

Natural resources conservation project

by David Hawke

Project manager
We are called Natural Resources Conservation Project and are sponsored by the Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalists Club under a Canada Community Development Project grant through Employment and Immigration Canada.

The project runs from Jan. 12, 1981 to Sept. 4, 1981 with several programs being included in its duration. These include a wildlife education program for area students; the construction, cleaning and mapping of artificial nesting structures; a study of the Sturgeon River (which runs from Copeland Forest to Sturgeon Bay); and assisting the Midland-Penetanguishene Field Naturalists Club and the Wye Marsh Wildlife Interpretation Centre with various projects of their own.

The four of us have a broad knowledge of the environment gained from previous work in the outdoors. Dave Hawke, Project Manager, is a graduate Fish and Wildlife Technician from Sir Sandford Fleming College, and has been a naturalist with the Canada Wildlife Service the past two seasons.

Project Workers are Bonnie Reynolds, a graduate of the University of Guelph with Geography and History majors; Juliana Hawke, also a graduate of the University of Guelph with a biology major; and Mike Mavotte, a Civil Engineering student from Cambrian College with affiliations with the

provides education, employment

Sudbury Fish Protection Association. All of us are local residents from Coulson, Wyebridge and Penetanguishene.

The school program has met with great success and much enthusiasm from local students. To date 1,800 students and teachers from Midland, Barrie, Orillia, Penetanguishene, Collingwood, Fesserton, Warminster, Elmvale, Painswick and Shanty Bay have experienced our program.

They have either visited us at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, where we are based, or have had us into their classroom. Slides are shown, an education kit is left with the teacher and natural artifacts are shown and discussed.

Bluebird and Wood duck nesting boxes within the Wye Valley have been cleaned and mapped. A noteworthy point is that several successful nests made by Wood ducks were found.

In the past these ducks have not had very much success in breeding in this area.

A new type of nesting structure was introduced to the Wye Valley this spring: three 25 feet high utility poles with a four-foot square platform on top. It is hoped that the Osprey, a large fish-eating hawk, will be attracted to these nesting poles.

At present these unique birds are nesting on Hydro poles in cot-

tage country, causing problems for Ontario Hydro.

We are starting a study of the Sturgeon River to assess the condition of the streambanks, and to note any obvious

pollution sites which may be found along its course. The first step in rehabilitating a stream is to stabilize the banks to prevent soil erosion, which may cover spawning beds or fill in holes needed by trout to

survive. All 96 landowners with land touching upon the Sturgeon have been notified by mail of our proposed study and have been asked for their permission to cross their land.

Response has been overwhelmingly positive, with over 50 per cent of the permission slips returned to date with only two refusals. We are working closely with the Ontario Ministry of Natural

Resources on this program.

Our "rainy day" projects include cataloguing an insect collection and preparing study skins for the Wildlife Centre, and building a portable display for the Naturalists Club to be taken to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Conference in London, Ont. later this year.

The Natural Resources Conservation Project is concerned about our outdoors and how the community is involved with it. Hopefully grants such as this will continue to be found not only in this immediate area, but wherever outdoor work and education is needed.

Atoms lose championship

The final game for the Elmvale Lions Atoms in the Georgian Bay playoffs was played last Sunday against Meaford and the local boys lost in overtime to wind up their year.

Sunday's game kicked off with a Meaford goal in the opening period but Elmvale's Jamie Grant passed to Kirton and Robertson and Elmvale was on the board.

David Margison in goal was kept very busy throughout the period as well as the remainder of the match.

Meaford players scored the go-ahead goal in the middle period even though they were out-shot by Elmvale. The entire Lions squad applied the pressure but the puck

would not go in the net.

In the third period of action the local boys pressed hard and eventually, with just two minutes remaining in the game, tied the score on a play by Rene Ouellet assisted by Jeff Hubbard and Kirton.

The two teams were then forced into an overtime situation, one ten minute period of hockey. Meaford once again was the first scorer on a power play charge.

Both teams began to tire visibly but at the 7:16 point Joey Beltrame bounced the puck to Haines, and Robertson scored to even the count.

Once more the Elmvale players out-shot Meaford but no

goals resulted. With just one minute left to play Meaford scored leaving Elmvale no time to return the effort.

Much as the team would have liked to win the trophy, they must be

pleased to have won so many games over the past season. The many tips received from their coaching staff will go a long way in assisting players as they move up in the league.



Look who's here!

Children at Midland Nursery School have had lots of visitors this week as the school has been holding open house in order for interested parents to see what the school is like. Open

house hours for today are 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:15-3:15 p.m. The school is located in St. Paul's United Church on King Street.

April 10
— Family Film Night Midland Public Library 7:30 p.m. Magic Happenings. The Seven Wishes of Joanna Peabody is the story of Joanna and her fairy godmother; 29 minutes. Magic Man, a boy learns about different kinds of magic; 19 minutes. Both films elementary.

April 11
— Bake sale sponsored by the Second Midland Beavers, Cubs and Scouts Ladies Auxiliary on Sat. April 11 at the A & P Mall starting at 10 a.m.

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