



THE WATERS of Black Creek flow through shady and sunny areas of the Limehouse Conservation area, a lovely place for a summer stroll along a well blazed trail which takes walkers through forest glades and sunny stretches of field.

CVCA to expand education program

Credit Valley Conservation Authority will expand its outdoor education program next year.

Thursday, CVCA approved hiring a part-time assistant teacher and buying \$850 in equipment so its education program can reach double the number of pupils.

The new staffer who will help education Officer George Roberts will work four days a week for 10 months annually and receive \$6,100 a year.

New snowshoes, rubber boots, rainwear and magnifying glasses will also be purchased at a cost of \$850.

In addition, fees for outdoor education classes will be increased to \$1 per pupil at the Terra Cotta education centre and 50 cents per pupil at the Orangeville maple syrup centre.

Roberts warned CVCA members that there may be some resistance to the increased fees especially in the first year so the number of students in the program might not double.

He noted he taught 4,000 students this year and would like to see that increased to 8,000. Roberts pointed out 8,000 students would bring in \$7,200 in increased fees.

He said the increased fee resistance may be counteracted by the fact bus fees per student would be reduced if

two classes come to the centre instead of just one.

Roberts said that once there are enough students coming to the centre, which will be moved to the Silvercreek Conservation Area being developed north of Georgetown, the assistant would go on full time and receive \$9,100 a year.

He said the assistant won't be hired until the start of 1979.

CVCA member Robert Harrison thought even with the increase pupil's fees are still too low. He said the revised fees would be lower than most conservation authorities charge and higher than very few.

Chairman Grant Clarkson cautioned members to realize another employee was being hired, recalling he didn't know an education officer was being hired until after it was approved.

Halton Hills member Gail Maltby thought fees should be even higher. She said they would be too low when the outdoor education program is improved next year.

Clarkson thought there should be a more direct connection between school boards in the water-shed and the CVCA's education program. He wants to see a financial connection, adding that in Toronto school boards contribute to costs for outdoor education.

Member Harold Kennedy said he didn't care if school boards were involved financially but thought the CVCA and school boards should work closely together so outdoor education is fully utilized.

Roberts said he deals quite a bit with school boards in the watershed, adding he is currently trying to coordinate busing with the boards. He noted more money for outdoor education comes from the province if the activity is considered an education day activity.

He said the program is well off the ground, adding he has more requests for classes than he can handle.

Roberts explained his programs don't cover what students have taken at school but adds to their learning.

Halton Region Conservation Authority has four teachers, he noted.

Member Frank Leavers thought it would be better to run the present outdoor education program for a year at Silvercreek before expanding it.

Maltby said CVCA has a good education program and an assistant is urgently needed.

Roberts said he needs an assistant to help with teaching while he lays out nature education trails at Silvercreek.

