

NATURALISTS BEGIN**FALL PROGRAM**

by George Carlyle

The Rideau Valley Field Naturalists began their Fall program on Sunday, 9 September. A film produced by the late Bill Mason, entitled "Death of a Legend", was shown to a most appreciative audience. This film dealt very thoroughly and most graphically illustrated man's relationship with the Wolf down through the ages. From earliest times, the Wolf has been portrayed in paintings and print as an absolute villain. Today, I believe, most people will concede that the Wolf has been the recipient of a vast amount of bad press; however, we still have people who are ready and willing to eradicate the remaining Wolf population at any cost and by whatever means available.

Wolves once roamed the entire world north of the Equator. They were at home everywhere, except in tropical regions and deserts. Today, the Gray Wolf (often called Timber Wolf) is virtually extinct in the United States except for small populations in some north central states and Alaska. In Canada, the Wolf does not appear to be in jeopardy except in areas where wolves and domestic livestock come in contact. In such areas, the Wolf is undoubtedly the loser as bounties are still offered in some localities.

Government studies of Wolf and moose populations on Isle Royale (an island in Lake Superior) clearly show a natural balance with little fluctuation in either population over a great many years. This seems to prove, once again, nature's ability to maintain a balance between prey and predator when and where man does not interfere.

The Club's September outing, on Saturday the 22nd, consisted of a hike and corn roast on Wendy and Art Briggs-Jude's "Blue Bird Acres" farm. Although rain and cloudy skies prevailed most of the morning, fifteen species of birds were observed early in the day. At noon, the corn roast proved an ideal way to warm up after a chilly hike in the autumn air. Thanks to Wendy and Art for their hospitality and kindness.

With autumn here and winter just weeks away, anyone intending to provide winter food and shelter for birds should start preparations now. Winter bird feeding is now North America's second most popular hobby, falling just behind gardening.

Two books which provide a wealth of practical information on how to attract and provide food and shelter for birds are "The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds" by Dr. Stephen S. Kress of Cornell University, and "How to Attract, House and Feed Birds" by Walter E. Schutz. Both books are published by Collier-Macmillan Canada Ltd.

Information on Club activities can be obtained by calling 268-2052, 273-3853 or 278-2811. The reporting of

new or unusual species or enquiries on identification of flora and fauna may be directed to 283-1173 or 283-0172.

**R.D.H.S. NEWS**

by Janice McDonald

I don't know about anyone else, but this year appears to be the busiest one yet for Rideau District High School. Not only have I been loaded down with homework, but the extra-curricular activities being offered this year are overwhelming.

Preparation for Rideau's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream has begun with weekly rehearsals, and thoughts of the set design. Among the cast are Steve Graham, Michelle Adams, Jennifer

Cowan, Jeff Code, Peter Barrett, Buffy Jo Goring, Meg Whitton, Kurt Evans, Tom Murray, and Calvin Bell. If this play is anything like last year's, it will certainly be a hit!

A new club for the students interested in writing has begun. "English Plus" offers the students the chance to share some of their writing with their peers for advice, improvement, or just pure enjoyment.

The peer helpers have begun working with other students. Tutoring is the main task at the moment. The program hopes to help as many students as possible with the additional advantage of providing students with the opportunity to talk with others their own age.

Joseph Laxton decided to test his sanity by driving six students, Jennifer Duncan, Janice McDonald, Kirsten Mailow, Michelle Bryden, Robin McGregor and Morgan Grady-Smith, to a writing conference at Camp Canaras

on Saranac Lake, New York. At the First International Young Writer's Conference, all the attending students experienced new and interesting writing techniques. The conference was held from September 13 to 16, and was supported by St. Lawrence University in Potsdam, New York. Another conference is being planned for next year. The details for the London-Dublin trip in March are being worked out. A new Russian language course is being offered Wednesday nights after school. Also, the Soviet Club is preparing for 25 Ukrainians coming to our area on the exchange in April. Many things lie ahead for Rideau, and I'm sure there are a lot more to come.



DOUG SUMMERS FUELS GUARANTEES STABLE PRICE FOR OIL HEAT

We Are Proud Of Our Record Of Guaranteed
Personal Service To Our Customers And
We Want To Serve You Even Better During
The 1990-91 Heating Season!

**WE GUARANTEE TO ALL OUR
CUSTOMERS THAT DESPITE
WORLD EVENTS WE WILL NOT
INCREASE YOUR PRICE
MORE THAN 2¢ PER LITRE*
(CURRENT ANNUAL RATE OF INFLATION)**

Now Sit Back And Relax. Your Home Will Be
Heated Comfortably With Oil At A Reasonable Cost
With 24-Hour Service As Close As Your Telephone.

* Proposed GST Excluded. Period Covered October 1, 1990 to May 31, 1991



DOUG SUMMERS FUELS

A Division of Universal Terminals Ltd.

Heating • Air Conditioning • 24-Hour Service

Elgin, Ontario

Phone 359-5080