

# Environment

## Unique environment program for students

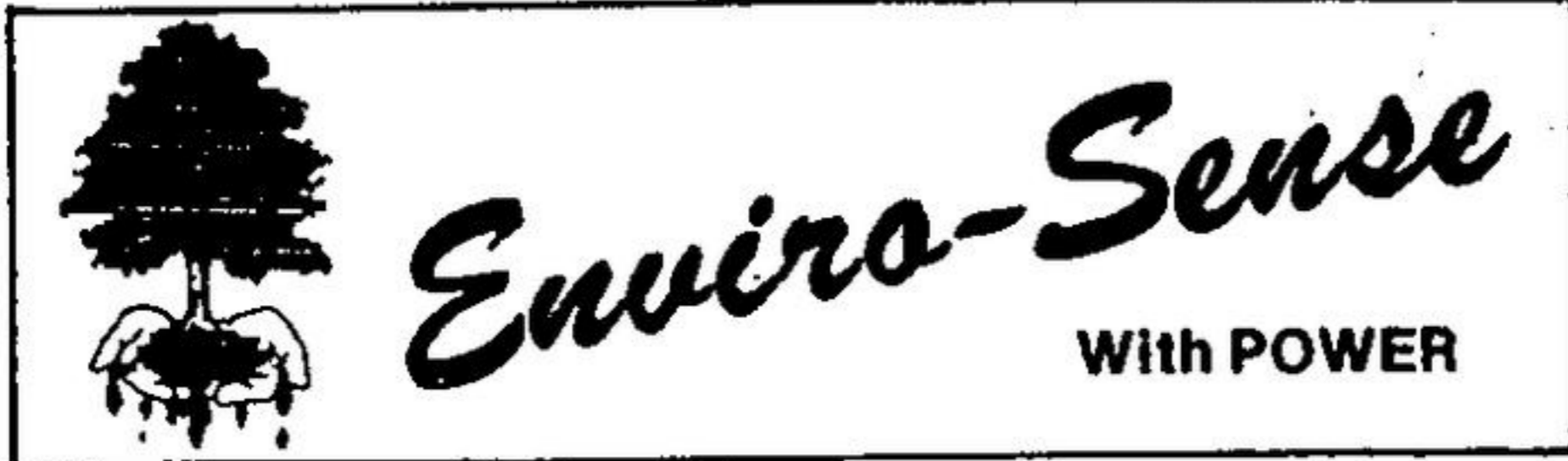
By STEVE BLACKBURN

**Student Environment Program**  
When I first heard about the Bronte Creek Project, I was told that it was a guidance, leadership, training program. I soon found out it is much more than that.

The Bronte Creek Project is a unique, alternative, learning program for a select crew of secondary school students. These students are selected from across the Halton Board and work together for a whole semester.

In the process they build and run a community, develop their personal leadership skills by running an earth education program for elementary students, build their sense of adventure by participating in a wilderness backpacking or rock climbing trip and also study the environmental impact they and other humans have on the Earth.

The Bronte Creek Project is of-



ferred year round by the Halton Board of Education at two natural sites situated on the Niagara Escarpment. Four grade 11 high school credits are built into the Bronte Creek Project, these being a social science credit, an outdoor education credit and a guidance credit and a leadership credit.

John McKillop, who is presently teaching at one of the sites is the founder of this program and has run it successfully for ten years.

Having completed the Bronte

Creek Project as a student in the second semester of the 89/90 school year, my lifestyle and views on life have changed dramatically.

I'm constantly questioning the amount of impact that my actions are having on the earth and I try to help others see and find solutions to the environmental problems that we all face. I am currently back at the Bronte Creek Project working as a teacher's assistant through my school's cooperative education program. I'm focused on working towards a

career as a teacher, and pursuing my studies on the environment and in the natural sciences.

This program is probably the best kept secret in the Halton Board of Education. If you are outgoing, concerned about the environment, love adventure and kids, I would recommend the Bronte Creek Project to you in a minute.

For more information contact Steve Blackburn, John McKillop or Sue Wallace at the camp number, 854-2267.

Hear Anne Reeves of CFRB's Earthline Phone-In at P.O.W.E.R.'s Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, November 28th, 8 p.m., at Georgetown District High School.

You can make a difference!

## POWER applauds board

P.O.W.E.R., a Halton Hills based environmental group, lauded efforts made by the Halton Board of Education in the area of conservation recently, and suggested several ways to continue such progress.

In a letter to Bob Parry, head of the environmental awareness committee for the board, P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources) affirmed, "We are encouraged and pleased to see the Halton Board tackling the problem of policy on the environment." The letter went on to recommend that individual efforts, such as the

Glen Williams Public School lunch garbage program and the Acton High School environmental group, be encouraged by the board to network.

The group also suggested that the Bronte Creek Project, which they described as "the most exciting concept that is making lasting change in participating students" be expanded to include board personnel and teacher representatives from schools. "The total immersion experience of a two or three day workshop," they said, would help immensely in preparing people for change.

Aside from schools, board offices and teachers becoming role

models, P.O.W.E.R. also suggested, "attitudes and values can best be taught in an outdoor setting" and that schools should take "a cross-curriculum approach" to teaching environmentalism.

Also attached to the two-page letter was a list of 52 conservation and environmental suggestions for the board and its schools, as well as a list of nine curriculum suggestions.

The group had a chance to verbally present their recommendations to the committee on Monday night. The committee is expected to prepare a report for the Board of Trustees in the near future.

### Town Gardener

## Cyclamen ideal as indoor plant

By TOM CAVAN  
Cavan's Garden Centre  
Erin, Ont.

Among all flowering plants available today Cyclamen stands alone as the longest flowering potted flower for indoor use. One of the reasons it flowers so long is because of its growing habits. Cyclamen require approximately 16-18 months from seed to flower! Cyclamen prefer cooler temperatures and bright indirect light. If kept in a cool location, cyclamen will bloom from September to February.

Cyclamen come in an array of colorful blooms which nod as they open. Their greyish blue-green heart shape leaves have a real

tropical look all by themselves. When buying a Cyclamen look down underneath these marbled leaves to see forth coming flowers, if there are no buds this tells you it's been mishandled or it's finished flowering. This is not a good buy! A good healthy Cyclamen will have crisp rich colorful leaves and underneath you'll find in excess of 20-25 buds which come in succession.

Keep the Cyclamen away from heat sources. It prefers indirect light and a moist well drained soil. Always use a saucer to water from below. Don't let it stand in

water and never water the soil surface, this will either cause loss of future flowers or crown rot where the leaves come up from its tuberous root.

After flowering is over, keep cool and dry until leaves fade. Then clean off the foliage and rest in the garage, occasionally giving it a small amount of water during hibernation. Approximately mid August, place in a cool bright window. Reflowering will be stronger with less leaves.

If you have any gardening questions call the Grapevine Hot Line 519-833-2117.

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