



From Around Home

by Roy Forrester

Again this year we reported the appearance of a Red Bellied Woodpecker, male, that has for a couple years been enjoying the feeder at the home of the McDonnells, 3467 Pollard Road. Upon publishing the appearance, we received a call from Shelley Heritage, of the Sixth Concession east of Kirby, reporting a female Red Bellied Woodpecker active at one of their feeders and wondering if there could be a connection between the two birds. It well could be that they were a mated pair who after raising a brood to adulthood have gone on their own until the spring of the year when the life cycle starts all over again. There is also the fact that the Red Bellied Woodpecker is a rather scarce species and to find two within an area would suggest there is a good chance they're a pair.

It could be interesting to

keep track of the birds as to when they leave the feeders and if it is in and around the same time. This is a good sighting and one of interest. Don Lycett and I spent the better part of an afternoon in search of the bird but without success.

On another note, I spent two and-a-half enjoyable hours Sunday afternoon attending the Oshawa Annual community Band Concert featuring two brass bands and the Composite band along with St. George's Anglican Church Choir. There was a wide choice of music on the program. A euphonium solo by Ivor Snell was unbelievable and shared top place along with a saxophone solo for which the choir provided the background by humming. The event was a sell-out, as well it should have been—offering great musical entertainment.

Jaworski

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you don't know how to make one, and neither do I.

The reasoning goes as follows: In order to make a pencil, you have to get things like, for instance, wood. But to get wood, you'll have to cut down trees, which takes chainsaws. So you'll have to know how to make chainsaws. And mills to process the lumber. And trucks to carry the lumber. That rubber on the tip of the pencil also requires processing and you'll have to know how to make all those things that go into the processing of rubber. Then there's the train that carries the pencil-good luck figuring out how much steel you'll need for that (and the steel will have to be mined, which requires more particular knowledge). In short, you just can't do it.

This begins to explain the devastating results in socialist and communist countries. Soviet Russia, besides being a leader in air and water pollution, also managed to keep everyone from getting what they needed due to constant shortages. Almost everything was in short supply from

bicycles, to bread, to meat, to clothing. Everything, that is, with the exception of, well, vinegar.

Similarly in China where vast famines spread through the country during their "great leap forward." People starved by the millions. The now obvious reason was a centrally-planned agricultural system that never quite managed to give any farmer good enough reason to farm as much as he could, nor to sensibly distribute seeds, or farming machinery.

As I see it, we have not always taken such lessons to heart. The fact of the matter is that each of us know things that experts either don't, or can't know. You know better than I do about what you want to eat tomorrow. Or whether or not you want a red, blue, or green bicycle. Or a pogo stick instead. With something like 30 million other Canadians to think about, the problem of centrally organizing all of us becomes overwhelming.

Which is why it's surprising that some people still cling to the silly notion that we could, if we just had the right experts, centrally run anything at all.

Noise

Continued from front

closer to the house, said Alldread. "Now the speeds are higher, the trucks louder, and the trees that provided some buffer are gone," he said. Rowe Street residents did put board fences in their backyards over the years, which according to Lewis did help the noise problem a bit, but mainly it provided some privacy. "People don't wave at you when you're sitting in the backyard," she stated.

Deficiencies along the highway were identified in a Highway Assessment Study completed in May 2001. MPP John O'Toole stated in a phone interview with The Times last week that almost every constituent along the Highway has written or phoned his office at one time requesting relief from the escalating noise levels along the highway. The 2001 Study indicated highway noise did exceed provincial warrants. However, the 115/35 project was put on the back burner, according to O'Toole, while the situation along the 401 in Newcastle was addressed as those noise levels also exceed provincial warrants.

Along with the sound barriers recommended by the Ministry in the 12 km stretch of highway from the Main Street Orono ramp north to the Highway 35/115 split, the improvement plan is also considering pavement rehabilitation, improvements to illumination, signage, drainage, fencing, and the closure of the Old Highway 35 where it enters onto 115/35 Highway.

According to Project Engineer Mr. Nan Nanthakumaran, because of the configuration of that ramp, vehicles can not get up to speed before merging with traffic thus causing a safety concern with that entrance. While his office has no record of this access point causing any accident, he is aware of several near misses.

The Ministry of Transportation is hosting a public information session this Thursday, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Odd Fellow & Rebekah Centre Hall providing the public an opportunity to give their input into this project.

According to Nanthakumaran the decision of whether

to close the ramp or not will be left up to the people in that area. Residents living on that stretch of road contacted by The Times said they would rather have the ramp closed.

Nanthakumaran did not anticipate improvements to be completed by this summer, stating "the project is subject to funding."

Fireworks

Continued from front

ment Associations in the municipality to be used for community sponsored events, or that \$15,000 be added to the Municipal grant process.

This option was not sup-

ported in the motion put forward by Councillor Jim Schell and approved by council. Schell's motion which was adopted was to cancel the *Backyard Festival* due to budgetary constraints and apply the savings to the Municipality's 2004 operating budget.

Orono Times
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~ HAPPENINGS ~

Friday, March 5

Progressive Euchre - at Orono United Church, 7:30 p.m., cost \$10

Saturday, March 13

Ganaraska Forest Horse Club Fundraiser Dance - 8:30 p.m. at Kendal Community Centre, 6742 Regional Rd.#18 (Newtonville Road); music by DJ Jim Allen. Door prizes and draws, silent auction, cash bar, light lunch, \$10 per ticket at door or call 905-983-9373 or 905-797-2962.

Wednesday, March 17

Chili Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$8.00, at Rebekah Centre. Luncheon includes chili, salad, dinner rolls, pie, cake, beverage. *Sponsored by Heather Rebekah Social Club 62.* For tickets call: Viola 905-983-9571, Connie 905-983-5726, Lorna 905-983-5608

Saturday, March 20

Orono Town Hall Spaghetti Dinner & Auction Fundraiser - 7 p.m. John Yates on piano. Tickets \$20. Call Ann 905-983-5903 or Jeanne 905-983-5230.

Saturday, March 20

Orono Fire Fighters' Dance - 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Orono Arena. DJ - Mike's Music. Includes door prizes, spot dances, light buffet. Tickets - call Marty Trachsler 905-983-1125, Angela Lynde-Sinclair 905-983-8253 or any Station #3 firefighter.

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