell back on to the ice; it did this four times and then let it blow away.

Norm Murr

WHERE DO THEY GO?

This past summer large numbers of birds roosted in the Norway maple on my front lawn nightly, except for one period in August when no birds came to my tree for a week. I am wondering where the birds went and why, and why did they return?

Mary Smith

WAS THIS BIRD TOO HOT?

Last summer I was visiting a cottage in northern Ontario where I saw a hummingbird hovering beside a thermometer outside the kitchen window. I saw it happen three days in a row. I presume the bird was attracted to the red alcohol in the thermometer and was not really reading the thermometer in disbelief at the hottest summer on record.

Helen Juhola

WIND-BLOWN GREAT HORNED OWL

In January we visited Sandbanks Provincial Park and had the good fortune to pick a day when the wind off the Bay of Quinte howled for our blood and endeavoured to lay low every tree in sight, a phenomenon magnificently in keeping with the jack pine habitat of these impressive dunes. Forging ahead, bent practically double, I heard my name hissed above the roaring. Thinking I was taking the wrong path I turned to find my friend wide-eyed before a log.

Now I have spent the last ten years bemoaning that everyone else seems to have seen at least one owl in the wild. (I have visited the McKeever's Rehab Centre, but that's not the same thing.) That day Fate relented. And not with just any owl. A great horned owl! Nearly the size of a young turkey and certainly much more beautiful! It viewed us with gravity and absolutely no fear, then took leisurely flight before our noses into a tree a few yards away. We stayed glued while it clung unshakably to branches which writhed like whirling dervishes. Even with its "horns" blown out of kilter--one oblique, one nearly horizontal, a "hair-style" which would have given any one of us a thoroughly tipsy appearance--it retained a huge-eyed monumental dignity.

Eva Davis

□

HELP GIVE THE BIRDS A CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

Last winter's irruption of pine siskins brought smiles to the faces of Toronto's backyard birders. The invasion of these attractive northern relatives of the American goldfinch, however, had a sad side. Cornell University reports that many feeder birds*, including the siskins, fell victim to a serious form of salmonella poisoning, sometimes called "songbird fever". It is spread by direct contact with the fecal matter of infected birds. Pet cats also were victims.

The disease apparently spreads readily around unsanitary and crowded bird feeders and bird baths. To minimize the likelihood of the disease taking hold, the Cornell investigators recommend that persons setting out feeders and baths do the following:

1. Replace tray feeders that allow birds to defecate in the seed with cylinder or hopper-type feeders. The type where birds can stand on perches and eat clean seed through openings was favoured.
2. Clean up the seed fallen to the ground before it accumulates and becomes mixed with fecal matter and eaten by other birds.
3. Clean all feeders and bird baths with common household bleach periodically, then thoroughly rinse with clear water.

Also, do not place bird baths near the feeder area.

If you are feeding birds you may wish to clip this reminder and keep it in a prominent place by your seed supply.

Harold Taylor

P.S. Might the losses last spring to "songbird fever" have anything to do with the greatly reduced number of feeder birds, including the siskins, in the Toronto area this winter?

* in the northeastern U.S. □

The Pine Siskin (drawn from a photograph by Donald Gunn) prefers to nest in the north or in mountains but occasionally nests in Toronto Region. Unlike its cousin, the American goldfinch, it chooses to build in conifers. It has a long nesting season - March to July. In Toronto it is a familiar winter visitor.
(Ref. BREEDING BIRDS OF ONTARIO by Peck and James)



BIRDWATCHING IN APRIL

Migration is picking up steam. Spring waterfowl migration generally peaks in early April while landbird migrants are steadily arriving, especially after mid-month. Visit the waterfront for ducks, loons, and grebes, but don't scan just the open lake. Often more sheltered waters will be better--Grenadier Pond, the lagoons and bays at the Toronto Islands and Leslie Street Spit, Rattray's Marsh, and especially the eastern marshes (Frenchman's Bay, Corner Marsh, Cranberry Marsh). Land-bird migration is more widespread but tends to be better along the lake-shore also.

We have two TFN bird outings this month--a bus trip to Tiny Marsh (north of Barrie) on Sunday, April 9, and on Saturday April 22 a visit to Humber Bay Park. Both outings are primarily for waterfowl whose numbers at Tiny Marsh should be near their peak on the April 9 and we hope to see perhaps 5,000 to 10,000 ducks, including plenty of pintails and ring-necks.

A suggestion for your own Toronto-area birding this month: visit mixed woodlands outside urbanized Toronto to listen for drumming ruffed grouse. This species is polygynous (one male mates with more than one female), with males drumming to attract females throughout the day and night, concentrated at dawn and dusk. Listen for a muffled thumping that starts slowly and accelerates into a whir. Try the Palgrave area, northwest of Toronto. This also could be a good spot to hear, and perhaps see, displaying American woodcock. Male woodcock display shortly before sunrise, and shortly after sunset, from clearings. Listen for nasal "beezp" calls (sounds like nighthawks) from the ground, and a "twittering" aerial song.

Outside Toronto, the areas described last month for waterfowl (Long Point, Aylmer, Lake St. Clair, Presqu'ile) and hawks (Grimsby) are still well worthwhile. The mix of species will differ from March--more dabbling ducks, and more sharp-shinned and broad-winged hawks, for example. Waterfowl numbers will be higher in the first half of April. The greatest assortment of hawks will be migrating over Beamer Point Conservation Area about April 10, but the peak broad-wing flights traditionally occur later, about April 25.

As always, I highly recommend Clive Goodwin's two books: A BIRDFINDING GUIDE TO THE TORONTO REGION (revised edition, 1988), and A BIRD-FINDING GUIDE TO ONTARIO, for many suggestions and more detailed advice.

Ross Harris

□



sow thistle

clover

mustard

VALLEY OF THE SHADOW

Two grandchildren for the weekend and two extra on Saturday afternoon, evenly divided between 5-year-olds and 3-year-olds, tested our skills of diversion.

We suggested a walk in the country. (What we had in mind was the big open space in the Don Valley to the north of the Bayview Extension as it approaches Nesbitt Drive.) Then one of us said--How about Chorley Park? Five-year-old David voiced immediate objection--he knew the difference between a park and the country.

After parking the car we started down the dirt road into the valley. But the 5-year-olds were soon out of sight as they savoured the freedom of rough paths and untrimmed grasses. Hailed back into view they rejoined us on the dirt road, which was screened from the rail lines above by a wooded slope. The slope offered steep track at one point which drew the two older ones again off course. But we let them go. Halfway up, having achieved sufficient success for the moment by being well above us, they turned to return. But they soon learned a truth that many of us are still learning--that it's not so easy to undo something that we were once so eager to do.

A couple of times we heard trains go by but the trees hid them from view. Along the sides of the road the children gathered wild flowers.

The 3-year-olds slowed the pace. There was time to think. I recalled Charles Sauriol in the East York video and Louise (Herzberg) and Helen (Juhola) at the East York Historical Society May meeting, who had reintroduced us to the Don Valley and its unique contribution to the quality of life in our unique borough.

There was no sun on Saturday, but I sensed the shadow of the Leslie Street Extension over the place. Its road bed will surely bury this bit of country in our "city". Then, David, there'll be no place to go but a park.

an article by Arthur Sellers
in YORE LORE, No. 39 (Sept. 19, 1988) (East York Historical Society)

□

ELEGY TO A WHITE-THROATED SPARROW

*Canada-bird
lying by a
Polish tombstone,
We'll bury you beneath some
Norway maple leaves.*

*Diana Banville
Parklawn Cemetery
October 5, 1988*

ISSUES

FIRST ESSENTIAL OF THE CIVILIZED CITY

Throughout my ramblings I grow convinced that the categorical imperative for Metropolitan Toronto is not another office monolith; nor further luxury executive-housing; certainly not an additional monster marina dumping into an already stressed body of water; nor the bread-and-circuses function of the controversial Dome; it is not more expressways or extensions to accommodate "the inalienable right of every Canadian to the travel mode of his choice"; nor more industrial "parks" with huge structures standing unleased while the city's less affluent go without housing; it is not even more parks as such to filter the carbon dioxide since, under present management, parkland produces its own toxic contribution in the form of herbicides.

THE primary need, if Toronto is to remain a viable city, is an environmental cleanup department in every municipality, answerable to both local council and the public, consisting not of people monitoring the environment (necessary as they may be), but of work crews physically engaged in removing the garbage which has sat accumulating for years.

Anyone who walks around Toronto, as opposed to whipping past the cityscape on four wheels, knows of endless pockets which suffer from the selective vision of all government departments and commercial concerns. Rarely does anyone clean up the area in which he works, be that area roads, hydro, parks, sidewalks, etc., much less remove the litter resulting from his own job. The most that can be hoped for seems to be the time-honoured solution of pouring fill on everything and rolling it flat.

We are all familiar with street gutters swept clean while the parallel grass verges remain choked with litter. Most bus stops are a dumping ground rivalled only by the pile which collects inside bus shelters. Parking lots and plazas are prize muck collectors, their operators seemingly answerable to no-one as regards upkeep. Parkland is serviced but not surrounding hillsides, a fact grotesquely evident once leaves fall. None of the park employees is apparently instructed to lift his eyes above ground level to the rich pickings on ravine slopes. Members who have assisted in any of TFN's "scavenger hunts" know that far more trash is left in ravines than is removed by officialdom.

A classic example of No-Man's-Land is afforded by the walkway from the Dentonia highrise complex through to Victoria Park Avenue. This would appear to fall within the shared jurisdiction of TTC, highrise management(?) and Metro Parks' Dentonia Golf Course. The bottom of the link-fencing running the length of the walkway (where the fencing has been left standing!) bears an endless collection of litter, year in, year out. Since it will take time for today's environmentally educated (?) school children to grow up to replace the present generation of trash-discarding adults, it is surely the responsibility of the TTC, the high-rise management, Metro Parks, or simply the municipality, to remedy the situation now. The end of this unlovely stretch--subway exit and steps down onto Victoria Park Avenue, TTC on one side of the fence, Dentonia flower bed on the other--is never less than a small garbage dump. Yearly,

LITTER REMOVAL (cont'd)

flowers are planted, but no-one cleans up the bed itself.

Once snow disappears Toronto streets reveal a hideous collection of winter detritus and there is indeed an attempt by municipalities and citizenry to perform a springcleaning of sorts. After that, the whole cycle begins again and, given time, the system will become so bogged down that no effort will be capable of coming to grips with what will then be an insurmountable problem.

Why is it beyond practical implementation for people to be held legally and enforcibly responsible for their own patch, be that patch their front yard or their area of business? Municipally, I understand we have a weeds crew who come when summoned. We do not appear to have a litter crew. If we do, then the job is plainly beyond them and their numbers should be increased a hundredfold. For who is responsible for litter removal? The TFN have been trying to get a collection of theatre seats taken out from the new Lower Don Trail for the past year. Barbara Wallace of SWEAP joined us in an effort to find a department prepared to act.^{*} This new trail is a wonderful addition to Toronto's green walking areas and is presently exercising the planners with regard to desirable plantings, desirable trail surface, desirable exits, etc. Anyone who has walked it, however, knows that the most desirable thing of all would be work crews to remove the discardings of years plus the immediate installation of gates to prevent vehicular entrance. Until ravine land is lifted above the function of local garbage dump, all parks planning will be largely vitiated.

Unless municipalities come to grips with the city's countless eyesores, Toronto the Clean, as the old tag rightfully had it some 20 years ago, will become Toronto Another North American Slum Capital. No Dome, no new Ballet Opera House, no waterfront extravaganzas, not even another towering downtown cathedral raised to the ethos of banking, will render its thoroughfares other than shabby. New York City is one of the world capitals, but does anyone saunter in its streets for pleasure (quite apart from today's risk of assault)? Thirty years ago I tried and even then found it a depressing exercise. So much cultural, artistic, scientific endeavour in the midst of so much trash. Unless Toronto's need for cleanup is taken seriously by all levels of government, it is at risk of eventually qualifying as Canada's New York.

Eva Davis

P.S. Of course, the other side of this coin is a populace which does not treat the streets as its collective dustbin and "drop it" where it stands. But that is another categorical imperative!

*Comment: Thanks to Don Baxter of Metro's Economic & Development Department, Frank Kershaw of Metro Parks & Property Department, and Robert Burley of Metro Roads Department, the litter on the Lower Don Trail under the Danforth viaduct was finally removed during one week in February.

HERBICIDES AND HEALTH

- ▷ 2,4-D: 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, a member of the group of phenoxyacetic acids, is possibly the most applied herbicide worldwide in that it is a component of practically every brand of herbicide spray. It came on market in 1947.

"It was first developed at the U.S. Center for Chemical and Biological Warfare...Maryland, during the Second World War"

from THE INTERVENOR, CELA, Nov./Dec., 1986

- ▷ "...a key ingredient in Agent Orange, the defoliant linked to many health problems among veterans of the Vietnam War"

from the GLOBE AND MAIL, Sept. 1986

- ▷ "2,4-D...can be absorbed rapidly, crossing both placental and blood/brain barriers...submitted for registration by the Environmental Protection Agency today it would likely fail or be severely restricted"

from Bruce Hyer, 16th Annual Forestry Symposium, Lakehead University, 1984

- ▷ "Handling and storing precautions: 'Keep away from children, prevent contact with eyes, skin, clothing. Do not store near fertilizer, food-stuffs, seeds, insecticides, or fungicides. Do not contaminate irrigation ditches, or domestic water supplies'"

from Material Safety Data Sheet, Parks Dept., St. Boniface, Manitoba, 1986

- ▷ "...traces of the chemical will remain on a lawn for up to 30 days"

from Colin Isaacs of Pollution Probe, TORONTO STAR, 1987

In 1986 a moratorium was placed on new products containing 2,4-D by Ontario's Environment Minister Jim Bradley while waiting upon the findings of a panel of international experts. In 1987 a study by the U.S. National Cancer Institute suggesting a link between 2,4-D and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and a deal of questioning in the Canadian House of Commons, resulted in a federal evaluation by toxicology experts in Health and Welfare Canada. The experts in both levels of Government eventually produced a "not proven" verdict on a link between 2,4-D and cancer in humans (reminiscent of the innumerable medical panels which openly or covertly, until very recently indeed, supported a "not proven" connection between cigarettes and lung cancer). Since then it has been business as usual regarding 2,4-D application in the overwhelming majority of the country's parks (even in wilderness areas).

If asked what they expected of parkland, people would give a diversity of usage but all would assume, as axiomatic, that it would be a safe and healthy place. Before the advent of the petrochemical age, this was doubtless true. Parks were the city's green lungs, its detox centres. Trees (naked of chemical "protection") absorbed carbon dioxide. Grass was something kids were born to roll in. Wildflowers were wild flowers, not "noxious weeds" requiring chemical control.

From the administrative point of view, however, there is, understandably if shortsightedly, one overriding consideration. "Application of

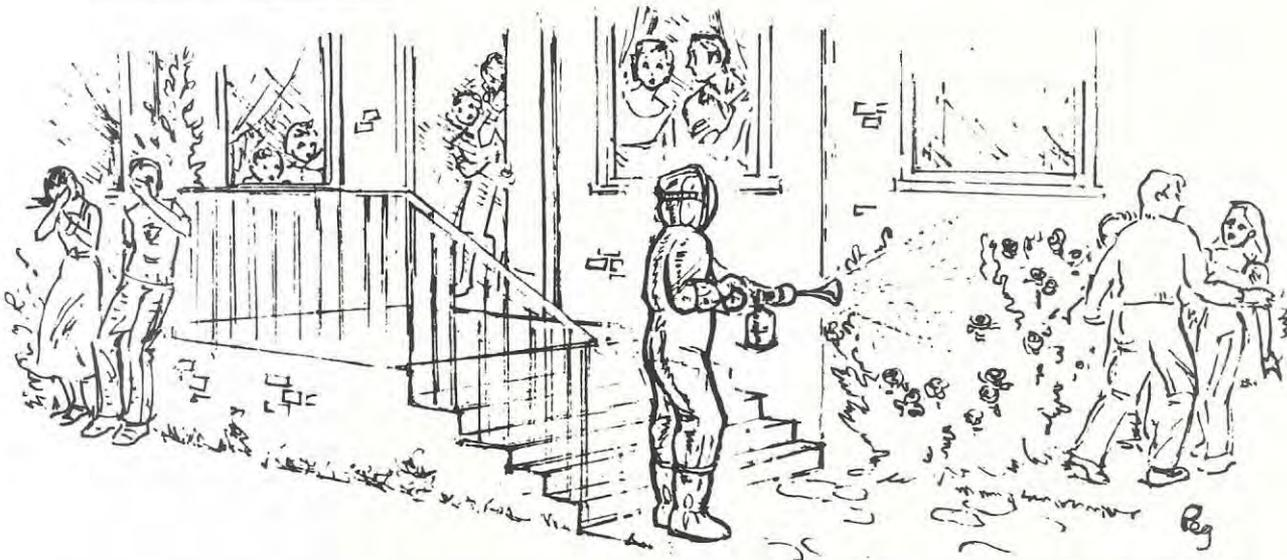
▷

HERBICIDES (cont'd)

2,4-D provides a superior, long-term control of weeds rather than a more expensive, repeated weed cutting program" (Report from Metropolitan Toronto's Commissioner of Parks and Property, March 1987). "Further studies will be evaluated in coming months, including a full assessment of the economic benefits of 2,4-D" (News Release from Agriculture Canada, March 1987). The underlining is mine. It illustrates the Achilles' heel in all expert testimony, the cart-before-the-horse evaluation of financial health ahead of people and planetary health.

Perhaps the note on which to end is a quote from the (nevertheless extremely cautious) Thomson Report on Environmental Hypersensitivity Disorders, August 1985: "It seems that we are inexorably increasing the toxicity of our environment...We do not have adequate information on the effects of low-dose exposure over long periods or the possible synergistic effects of long-term exposure to many chemicals...It is reasonable to accept the view that environmental hypersensitivity is a growing phenomenon".

Eva Davis

WHAT IS IT ? □

Peg McEwan

DIRECTIONS FOR USE [necessarily abbreviated]:

Do not inhale. Poisonous if swallowed. Keep away from children. Wear goggles and overalls to apply. Handle only with rubber gloves. Wash hands, face and arms afterwards. Change and wash contaminated clothing. Avoid contaminating food or feed. Keep unprotected persons out of operating area.

ANSWER:

*A top-secret nerve gas in bacterial warfare?
No. A powder for dusting roses!*

E.D.

Projects

HERBICIDES VS HEALTH

During the fall of 1988, I made enquiries (as a member of the public) regarding the spraying practices of CN, CP, Ontario Hydro, Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Metro Parks and Property, City of Toronto Parks, East York Parks, York Parks, North York Parks, Scarborough Recreation and Parks and Etobicoke Parks departments.

I asked (1) if they sprayed and, specifically, if they used 2,4-D; (2) how often; (3) what for; (4) whether notices were posted when such work was planned.

Those questioned appeared to welcome the chance to explain their department's policies, with one exception (who had been quoted in the TORONTO STAR, July 1985, as saying that "[These] pesticides are less harmful than some household products, including aspirin").

In answer to the first question, the majority owned to using one brand name or another which contains "a diluted form" of 2,4-D, or something in the same family. I was assured that the producers of these chemicals pronounced them non-toxic, whatever that may mean by whose standards.

CN hire licensed applicators, and CP use several products, but not 2,4-D, to control small shrubbery putting out roots into the rail bed.

Ontario Hydro's new policy has been commented on in our Dec. 1988 newsletter. Metro Parks unequivocally used 2,4-D.

Toronto Parks do spray but not with 2,4-D which they have not used for years.

North York's division dealing with trees in streets and parks have long since given up using anything chemical whatsoever. They employ insecticidal soap washes or b.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) [a bacteria that attacks all species of caterpillars], or simply remove tents of the tent caterpillar --this to avoid chemicals spreading on to washing hung on clothes lines or reaching babies in gardens lying out in their prams. Top marks to them.

In answer to question two, all claimed to spray as little as possible, only if an area "really needed it", and according to weather conditions, but overall the rule seems to be to spray once a year at least, and twice (in spring and fall) if "the weeds grow vigorously". CN do not spray the same area 2 years in a row; CP spray once in 3 years depending on growth.

In answer to question three, I was assured that they all spray because the public demand it, dandelions being the ultimate *bête-noire* of gardeners, picnickers, and managers of baseball diamonds, soccer pitches, and--it goes without saying--golf courses.

With regard to notice postings, the two rail companies do not bother--understandably. Their area is too extensive and, as they pointed out, the lines are private property anyway.

With the exception of Scarborough, which has no posting policy, the rest of the parks' administrations claim posting of notices--theoretically in advance, but often while work is in progress as TFN members have discovered for themselves. Scarborough spray "early in the morning and when people are not about".

Two things in particular emerged from this hodge-podge.

▷

HERBICIDES VS HEALTH (cont'd)

The Noxious Weeds Control Act has long been in need of amendment. Wildflowers in a farmer's field (for whom the Act was put in place) might legitimately be classed as "weeds". They are not what the farmer set out to grow. In park or ravine land, however, such nomenclature is nonsensical. Clumps of sky-blue chicory, the waving traceries of Queen Anne's lace, the small earth suns of cinquefoil--weeds? It is a good thing for the planet that black swallowwort was not in evidence when the Act was drawn up. By now parks' administrations would have drowned us in a hysterical effort (as fruitless as with the dandelion) to save us from a plant which takes in its stride anything flung at it. Garden owners and golf course managers take warning: there could come a day when the dandelion would be welcomed as an alternative to black swallowwort. For the moment, however, public obsession with the dandelion cries out for redirection.

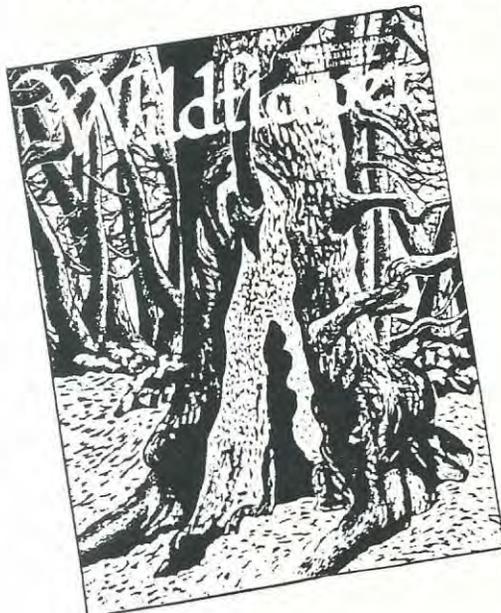
Hand in glove with the public mania goes administration's understandable adoption of the (immediately) easiest way to do the job, with consequent disregard for long-term responsibility for the health of planet, employees and citizenry alike. That a break can be made with custom and accepted practice is illustrated by the stance taken by Mr. Bill Granger of the North York Trees Department. It can be done, and in the last analysis is a matter of commitment. Ontario Hydro's recent move to assist us into the 21st century via fewer toxins is further proof that it is within the province of executives and administrators to stay with the status quo or step outside it and take seriously the business of environmental pollution and their own contribution thereto.

Eva Davis

□

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IN THE NEWS

250 CHARGED FOR ILLEGAL SALMON FISHING ON CREDIT RIVER

A combined enforcement effort of the Maple District Ministry of Natural Resources and the Peel Regional Police Force Marine Unit during September, October and November in 1988 resulted in more than 250 persons apprehended for illegal fishing on the lower Credit River.

The majority of those charged were found fishing in two fish sanctuaries located on the Credit River in Mississauga, between Dundas Street (Hwy 5) and the Queen Elizabeth Way and between Burnhamthorpe Road and the Streetsville Memorial Park. Fishing for any type of fish including salmon is prohibited in these areas which are well marked with "No Fishing" signs.

Many of the persons charged were found fishing with illegal equipment. Snagging devices designed with hooks that impale fish in places other than the mouth were seized as well as an array of other devices adapted to catch fish. Officers seized a jungle machete, a .22 calibre rifle and several types of homemade spears. In one case, 5 persons were arrested as they were about to leave the river with 150 lb. of speared salmon.

The officers intend to continue their enforcement efforts on the Credit River throughout the winter. Anglers contemplating fishing in this area are urged to consult the Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary, or the Maple District, Ministry of Natural Resources' office at 416-832-2761, in order to avoid straying into the fish sanctuary areas.

a Jan. 13, 1989 press release from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

BRITISH COLUMBIA BANS EXPLORATION IN ALL PARKS

In an effort to reduce escalating confrontations over land use in B.C., Parks Minister Jack Davis formally announced in late December that mineral exploration and claim-staking would no longer be permitted in any B.C. parks. The minister also said recreation areas created before 1986 have been reviewed and almost all will be closed to any claim-staking and upgraded to Class A Park status. The latest changes in exploration policy mean nearly 250,000 hectares of recreation area will be upgraded to full park status, while about one million hectares will be opened to mineral exploration. The parks ruling [will probably not] satisfy the coalition of environmental groups currently lobbying to have at least 13% of the province's land base protected from all resource industry activity, more than twice the amount currently protected.

adapted from an article by Vivian Danielson in the NORTHER MINER, Jan. 9/89

APRIL is a great month to see smelt run. From 8:30 p.m. until the clock strikes twelve, these small fish gather in fast-flowing creeks and rivers and on sand and gravel beaches to spawn. Smelt runs start around mid-April and continue until early May. In Toronto, the best places to see this are Cherry Beach, the Humber River and the Rouge River. For up-to-date information, call 965-7883.

IN THE NEWS (cont'd)

\$58 MILLION AQUARIUM WILL GO TO ETOBICOKE

Etobicoke has defeated Toronto and North York to become the site for a new \$58.8-million aquarium. When the project was first proposed more than five years ago, the private backers had hoped to put the aquarium in Toronto at Harbourfront. But concerns about overdevelopment and the political storm surrounding Harbourfront delayed Toronto City Council's approval of the scheme.

Surrounded by 40 hectares of parkland, the lakefront aquarium will be located just a short distance from \$5-billion worth of new or planned residential, commercial and retail development.

The Etobicoke site will be well served by public transit and roads. The Toronto Seaquarium is a non-profit private corporation. Both the federal and the provincial governments are being asked to provide one-third of the cost of the venture. The balance will be acquired through a fund-raising drive to which private corporations are expected to contribute. The City of Etobicoke has already pledged to provide a \$500,000 interest-free loan to help get fund raising underway.

The aquarium will sit on one-third of a hectare of land created by the Metro Toronto and Region Conservation Authority by landfilling. Organizers said it will be an education centre open year-round and modeled after the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Md. Exhibits will feature the fish and marine mammals of Canada in the displays recreating their natural habitats. There will also be tropical and Antarctic displays.

adapted from an article by Paul Taylor in the GLOBE AND MAIL, Jan. 1989. □

SHARE THE NEWS!!!

Yes, do save those interesting news items.

Don't forget to write the source (e.g. GLOBE AND MAIL) and date (e.g. Jan. 17/89) on each item and send them to Louise Herzberg (see page 2 for address).

Each month we choose which to put in the newsletter and which to hold in our files for reference, or perhaps publication at a later date.

A special thanks to all those who keep us informed.

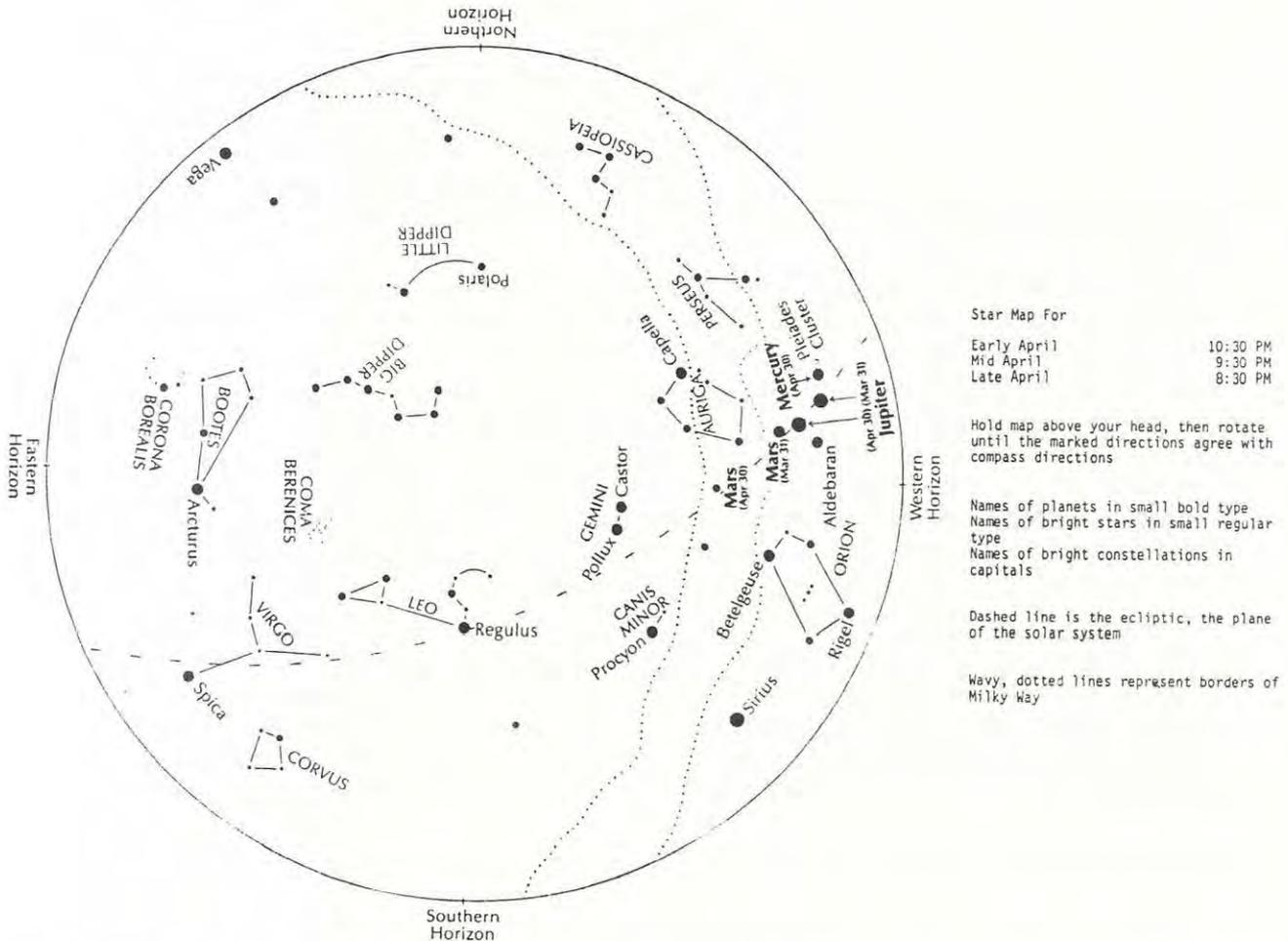


*The existence of earth
is landmarked by aerals
growing through the fog.*

haiku by Vera Irving

Sky Notes

The Evening Sky - April, 1989



Notes on the moon and planets:

- Jupiter once again dominates the evening sky; it is rivalled only by Sirius, the brightest star.
- Mars, now very much dimmer, continues to fade; to get an idea of how much it has faded, recall that in October it was as bright as Jupiter.
- Both planets again move eastward relative to the background stars.
- In the last few days of the month the planet Mercury, which is usually too close to the horizon to see, is as high in the sky as it gets this year.
- The moon appears near Jupiter on the 8th and 9th.
- New moon occurs on the 5th, 1st quarter on the 12th, full moon on the 20th and last quarter on the 28th. Look for a very thin crescent moon on April 6.

Readers wanting information on the stars and constellations are referred to The Monthly Sky Guide by Ian Ridpath and Wil Tirion.

Jeff Nadir

□

*I want to shout
Silver maples are out!*

Diana Banville

The weather this time last year

April 1988, Toronto

There was an absence of any really warm weather this month, and as a result, spring vegetation was behind schedule. No tree leaves were opening by the end of the month. The contrast with the past three Aprils was notable. Toronto only attained a monthly maximum temperature of 16.6°C all month, the lowest since 1975. In fact, no really noteworthy weather occurred as monthly averages were just slightly below normal. It was quite cool from April 15 to 19th, with afternoon readings below 5°C on a few days accompanied by brisk northwest winds, cloudy skies, and flurries. Rainfall was just slightly below normal, and sunshine near or just above normal.

Gavin Miller

□

WHAT EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT...

Like the 14th century, the 21st century is in for nasty weather -- but of the opposite kind. Although the earth has undergone periods of warming and cooling in the past, scientists are now generally agreed that it is about to heat up more -- and faster -- than ever...Coping with dramatic global warming will not be easy, but ignoring it would be foolish. The best bets: conserving energy and using alternative energy sources.

The threat is clear. Carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels like oil, coal, and gasoline is rapidly accumulating in the atmosphere. So are gases like chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are far less abundant but equally devastating. CO₂, CFCs, and the other gases come almost entirely from a variety of man-made sources like vehicle exhausts and industrial solvents. Only a modest amount derives from natural sources like microbes in the soil. In the earth's atmosphere the gases act like the glass in a greenhouse, which lets in sunlight but traps heat. By absorbing rather than reflecting the infrared radiation that produces heat, they are bringing about the relentless warming of the planet known as the greenhouse effect.

"When climate changes," a United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) report bluntly declared last year, "society suffers." So what should we do?

Clearly there are things we can't do. We can't scrub carbon dioxide out of industrial emissions the way we can pollutants like sulfur dioxide. So-called chemically alkaline absorbent systems that soak up CO₂ emissions add as much as 80% to the cost of producing electricity. The most efficient CO₂ scrubbers are trees. Like other plants they absorb CO₂ using it to make food and build wood. But trees are being felled around the world at a clip of 50 acres a minute, mostly in Brazil, West Africa, and Indonesia, according to UNEP. Reducing deforestation would help, but reforestation, proposed occasionally, isn't a practical answer. The Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee estimates that to stop the greenhouse effect cold could take 1.7 billion acres of sycamore trees, which are especially good at soaking up CO₂. That's an area roughly the size of Australia.

extracted from "Looking Ahead -- A Warming World" by by Anthony Ramirez in FORTUNE, July 4, 1988

COMING EVENTS

COMING EVENTS

- * Saturday, April 1 from 9 am to 4 pm - Toronto Magazine's FORUM ON THE DON at the Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Road (at Eglinton). Free admission from 9 am to 10:30 am (free with admission to OSC after 10:30 am). An opportunity to participate and hear the experts on the history and future agenda for the watershed.

- Sunday, April 2 at 1:30 pm - The Sight, Sounds and Smells of Spring at Humber Arboretum. (Call 675-5009.)

- Wednesday, April 5 at 8:30 am - Bruce Trail Walk (about 3 km) with Helen Hansen to Credit Valley near Huttonville (Eldorado Park). GO bus leaves York Mills at 8:30 am and returns at 2:15 or 3:15; fare \$4.15 each way. Bring lunch and something to drink.

- Sunday, April 9, 16, and 30 at 9 am - Birds, Birds, Birds at Humber Arboretum (see April 2).

- April 8, 9, and 16 - Annual exhibition of watercolours of Leslie Mirylees at Todmorden Mills.

- Monday, April 10 at 7:30 pm to 9 pm - Urban Wilderness Gardeners meeting at Hydro Building (700 University at College) - How to make wilder and wetter gardens - free. Visitors welcome.

- Saturday, April 15 from 1:15 pm to 4 pm - Society of Ontario Nut Growers auction at Civic Garden Centre.

- April 15 and 16 at 2:30 pm - Backyard Habitat at Kortright Centre for Conservation (call 661-6600).

- Saturday, April 22 at 8 am - Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walk at the Leslie Street spit to see spring migrants with Herb Elliott of the Toronto Ornithological Club. Bring lunch.

- Sunday, April 23 at 1:30 pm - Save the Rouge Valley System nature walk led by Chip Weseloh. (Call 288-8730 or 1-432-1346.)

- Sunday, April 23 at 1:30 pm - Nature Photography Workshop at Humber Arboretum (see April 2).

- Sunday, April 23 from 12 noon to 4 pm - Toronto Entomological Association (insects) Open House at Metro Zoo. Photographs, displays.

- Tuesday, April 25 from 10 am to 5 pm - Catch the Gardening Spirit at the Civic Garden Centre. Call 445-1552 to pre-register. \$35.00.

- * On Friday, March 31, the feature article in the TORONTO magazine (it comes with the GLOBE AND MAIL) will be "Rebirth of a River", a story about the Don River.

COMING EVENTS (cont'd)

Wednesday, April 26 at 8 pm - Reptiles, Revulsion and Responsibility, a lecture by Tom Hough of the Reptile Breeding Foundation in the lecture room at the McLaughlin Planetarium. Admission \$4.00 at the door. Call 481-7581 for details.

Friday, April 28 from 6 pm to 9 pm - Frog Watcher's Hike at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre. Call 336-1158 days; 854-2276 weekends.

Sunday, April 30 at 11 am to 3 pm - Humber Valley Day Hike at Kortright Centre for Conservation. See April 15-16.

Sunday, April 30 from 10 am to 3 pm - Canadian Wildflower Society's 4th Annual General Meeting and Plant Sale at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East at Leslie Street. Free. (See page 33.)

Sunday, April 30 at 1:30 pm - Trillium Walk with the Save the Rouge Valley System led by Jim Robb. See April 23. □



British Columbia

FAWN LILY

THICKSON'S WOODS HERITAGE FOUNDATION is raffling off 15 pieces of art to raise money to help pay off the mortgage on Thicksion's Woods, a forested piece of shoreline east of Metro Toronto. Tickets are \$5.00 each and will be for sale at the TFN April meeting. Members wanting tickets before then or wanting to send a donation should contact the Foundation at Box 541, Whitby, Ontario L1N 5V3.



EAST YORKERS

NOTE

TREE PLANTING SERVICE

The Parks division offers, at no cost to the homeowner, a tree planting service.

If you would like to have a tree planted in front of your home, on the road allowance, please call 461-9451 ext. 542 (8 a.m. - 4 p.m.).



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