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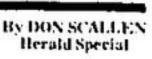
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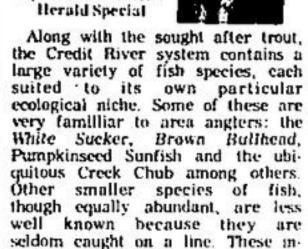
> **SHOP OUR YELLOW** PAGE FIRST!!!

Dutlook on Lifestyle

Not every small fish

Backyard Naturalist





various minnows. Several years ago I conducted a fish survey of the Credit River and its tributaries for a biology class at university. Over several weeks 1 collected and identified 20 species of fish in the watershed, primarily in Halton Hills streams.

clude sticklebacks, darters and

Included in this total were 9 minnow species, a diverse group that contains such species as Chub, Shiners and Goldfish. One of my more interesting discoveries was a good population of Redside Dace in a small stream feeding into the Credit River Just north of the paper mill dam. Named for brilliant red stripes that highlight the sides of the males, the large mouth and streamlined body of this minnow suggest the form of a small trout. In Canada the Redside Dace is found only in clear streams that flow into western Lake Ontario, and may well be a candidate for endangered species status in future.

Unfortunately the population of this rare fish disappeared almost entirely from this location after the paper mill dam was breached to lessen the possibility of spring flooding in the Glen. The water level upstream from the dam was lowered and the pools, in the feeder stream that formerly held the dace, were drained.

Contrary to popular belief, not all small fish are minnows. Darters, members of the perch family, and members of the sucker family are commonly misidentified as minnows. The Credit system in this area contains at least 2 species of each of these families.

The familliar White Sucker, a bottom feeding fish is large, sometimes attaining the prodigious tength of 45 cm - even in tiny streams seemingly unsuited to a fish of this size. It's mottled cousin, the Hog Sucker, often shares its habitat but is generally much smaller.

Small members of the perch family, darters are represented in this area by the Johnny Darter and the Rainbow Darter. The Johnny Darter is very well comouflaged, its 6 or 7 cm body blends almost perfectly with the gray-brown sand and gravel of the streams it inhabits. It is a common fish however, and can, with a little careful scrutiny, be located - usually resting motionless on the stream bottom. With the least sign of danger from above however, it is off in a flash, as belits a fish named "darter".

The Johnny Darter has a flamboyant relative in the Rainbow Darter, a fish that thrives amidst the most turbulent rapids of the Credit River. I was not aware of the existence of this fish, until, during my survey, I swung my collec-ting net blindly through the rapids of mid-river. I was not really expecting any results; the agitated waters seemed unlikely habitat for small fish. But to my surprise, every second or third try brought

Rainbow Darters to the surface.

The colour of the male Rainbow Darters, painted in vived hues of blue, yellow and orange rivals that of aquarium favourites from the tropics. They are a beautiful component of our local fauna

Nature watch: Over the next two weeks warblers will be moving through our area as the spring migration reaches its peak.

Messenger garbles the content



the odds

PAT WOODE

One has to give credit to government when it introduces programs that are beneficial to the disabled. Sometimes, however, the messenger garbles the content and destroys the credibility that exist.

Last Friday, The Honourable Tony Ruprecht Minister without portfolio for The Physically Disabled, addressed close to 60 people gathered at St. Andrew's United Church for a Social Evening organized by The Physically Handicapped Citizens Association. Some of the information was clear and straightforward but unfortunately, most of it was poorly presented.

He announced that the Province has now published "A Guide For Disabled Persons To Ontario Covernment Programs And Services". He had no copy's with him but said he would send a publication to anyone who requested one from The Office for Disabled Persons, 3rd Floor, 700 Bay Street, Toronto, M5G 126 or call (416)965-3165 (Voice abd TDD), PHCA will also provide some assistance.

The Revised Ontario Building Code was held up as an achievement for the province with regards to accessibility. It truly is the best in Canada, but this did not come about without considerable pressure from Disabled Persons, their organizations and other con-

cerned groups. Section 16 1A of the Ontario Human Rights Code has been amended to allow appeals in cases of discrimination. Much more will be accomplished when the rest of bill 7 is enacted. It passed third reading in The House some time

Mr. Ruprecht announced a 12 million dollar expansion of The night regarding disability pensions Community Action Fund. This will allow organizations acting on the behalf of The Disabled to initiate new projects within their communi-

When it came to the Assistive Devices Program, Mr. Ruprecht seemed unaware of the extent of the current program. He mentioned expansion to the current age of 21 for eligibility. Since July of 1986 anyone 22 years of age or younger could apply for 75 per cent coverage for all assistive devices. Anyone older can receive assistance for respiratory equipment or artificial body parts.

Comments on accessibility in homes by increasing grants to The Easter Seals Society by 1.7 million dollars was confusing as he appeared not to differentiate between the Easter Seals Society and The Home Renewal Program. Little was clarified when it came to asking questions of him.

The attendant Care Program will get a boost in the arm as it will receive 4.9 million over the next three years.

A question was asked on Friday and how it is effected once the recipient reaches age 65. Once again Mr. Ruprecht seemed at a loss in relation to how these programs

Queries about parking permits revealed that Mr. Ruprecht clearly had not done his homework even after a request had been made several days earlier with regards to this issue. He seemed unaware what had transpired in the previous 2 years since PHCA initiated Legislation which would ensure a Province wide portable parking permit system. The discussion which followed soon deteriorated to a point where there was total lack of concensus on the part of those in attendance and the Minister himself.

Money is going to be made available to modify community centres and churches in a concerted effort to make them accessible. This appears to be a new pro-gram and Mr. Ruprecht was not at liberty to give many details.



Next Course: June 1st-24th 6:30-9:30



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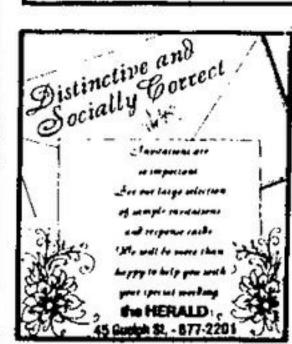




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