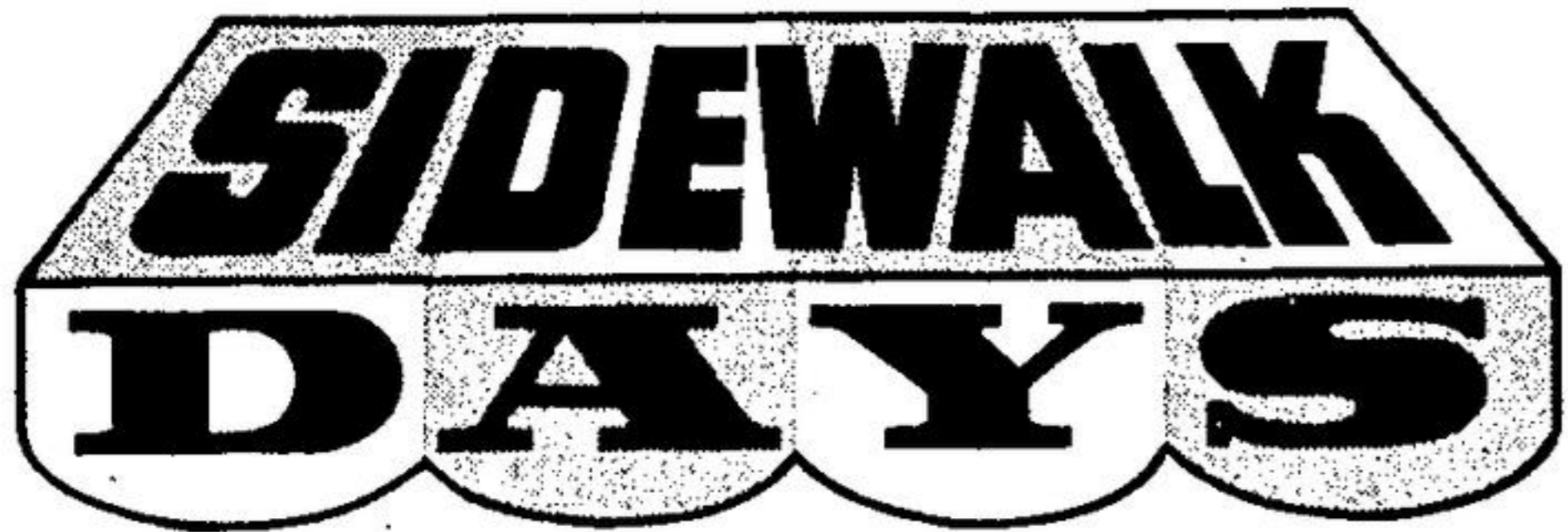


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Students Tour Conservation Areas

Recently, students from Bramalea Secondary School went on field trips to Conservation Areas owned by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Following these trips to Terra Cotta Conservation Area and Orangeville Reservoir Conservation Area, the students were asked to sum up their experience by writing "What Conservation Means To Me." These reports, after being graded by the teachers, were turned over to the Authority. We at the Credit Valley Conservation Authority thought that a look at conservation areas and conservation practices from a teenager's eyes might prove interesting.

Following are some excerpts from the student reports. "I feel there is a tremendous need for conservation areas. They serve as parks, zoos without bars for some wildlife...there should be more conservation areas where people can get away from their busy, noisy lives and back to nature."

"The opportunity to go into designated areas and be able to see wildlife function in its own habitat...the chance to see the way that people and animals mingle together and the sense of freedom from being outdoors where there is fresh air and green areas...now that the government is taking an interest and conserving special areas they are enabling the generation to follow to see what we have seen."

Referring to the Orangeville Reservoir Conservation Area, several Grade 10 students gave the following impressions:

"Reservoir means a large area filled up with water controlled by man...by this we control flooding, erosion and pollution...this could not be accomplished if man was not concerned...we feel the need for conservation at this time, living where we do now...in this modern world where industry is flourishing around us pollution is going to be more extreme than ever...the only answer is to control our environment both biologically and economically...removing industry from residential areas...planting trees to control air pollution and setting aside areas where growth is not allowed...maintaining the balance of nature."

"Conservation areas give endangered animals a chance to reproduce and survive...they control water in rainy seasons so that there are no floods and creeks and rivers do not go dry in hot, dry spells...they provide recreation for many by stocking fish, permitting hunting, providing hiking trails, picnic and swimming areas and a place for man to study animals and the rate of growth and change of vegetation under natural conditions."

"Today's world is becoming very crowded and technical and we need conservation to make sure forests do not have to make room for factories. Nature is our most valuable resource...we use its trees for building, its plants for food, its wildlife for food and clothing and its water for drinking...there is nothing in our world today which could survive without nature for it is the basis of life as we know it."

"To me conservation means an essential rethinking of mankind's attitude must take place if he is to survive...technological advances have given the western world a quiet comfortable standard of living yet the same advances are threatening the very life of man by their squandering and polluting our natural resources...man's attitudes and actions must change if we are to survive."

Generally the students agree with the student who wrote, "...if we don't have conservation areas man will have nothing except a cement world to look at on a day off!"

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