TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Number 536 WINTER ISSUE December 2005

IN THIS ISSUE

TORONTO FIELD NATURALIST

Published by the Toronto Field Naturalists, a charitable, non-profit organization, the aims of which are to stimulate public interest in natural history and to encourage the preservation of our natural heritage. Issued monthly September to December and February to May.

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

$50 FAMILY (2 adults – same address, children included)
$40 SINGLE, SENIOR FAMILY
$30 STUDENT, SENIOR SINGLE

No GST. Tax receipts issued for donations. Membership fees and address changes should be sent to the TFN office.

Please note: It has always been the policy of the Toronto Field Naturalists not to give out its membership list.

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Send us your original writing (up to 500 words) of your thoughts and experiences of nature in and around Toronto. Do you have a favourite natural area in Toronto? Did a TFN outing introduce you to a new park? Tell us about it! Did you see any plants or animals that particularly interested you? Let us know! Tell us what, where and when, and any field guides or other sources consulted.

Also welcome are: reviews, poems, cartoons and sketches, and articles on natural history. If you have a digital camera, we would welcome photos of TFN outings. Remember that they will be reproduced in black and white photocopy.

Please include your name, address and telephone number so submissions can be acknowledged. Newspaper clippings should include source and date.

Unsigned letters or emails will not be read. Attachments to unsigned emails will not be opened.

Note the deadline for submissions of time-sensitive material, e.g., notices of meetings or events. Deadline for February issue: 6 January 2006. Send by mail or email.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:
Diana Banville, Jenny Bull (co-editor), Eva Davis, Karin Fawthrop, Nancy Fredenburg, Elisabeth Gladstone, Siobhan Montague (co-editor), Marilynn Murphy, Toshi Oikawa, Wendy Rothwell.

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Website Manager: Elaine Farragher.

TFN PUBLICATIONS

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB
ITS HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION, 1965…….……. $2.00

CHECKLIST OF PLANTS IN FOUR TORONTO PARKS;
WILKET CREEK, HIGH PARK, HUMBER VALLEY,
LAMBTON WOODS, 1972……..…….$2.00

TORONTO THE GREEN, 1976
Metropo tan Toronto's mportant natura areas are descr bed and recommendat ons g ven for the r conservat on and management; nc udes maps, b b ography and ndex…….…….$10.00

TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS RAVINE SURVEYS…….. ea $5.00
Survey No. 1 Chatsworth Rav ne, 1973
Survey No. 2 Brookbanks Rav ne, 1974
Survey No. 3 Chapman Va ey Rav ne, 1975
Survey No. 4 W gmore Rav ne, 1975
Survey No. 5 Park Dr ve Rav ne, 1976
Survey No. 6 Burke Rav ne, 1976
Survey No. 7 Tay or Creek Woodb ne Br dge Rav nes 1977
Survey No. 8 West Don Va ey, 1978

INDEX OF TFN NEWSLETTERS (1938 to present)…….…$10.00

TORONTO REGION BIRD CHART, 1983…… …….…$ 5.00

A GRAPHIC GUIDE TO ONTARIO MOSSES, 1985.....….$5.00

GUIDE TO TORONTO FIELD NATURALISTS'
NATURE RESERVES, 2001…….….....…….$5.00

TORONTO ISLANDS: PLANT COMMUNITIES AND
NOTEWORTHY SPECIES, 1987…….…..... …$5.00

TODMORDEN MILLS, 1987……..……... …$5.00

VASCULAR PLANTS OF METROPOLITAN
TORONTO, 1994…….…….....…….…..…$10.00

TORONTO CHECKLISTS (b rds, other vertebrates,
butterf es, other nvertebrates, mosses, other p ants)……ea. 50¢

HUMBER FORKS AT THISTLETOWN, 2000…… …….…..…$5.00

Add $2.00 *per item* for postage and handling; no GST.
Order from theTFN office, see address above.

TFN MEETING

Sunday, December 4, 2005 at 2:30 pm

The Archaeology of Toronto

Dr. Mima Kapches
Royal Ontario Museum Senior Curator, Ontario Archaeology

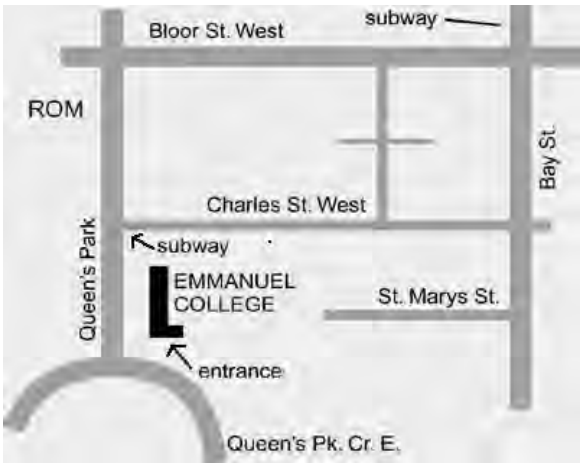
VISITORS WELCOME!

SOCIAL HOUR
2:00 - 2:30 pm
Bring your own mug if you wish,
only paper cups provided.

For more information call the TFN office at (416) 593-2656

Room 001, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto,
75 Queen's Park Crescent East

Room 001 is one floor below street level. Entrance at south end of the building, down a few steps on an outside stairwell.
Wheelchair Entrance: Second door south on Queen's Park Crescent E. Door does not have automatic opener. Elevator is inside to the right.



NEXT MEETING:

Sunday, February 5, 2006.
HONEYBEES

For most students of the past, nature is historical wallpaper, not the main event. But the natural world – snow and granite, roaches and cholera – deserves a more prominent place in the collective stories we call history.

From *Wild Nights: Nature Returns to the City* by Anne Matthews, North Point Press, NY, 2001.

TFN OUTINGS

Children and visitors are welcome on all outings but please, NO PETS! To get to outings on time, check TTC routes and schedules by calling 416-393-4636. Check the weather by calling 416-661-0123 so you will know what to wear on outings which go rain or shine.

Sunday
Dec. 4
2:00 pm
2:30 pm

MONTHLY MEETING
See notice on page 3.
Social Hour
Lecture: The Archaeology of Toronto

Thursday
Dec. 8
9:45 am

TORONTO ISLAND – Birds
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at the Ferry docks in time for the 10:00 am ferry. Bring lunch and binoculars. Dress warmly. Bring money for ferry.

Saturday
Dec. 10
1:30 pm

LOST RIVERS WALK – Taddle Creek
Leader: Ian Wheal
Start at southeast corner of St. Clair Ave. W. and Wychwood Ave. Mostly on city streets. About 2 hours. This is a joint outing with North Toronto Green Community.

Tuesday
Dec. 13
10:00 am

SUNNYSIDE AND RENNIE PARK - Nature walk
Leader: Roger Powley
Meet at Queen St. W. and Roncesvalles Ave. (The King car from Dundas West subway goes directly there.) Walk will finish at Bloor West Village. Bring binoculars. Morning only.

Saturday
Dec. 17
10:00 am

LESLIE STREET SPIT – Birds
Leader: Doug Paton
Meet at the park entrance at Leslie St. and Unwin Ave. Bring lunch and binoculars. Dress warmly.

Sunday
Dec. 18
2:00 pm

LOST RIVERS WALK - Market Streams
Leaders: Peter Hare and Ian Wheal
Meet at the southwest corner of Queen St. and Yonge St. On city streets. The streams have disappeared but this is a historic part of the city: early schools, banks, post office and city halls. Walk will end at a coffee house. This is a joint outing with North Toronto Green Community.

Tuesday
Dec. 20
11:00 am

SCARBOROUGH LAKESHORE - Nature walk
Leader: Orval White
Meet at the foot of Morningside Ave. at Guildwood Pkwy. A 3 hour hike is planned. Bring a hot drink and substantial snacks as there won't be a lengthy lunch stop.

Continued…

- TFN events are conducted by unpaid volunteers.
- The club assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained by anyone participating in our activities.
- Children are welcome at all TFN events but must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday
Dec. 28
1:30 pm

HIGH PARK - Nature Walk
Leader: Pat Jones
Meet at the southwest corner of Bloor St. W. and High Park Ave. Bring binoculars and dress warmly. Afternoon only.

Wednesday
Jan. 4
2:00 pm

ALLAN GARDENS NEIGHBOURHOOD - Heritage Walk
Leader: Anne Scott
Meet outside the garden at southwest corner of Carlton St. and Sherbourne St. Walk will end in Allan Gardens. Afternoon only.

Saturday
Jan. 7
10:30 am

NATURE ARTS – Queens Quay Terminal
Leaders: Yoshie Nagata and Joe Bernaske
Meet at the second floor Food Court, lakeside of the Queens Quay Terminal Building. Bring what you need for sketching, painting or photography. Bring anything you wish to show the group when we compare our morning's work after lunch.

Tuesday
Jan. 10
10:00 am

HUMBER BAY – Birds
Leader: Marg Catto
Meet at the southwest corner of Lakeshore Blvd. W. and Parklawn Rd. Bring binoculars and dress warmly. Morning only.

Sunday
Jan. 15
2:00 pm

LOST RIVERS WALKS - Solar energy, landscapes and laundromats
Leader: Helen Mills
A tour of the lost rivers of the Beaches area, ending with a tour of the Beach Solar Laundromat. Come and find out how it is all connected. Meet outside the Kew Beach Library, south side of Queen St. E. just west of Lee Ave. Moderate effort mostly along city streets but there are hills. This is a joint outing with North Toronto Green Community.

Tuesday
Jan. 17
9:30 am

MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY - Birds, Winter Trees
Leader: George Bryant
Meet at Davisville Subway Station. Bring binoculars. Morning only.

Saturday
Jan. 21
10:30 am

WESTERN LAKESHORE - Heritage/Nature Walk
Leader: Boris Mather
Meet at the northwest corner of The Queensway and Windermere Ave. Walk ends at Humber Bay Park East. Bring lunch, binoculars and dress warmly.

Tuesday
Jan. 24
9:45 am

TORONTO ISLAND - Birds and Botany in Winter
Leader: George Bryant
Meet at the ferry dock at the foot of Bay St. in time for the 10:00 am ferry. Bring lunch and binoculars and dress warmly. Bring money for ferry.

FROM THE BOARD

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The TFN continues its evolution. Regrettably the board has accepted the resignation of two esteemed members. Karin Fawthrop has resigned for personal and family health reasons. During her long service on the board Karin played many roles. She led outings, organized speakers, volunteered on the newsletter committee and represented the TFN on various committees and advisory boards. We are grateful that Karin will continue on the newsletter committee.

Alex Wellington has found it is no longer possible to juggle her ongoing work commitments at Ryerson University with the obligations of being on the board. Alex too has been an enthusiastic outings leader, has represented the TFN on various advisory committees and organized our current monthly lecture series. Alex's leadership was invaluable during the recent board transition. Thank you, Karen and Alex, for your countless contributions and many years of service.

I am pleased to report that the vacancies on the board have been filled by two very capable individuals. Nick Eyles holds a PhD and DSc and is a Professor of Geology at the University of Toronto. He will be familiar to many of our members as an enthusiastic outings leader and popular speaker at our monthly meetings. Nick is the author of the fascinating books *Toronto Rocks* and *Ontario Rocks* as well as numerous other publications. He will be responsible for our monthly meetings and lecture series.

Barry Mitchell holds a PhD in History and has had a dynamic career as an entrepreneur, academic, administrator and teacher. Barry finished his formal career as Director of the Environmental Program at Innis College, University of Toronto. Currently retired, Barry has agreed to lead us through a strategic planning process.

Urban development that potentially affects natural areas, as well as other threats such as the Asian longhorn beetle infestation, require sustained monitoring on a consistent basis. This is a daunting task in an area as vast as the GTA. The board is most appreciative that Boris Mather has agreed to coordinate the participation of the TFN in these environmental issues. Contact Boris at (416) 698-6131 if you are interested in being involved in some of these activities. Please note that we rely on members to alert us about environmental issues in their local areas.

As I walked my dog this morning I was marveling at the spectacle of colour which belies the fact that it is November. Most of the trees in the valley still have their leaves which have turned a glorious gold, red or bronze. Without a killing frost, annuals are still flourishing in the garden. Although I have been enjoying the prolonged warm weather I cannot help worrying about the implications. Hopefully I will be marveling at a white winter wonderland when you read your next newsletter.

Pinky Franklin

EDITORS' NOTE

As you read your December-January newsletter, we hope that you have all received your November issue. Please let us know if yours has still not been delivered. We understand that Canada Post mislaid the mail bag of newsletters for the consecutive postal codes M4V2 to M9. As this newsletter goes to print, we are hearing that some of these are now being delivered.

Are you an expert on MS Word? Do you have skills in layout and design? The newsletter committee would welcome a volunteer who can give a few hours per month, 8 times a year. Please email [redacted]

TREASURER'S REPORT

At the AGM, there was some concern regarding the deficit shown on the Financial Statement. The Board has taken some steps to address the situation. The membership fees have been raised at no significant loss of membership. A budget has been prepared and the actual expenses are compared to the budgeted expenses each month. At the end of October (after 4 months of this fiscal year) we are on track!

Since TFN is a charitable organization, donations are always welcome - with tax receipts issued. The Board has agreed to use more of the donations to support and enhance the most important TFN programs: the newsletter, speaker's series and the outings. Lastly, the surplus shown on the financial statements has been invested (conservatively) and is generating higher income that it would earn from interest at the Bank.

Corley Phillips, Treasurer

MONITORING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

From time to time, TFN is contacted by various public bodies such as conservation authorities and city planners and asked to name representatives to their advisory bodies. At other times, TFN identifies an environmental issue which should be monitored. In order to keep track of this representation, the TFN board has asked Boris Mather to be our Environmental Coordinator.

If you would like to represent TFN in this way please contact Boris at 416-698-6131.

Current Environmental Representation:

Phoebe Cleverley	Portlands Action Committee
Gail Gregory	Friends of the Don East; Taylor Massey Project
Boris Mather	Tommy Thompson Park Advisory Committee; Waterfront Action Committee
Theresa Moore	The Don Stewardship Coalition - specifically German Mills Park

OUTINGS COMMITTEE NEWS

A Special Thanks to Mary Cumming as Nature Arts contact.

The Nature Arts Outings have been part of the Toronto Field Naturalists program since 1952. Two excellent artists, Mary Cumming and Diana Banville, were the early organizers of these walks. They have helped many members develop their powers of nature observation through sketching, painting or photography. The positive encouragement of the group is very helpful. The results of the Nature Arts group efforts are the wonderful illustrations created by club members which are featured in our newsletter. Diana's role is to select the material for the newsletter. Mary Cumming, whose beautiful oak tree sketch appeared on the cover of the November newsletter, has continued as our Outings contact person for so many years! Thank you Mary Cumming for all that you have contributed to Nature Arts!

We are seeking a new Contact Person from among the members who attend Nature Arts. The job includes telephoning to arrange leaders and destinations for the coming year. Mary will be pleased to offer her advice and guidance to the person taking on this role.

Gail Gregory, December 2005

100 YEARS OF BIRD BANDING IN CANADA

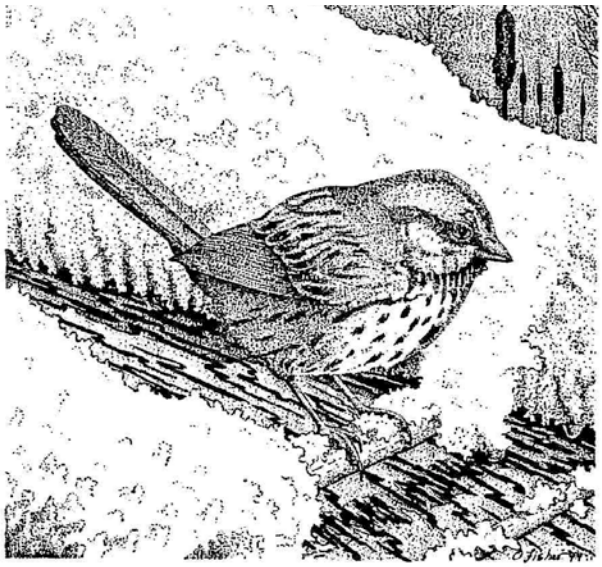
From: http://www.ec.gc.ca/press/2005/050922_n_e htm

OTTAWA, September 22, 2005 – Billions of migratory birds leave Canada each fall after breeding season, travelling south to winter destinations in the southern U.S.A., Mexico, the Caribbean and Central or South America. This fall will mark the 100th anniversary of Canadian efforts to track the destinations of our migratory birds.

On September 24, 1905, James Henry Fleming placed a band on an American Robin in his backyard in Toronto, Ontario, in the hopes of discovering where it went for the winter. One hundred years later, over 900 banders place bands and markers on over 300,000 migratory birds each year in Canada.

"Bird banding is used throughout the works as a basic tool for bird research and monitoring," said the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment. "Banding allows biologists and wildlife managers to study behaviours and ecology, monitor populations and protect endangered species. The study of birds can also be used to address human health and safety concerns such as West Nile virus through capture and taking blood samples."

Environment Canada's Bird Banding Office and the United States Geological Survey's Bird Banding Laboratory have jointly administered the North American Bird Banding Program since 1923.



"Wintering Song Sparrow" by Owen Fisher

More than 66 million birds have been banded in North America with close to 4 million encounters for 980 species and subspecies since 1908. Banding and recovery data collected in Canada contribute to ornithological research and the conservation and management of North American migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere.

"The information that has gathered in the last 100 years of bird banding in Canada has been phenomenal for the scientific study and conservation of birds," said Minister Dion. "Ensuring we have sound science information behind our decision making is key to the Government of Canada's overall approach under *Project Green*, our broad environmental vision that links Canada's economic competitiveness and prosperity to a sustainable future."

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a bird band was a simple hand stamped aluminium band placed around the leg so a bird could be identified and tracked. Now, a century later, that same method is still used, except for birds that spend a lot of time in the water and require bands made of stainless steel.

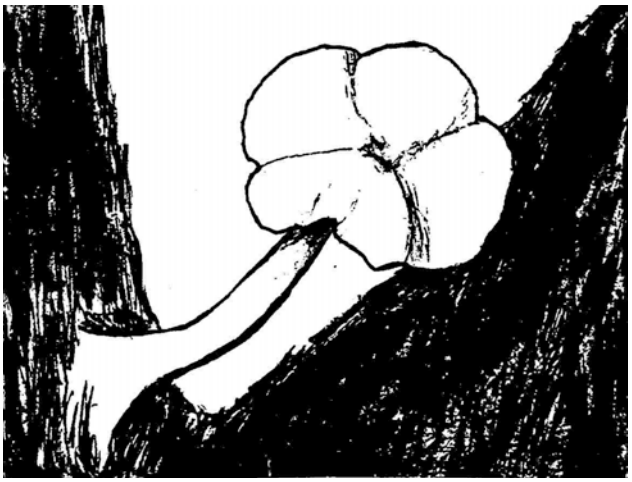
Bands come in different sizes and designs to accommodate a variety of sizes of birds. Hummingbirds are so small that each band must be cut and individually shaped for each bird, whereas larger birds of prey such as hawks and eagles require lock-on or rivet bands so that they cannot be removed by powerful beaks.

Some studies require that individual birds be identified from a distance. In these cases, other marking devices such as colour bands, neck collars, plastic streamers, wing tags, nasal saddles, feather clippings, and paints or dyes are sometimes used in addition to the basic bands.

Canada's bird banders are highly skilled in bird capture, handling, identification, aging and sexing. Banders must hold a scientific permit issued by the federal government to capture and band migratory birds.

Continued on next page

ELM OYSTER OR MARBLE CAP



It was nice to see something "blooming" in the middle of December. This splendid single growth was in one of the trees bordering South Fletcher's Creek, which is a tributary of Etobicoke Creek in Brampton.

An ongoing difficulty for the amateur mushroom enthusiast is the specialists' penchant for frequently changing the names of the few fungi one has fought hard to get into one's head. *Pleurotus ulmarius* does at least sound splendidly euphonious. But *Hypsizygus tessulatus* resembles nothing so much as a series of hiccups.

Eva Davis

Continued from previous page.

The North American Bird Banding Program relies on the public to report found bird bands. Canadians who find a banded bird or a bird band are asked to note as much information as they can about the bird and its band and contact the Bird Banding Office (http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/migb/bbo_e.cfm) or toll-free at 1-800-327-BAND.

The Government of Canada's activities for the protection and conservation of migratory birds are part of the *Project Green*, a set of policies and programs aimed at supporting a sustainable environment. *Project Green* addresses environmental initiatives for the 21st century including measures to conserve our biodiversity, protect our water, and clean up contaminated sites.

For more information about bird banding or assisting as a volunteer with a banding project, contact one of the many bird observatories across Canada. Volunteering is the best way to learn the challenging skills necessary to become a bird bander. For a list of bird observatories across Canada view the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network website at http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cmmn.html.

Related Sites :
Migratory Bird Populations: http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/nwrc-cnrf/migb/bbo_e.cfm
Bird Banding in Canada: http://www hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=223
Canadian Migration Monitoring Network: http://www.bsc-eoc.org/national/cmmn.html
Ontario Bird Banding Association: http://ontbanding.org/
A Brief History of Bird Banding: http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/history.htm

It is in our urban areas that natural communities have suffered greatest and native plants have been most neglected. As urbanization replaced agriculture, an international, horticultural landscape replaced the native landscape. Much of the urban landscape – the parks, gardens and formal open spaces – were subjected to an international sense of design that denied a sense of place.

From *Trees of the Carolinian Forest* by G. Waldron, The Boston Mills Press, 2003.

TFN PUBLICATIONS

Though Toronto Field Naturalists' Club was launched in 1923, its newsletter, the *Toronto Field Naturalist*, was first published in 1938. It was 2 pages long and included a recipe for "chickadee pudding" to be used on feeding trays in winter. Popular from the beginning, it grew both in size and circulation over the years. Its role during the Second World War is described below in an extract from another TFN publication *Toronto Field Naturalists' Club: Its History and Constitution*.

The history had originally been written by the newsletter's editor, Dr. R.M. (Dick) Saunders, in 1951 and published as the content of newsletter number 100. Dr. Saunders subsequently brought the history up-to-date for publication as a booklet in 1965 to celebrate 27 years of the newsletter. The history includes details of the founding of the club and its activities over the years, including details of outings, talks, education and conservation projects, as well as setting up a nature trail in Sunnybrook Park. Many of you will recognize the names of early organizers, directors, volunteers and leaders. Past presidents of the club include anthropologist T.F. McIlwraith, S.L. Thompson (nephew of Ernest Thompson Seton), Jim Baillie (Baillie Birdathon, TFN Reserve), Fred Bodsworth (*Last of the Curlews*), and the distinguished geologist A.P. Coleman (Honorary president). These and many more can be "googled" to find out about their professional as well as volunteer work. Dr. Saunders himself was a professor of history at the University of Toronto. After he retired he took up botanical photography, publishing *Canadian Wildflowers* (1976) and *Canadian Wildflowers Through the Seasons* (1982) with photographer Mary Ferguson. His slide collection was donated to the ROM.

The *History* is a fascinating look at the first 40 years of the club and the people who made it such a success. It's available from the office for $2.00 (see details on page 2).

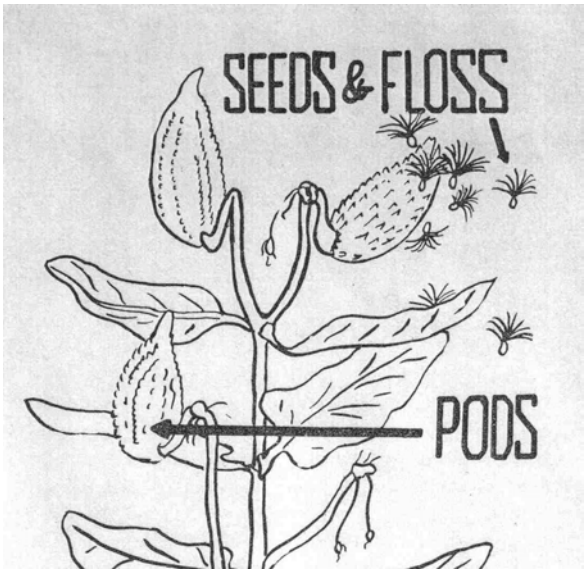
In the next issue: Toronto the Green *and the ravine studies.*

Extract from *Toronto Field Naturalists' Club: Its History and Constitution* by R.M. Saunders.

1939-1945 – War

When the war broke out in 1939, the club, like other societies, began to feel the impact at once. In the first executive meeting after the outbreak of hostilities, some time was given to the "difficulties" encountered by several members of the club – they had been intercepted by the police while observing birds. It was voted that a warning be given members at the next regular meeting "not to use binoculars near hydro stations or other guarded areas." Some of the activities of the club had to be cut out temporarily. A poster contest in the schools was eliminated. Certain places were debarred to field trips, either because of war use or gasoline rationing. Men leaving for service reduced the number of leaders available for field trips.

At one time the Wartime Prices and Trade Board enquired seriously into the right of the club to continue publication of the Newsletter. After proper investigation, though, permission to continue issue was granted "provided the amount of paper for any one issue does not exceed four tons." Happily, this still left us a little leeway. As a matter of fact, the club was able to use the Newsletter to help its members who were abroad to keep in touch with home, by sending copies to them and other interested naturalists who were on active service. Letters from these men, relating nature observations made near military camps and at the front also found their way into the pages of the Newsletter. For those at home, the club in pursuing its traditional aims and activities provided a welcome and necessary relaxation from wartime anxieties. That people felt the need of relief and valued it is indicated by the fact that the membership of the club and the club's activities steadily increased in the war years.



Extract from TFN Newsletter #44, April 1944

Mr. F. M. Emery, a club member, has sent in a copy of the January-February 1944 number of "The Prisoner of War," Canadian Red Cross edition, which contains an article about prisoners of war entitled: "Their Country Life and Interests Carry on in Spite of Captivity in a Foreign Land." This article reveals that naturalist fighting men find a chance to pursue nature interests even in prison camps, and, no doubt, find in the pursuit of such interests a nerve-saving, morale-building process. "….the pleasures of a nature-lover are not necessarily denied him…..in spite of everything, he does manage to fit them in – and in a way, too, that gives pleasure to more of his neighbours than might ever be possible at home….

Bird boxes have been placed in most trees and every week a detailed list is posted up, telling of all new birds seen in the camp, whether residents or casual visitors…. From dawn to dusk every day, all nests in the camp are under observation and detailed daily reports are kept…"

GET FULL INFORMATION

If you live in

ONTARIO or QUEBEC

ask your school authorities, agricultural representative, Boy Scout or Girl Guide leaders for full information about the milkweed-collection program in your county. They can tell you about prices for pods, buying stations, collection dates, and where to get empty bags for picking. If you need further information either write to Ottawa at the address shown below, or get in touch with the District Supervisor of this program. Agricultural representatives and school inspectors will have his name and address.

If you live in another province and have milkweed which could be collected, write

Agriculture Supplies Board,
Confederation Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Letters marked on the outside O.H.M.S. may be sent post free.

In your letter tell how much you think could be collected in your neighbourhood.

Distribution of empty bags and collecting and shipping of filled bags will be the responsibility of the Agricultural Supplies Board. Definite arrangements will be made to take care of these activities. In some cases, by specific arrangement, the school authorities and older students, or other local organizations will assist with collection and shipping.

Do not ship collected milkweed pods to Ottawa without specific instructions

No milkweed leaves or plants will be purchased this year only pods. Last year the schools made a great contribution through the collection of milkweed leaves. Collecting pods is simpler and easier. Make sure this year that absolutely every pod in your district is collected.

—

Agriculture Supplies Board,
Confederation Building,
Ottawa, Ontario.

An old war-time pamphlet. See also next page.

Extract from TFN Newsletter # 43, March 1944

Mr. Outram sent this amusing item from the Saturday Evening Post…

….so many letters are pouring into museums and colleges from servicemen of all kinds, and from all points of the compass, that it begins to look as if our men overseas constitute the biggest nature-study group in history. Whenever there is a lull in the fighting, apparently, they look around them. And what they see in the way of bird and animal life would startle Marco Polo.

From Cpl. Miller, D.S., RCAP (England), September 6, 1944

"Speaking of using binoculars in prohibited areas! Frank Banfield and I went (when I was down South) out in October of last year at a gun sight looking at "waders" and we were nearly hauled in as "suspicious spies"!

Now my big news! Remember when we saw a grey-lag (goose) with a Canada (goose) at Sunnyside? Well, I saw one today – as a matter of fact, half an hour ago, and in its usual style it accompanied a flock of Canada geese. Incidentally they are all wild. The gamekeeper was telling me they come every year at this time. I heard honking last night and investigated today. I guess they just landed last night.

Our billets overlook a lake about half the size of Grenadier (Pond) and it really produces some good stuff. Besides the geese there were oodles of great crested grebes, 300-400 mallards, tufted ducks, pochard, coots and gallinules galore. The other night I saw a flock of European teal mixed with mallards, and once before I saw a European widgeon…"

MILKWEED GOES TO WAR

For many years kapok, a silky, seed-pod fibre has been used as a filler in life jackets. Although the tree which produces kapok grows in many places in the tropics, only in Java were there any plantations where large quantities could be obtained. When Japan captured the East Indies the supply was suddenly cut off.

Great Britain and the United States agreed that such kapok as still was available in India should be used by the United Kingdom and the Dominions. United States was left only with the material on hand and in ships at the time Java fell. Consequently United States has great need for milkweed floss as a substitute for kapok and has asked Canada to assist in obtaining it. There is abundant wild milkweed in Canada. You can help the war effort of the United Nations by collecting every pod possible.

Other things will do in some articles for which kapok was formerly used, but milkweed floss is the best material sufficiently waterproof and buoyant to use in life vests. That is why large quantities of it are so urgently needed. The floss in two bags of milkweed pods fills a life jacket. Your collections, even though small, may help save a life.

We must have all the milkweed we can get, because the armed services of the United Nations will continue to need life jackets as never before. Remember there will be no more kapok for service men and women until after the allies have wrested Java from the Japanese.

School Children of Canada! Help save the lives of united nations airmen and sailors by collecting milkweed pods

Be Sure Every Pod is Collected

LOST RIVER WALKS

Since September 1995 the North Toronto Green Community has been offering a popular series of walks in conjunction with the Toronto Field Naturalists. The Lost River Walks were started as a way of discovering the fascinating world of the watershed beneath our feet.

Objective of Lost River Walks

To encourage understanding of the city as a part of nature rather than apart from it, and to appreciate and cherish our heritage. Create an appreciation of the city's intimate connection to its water systems, by tracing the courses of forgotten streams, by learning about our natural and built heritage; and by sharing this information with others.

The walks trace the courses of the creeks that once flowed through North Toronto, and in following them you will learn about the natural history of the city, its geology, ravines and trees, as well as its cultural history, evoking images of old mills, grand houses and native settlements.

To date Mud Creek, Burke Brook, Yellow Creek, Walmsley Brook, Cudmore Creek, Castle Frank Creek, Lavender Creek, Taddle Creek, Garrison Creek, Mashquoteh Creek, and others have been explored and discovered through these neighbourhood hikes.

Few of us make the connection between dead end streets, wet basements, snaking streets, parks with steep banks, and the now buried rivers that flow through the city. You'll find a way of looking at your neighbourhood in a whole new light.

The Lost Rivers Project has mapped the streams and waterways buried by urban development in Toronto. The Lost Rivers website provides maps and self-guided tours of many of our buried creeks.

Community partners include Hike Ontario. Lost River Walks is an official Ontario Legacy Trail and has been voted one of the twenty-four best walking programs or trail systems in the province.

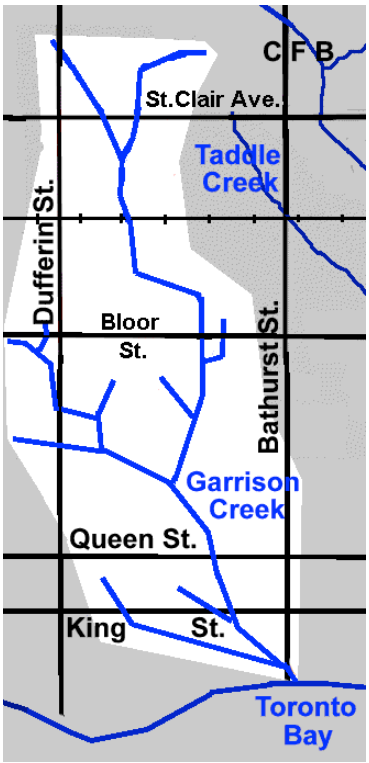
Extracted with permission from www.lostrivers.ca

North Toronto Green Community turns 10 this year.

North Toronto Green Community is a non-profit organization that has been working over the last 10 years to protect and improve the local environment. North Toronto is part of the Don River Watershed and under our streets and neighbourhoods flow the waters of forgotten tributaries of the Don. Sadly, years of human activity have taken a serious toll on this river system, reducing it to a polluted storm-drain system. We are one of many community groups committed to restoring the Don River watershed to the state of a healthy vibrant living habitat. We've learned that getting to know our watershed is the first step to protecting its health.

NTGC is involved in stewardship activities that include valley clean-ups and planting "bees", usually during Earth Week. We look after six sites on Mud Creek, Burke Brook, and in Earl Bales Park. Our stewardship and greenspace programs are linked by the common theme of the lost creeks and the landscapes that frame our life in the city. Learn more about us and our projects at www.ntgc.ca or call (416) 781 7663.

Source: www ntgc.ca

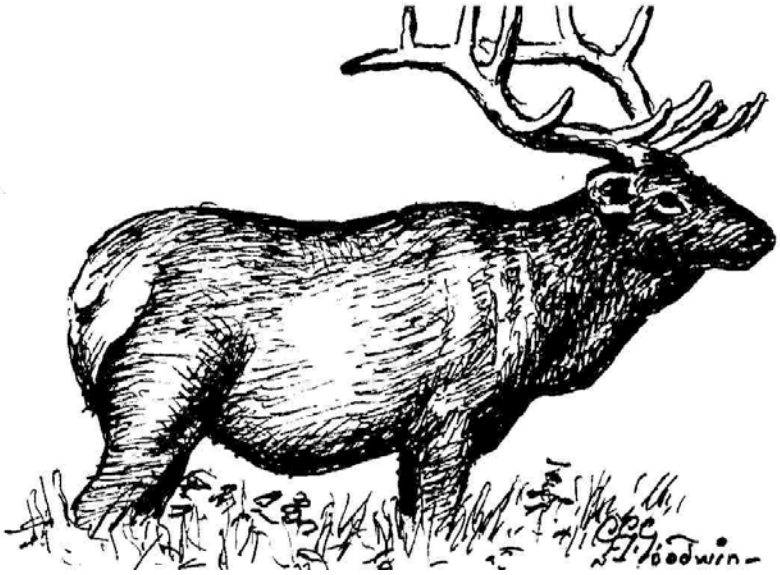


Map of "lost" Garrison Creek

UNHE[A]RD FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY

Last fall, a visitor was startled by a deep, resonant roar ending in a high-pitched squeal and a series of coughs. It's understandable if they didn't recognize the bull elk 'bugling' for its mate: Elk hadn't been seen – or heard – in Algonquin Park in more than 100 years.

Eastern elk used to roam Ontario until, it's believed, a parasite carried by deer killed them off. Biologists have been trying to reintroduce another elk strain since 1910. They think the elk heard last year are related to some released near Bancroft between 1999 and 2001. There are reasons to be hopeful. The deer population is down, and thus so is the parasite. Elk prefer grazing on grass and sedges, not the twigs and trees preferred by deer and moose.



If you're lucky enough to see or hear an elk, Park naturalists would like to know. Weighing between 500 and 700 pounds, elk are hard to miss. Slimmer than moose, they have dark brown heads, tawny bodies and buff-coloured rumps. Leave a notice at any Park office or post your sighting to the Park Superintendent, Algonquin Park, Box 219, Whitney, Ontario, K0J 2M0.

Extracted from Killarney Lodge newsletter.
www killarneylodge.com

Drawing by Geraldine Goodwin

The Wapiti [elk] has no status in Toronto, though the eastern race of the species was found in the Rainy River District and throughout southern Ontario during settlement days. It was extirpated by 1850 after heavy hunting and habitat loss, and is now extinct. The western race had been introduced in Ontario but is scarce.

Ref.:
Atlas of the Mammals of Ontario
by Jon Dobbyn.

THOSE PATRIOTIC BIRDS

The Canada warbler has a varied song
He'd like to sing of his country
All day long.

His problem is he can't say the word
For that he depends on another bird

The white-throated sparrow is the one (they say)
Who sings of Canada all the day:

"I love you, Canada, Canada, Canada!"

Diana Banville

KEEPING IN TOUCH

OVENBIRDS APLENTY

In early October, we were pleased to note the presence of four ovenbirds in our backyard. For the past month, they have been enjoying the fruits of our burning-bush, wild roses and bittersweet. A freshly-filled birdbath is also a great attraction. We observed them foraging among the dead vegetation in our gardens (which we no longer rake in the fall, preferring to leave the seeds and remaining detritus for the birds). The tail is quickly raised and slowly lowered, a characteristic that made it easy for us to identify this amiable bird, more aptly called the wood wagtail. As of this date (Oct. 27), at least one of them is still with us, undoubtedly preferring a layover in our backyard to the migration south during this hazardous hurricane season.

Diane Shears

Ovenbird drawn by Siobhan Montague from a photograph.

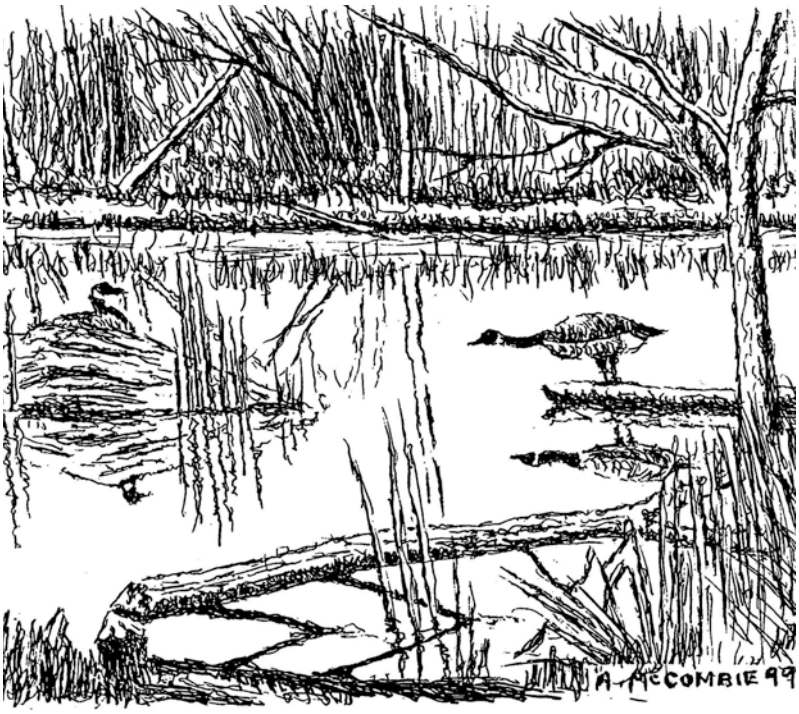
MT. PLEASANT CEMETERY OUTING

This is a letter of thanks and recognition to Roger Powley for his terrific outing "Mt. Pleasant Cemetery – Trees for Beginners" held on October 17. Roger is so knowledgeable and gave us so much information that I wished I had a tape recorder! He knows his trees but also shares lots of fascinating details – such as their poisonous parts, their preferred locations, etc. We even saw the twisted misshapen fruit of a magnolia tree!

I have since purchased the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Arboretum Guide ($13 for map and list) from their offices on the east side of Mt. Pleasant.

Thanks too to the Newsletter Staff.

Joan Hayes



IN MEMORIAM

Long-time TFN member Alen McCombie, who died recently, frequently contributed drawings, nature observations and news clippings to the newsletter. This drawing was used on the cover of the newsletter in February 2000. He was a mentor to his niece, Helen Juhola, and taught her much about natural history. He will be missed by all those who knew him.

IN THE NEWS

WHAT BUBBLES BENEATH OUR STREETS

Extracted from an article by Stephen Wickens in The Globe and Mail, Oct. 29, 2005.

Barring a flood of near-biblical proportions, no one will ever again paddle from Fort York to Christie Pits. And the fishing won't be good any century soon at the Grace Street dip, where London Stream might still empty into Garrison Creek, south of Bloor Street and 10 or so metres underground.

At issue is the lack of progress on a project—approved by city council in 1998—to reconnect the parks and potential parkland of the largely invisible Garrison valley from north of St. Clair to the lake. It would include bike paths, walking trails and storm-water retention ponds that would be integral to Toronto's drainage and irrigation.

Garrison Creek flows under parks, streets, houses, schools and supermarkets, just as the water does in more than a dozen other buried streams. It's largely encased in tunnels we built from the 1860's to hide ravines that had turned into open sewers and dumps for ash and trash.

But for all the talk of frustration there are signs of hope. We may have poisoned and buried our creeks alive, but we never killed Garrison, literally or figuratively.

Earlier this month, more than 200 people showed up dressed in blue for the Human River, a Garrison-tracing hike put on by the Toronto Public Space Committee, the **North Toronto Green Community** and the **Toronto Field Naturalists**. The latter two have held "lost river walks" around the city for a decade, teaching people to read the bends and subtle dips in our streets, listen for roars from sewer grates or look for indicator trees such as willows.

Globe and Mail columnist John Bentley Mays wrote in 1994 that "Garrison Creek can lay fair claim to being Toronto's most famous waterway, never seen," except by an elderly man he had just interviewed. But in the spring of 2004, running water appeared under a bridge on Bathurst Street, east of Fort York, where Garrison emptied into Lake Ontario from 10,000 years ago until the late 19th century.

Fort York administrator David O'Hara, who was with the parks department when the discovery was made, still can't confirm the water is Garrison Creek. "But we know it's not coming from a broken water main," he says, "and it's not from the sewers—storm or sanitary."

He says Toronto Community Housing, which plans to build near there, has a hydrologist on the case.

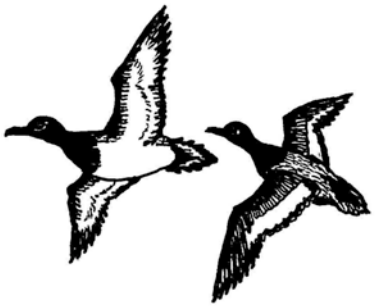
"It sure looks like it's Garrison, and that's exciting for us at the fort," Mr. O'Hara says. "This creek is essential to our history."

TFN Nature Arts in winter

MEASURING REFUELING RATES IN MIGRATORY BIRDS

Extracted from an article by Dr. Chris Guglielmo in BirdWatch Canada, Fall 2005.

Migration poses extraordinary physiological challenges for birds. First of all, flight is extremely strenuous. A flapping bird expends



energy at twice the maximum rate that can be attained by a mammal (bats excluded). Migrants can sometimes sustain flight for as long as three or four days in order to cross oceans, mountains, or other barriers. When birds stop to refuel between flights, it is not really much of a rest. They eat ravenously to pack on fuel (mostly fat), sometimes reaching the maximum rate at which their digestive system can process food.

The rate of refueling during migratory stopovers has important implications for migratory success. The rate at which a bird can put on weight is an excellent indicator of stopover habitat quality. Research in my laboratory and others shows that the concentrations of various blood metabolites are related to rate of weight gain in birds. When birds eat and synthesize fat, metabolites involved in transport of fats to the fat tissue increase. When birds are underfed and losing weight, other metabolites involved in fat utilization increase. Metabolites can respond within 10 to 20 minutes to a slight change in feeding rate, meaning that they give a very precise snapshot of the bird's recent refueling performances.

Analysis of blood samples from six common migrant species at the base and tip of Long Point (on Lake Erie) showed clear differences in metabolites that indicated better refueling conditions at the base of the point. We also found that the difference between sites was greatest early in spring and disappeared by the end of the migration season.

This technique is opening many new doors for the study of bird migration. For example, it can be used to determine how factors like invasive plant species, woodlot size, food availability, predation risk, crowding density, age and sex, and parasite load affect refuelling. Since Canada supports billions of migratory birds, understanding which stopover areas provide ideal refueling conditions can contribute significantly to conserving this national treasure.

Editors' note: Dr. Guglielmo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario. BirdWatch Canada is published by Bird Studies Canada. For information on membership and research projects, contact them at P. O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont N0E 1M0 or telephone 1-888-448-2473 or see their website, www.bsc-eoc.org

Drawing by Eric Lin

WOLVES PROVE BOON TO TREES

Extracted from an article in the Toronto Star, Oct. 22, 2005.

Canadian wolves were established in Yellowstone National Park 10 years ago and wolf biologist Douglas Smith believes they have changed the park's ecology in many ways. For one, they have scared the elk to high ground and away from browsing on every willow shoot by rivers and streams. Wildlife biologists and ecologists are stunned by the changes they have seen and thrilled with the rare chance to understand in detail how the effects of an "apex predator" ripple through an ecosystem.

In 1995, 14 wolves were brought into the park and 17 were added in 1996. Now about 130 wolves in 13 packs roam the park. Since then, one of the world's largest elk herds, which feed on rich grasses on the northern range of the park, dropped from 19,000 in 1994 to about 11,000. Wolf reintroduction has been cited as the culprit by hunters, but Smith says the cause is more complex. Scientists do say that wolf predation has been significant enough to redistribute the elk. That in turn has affected vegetation and a variety of wildlife.

The elk move more than they used to and spend most of their time in places that afford a 360 degree view, Smith says. They do not spend time in places where they do not feel secure - near a rise or a bluff, places that could conceal wolves. In those places, willow thickets and cottonwoods have bounced back. Aspen stands are also being rejuvenated. Until recently, the only cottonwood trees in the park were 70 to 100 years old. Now large numbers of saplings are sprouting.

William Ripple, a professor of botany at Oregon State University, calls the process the "ecology of fear," which has allowed the vegetation to thrive as a result of behavioural changes in the newly skittish and peripatetic elk.

A FOREST DYING OF NEGLECT

Extracted from an article by Dale Duncan in Eye Weekly, Oct. 27, 2005

Todd Irvine inspects the new trees when walking through Leslie Grove Park. Kneeling down, he sifts through the mulch he taught volunteers to lay around the base of the young trees. The lesson was part of a tree-care workshop he led on behalf of Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF), a not-for-profit group that encourages citizens to help protect and expand Toronto's urban forest. Aside from keeping the soil moist, the mulch protects the base of the trees from the surrounding grass which competes with the tree's roots for water. "Trees need a lot of soil volume," says Irvine.

The certified arborist has been conducting walks and workshops throughout the city. "Politicians like trees because they're easy to plant and they make good photo ops, but caring for trees is where we really need to be putting our energy," Irvine says.

The redevelopment of Leslie Grove Park is a prime example of how trees are put into the ground with little thought for their future survival. The park, at the corner of Jones Avenue and Queen Street East, stood derelict for years until the city decided to hire a private contractor to overhaul it. The contractor constructed new sidewalks, built a new playground and planted 20 new trees. Sounds efficient, but contractors usually know a lot about construction and little about trees. They often make simple mistakes, such as neglecting to remove the nylon tie that strings together the burlap sack containing the roots. The tie will strangle the tree to death within five years. Luckily Irvine noticed the ties at Leslie Grove and cut them off before they could cause any damage. Councillor Paula Fletcher has called on Parks, Forestry and Recreation to investigate the contractor's work on-site, but Irvine says this sort of thing is happening all over the city.

Meanwhile, public complaints about dying streetside trees are growing, and the city's forestry department simply doesn't have the resources to look after them. While more funding must be allocated to tree care, Irvine suggests a little help from the community - such as watering trees in times of drought - could go a long way. In an urban environment, young trees are under a lot of stress. Large trees established before cars were invented didn't have to fight with pavement, constant construction or smog days. Irvine points out large maples planted around the turn of the century, now near the end of their lifespans. Streets lined with beautiful old trees, but few younger ones to replace them, exist across the city.

"Everyone owns a certain percentage of urban forest," Irvine says. He hopes to help people see beyond the aesthetic benefits of trees to the larger role they play in the city and the responsibility we share in keeping the private and public patches of forest in our communities thriving.

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AGING URBAN FORESTS UNDER THREAT
Extracted from an article in CBC News Online, Aug. 9, 2005.

Cities across Canada are in danger of losing their mature trees and urban forestry experts say we need to develop strategies now to stem the loss. In many older neighbourhoods, trees were planted when subdivisions were first built. That means urban forests are around the same age and will likely die around the same time.

It's not just esthetics at stake here. According to a recent study by University of Toronto forestry professor Andy Kenney, every year Toronto's seven million trees absorb about 28,000 tonnes of carbon. That cuts back on the amount of greenhouse gas carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Toronto's urban forest also stores in its branches, roots and leaf litter nearly a million tonnes of carbon and about 1,500 tonnes of other pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxides and particulates, which, when inhaled, aggravate breathing problems. And urban forests are energy-savers. They give cooling shade in the summer and cut down on frigid winds in the winter, lessening the need for air-conditioning and heating.

Once we plant trees, we have to safeguard them from modern urban threats, such as road salt and trenching for street construction. Look along any tree-lined street and you're likely to see at least one tree with a huge V-shape out of its centre. Hydro workers often prune them back from overhead wires to avoid power outages. Urban foresters say it's an unnatural shape that weakens the tree and makes it more susceptible to broken branches.

When replacing urban forests, we must also ensure we don't repeat the mistakes of the past, such as planting just American elm and then along came a disease and wiped them out. It's really important to have a wide variety of trees planted in urban areas.

Black and white photograph from TFN archives.

THERE'S A REASON THOSE MAPLE LEAVES ARE RED

Extracted from an article by Christina Schallenberg in the Toronto Star, Oct. 22, 2005.

The scarlet leaves of the maple tree are a particularly awe-inspiring attraction during the fall season. Now, new research suggests that there is more to the crimson of the leaves than meets the eye. Researchers at Colgate University in Hamilton, NY report that the chemical responsible for the bright red colour also acts as a competitive herbicide.

With autumn's lowered temperatures and shorter days, the green leaf pigment chlorophyll starts to break down. The presence of this pigment stimulates plant growth by harvesting light and as long as its production continues, the greenness of chlorophyll overshadows the colours of other pigments present in the leaves. These pigments are yellow, orange or brown, and they divert extreme sunlight away from the power stations of the leaf to prevent damage. But when chlorophyll breaks down each autumn, the protective pigments are revealed in the vibrant gold and bronze autumn foliage.

The familiar red tint of the maple leaf, however, has a different source. Maples and a handful of other trees actively produce the chemical that turns their leaves red. At a time of the year when the plant has hardly any resources left for such an energy-consuming process, it manufactures the scarlet pigment called anthocyanin. In fall, trees pull precious nutrients from the leaves back into the safe harbour of the stem for winter storage. During this time, the leaves are fragile and could easily be damaged, so the trees produce the familiar deep crimson as a sunscreen to protect their nutrient stockpile against untraviolet light.

Researchers at Colgate recently found maple trees also produce anthocyanin in the fall to kill competing plant life. When the scarlet leaves drop, the anthocyanins leach into the soil and protect seedlings and saplings from interspecific competition the following spring. The molecular structure of anthocyanin is nearly identical to catechin, a toxin that causes root cells to self-destruct.

IN PRAISE OF TORONTO'S TREES

Internationally renowned photographer Geoffrey James will collaborate with writer [and TFN member] Pleasance Crawford to produce *Toronto Tree Portraits*, a 2006 calendar that celebrates the importance and uniqueness of our tree heritage with a selection of tree portraits of some of Toronto's most remarkable trees.

The proceeds from sale of *Toronto Tree Portraits* will go directly to the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation (a non-profit, charitable foundation). Cost $15.

Call 416-397-5178 to order.

LOCKED OUT AND STARVING

Extracted from an article by Don Wanagas in Now, Oct. 27-Nov. 2, 2005.

During the past year, I've become something of a zealot in directing my household's organic waste into the two-wheeled receptacle so it can be returned to the earth.

That said, I suspect the container is cutting off raccoons' food supply and making them increasingly desperate.

For more than seven years I have kept fish in three ponds in my backyard on an east-end ravine. But this past summer, the raccoons destroyed my entire stock. Trying to figure out what had changed in my environment, it dawned on me that I had started using the green bin.

I shared my green bin theory with Natalie Karvonen, executive director of the Toronto Wildlife Centre. "It certainly is possible it's a contributing factor," she says. "All the raccoons are going crazy eating right now to fatten up for winter. I'm sure they're trying to get whatever food they can get their hands on."

Naturalist Barry Kent Mackay says the green bin has caused an "abrupt and very significant change" in the raccoon food supply. "They usually wouldn't touch fish if there's garbage available," he says. "But it makes sense when you're taking away a major and very easy source of nourishment that the animals will move up to the next level of exertion."

MacKay figures that over the next year or two the green bin might actually cause a reduction in Toronto's raccoon's population.

"That's the good news," he says. The bad news? Raccoons are quick learners and they may well start teaching others how to catch fish.

NOT EVERYONE CONSIDERS DUCKS' DEMISE FOUL PLAY

Extracted from an article in People and Places by Anthony Reinhart, The Globe and Mail, Oct. 29, 2005.

Visitors to High Park were shocked this week when some ducks turned up dead amid the supposedly safe confines of the park's zoo. It apparently happened Tuesday morning when a red fox jumped over the chain-link fence along Deer Pen Road and helped itself to a small flock of domestic ducks.

A neighbourhood resident spotted the fox lurking just outside the back fence of the pen. When she told a parks worker what she had seen, "he said this was just nature, that foxes kill ducks," she said. "And I said, 'Ducks aren't usually penned up so that they can't get away.' "

Foxes, like raccoons, are common in parts of Toronto where food is plentiful, said John Pisapio, a biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources. At 162 hectares, High Park is the city's biggest, and sits in the Humber River watershed, a natural corridor for wildlife. In other words, "no one should be surprised" to find foxes there.

Still, it's relatively rare to encounter one so brazen, Kevin Bowser, a city parks manager, said "Perhaps there's just not as much in the park for him to be eating this time of year,"as seasonal attendance drops, and with it, the supply of food discarded by visitors."

It's a curious human trait that, for a wildlife experience to be complete, the species needs to be labeled. Without it there's a sense of unfinished business.

From a review by Nick Garbutt of *The Natural History of Madagascar* by S.M. Goodman and J.P Benstead in BBC Wildlife, Vol. 22, No. 7, July 2004.

WEATHER (THIS TIME LAST YEAR)

DECEMBER 2004

The month began with a continuation of November's mild pattern, with frequent rains but only light transient snows. Temperatures rose as high as high as 11.9° at Pearson Airport. However, a drastic pattern change mid-month resulted in significant cold and one major snow storm. The big early arctic outbreak occurred on December 19 to 20 with a minimum temperature of –23.3° downtown and –24.3° at Pearson Airport on the 20th. This was the coldest December temperature since Christmas 1980 downtown and since 1989 at the airport. It was the coldest reading of any time since January 1994. Snow arrived two days later, followed by freezing rain and then several more cold days to carry us through Christmas. By month's end, the eastern ridge reasserted itself and there was a return to warm conditions. Overall, though, it was the most wintry December since 2000 with monthly mean temperatures close to the long-term normal and snowfall totals in the 35-40 cm range (thus moderately above normal). Christmas was unambiguously white. Rainfall was also above normal, and thus total precipitation (87.4 mm downtown and 90.4 mm at Pearson) was the highest since 1996.

JANUARY 2005

Hardly was ever a month more aptly named after the two-way facing Græco-Roman deity, Janus. The first two weeks of the month were exceptionally mild and reminiscent of January 2002 – or perhaps even more of January 1950 (before the author's time and probably most of the readers). This culminated in a few hours of all-time record warmth on January 13 when temperatures rose into the hitherto unknown high teens. (Pearson's 17.6° beat the 1950 record for the all-time January high. Downtown's maximum of 15.0° was a bit more modest, the warmest since 1967.) In spite of this warmth, there was still a considerable amount of snowfall during this two-week period, although rain and thaws eliminated the snow cover each time it occurred.

After the 13th, Arctic air swept down on Toronto consistently, and temperatures fell to –20° or below on 6 days at Pearson and 4 downtown. The peak of the wintry conditions was a blizzard on the 22nd. About 10 – 15 cm of snow fell with strong east winds producing blowing snow. At this time, temperatures were in the minus teens. Another pattern change – this time to tranquil sunshine and slightly above normal temperatures, occurred during the last few days of the month.

For the third year in a row, temperatures ended up averaging below the long-term normal, though only by about a degree: -5.4° downtown and –6.8° at Pearson. Rainfall was above normal in the 35 – 40 mm range, the highest since 1998. Snowfall was slightly below normal. Total precipitation was around 70 mm, slightly above normal. Sunshine was 98.2 hours, close to or slightly above average.

Gavin Miller

CANADA POST ISSUES NATURAL HISTORY POSTAGE STAMPS

Oct. 13, 2005	– Canada/China Joint Issue: Big Cats (North American cougar and Amur leopard)
Oct. 20, 2005	– $1 High Value Definitives: white-tailed deer and Atlantic walrus
Dec. 19, 2005	– $2 High Value Definitives: Sable Island horse and peregrine falcon
January 2006	– New Postal Rate Issues: bergamot blossoms (51 cents domestic), yellow lady's slipper (89 cents U.S. rate), Himalayan blue poppies ($1.49 International), pink fairy slipper ($1.05 oversized domestic rate)
October 2006	– Endangered Species (swift fox, blue racer snake, tiger salamander and Newfoundland marten)

Contributed by Don Davis, Toronto Entomologists Association

COMING EVENTS

Toronto Ornithological Club – Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Walks

- "Waterfowl." West Toronto Lakeshore & Beyond. Leader: Dave Milsom.
  Saturday, Dec. 10, 2005, 8:30 am (all day).
  Meet in the parking lot at Humber Bay Park East. Bring a lunch.
- "Gulls and Waterfowl." Sunnyside. Leader: Glenn Coady.
  Sunday, Jan. 15, 2006, 1:30 pm to sunset.
  Meet in the Sunnyside parking lot at the foot of Windermere Ave. Dress warmly.

Toronto Botanical Garden – Open House

Saturday, December 3, 2005, Noon to 4 pm. Ribbon-cutting ceremony 12:30 pm.
777 Lawrence Ave. E., Toronto. For information phone 416-397-1340.

Rouge Valley Conservation Centre – Guided Theme Walk

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2005, 1:30 pm (approx. 2 hours).
Starts and finishes at the RVCC, 1749 Meadowvale Rd., Scarborough.
For more information, phone 416-282-0453.

Toronto Entomologists Association

For further information, visit www.ontarioinsects.org.

High Park Walking Tours

Walks begin just south of the Grenadier Restaurant. Call 416-392-1748 or 416-392-6916 for information.
Donations of $2.00 accepted.

Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve – Reconnecting with the Don: Balancing the Valley

Photographic exhibit, August 16 to December 31, 2005 at Brewery Gallery. For details, phone 416-423-1504.

Toronto Reference Library – Animals <u>are</u> allowed in the Gallery

An exhibition of our furry, feathered, slimy and mischievous friends; selected from the Special Collections of TPL. At TD Canada Trust Gallery, Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St. (one block north of Bloor St.).
Opening tour Saturday, November 12 at 2:00 pm, continuing to January 15.

Ian Wheal – Heritage Walks

Free. For more information call 416-781-7663.
Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2005 – Portlands of Toronto.
Meet at southwest corner of Queen St. E. and Carlaw Ave. at 1:30 pm

The Market Gallery - Aba Bayefsky (1923-2001)

October 8, 2005 to February 5, 2006. 95 Front St. E. Free. This exhibit features drawings and paintings spanning 50 years of Bayefsky's career, including Toronto scenes, portraits and legends. For further information call 416-392-7604.

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This photograph is from the TFN archives. Do you recognize any of the people? Please let us know.