

# Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre needs volunteers

The volunteer program at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre created itself. Last summer, a number of nature lovers who enjoyed the peace and spirit of quiet adventure at the Marsh asked if they could help out with trail checking and aquarium stocking. This year, Nature Interpreter Duncan Gow is actively looking for volunteers.

Mr. Gow has outlined a number of areas where volunteer help can be utilised. "We are looking for people to take photographs for use in our publicity material," he said. "We would supply film and look after developing, but volunteers would supply their own cameras." At the Marsh this year, a bluebird nesting program is being set up. "This is a bird whose population has decreased over the last 50 years," says Gow. "We are putting up nesting boxes which are suitable only for bluebirds (starlings can't fit into them) and volunteers could help us to keep records on eggs laid, and the progress of the young." He added that the wood duck population is also declining, and volunteers would be able to assist in a rejuvenation program for these creatures. "Trail maintenance and sign checking is another area where we can use volunteers," says Mr. Gow. "And we are looking for people to help

us to build displays for our orientation centre." Some people have particular expertise in natural science, and Gow hopes that they might enjoy taking groups on specialized hikes through the conservation area. One of last year's young volunteers particularly enjoyed taking school groups on tours. Volunteers may also

assist in taking bird census, netting small creatures to stock aquariums, and helping to move fish and turtles from one area of the marsh to another. Mr. Gow hopes this summer to establish some off-site programs in places like Midland's Little Lake Park, and Tiffin Park. This is a place where volunteers

could be most helpful. Even those without any particular wildlife skills can find a place in the Wye Marsh conversation corps. "We can use Secretarial help too," says Mr. Gow. "We run off a lot of pamphlets in the summer time."

There are seven naturalists on duty at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre this summer. They are waiting to work with any who may volunteer a few hours a week - hours that may turn out to be recreation in its truest sense.

## Seniors' apartments closer to reality

After several years of speculation and planning, a large home adjacent to Knox Presbyterian Church on Hugel Avenue is one step closer to becoming an apartment complex for senior citizens. Last Tuesday, Midland's committee of adjustment approved a request to lower the required road frontage on the property from 90 to 75 feet. With this approval, representatives of Canada Word of Truth, the Christian lay organization which owns the house, can now approach the planning board for the final go-ahead for the final apartment project.

Reverend Robert Little, who has for several years spearheaded the drive to have the house converted into apartments for seniors, said he was "pleased and thrilled" that the project is a step closer to becoming a reality. "I don't think there is a more suitable place in town for a senior citizen's

apartment. It's close to downtown shopping, churches, doctors and lawyers," he said. The house has for some years attracted the attention of planning board and senior citizens alike. Originally it was bequeathed to the town by Mrs. Julia Price, with the stipulation that it be converted into housing for senior citizens. The town felt initially that it couldn't practically handle the project, and the house was in turn passed on to Knox Church.

Knox Church eventually handed the residence over to Canada Word of Truth, an organization with which Reverend Little is affiliated. It will now be up to Canada Word of Truth to prepare and submit new drawings and plans for the building to planning board. Present plans call for upwards of 15 apartment suites to be constructed in the Hugel Avenue house.

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