



Greetings from.....

VOLUME TWENTY FIVE

JUNE 1999

PLEA EXECUTIVE

President: Mieke Schipper

Secretary: Sylvia Robertson

Vice President: Bev Watson

Director: Bruce Robertson

Director: Jessie Gordon

Director: Gail Taylor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 15 1999, 7:30PM

home of Sylvia and Bruce Robertson

15 Millbrook Ridge Drive (The Glenn)

Omeme

(phone: 705-799-5537)

President's message

by Mieke Schipper

The calender may tell us it is not summer yet, but it certainly feels and looks like it. It may have been this beautiful weather that kept some visitors away from our ninth annual Environment Day.

Close to 40 exhibitors displayed a wide variety of environmental information, services and goods. Plans are on the way to celebrate our tenth Anniversary of **Environment Day**. Bev

Watson and Gail Taylor of PLEA with Cathy Dueck of the Friends of Trent Severn Waterway are in the process of developing an exiting project involving school children from Victoria and Peterborough County who can display their ideas and products in an *environmental awareness fair* on Environment Day.

The Great Lakes Raptor Conservancy will be back with their Birds of Prey and we hope to see the return of the amphibian and reptile show. Outdoor activities will include environmental and survivla games. Mark your calender: April

29, 2000 in the Buckhorn Community Centre.
See further in the Newsletter for some reactions .

This year we will feature the documentary of the Paudash Lake Association's project on lakeshore restoration..

The last article of the series on Lakeshore Naturalization by Sally Renwick is in this issue. We hope you found some information in there that was useful to you for your shoreline garden.

Just a word about a very interesting PLEA program. "**Take a little lead out**" is a free exchange program, handled by PLEA's Elaine Petreman. The goal is to have as many fishermen and women exchange their lead sinkers for bismuth sinkers, which do not harm the environment and hurt ducks and loons when they eat fish that have lead in them. If you are interested in trading your lead sinkers in, call Elaine at 705-292-8509.

Who will save us

by Bev Watson

From Naked Ape to Superspecies. David Suzuki sends us his urgent well thought out message:

***We must find ways to live in balance
with each other and nature.***

From April 11 until May 31, he and many others explained to us why our present course will only lead to disaster and what we can do to alter this direction.

Did we hear him? Will we change?

Well, yes, some will, but will that be enough? At the present time Ontario is gearing up for an election. On May 18th we watched a widely televised leaders debate. One and one and a half

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday September 15 at 7.30pm at the home of Bruce and Sylvia Robertson.

(See map on the back of this issue for directions).

hours of talk, of arguments and of appeal. Who made a pitch for our *environment*? Not one!

Later in the week, in the area where I live we received by mail a press release from our MPP. What did he have to say about the environment? Not a single word!

I have to wonder what this means. I also have to wonder what will matter to us when our environment deteriorates beyond repair.

Please, write us your thoughts.

PLEA, box 67 Bridgenorth ON, K0L 1H0.

Reactions from visitors to the Kawartha Lakes Environment Day:

".....a unique experience. There is so much to learn. We will be back next year...." Jack Rowe

"...everybody was so helpful with ideas. Very informative. The Birds of Prey were fascinating. Those who weren't there for sure missed out on something worthwhile." Carol Saville

"I learned more about lakeshore stewardship in one day here at the show than in all the years I have been living on the lake." Janet Jansen

"....definitely an educational experience. This show should not be missed. The Birds of Prey were something to behold...."Eileen Longueville

Winners of the door prizes:

Sandra Becker, Lakehurst

Ed and Eileen Longueville, Fife's Bay
Bill Dibble, Peterborough

Congratulations. Your prize is in the mail.

ECOLOGY PARK

a great place to visit

by Bev Watson

We have been talking a great deal about shoreline planning and urging one and all to find out what should grow on that shoreline naturally, then to find it and to plant it. Not always easy and not always cheap. But wait a minute. We have not mentioned the Ecology Park in Peterborough. This is truly a wonderful place. Five acres of gardens, nature trails, bird houses and feeders and the greatest compost in the world which you can buy very reasonably as long as you bring your own container.

So, this is where you go with your shoreline planting needs and if by any chance they do not have what you want, they will know where you can find it. If you do not know at all *what* to plant they will provide you with a list.

You can visit this great place any Tuesday from 1pm -5pm, any Thursday from 1pm-5pm and from 6pm -8pm, and Sundays from 1-4pm. In season you can buy garden vegetables and fresh eggs as well as trees, shrubs, plants and herbs. You will find the Park on Ashburn Drive in between Beavermead Park and the Peterborough Utilities. On the west side of the road you will find lots of parking, well marked by a large sign saying "Ecology Park". See you there!

Lakeshore Naturalization

by Sally Renwick

Part III Implementation and Maintenance

Once your naturalization plan is completed and you have selected which plants and shrubs you want, you can begin with the implementation of the plan..

A few approaches will be discussed here:

- installing and maintaining a natural lawn and
- controlling of erosion.

The wild lawn

There are many options to transform part or all of your lawn into a more environmentally friendly area.

It is important that a new concept of wild beauty is incorporated into the perceptions of lawn.

Traditional manicured landscapes are increasingly being replaced by a more natural landscape. The alternatives to maintaining a turf yard are numerous. Grasses are often replaced by ground covers that require less maintenance and can survive in poor growing conditions. Ground covers cover bare soil and may block out weeds and can also enhance the landscape. Some ground covers can be evergreens while others are

dormant during the winter. Native ferns can be used to fill shady areas that receive some sun and generally require little or no maintenance. Xeriscaping groups drought tolerant species together in once area.

Among the options to naturalize part or all of a turf area are two extremes: one extreme is to just leave the area alone. In this case the most competitive species, not always the most desirable ones will take over and there will be few wildflowers. It does however, require the least effort. The other extreme is to remove completely the existing lawn, either chemically (not preferred), mechanically or by smothering (use old newspaper in layers a couple of inches thick, then add topsoil on top.) and replant the area.

The most desired approach lies as usual between the two of these extremes. Leave an area unmown, but also promote the naturalization of desired species. Undesired species should be removed and replaced. Plugs or transplants of established seedling plants such as native wildflowers or meadow grasses are dug into the existing lawn. However lawn grasses may out compete meadow species.

Another method is to directly seed native or wildflower mixes into bare patches. This approach requires much effort in terms of weed control so that the seedlings become well established.

Whatever approach is taken with the lawn, remember that the process takes time and patience. The results may not be successful the first time around, but keep trying. Eventually, it will all be worth your while. Transforming all, or part of your turf grass lawn into a *wild* lawn of mostly native, low growing plants is an exciting and educational process. You will learn so much about the site on which you live and the plants that once grew there.

Why choose an alternative to a manicured lawn?

- conserves water
- reduces mowing
- reduces the need for pesticides
- attracts butterflies
- provides food and habitat for birds and wildlife
- reduces run off

Alternatives to the lawn include:

- tall grasses
- ornamental grasses
- wild flowers
- native ferns
- ground covers
- rock gardens
- xeriscaping
- spreading perennials
- shade plants.

Controlling erosion of your shoreline

Soil erosion occurs where the water meets the land with enough force to remove soil. Erosion can be induced or exaggerated by human activities.

Simple ways of controlling shoreline erosion include maintaining the existing vegetation and planting new vegetation such as trees and shrubs. Buffers and shoreline vegetation serve also to maintain water quality by reducing the inputs in the lake. Vegetation stabilizes the soil and absorbs water and nutrients. Do selectively prune existing shoreline vegetation and limit access to the water to only a stabilized area.

Another way of reducing erosion is the use of bio-engineering. This uses living material to produce a living, functioning erosion control system.

Bioengineering has the benefit of being self-propagating, self repairing and is environmentally compatible. It is usually implemented in the spring with commonly used species such as willows, alder, dogwood, poplar and native

viburnums. Cuttings from last seasons growth and inserting each cutting or a bundle of cuttings The cuttings should be about 1 meter (3 feet) in length and 2-3 cm (1-1 ½ inch) in diameter. Each cutting or bundle is inserted into the ground with about 70-80% buried. The cuttings should be placed in contoured rows perpendicular to the slope face. If the ground is hard a stake can be used to make a hole in the ground.

Although using vegetation is usually the best way to protect the shoreline, further erosion control measures may be necessary. This can be done but putting down rock rubble, boulders or rip rap on a filter cloth to aid in the prevention of sedimentation. Unlike a solid concrete wall, this will gradually diffuse the eroding force of moving water. The result is a naturally sloping wall and helps to control erosion while providing some habitat.

Maintenance

Maintaining a healthy shore needs monitoring and management. However, in the long run the amount of effort in terms of costs and labour that is required is minimal. Observe the changes that have taken place on your property and assess their effectiveness in meeting environmental as well as your own personal objectives.

Lawn care tips

Mowing

The greatest problem traditionally associated with mowing are mowing too frequently and mowing the grass too short. These practises allow for excessive weed growth and are energy intensive. Leave clippings on the lawn for added nitrogen or compost them.

Watering

Watering should take place in the early morning hours. Watering at night allows for fungus to

into the soil is most effective.

grow and water during the day will evaporate. A good soaker allows the water to penetrate deep into the soil to stimulate deep root growth.. Remember there are types of grasses available that require minimum amounts of water for their maintenance.

Thatch

Thatch is the accumulation of a dead layer of grass above the surface of the soil. It prevents water and roots from penetrating the soil and resists decay. Thatch should be removed during the fall by raking.

Mulches

Mulches and composts are two ecologically sound options that can aid in the maintaining of a healthy landscape. Mulches help to prevent damage caused by the sun, wind and rain and also can assist in the prevention of weed growth. Mulches also serve to moderate soil temperatures, conserve moisture and can provide nutrients. It should be applied twice a year. The disadvantage is that they can attract earwigs and slugs.

Materials that can be used for mulch include:

- leaves
- grass clippings
- pine cones
- straw
- bark chips
- compost

Compost

Compost is organic material that has been broken down by bacteria and organisms which becomes a dark humus. As the organic material is broken down, nutrients are released. Compost is excellent for the soil as it improves aeration and

drainage, supplies nutrients and it's micro-organisms help prevent disease. Dug it into the soil in the spring and re-apply throughout the growing season.



