

Outlook on Halton Hills



Branch plant

A CUT ABOVE: The apple orchards of Al Ferri were under invasion last Wednesday by groups

of scientists and orchard owners on a day-long field trip to witness some hands-on pruning. The en-

tourage of three busloads toured the Ferri farm on the Fifth Slideroad (Heritage Road) near Huttonville.

Spring meeting with a beaver

Backyard Naturalist

By DON SCALLEN
Herald Special



Homo sapiens was not the only mammalian species enjoying last weekend's exquisite warmth and sunshine. On the banks of the Credit River a family group of five plump beaver whiled away Saturday afternoon alternately feeding, grooming and basking.

I chanced upon these obviously contented creatures on the last leg of a walk along the Credit Valley footpath. As notoriously short-sighted creatures, beaver can often be approached very closely. They can detect quick movements, but a slow moving person becomes well nigh invisible - they don't seem able to distinguish an intruder from the background. Beaver rely on their hearing and keen sense of smell to detect potential threats. On this day my close approach was further aided by the rushing water of the river. It masked any noise that I made and I was privy, for a short while, to family life, beaver style.

Initially I observed a pair of adult beaver resting on the riverbank, engaged occasionally in what appeared to be grooming behavior. One would repeatedly and gently nibble the fur on the back of the other. These parent beaver were eventually joined on the bank by three of their offspring the year before. (Beaver family groups consist of a mated pair, yearlings and, after mid to late spring, new-born "kits". Two-year-old offspring leave the family group to fend for themselves).

The three young beaver were far more active than their parents. One of them hauled itself out on the sunny bank, and as a dog would, shook the water from its body. Then it settled down and undertook a meticulous grooming operation. It

sat back and with a dextrous front paw, moved its broad flat tail forward, in front of its body. In this position the beaver began rubbing an area at the base of its tail - presumably an oil gland. After collecting the gland secretion, the beaver used its front paws to spread it over its body, evoking an image of a person in a shower stall. After grooming itself the young beaver nibbled some grass shoots by the water's edge and then slid back in.

Beaver are common denizens of the Credit Valley watershed. On a recent canoe trip from the Forks of the Credit to Huttonville, trees felled by beaver were very much in evidence, all along the route. The presence of beaver in the watershed is also indicated by their amazing construction projects - lodges, dams and canals. The prominence of this beaver sign and the beaver's active lifestyle, make the beaver a relatively easy animal to locate and observe.

They appear in mid to late afternoon and are active through the evening and into the night. When you find a pond or a stretch of stream where beaver have been at work, the most effective way of observing them is to simply sit and wait. Often it isn't long before one swims by, on its way to an aspen or poplar dinner. And if it detects your presence you'll be admonished by a resounding slap of its tail on the surface of the water, a signal that tells other beaver to beware.

Correction: Last week a misprint incorrectly described Roger Tory Peterson's description of a Cedar Waxwing call as a "high lisp or yell." Rest assured that you will never be accosted by a flock of "yelling" Waxwings in the outdoors. The passage should have read "a high lisp or zeeo".

TRAFFIC COURT AGENT
Upset About An Unjust Traffic Ticket?

CALL
TICKETS INC.

Protect against insurance hikes & Demerit Points

COUNTRY HOMES • HOUSES • TOWNHOUSES
10 YEARS EXPERIENCE • GUARANTEED WORK

LOW HOURLY or FLAT RATE
454-TRUK

OVERSEAS & NORTH AMERICAN SHIPMENTS ARRANGED

PICK UP & DELIVERY WITHIN THE TOWNS OF HALTON HILLS COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS INVITED

Preppies coming to AHS

Acton High School students and staff are preparing for a musical production of Preppies, a comedy about life in topiders, to be performed during the first week of May.

David Taylor's play, first performed in New York in 1983, has never been produced by a high school company, co-director Susie Beber said. She added it is a demanding play - with up to 30 adult and student cast members.

Although the production is still in its infancy, students and crew are rehearsing for up to six hours per week. Lisa Sansom, a student, is choreographing a gala tap dance

Exclusive Lines of Jewelry • Gifts For You or Any Occasion • Expert Jewelry Repair

Jade House
JEWELLERY & GIFTS
Downtown Georgetown 877-3068
89 Main St. E.

LEARN TO DRIVE THIS SPRING

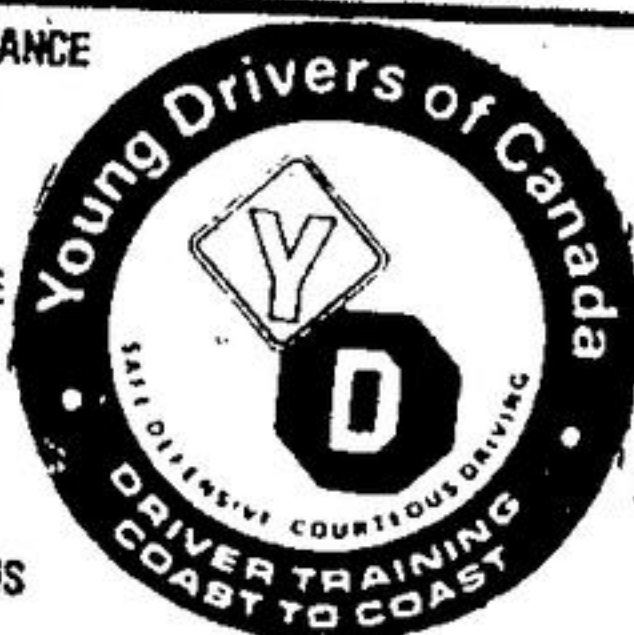
APRIL COURSE
BEGINS APRIL 15th
4 WEEK COURSE
Wednesday & Thursdays
7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

• HIGH INSURANCE DISCOUNTS

• COURSES TAX DEDUCTIBLE

• ROAD TEST INCLUDED

• PRIVATE IN-CAR LESSONS



Y.D. COURSES ARE AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH AUTHORIZED CENTRES OF YOUNG DRIVERS OF CANADA LOCATED COAST TO COAST

877-0751

16 Mountainview Rd. S., Georgetown
FOR BRAMPTON OR BRAMALEA
CALL 459-0417

OVER 200,000 GRADUATES RECOMMEND

Young Drivers of Canada

TRUCKLOAD SALE!

SPECIALS ON
RCA ELECTROHOME TOSHIBA AND OTHERS

SUPER BUY!
26" COLOR CONSOLE ONLY
\$597.00

14" REMOTE COLOR TV
Built-In Converter Earphone Jack
SPECIAL **\$369**



REMOTE CONTROL With Built-In Converter
20" \$478.
26" \$778.

VCR DELUXE MODEL NOW ONLY **\$449**

BUY NOW & SAVE!

RCA 8 HR. VCR RECORDING TAPE..... **\$6.47 EA.**

ON ALL VCR'S, TV'S, STEREOS, RADIOS, TV CARTS AND STANDS

20" COLOR SPECIAL **\$349**

Milliere T.V. SALES and SERVICE

14 Wesleyan Street (Just Off Main St.)
877-3405

MICRO-WAVE OVENS
FROM **\$269**
Complete with 25 items in Home Service