



Kawartha field naturalists

Fenelon Falls, Ontario P.O. Box 313 K0M 1H0

NEWSLETTER

No.7 FALL 1986

"ACTION FOR NATURE & ENVIRONMENT"



AUTUMN LEAVES - by Maxcine Huke

Mother Nature's green beauty of spring time has now turned to glorious shades of crimson red, orange and gold....leaves all over the place what do we do with them? Do we gather these leaves up and burn them or put them out for the garbage truck? We don't need to add more pollution to our air by burning, and the garbage truck really doesn't care to handle bags and bags of leaves either. So, what can we do?

Leaves have many uses. When they fall to the ground, it is one of Mother Nature's cycles and she has intended them to lay where they fall. Mother Nature, however, doesn't know about our man-made concrete therefore, we must clean leaves away from our sidewalks and driveways.

If you have a garden (flowering or vegetable), leaves make a dandy mulch, as do dead flowers, peelings, discarded vegetables from the garden, and stalks. Refuse of these types can be the starter for a compost pile, resulting in excellent fertilizer for next year's garden. **DO NOT PUT MEAT PRODUCTS IN YOUR COMPOST PILE!**

COMPOST INGREDIENTS: Select a spot in your yard suitable for debris (leaves, peelings, left-overs from the table etc.). Layer with this debris, and/or earth and manure (lime can also be used), turning over your mixture at least once a week or more often. A fork left at the compost site makes it handy to rotate the compost whenever you're walking by. The compost should be left to rot for at least a year before using. A good rule of thumb (green) is to be working on the second year's pile now, having one pile already to go next year. This is almost a cost-free fertilizer, and as I said earlier, just recycling Mother Nature's intentions.

Other ways are: the leaves that are on your lawn can be chopped with the lawn-mower and raked into the lawn, making excellent mulch for next year's green lawn (like free peat moss). Leaves make an excellent winter blanket for your perennials. All of this takes very little time while we are enjoying the out-of-doors in the spring and autumn.

In some larger cities and towns fertilizer companies, nurseries and others may take you unwanted leaves for mulch.

Happy raking and enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature's four seasons!

THE OZONE HOLE - by Alice Gilroy

As most of us know, the Earth's ozone layer is the part of the atmosphere which protects us from the sun's damaging ultraviolet rays. A reduction of only 1% of the ozone layer could result in 8,000 additional cases of skin cancer per year.

In 1974, it was predicted that the continued use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's), used as propellants for aerosol sprays, was gradually destroying the earth's ozone layer. Because of this concern, CFC's were banned in North America, Norway and Sweden, for use in aerosol sprays but continued to be used as a refrigerant (FREON). Elsewhere in the world, CFC's continued to be used extensively.

Of course, the chemical industry claimed that there was no direct proof that the ozone layer was actually being depleted. Now, however, physical evidence of such depletion has appeared dramatically in the form of a huge hole (60%) in the ozone layer over Antarctica. In a yearly cycle, the hole tends to heal itself, but then it reappears, much bigger than before.

If the use of fluorocarbons continues to grow at the present annual rate of 4.5%, there will be as much as a 60% reduction in atmospheric ozone by the middle of the next century. Well before it reaches that point, humans will have lost the ability to walk around outside without elaborate protective gear. Not only will humans be prey to the sun's ultraviolet rays, but so will all life on earth, causing cancerous mutations beyond our comprehension.

International teams of scientists are rushing to Antarctica to study this phenomenon. But, at this point, nothing less than a total ban on CFC's (for all uses) will stop this horror from becoming a reality!

BOOK REVIEW - submitted by Herman Milke

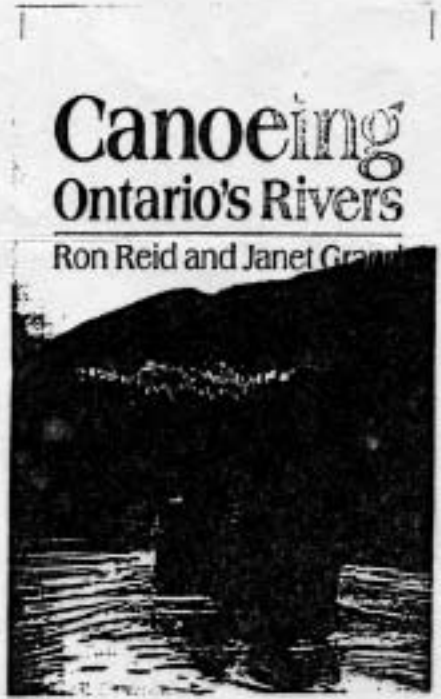
CANOEING ONTARIO'S RIVERS

by Ron Reid and Janet Grand

5 1/2 x 8 1/2", 320 pp., photographs with line drawings.

\$14.95 paperback

Publication date: April 19, 1986



FOR THE NOVICE SEEKING A GENTLE BACKWATER IN THE PASTORAL SETTING OF SOUTHERN ONTARIO, OR AN EXPERT WANTING THE CHALLENGE OF A RAGING WHITEWATER TO THE ARTIC SEA, CANOEING ONTARIO'S RIVERS PROVIDES THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PLAN THE TRIP AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE AREA'S HISTORY AND ECOLOGY TO FULLY ENJOY IT.

Ontario is canoe country -- a network of pristine lakes and foaming rivers unrivalled in North America. The canoe is part of the heritage of this northern landscape, and no other craft is so ideally suited to exploring the hundreds of routes that criss-cross this province. CANOEING ONTARIO'S RIVERS helps the canoeist find the canoe trip ideally suited to his or her level of skill and will bring the traveller more fully in touch with the wilderness.

Drawing on the authors' fifteen years of canoeing experience, this book provides detailed information on a range of rivers. Each route includes first-hand descriptions and maps of rapids, portages, access arrangements and other vital details, along with references to topographic maps and useful documents.

Janet Grand and Ron Reid believe that each river has a story to tell. In an attractive blend of fact and woodland lore, they discuss the origin of Ontario's rocks, the romance of the fur trade and logging drives, and the fascination of wild plants and animals.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - CLIFF TAYLOR

"Olive and I have been looking forward to the coming season of club activities and meetings. Since we moved from Fenelon Falls we don't get to meet the club members as often as we would like to, but it makes it all the more pleasurable when we do; the only thing is that time is too short to talk to everyone".

"We are greatly indebted to a couple of good friends for their generosity in supplying us with free B and B when we come here. Let's hope the weather won't prevent us from coming every month, as we are looking forward to a very good season, and with the director's we have, I

we will be disappointed."

POEM - submitted by Tracey Dunbar

The cavern-loving wren sequestered seeks
 The verdant shelter of the hollow stump,
 And with congenial moss, harmless deceit,
 Constructs a safe abode. On topmost boughs
 The glossy raven, and the hoarsevoiced crow,
 Rocked by the storm, erect their airy nests.
 The ousel, lone frequenter of the grove
 Of fragrant pines, in solemn depth of shade
 Finds rest; or 'mid the holly's shining leaves,
 A simple bush the piping thrush contents,
 Though in the woodland concert he aloft
 Trills from his spotted throat a powerful strain,
 And scorns the humbler quire. The lark too asks
 A lowly dwelling, hid beneath a turf,
 Or hollow, trodden by the sinking hoof;
 Songster of heaven: who to the sun such lays
 Pours forth, as earth ne'er owns. Within the hedge
 The sparrow lays her skystained eggs. The barn,
 With eaves o'erpendant, holds the chattering tribe:
 Secret the linnet seeks the tangled copse:
 The white owl seeks some antique ruined wall,
 Fearless of rapine; or in hollow trees,
 Which age has caverned, safely courts repose:
 The thievish pie, in twofold colours clad,
 Roofs o'er her curious nest with firmwreathed twigs,
 And sidelong forms her cautious door; she dreads
 The taloned kite, or pouncing hawk; savage
 Herself, with craft suspicion ever dwells.

Bidlake

COMING EVENTS

- November through to February - Raffle tickets are to be sold. 50¢ each or 3 for \$1.00. The prizes are: a handmade quilt, a stillife painting and a nature sketch. The draw will be made at the Annual banquet on Feb. 6/87
- Nominations for the Dr. Gunn Memorial Award are to be received by the Dec. 1 general meeting.
- Dec. 1 - Young Peoples Night - 7:00 pm., in the basement of the Fenelon Falls United Church. This is a family meeting where the guest speaker will be R.D. Lawrence, who will be talking and showing films about wolves.
- Jan. 5, 1987 - General Meeting - Guest speaker will be Bob Penwell from the Ministry of Natural Resources. The topic will be - The Decline of Our Forests.
- Feb. 6 - Annual General Meeting and Dinner at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fenelon Falls. Guest speaker will be Geof Carpenter whose talk will be "What kind of bird is a Polar Bear."

WHO'S WHO IN THE CLUB

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|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| President | - Cliff Taylor | Ducks Unlimited |
| Vice-President | - Michael Mangan | Liason - Dave Robertson |
| Secretary | - Crystal Oliver | F.O.N. Liason - Herman Milke |
| Treasurer | - Alice Gilroy | and Mike Mangan |
| Program Director | - Andy Sorensen | Newsletter Editor - Denise |
| Publicity Director | - Jo Northey | Lauzon |
| Conservation Fund | | Membership Committee |
| Chairman | - Andy Sorensen | Chairman - Maxcine Huke |
| Recycling Committee | | Environmental Projects Co-ord- |
| Chairman | - Jack Vanatter | Mary Hill, Herman Milke and |

ning. If you have a frog pond nearby, they will thank you