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HIGH PARK

A Park Lover's Quarterly

Inside: High Park in the movies, south end's sexual secrets, a heck of a harvest, this place is for the birds & the usual crop of nuts



photo courtesy City of Toronto Archives

High Park

A Park Lover's Quarterly

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Publisher's Statement

High Park fulfills the personal needs and interests of many people - expansive backyard and playground for those without a patch of green to call their own; a training ground for cyclists and runners; a bird watcher's delight. While the reasons Torontonians flock to the park are many, what they do share in common is an abiding love and concern for the park's wellbeing. This magazine is intended to keep that community abreast of what the future has in store for High Park's 399 acres.

A special thanks to Tom Hazlitt, my parents George and Michele Suhanic, my siblings Liza, Claudia and West, my brothers-in-law Ian and Joseph and sister-in-law Eduarda. Also thanks to Ken Winlaw and David Cerney.

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Clean up Spring Creek too!

This letter is to present some suggestions that I have regarding the initiation of a parallel clean-up effort of High Park's Spring Creek waterway. I am very pleased with the direction to-date of the Grenadier Pond restoration project and the woodland restoration.

The nature of the problem

- The northern sedimentation ponds are badly polluted. The water is a greyish-brown colour and has for years been so opaque that it is absolutely impossible to see any bottom to the sedimentation ponds.
- Once the flow enters Spring Creek, it still contains much of the suspended material originally present. This matter is transported to the Duck Ponds.
- Spring Creek itself may not appear as dirty as the system's ponds because the water is in constant motion. However, it would be incorrect to assume from this that it isn't as bad as one thought.
- The entire Duck Pond system is very badly polluted. The most obvious reasons for the terrible water quality are sediment inputs, erosion along the banks and high fecal inputs from the overly large bird population.

Suggestions for improvement

- A simple settling tank could be installed around the main outfall near Parkside Drive in order to reduce the amount of sediment entering Spring Creek.
- Next, the sedimentation ponds could be dredged using volunteer manpower and manual methods.
- Provided that water clarity does not improve within a prescribed time, the North and South Duck Ponds should be partially dredged.
- It would be advisable to begin a campaign to persuade people to refrain from feeding the birds as they have been doing for so many years. Reducing the bird population will be in the best interest of High Park's natural environment.

Practical considerations

- An undertaking of this calibre is likely to undergo lengthy debate and, understandably, procedural obstacles in seeking acceptance. However, by approaching it less formally and from a community standpoint, work can commence more quickly.
- Because of financial restraint, I propose that a substantial portion of the project involve volunteer work, wherever possible. Positions could be directed at interested individuals to take part in a type of "outdoor workshop" whereby involvement in the project would provide not only an educational opportunity, but a chance to actively participate in environmental restoration.

My vision for this waterway

Anyone who has frequented this truly scenic part of High Park will concede that much can be added to the esthetic qualities and potential recreational uses of the Duck Pond system. In considering the above proposals, one is engaging in developing another dimension of High Park.

Paul Bulas
Toronto

Quarterly delights

Congratulations on your fine publication, *High Park – A Park Lover's Quarterly*. When I first discovered it I was delighted. As a *bona fide* long-time High Park lover, it is great to see people getting together to promote one of Toronto's finest green spaces.

It is now 9:30 a.m. and I have just finished my second cup of coffee, as well as your magazine. My initial delight has given way to deep appreciation of the thoughtful, articulate and informative pieces. It is with pleasure that I include the \$10 subscription fee. Thank you again.

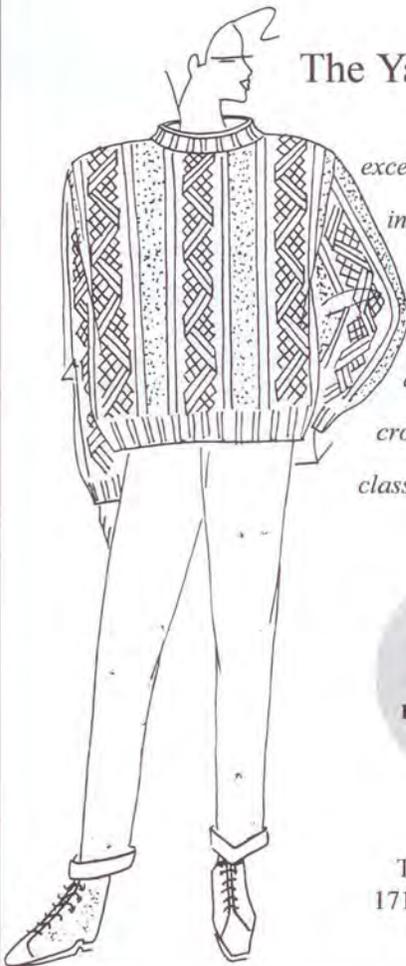
Sybille Parry
Toronto

Reports made meaningful

Over the years we have received many pamphlets, study reports and general information on High Park. Now you and Jill Franklin have made these staid reports meaningful and interesting.

Thank you for the Park Lover's Quarterly. It is beautifully compiled.

Marion and Arthur Holroyd
Toronto



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Signs, signs

Locals who use High Park on a regular basis know the lay of the land like the back of their hand. However, newcomers to the park can find themselves easily disoriented in the park's 399 acres.

A series of key maps should make the most neophyte of visitors an instant High Park expert. The maps show the layout of the park's roadways with a series of legends to mark the location of the park's facilities. The seven maps installed in July represent only a fraction of the signage erected to make the park more user-friendly.

The West Ravine and Spring Creek trails are generally acknowledged as the park's official nature trails. Signs were erected at the trail head, the midpoint and end giving the length of the trails and the anticipated walking time. The West Ravine sign describes the trail as secluded and suggests it not be walked alone. Smaller directional signs were also installed throughout the park, at the beginning of September. They function as markers, pointing people from place to place once they are in the park.

This avalanche of signage marks the first murmurings of a broader safety initiative for High Park. Consultants on safety hired by Parks and Rec and the High Park Citizens' Safety Work Group (a work group of the High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee) recommended signage as a way to improve access for groups that fear using High Park. In its previous signless-incarnation, the park was considered inhospitable, especially to women. It's hoped the signage will allow park users to make choices about their personal safety and perhaps use the park more fully than in the past.

At September's end, a last flurry of signs was also erected to fill people in on environmental initiatives in High Park. At Grenadier Pond, signs ask people not to feed the geese and not to fish for bass and pike during their spawning seasons. An imbalance in geese and predator fish populations, too many of the former and

not enough of the latter, has been linked to the pond's poor water quality.

Sixteen test plots, unveiled by Parks and Rec's savannah consultant, are all signed. The plots are for the most part in high traffic areas and are readily visible. The signs give a brief description of the problem at each plot and the restoration methods to be tested.

The last set of signs flow from a series of eco-tours sponsored by the west



photo by Gigi Subhanic

Grenadier Pond is the site of one of seven new key maps installed last summer.

end organization, Environmental Dialogue. From the summer tours, Environmental Dialogue has developed two self-guided tour routes. Signs mark the beginning of the route, with pointers along the way. Pamphlets of the tours are available from holders on the key maps.

Depending on public feedback, the signage, made in-house by Parks and Recreation, could undergo revision in five years.

The proof's in the plot

Work on the oak savannah test plots was inaugurated on August 14 when Parks and Recreation staff and a handful of diehard volunteers put 3,200 plants in the ground.

The planting took place on the east-facing hill just behind the Grenadier Restaurant. A group of 20 planted Black Oak seedlings, Black-eyed Susans,

Woodland Sunflowers and Bluebells, to name a few, under the test plot's centre-piece, a huge White Oak. The plot is one in a series of 16 unveiled in July by Parks and Rec's savannah consultant. The plots were chosen to confirm existing research on savannah restoration and provide new insights into as yet unanswered questions. Plot D, the site planted in August was chosen for its public outreach potential; it is very close to Colborne Lodge Drive and the Grenadier Restaurant's parking lot, and to introduce the public to the esthetics of a savannah restoration.

According to Parks and Rec staff the planting has taken hold and park users should catch a real eye-full of floral abundance next season. Staff are also blowing their own horns because the planting represents the first successful introduction of native species grown in the High Park greenhouses. All 3,200 plantlets were raised from seed collected in the park and surrounding areas by gardeners Terry Fahey and Solomon Boye.

Work on other test plots has since begun. Parks staff cut back Black Swallowwort, a rapacious vine also known as Strangling Dog Vine. The vine chokes out everything within its spreading grasp. Because it is new to North America there is no existing research on ways to control it. Staff reported in September that the vines they had cut were growing back.

Hillside Gardens was also the site of a fair bit of planting this summer as more native flowers were introduced onto Suicide Hill, west of the waterfall garden. The site was also chosen for its demonstration potential.

Sedimentation tank snagged on enviro assessment

A proposal for a new sedimentation tank at Grenadier Pond's north end has failed to pass the environmental assessment review period with a clean bill of health. The project, which made headway at Toronto City Hall when council accepted the Environmental Study Report, is stalled until the Ministry of the Environment and Energy can rule on two requests that the project be bumped up to a full environmental assessment.

The requests for a bump up fol-

low the findings of the Environmental Study Report (ESR) completed on the new tank by the city's consultant M.M. Dillon. The ESR found that sediment is filling in the wetlands at Grenadier Pond's north end. M.M. Dillon concludes that sediment flowing from the Clendenan stormwater outfall into Wendigo Creek and the pond is a major contributor. The report recommends building a sedimentation facility 90-metres-long and 40-metres-wide with a holding capacity of 2,600 cubic metres.

Council has already approved the budget for the \$880,000 project. The Department of Public Works and the Environment was hoping to begin construction as early as February 1995. The new facility would replace the existing sedimentation pond built in 1983. With a 600 cubic metres capacity, today it is a stagnant pool. Public Works and the Environment Commissioner Nicholas Vardin says the new facility would have a 73 per cent success rate.

Residents who live on Ellis Park Road across from the proposed construction site doubt the facility is the answer to the problem. In their request for a bump up, Glen and Nancy MacArthur write, "...the recommendation set forth in the ESR contemplates the expropriation of a significant and valuable piece of parkland for use as a waste water treatment facility." The MacArthurs, who live across from the proposed new facility, say the city created the sediment problem by directing stormwater into Grenadier Pond starting in 1964. Also, they say the existing small pond has never been used properly, since it has no out-

flow control device and has only been dredged once. The MacArthurs recommend reducing sediment flows into the Grenadier Pond to pre-1964 levels; re-fitting the small pond; and dredging Grenadier Pond's north end. However, Parks and Recreation's consultant on Grenadier Pond, Gartner Lee, says a sedimentation facility is one of several measures necessary to clean up the pond. Gartner Lee's recommendations regarding the pond should be available to the public by year's end.

Grenadier Pond development still in the works

Pizza Pizza founder and president Michael Overs still has his sights set on subdividing a 4-acre site he owns on Grenadier Pond's west shore. Overs' application calls for the land to be parceled into six lots. The project was to go before Toronto City Council's July 28 Land Use Committee, but never made it. According to a planning spokesperson, the department is still waiting for comments on the project from other city departments. The project could make it to the December 7 Land Use meeting.

A petition continues to circulate opposing the project on the basis it will harm an historic vista looking west from Grenadier Pond's east shore.

NICK TRAINOS CARES ABOUT HIGH PARK

On August 14 The Department of Parks and Recreation hosted a public event to plant 3,200 native species of wild flowers, grasses and trees. Nick Trainos was there.



VOTE
NICK TRAINOS
CITY COUNCILLOR, WARD 1 

AUTHORIZED BY THE CFO - FOR THE NICK TRAINOS CAMPAIGN

Seeds of time

Harvesting High Park history

by Gigi Suhanic

Autumn's lustrous colours shimmer in the chill air. The Harvest Moon is past. The Hunter Moon – faded. Most reapers have put away their tools for the winter. In High Park the harvest pushes on. It could extend into December. This year's crop is good. But it must come in at just the right time, before the wind, the squirrels or both carry it away.

High Park's crop is not the traditional fall fare of bumpy gourds and gnarled squashes. The reapers seek seeds: the seeds of plants and trees that whisper the secrets of High Park's ecological history. Their Latin names mystify. In plain English they are Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Indian Grass, Woodland Sunflower, Asters and Goldenrod, Black Oak and Witch Hazel, to name a few. Their seeds are, for the most part, small and feather-light, hidden in the folds of the plant anatomy.

To those committed to the preservation and restoration of High Park's savannah and ravine woodlands, the cultivation of the seeds and nuts of these plants and trees is critical. They are

worked during their spare time collecting seeds in the park and from other surrounding areas. As plans for the savannah have gained momentum, so the seed collection programme has garnered support. Boye works on the seed programme full time with his assistant Jocie Bilodeau, and he can call on Fahey whenever he needs him.

There is nothing haphazard about the programme. Boye has prioritized the seeds he wants collected, basing the order on a plant's rarity. For example, there's plenty of Early and Canada Goldenrod in the park, the tall plants whose yellow flowers fade in late September. Goldenrod is a low priority. Some of the plants Boye is after, like Butterfly Milkweed, haven't existed in the park for years. The seeds will have to be collected from elsewhere. But how does Boye know what is missing? An assessment of the park's former plant population was done based on past records. From those records, Boye has been able to identify the missing elements.

The seed programme works on the assembly line model. Last year's harvest is, for the most part, lying dormant in brown paper bags in a fridge in the basement of the greenhouse. The seeds must be woken up from their refrigerated slumber to make room for this year's take. Boye removes some year-old seeds from their brown bags and places handfuls in plastic sandwich 'baggies' filled with a soil mixture. The mix and treatment will vary depending on the seed type. When and if germination happens the sprouted seeds will be transferred to trays in the greenhouse.

Meanwhile, this year's crop will have to be cleaned and sorted, probably in the winter. They'll brown bag it in the fridge until their turn comes for Boye to tease them to life. With a wildly varying successful germination rate, huge numbers of seeds are necessary. There are probably thousands of seeds in those brown bags, some of them as tiny as the head of a pin. It's too early in the game for Boye to say when he'll have enough to establish a reli-



Last year's harvest of Indian Grass is passed through a sieve.

botanical gold and represent an insurance policy against the savannah's struggle for survival.

"I call it conservation through propagation," says Solomon Boye, head of the High Park seed collection programme. Its mandate is to build a seed bank of native species in preparation for their reintroduction into areas of High Park designated for restoration. The programme is now in its third year. This fall's take will build on two previous seasons of work done by Boye and gardener Terry Fahey. In the past Boye and Fahey

able seed bank.

A recent hunt for Witch Hazel nuts illustrates the uncertain nature of the seed bank business. Witch Hazel is native to High Park. It prefers the moist climes of the park's ravines and grows there in isolated patches only. Boye, Bilodeau, and Fahey head for Spring Road and a group of trees they know are bearing fruit. If the nuts were left to ripen on the tree, the shell would turn reddish-brown and burst open, projecting the seed a good distance away. Obviously, Boye wants to get to the nuts before

they reach this stage. He's arrived in good time. The hazel nuts are all sporting a coat of velvety green fuzz. But the pickings are slim and barely fill the bottom of a plastic grocery bag. Later in the afternoon Boye and Bilodeau go to Sherwood Park in the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Avenue area. Boye knows of some Witch Hazel there. He isn't disappointed. A few large trees are heavy with nuts and he and Bilodeau fill a shopping bag halfway. But Boye says he'll have to test a percentage of the day's haul to make sure the nuts are sound. A few weeks later Boye reports back that on opening the casings of the High Park nuts he found many of the shells housed one seed where there would normally be two. In some cases worms got to the seeds first. Boye also suspects High Park's small Witch Hazel population of some arboreal in-breeding resulting in genetically unsound seeds. He'll have to go out for more Witch Hazel.

Picking a couple of bags of nuts might sound like a pretty whimsical way to spend the day. It certainly is a pleasant one – rummaging through High Park – especially with the likes of Boye, Fahey and Bilodeau. Where the rest of us see “amorphous green”, as Bilodeau says, they see Starry False Solomon's Seal and Wild Lily of the Valley. Fahey points out a few orphaned patches plus some Wintergreen. All three are hanging on for dear life in an area heavily shaded by some aggressive shrubs. Finding the rag-tag trio rekindles in Fahey an impatience that the restoration move forward faster. There's always the fear another species will be lost to some pushy exotics.

Why go through the arduous and time consuming process of collecting seeds and germinating them when time is obviously of the essence? Why not just order seed from a catalogue or buy from one of the many native plant nurseries cropping up. Nurseries couldn't begin to provide the High Park programme with the number of seeds and plants needed, Boye says. Introducing plants and seeds into the park, whose place of origin is unknown is a genetic ‘no-no’. “That would be polluting,” Fahey says. “The evolutionary process brought the seeds here.” Plant communities that are native have fashioned themselves after the conditions that existed in the High Park area. Fahey uses the Woodland Sunflower as an example. The tall yellow-faced, daisy-like flower commonly has eight petals. Fahey has discovered a regionally rare variety in High Park with ten petals. “When you restore you've got to pay attention to the integrity of the gene pool,” Boye says.

Butterfly Milkweed offers a dramatic portrait of the intricacies of genetic coding. According to Fahey, several varieties of Butterfly Milkweed exist. They are visually identical, differing in their soil type preference and the number of chromosomes in their DNA. Butterfly Milkweed, an important food source for a lot of insects, is extirpated, meaning it now longer exists in the park. Fahey plans to return Butterfly Milkweed to High Park soon when he makes a trip to Rice Lake, a savannah near Cobourg to collect some seed pods. Rice Lake is about as far afield to the east as the High Park group will go if they are to stay in step with rules regarding genetic integrity. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has laid out explicit guidelines on the matter of seed collection. In the case of High Park, the MNR prefers that any collecting outside of the park be done to the north or east of it, ideally within a 15 mile radius with 300 miles the absolute outer limit.

Although the seed collection programme is still in its infant stages it does have something to show for itself. In August 1000s of grasses, wildflowers and seedlings were planted behind the Grenadier Restaurant. All the plants were grown by Boye in the greenhouses from seed he and Fahey collected. Another planting was also done on Suicide Hill at Hillside Gardens earlier in the summer, using Boye's progeny.

So there are some solid results to point to and say, “See. The seed collection programme works.” No planting or seeding has been done in the woods, yet. Boye says they are still overgrown with shrubbery and in some places the soil is too heavily compacted from people activity. When the time comes to enter the woods, Boye says they must go carefully. “We can't play god. We have to tread slowly and humbly through the woods.” In High Park it's a question of striking a balance between the competing elements, he says. Boye doesn't hold with the purist approach to restoration and believes there is room for everything in the park. That is a debate he would rather not be drawn into. “You can get sidetracked into other areas. I prefer to stay with what I can control.”

If this year's crop of Witch Hazel decides to cooperate it will still be spring of 1996 before Boye has any seedlings. He is patient. He takes his inspiration from the future. “I have to begin with the end in mind. The end is that I see Witch Hazel growing in the park and kids coming to see it. Fifty years from now we'll have a plant and not just a picture.”

photo by Gigi Sutherland

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They say the art of baking is lost. We still practice it.

Harry says so long

HIGH PARK'S LONG-TIME SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS

by Gigi Suhanic

Harry Moffitt is the kind of person who can smoke Player's cigarettes most of his adult life and happily, suffer the negligible backlash of a gravelly laugh. In fact, Moffitt practically oozes the quality of having altogether escaped the influences of time and bad habits. At 59 a generous, wavy mop is swept to the side and caps off a tall and trim figure clad in straight-legged grey slacks, a short-sleeved shirt and black, lace-up shoes. For some reason, the ensemble creates a 60s impression and makes one suspicious Moffitt time-warps back 30 years to his native Ireland for his clothing and footwear.

The give-away that Moffitt is in the present is a multi-coloured windbreaker and the use of gender-neutral language. He talks about "forepersons" instead of "foremen" in deference to the large number of women working in the Parks and Recreation Department.

When Harry started his first shift in High Park as a gardener on December 15, 1959 there wouldn't have been one woman in sight. The crew was a large group of men and they raked the leaves off a 45-degree-plus incline just opposite Colborne Lodge. Moffitt, just off the boat in May, recalls the temperatures were frigid that winter, a numbing change from the climate in Ireland's County Donegal where Moffitt was born. One of a family of eight children, Moffitt was raised on a farm, and would go out and chase and catch dinner every day, or so the story goes. It was a chore that placed him in good stead for future responsibilities in High Park. While it may have been cold when Moffitt first arrived, it didn't take long for him to warm up to his job with Parks and Recreation. In 1967 he was named superintendent of High Park.

After accumulating 570 sick days in 35 years Moffitt is retiring. As his attendance record at work suggests, dedication is one quality Moffitt has plenty of. "Harry pushed a Donegal wheelbarrow. He always seemed to carry three times as much weight in his wheelbarrow as everyone else," says Stanley

Gilpin, a fellow Irishman. Gilpin and Moffitt worked together on Hillside Gardens some 30 years ago, back in the days when 13 gardeners alone cared for it. "He did the best he could for the department and High Park," Gilpin says. Not only did Moffitt live for his work, he lived in his work. After Moffitt was appointed superintendent, he and his wife Eileen moved into the little white cottage atop Hillside Gardens and raised their family there. In some ways it was the perfect compromise to the husband and wife's contrasting personalities. Moffitt is a country lad through and through where his wife was born in London, England and prefers the city and shopping in malls.

While some might envy Moffitt his 399-acre backyard, living in the cottage has been a sacrifice. Safety was always a concern. "Police say to me, 'I wouldn't

live there'," Moffitt says. Obviously not a fearful person, Moffitt would take his dog out for a walk at night down Deer Pen Road to check on the animals in the zoo. Gilpin recalls Moffitt was always driving his three children in and out of the park, making sure they went to and fro safely. Eileen Moffitt also talks about the isolation, the feeling of being trapped in the middle of the park. "I don't feel safe at night," she says. Moffitt generally stays home in the evenings. A yappy sheltie dog also provides a buffer. If his wife goes out at night, Moffitt will watch out the window for her return and walk her into the house from the car.

35 Years of Memories

Retiring High Park Superintendent Harry Moffitt is known for his razor-sharp memory. Here are a few significant park dates off the top of his head:

- 1967 - Wetland filled in on Grenadier Pond's east shore from the former boat house site to area parallel with Wendigo Way.
- 1967 - Sculpture symposium. Some of the entries are still in the park. Most were removed because of safety hazards.
- 1970 - The concrete wall around Grenadier Pond was built. Prior to that the pond's shore was lined with hydro poles spiked together.
- 1974 - The allotment gardens were created. The site had previously been used for leaf dumping.



Harry Moffitt clutches a Player's while making the rounds in a Parks and Recreation vehicle.

photo by Gigi Suhanic

For all the cottage's isolation, living there takes a real chunk out of one's privacy. Moffitt tries to play it down. But the fact is, people have trouble acknowledging someone's space in a public park. Eileen says they get a lot of knocks at the door, especially on weekends, from people asking the names of trees and roses. "You can't sit in the enclosed front yard without feeling like you're in a fish bowl," she says. "I would never sit out there. People sit and stare like you're a creature from outer space," she says. And if anything goes awry the police are at your front door, day or night. The local constabulary roused Moffitt out of bed the night of Super Bowl '94 when the bison were released from their pen. On, what many report as the coldest night last winter, Moffitt and a handful of parks' staff were out tracking the hulking animals trying to coax them back into their pen. Former co-worker Kurt Erzberger jokes that Moffitt is "the most experienced Safari man in parks," because of all the zoo animals he's had to chase down. "He comes to chasing bison naturally. He always had to chase some rabbits for dinner in Ireland," says Erzberger, a former gardener in High Park. The Super Bowl incident was January. Come February, the police were back at Moffitt's door - this time for a ladder to cut down a man who had hanged himself from a tree near one of the playgrounds.

Suicides in High Park sadden Moffitt probably because he gets so much obvious joy from the place. "The surroundings make me happy to be here. In some ways I don't like the hustle and bustle. It's nice to be isolated from the noise and concrete. I'm happy to go to work," he says. And Moffitt doesn't begrudge others their enjoyment of the park. He believes people should be able to come and play. He especially likes to see park users pinicking. It's a good thing because the core of the superintendent's job is public relations, dealing with complaints, liaising

Continued on Page 17



Elaine
Ziemba

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CRUISING

HIGH PARK'S

SOUTH END

by Sam Eller

When I first moved to the area, several years ago, I would occasionally sit in the dark near Colborne Lodge and watch the lights reflecting off Grenadier Pond – a beautiful and tranquil scene as most of us know. On one such outing a rather personable young man sat down next to me and struck up a conversation. We discussed the weather and how mild the evening was, and as I got up to leave, he asked me if I would like to go home with him.

Cruising is a colloquial term which refers to a gay man's quest for sexual partners and High Park plays host to a high-traffic scene, indeed. The south end is the generally acknowledged rendez-vous point, specifically at the parking lot near Colborne Lodge. Other park users have long turned a blind eye to the south end's sex scene. But as pressure on the park mounts and issues of personal safety rear their head some are beginning to resent what they see as the appropriation of park space for an activity they feel is inappropriate in a public place.

Public pressure is often brought to bear on park officials. Colborne Lodge's Curatorial Assistant admits she received phone calls inquiring whether the park is safe. "People, particularly parents and young women, sometimes worry that the park is unsafe. They are reluctant to use the public washrooms for fear of stumbling into something in progress," says Betty Roodhart. Public washrooms in High Park have long been a central focus around this issue. The washrooms near Colborne Lodge, once a popular place for sexual encounters have been locked since the fall of 1993. While the move has kept everyone out of the facility, the men have moved further into the woods and ravines.

In an effort to reclaim the washrooms for their intended use, the city of Toronto Parks and Recreation Department is looking at re-arranging the present washroom facilities. A series of recommendations regarding the washrooms appear in the newly released 'Comprehensive Safety Programme for High Park', commissioned by the Parks and Recreation Department. Washrooms in the park, the document's author says, are perceived as unsafe because of their isolated locations and the knowledge people have of "erotic activity" that takes place in and around them. "We are looking at redesigning the washrooms for single occupancy use and relocating them in high use, high visibility areas," says Jill Cherry, Director of Parks and Urban Forestry for Parks and

Recreation. The report also recommends removing the washroom from the Colborne Lodge parking lot and replacing it with one that is accessed from inside the lodge. "This would enhance the use of the washrooms by the general public, and lessen the chance of confrontation around them."

Beyond that actually confronting the men is a strategy rejected as a human rights nightmare. Barb Cowan is Co-chair of the High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee and has worked extensively on safety issues around the city and in High Park. Fear for personal safety is at least partially responsible for the fact that only one in three park users is a woman. According to the High Park User's Study, which was initiated in 1987 by Toronto Parks and Recreation, of the women who actually do use the park, 52 per cent fear for their safety. Another 35 per cent are afraid of the "transients, weirdos and prowlers." Cowan agrees the park needs to be safer. "Yes the situation with the washrooms is one that can be improved. Organized group outings, better lighting, and even a rec centre are all being considered as ways of increasing safety in the park." Cowan's perspective on gay cruising and park safety? "Why is a gay man automatically thought of as a rapist or a pedophile? I'm more frightened of the straight men in the park. Only very seldom are these men caught in the act, and then suddenly it's a problem. Homophobia is at the heart of this issue," Cowan says.

"Many of these guys are family men," says PC Bill Cutmore, community representative for High Park at Metro Police 11 Division. "A lot of them are at least in their mid-30s, they have homes and lives and they just want to be left alone. As police we have to respond to public complaints, but there is really very little we can do."

"Basically, there is no specific law against having sex in a park," Cutmore says. Under certain circumstances police could lay charges of indecent exposure or, indecent assault, in a case where a cruising man mistook someone out for a walk as a potential partner and touched that person. There are also by-laws, although they don't mention park sex, that cover conduct in the park. The sections of the by-law that are pertinent talk about behaviour that interferes with another's "use or enjoyment" of the park, and being properly dressed when using park facilities. According to a High Park spokesperson it's up to the police or an enforcement officer to make the by-law stick.

Cutmore recalls charges were regularly laid in High Park under the vagrancy act in the 40s, 50s and 60s when policing was more hard-nosed and human rights a less urgent issue. "If you couldn't get rid of it then you're not going to get rid of it now," he says. For Cutmore, the issue isn't curtailing the sexual activity, but arranging park facilities so children don't happen upon men having sex, an issue before the washrooms near Colborne Lodge were closed. "I'm convinced it's part of the park's make-up."

Most of us remember the death in June, 1985 of Kenneth Zeller, a librarian at a Beaches' public grade school. Zeller, 40 was brutally attacked and killed by eight Swansea-area teens. He had been cruising in High Park when he was slain. Zeller was beaten and murdered for no other reason than his sexual orientation. Like most men who cruise the park he was alone and vulnerable to attack when he died.

John Maxwell, who works with the AIDS Committee of Toronto, (ACT), acknowledges the problems inherent to providing support for these men. Last year Maxwell headed the



drawing by Kevin Wren

"The 'first shift' of cruisers is active in the park most of the day, then at around four or five p.m. a new group of men coming from work pull in.."

Park Outreach Project through ACT. The project was designed to provide support and safety for men at risk in public parks. Maxwell identified several areas crucial to the project's success. "We need more liaison with the police. They are often reluctant to be seen as supportive of this kind of initiative. We also need volunteers who are able to help in this project." Although Maxwell would not disclose the actual number of men they encountered in the parks, he did say that he was surprised at how many there are. "It's very difficult to work with these men because they are not usually part of the gay community and they do not identify as being gay. They are out there very much alone and they have little support."

Kenn Zeller's death is carved in the rock of his tombstone. "Horror stories" of shameless public debauchery and recklessness by cruising men don't live up to the myth.

Norma Kelly, the now retired founding director of the School for Visually Impaired Children located in High Park's Forest School, cites the presence of used condoms and needles near the porch of the school as a potential health threat. The obvious presence of urine on the porch and surrounding area is also a nuisance, according to Kelly. Neither she nor any of her staff has ever witnessed anything in the vicinity of the school. Kelly does not miss the humour in some of what happens though. "I was here late one evening and my husband, waiting in the parking lot, was solicited by one of the men."

One gay man who is not active in the park and wishes to remain anonymous feels park cruisers are walking on life's dark side. The nameless, faceless cruising that goes on in parks is, according to this man, indicative of deep emotional problems in some men who are abuse survivors or who have not come to terms with their homosexuality. "This type of cruising is a shamed response to a life of shame and pain. If someone doesn't

expect more out of life they won't get it."

But 'Jarek', referring to himself as the "Queen of High Park," says he's content with his lifestyle, enjoys it and sees nothing wrong with it. A 45 year old Polish man, Jarek has been cruising High Park for 15 years. According to Jarek the "first shift" of cruisers is active in the park most of the day, then at around four or five p.m. a new group of men coming from work pulls in. "Most of these guys are straight or bi-sexual," say Jarek, "they stop in for a 'quickie' before going home." Starting around dusk and continuing into the early hours of the morning the 'second shift' becomes active. "Most of the men on the second shift are gay, they are joggers or cyclists and are regulars in the park." The element of danger, according to Jarek, is a definite attraction for a lot of the men. The rush of fear and adrenaline enhances the sexual performance, or gives a better erection. Jarek prefers the park to bars or clubs because the air is clean and one is not obliged to drink. High Park is a major part of his community.

Is there any hope for resolving the difficulty of widely divergent groups sharing High Park? Most are optimistic that these problems can be solved. Better lights and facilities, increased usage and even designated usage areas. Within Central Park's 843 acres, a 37-acre tract known as 'The Ramble' has been recognized and respected as a gathering place for gay men for the past 50 years.

Parks and Recreation's Jill Cherry is hopeful the tension can be eased. "We are working with local councillors, the police and gay support groups. This is not an easy issue to resolve, but through education, understanding and co-operation we can work things out non-confrontationally."

Meanwhile families, friends and lovers continue to share the peaceful beauty of High Park. They relax, play and, for the most part, leave each other alone.



Richard Burton with Joan Plowright in *Equus* directed by Sidney Lumet. Look for Colborne Lodge in scenes from the 1978 movie starring the famous British actor.

Hollywood

A gondola on Grenadier Pond; Dead Clowns Hanging from Trees; Tony the Tiger on Spring Road; Richard Burton at Colborne Lodge;

Jack Lemmon and William Hurt eating in the Grenadier Restaurant; Lilly Tomlin at the zoo; Dan Akroyd using the pay-phone near the duck ponds...all these sightings have taken place in High Park while it is being transformed into anywhere but Toronto.

This is another great year for the Toronto film industry, bringing more millions into our economy in the first eight months of 1994, topping the record high of \$316 million in '93. Over 95 productions shot in Toronto this year, including feature films, movies of the week, mini series, television specials and series. One of the reasons this city is such a popular location to film in is High Park. Photographs of its 399 acres are regularly sent out from the library at the Ontario Film Development Corporation, and are kept on file in producers' offices around the world.

The logistics of organizing any production are most often a nightmare – resolving traffic and parking problems, and placating residents who quickly become irritated when a film unit, resembling the size of a small town, moves into their area. Producers find the park to be one of the least stressful locations in town. Location manager Robin Rocket has organized filming for episodes of *Friday the 13th* and *Top Cops*, in the park. "It's a great place for filming," she says. "A rural look with the advantage of being in the city. Crews don't have to travel so far, and we're not disrupting the flow of traffic or people's lives like we tend to do elsewhere." So versatile is the park's scenery that Rocket has seen High Park used as a mountain pass in Montana and an Indian campground in Northern Ontario.

in

High Park

by Jill Franklin

High Park can be proud of its filmic history. Crew members will never forget Richard Burton filming *Equus* at Colborne Lodge back in 1977.

"Off camera, he looked like a complete slob, slovenly and remote. But when he was called for his scene, a complete transformation took place. He was brilliant," recalled one of the props people. "Towards the end of shooting, he had his assistant ask all the crew what they would like to have personally autographed on his picture. Not many of us bothered to get one."

Loretta Young and Trevor Howard, actors from an era before Burton's, filmed scenes from a television movie, *Christmas Eve* – with High Park filling in for Central Park. High Park has often doubled for New York City's famous green space. In *The Park is Mine*, a psychotic Vietnam veteran dressed in army fatigues, takes over Central Park. The entire movie, except for one establishing shot of New York City, was filmed in High Park. Scenes from *Davies and Hearst* were shot here, portraying the grounds of the San Simeon Hearst Estate – and once again Central Park. *A New Life* starring Ann Margaret, Carol Burnett, Hal Linden and Veronica Hamill, also substituted High Park for Central Park. Look for a scene with the cast in a Venetian gondola. That's Grenadier Pond.

Some of the wildest props ever brought into the park were conjured from the imagination of Paul Quarrington, author of the Governor General's award-winning book *Whale Music*, and writer and director of the recently released film by the same name. While a resident director at the Canadian Film Centre, Quarrington's project was a fantasy fairy tale, *The Princess Who Would Not Smile*. One of the most visually-memorable scenes had two well known Toronto clowns,

Mump and Smoot, travelling through a very spooky forest on their way to the princess's castle, when they came across 15 clowns hanging dead from the trees.

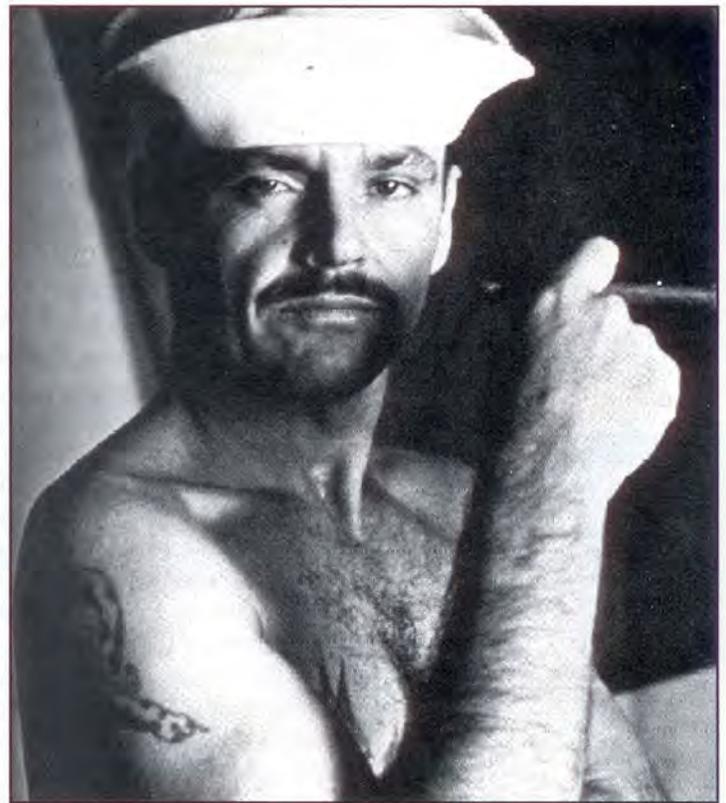
The park is also a well used location for television commercials and a backdrop for corporate videos, with producers coming from the United States and Japan to film. In the past few months scenes have been shot for Kellogg's Frosted Flakes to air in Japan. A U.S. ad agency came to do a commercial for Nerf soft war toys; an ad for Oxy acne cream was filmed by the barge at Grenadier Pond; a public service announcement for Breast Cancer was produced showing women warming up before a road race. And Northern Telecom shot an award-winning programme in a health and safety series called *Tug of War - Team Work*. Used as the grounds for a mad's doctor's castle, it was a perfect location to hold centuries old Transylvanian games in a Monty Pythonesque fashion.

Location manager Gabe Fallus has used the park on numerous occasions because the baseball diamond is the only legitimate little league field in the Metro Toronto area. "You also get such a great country look in there. Stopping traffic when necessary isn't a problem. People are very cooperative, the park support staff are available to work with us after hours." There are no costs for film crews going into the park. Permits are issued from the City of Toronto Film Liaison Office. Park employees are regularly hired by the production companies to help out after their normal hours, and any disruption to the trackless train service is paid for.

In previous years the entire park has been open for filming, even within the fences

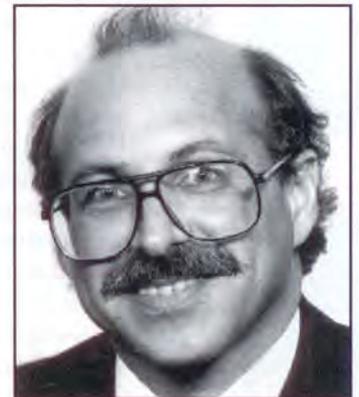
of the zoo. One of the friendlier bison was recently given a supporting role. This year, access to some areas is restricted due to the Black Oak Savannah restoration programme. A feature film using the park's wooded areas is planned for release in the new year. Titled *Jungle Law*, it stars Jeff Wincott (*Night Heat*) as a lawyer representing MicMac natives - supposedly somewhere in the U.S. In one scene, Wincott appears running through the woods. When the final product is edited together, he will be chasing a deer. Footage of the running deer is being filmed in Northern Ontario and will be intercut with the park footage.

Stargazing is one of the benefits of working in the park. Staff at the Grenadier Restaurant are always on the lookout for well-known faces and have occasionally found themselves waiting on a famous customer. The waitresses tell of William Hurt coming for a meal. "He was not friendly and made it clear that he didn't want to be approached," they recall. A friendlier Jack Lemmon balanced the karma some three months ago when he appeared at the restaurant for lunch. Of course where the famous are involved the rumour mill is always at work. Recent scuttlebutt has it that Matt Dillon and Nicole Kidman were in High Park filming *To Die For*, and numerous people claim to have seen Dan Ackroyd filming *Getting Away with Murder* with Lilly Tomlin and Jack Lemmon, scheduled for release in 1995. From earlier years, there are those who swear that the 1973 film, *The Last Detail* has a scene with Jack Nicholson walking in High Park. If watch either of those films and a location gives you that old familiar feeling, it just might be from a place you know all too well.



Film industry types recall Jack Nicholson was in High Park to film scenes from the 1974 film *The Last Detail*.

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for
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The usual crop of nuts

And we don't just mean acorns



Once again autumn sweeps across High Park, bringing with it the usual crop of nuts. Acorns, chestnuts, butternuts and their ilk we can deal with. Oh, sure, they rattle down on tender skulls, and roll underfoot like marbles, launching the unwary into orbit; and stepping on the spines of an unskinned chestnut is right up there on the pain scale with amateur root canal. But there's an undeniable beauty in these perfect little packages – the practical design, the symmetry, the elegant colouring – that makes you want to pick up a handful and take them home, to admire or even to sketch or photograph. We don't feel quite the same urge, however, when we stumble across those other autumnal nuts – the ones of the animal persuasion.

Here we have, of course, the two basic varieties – the human and the non-human, although the distinction becomes a little blurry as the mists of autumn descend. Ordinary squirrels turn into fur-bearing muggers, lying in wait for unsuspecting park visitors, then accosting their victims in a frenzy of shameless peanut-lust. Especially pushy ones, obviously on commission, are reported to climb pantlegs to check on the contents of pockets and purses. While we'd like to dismiss this story as just another urban legend, our sources wish it known that they are emphatically not nuts. So those suffering from squirrel anxiety may wish to leave their peanuts at home and refrain from wearing skirts in the park for the duration.

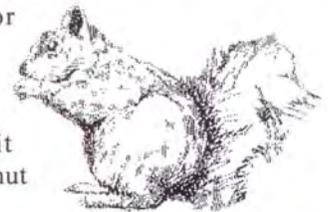
Unlike squirrel *banditos*, the park's Canada Geese don't change their food-scrounging habits much, come fall. In fact, it's business as usual for these winged nuts, year in and year out. They may make listless attempts to fly in formation around the neighbourhood, but their hearts aren't in it. Wintering in the sunny south with the rest of their birdie buddies just can't compete, in their feathered brains, with Toronto's chilly charms. While this sounds like certifiably nutty behaviour to those of us who have to mush through the slush come winter, the geese have their reasons. *Numero uno* is the steady supply of food delivered to their very doorstep, a kind of Pizza Pizza for birds, all year round. Amazingly, these accommodating people actually pay money for birdseed, haul it to the pond's edge, then have to scrape the end product off their shoes before they leave. The geese don't tip, either. Nutty behaviour, it seems, is not strictly for the birds.

And the geese are not the only feathered nut-cakes around come fall. Being on the North American

migration flight path guarantees High Park a steady supply of weird and wonderful birds every autumn. On a sunny afternoon you might see hundreds of raptors (no, city slickers, not seven-foot hoopsters with million-dollar salaries – we're talking feathered bird-of-prey types, here) flying in circles above the park for hours, like dizzy California hand-gliders. Although not, you might, say, as dizzy as anyone who'd spend a perfectly good sunny afternoon watching birds go round in circles. Which brings us once again to that other variety of autumn nut – the human.

Mea culpa. I confess. I have watched birds in the park. I have watched them on sunny days when I could have been doing something constructive. I have even joined other equally deluded souls on an ornithologist's twilight tour of the park that had us squinting through a telescope at sleeping birds in the dark. We all admitted it was nutty, but we did it anyway. Autumn in High Park is prime season for nuts, after all. The chestnuts pick falling leaves off their boards and keep right on playing. The artist-nuts put up umbrellas so they can sketch while it drizzles, and pull on gloves so they can mix paints while the temperature plummets. The fitness-nuts continue to cycle, jog and roller-blade in stylish ensembles of spandex and gooseflesh.

While High Park can boast a veritable cornucopia of autumn nut varieties, there's at least one we've managed to escape so far. TV talk-show host David Letterman swore recently that he had seen, in New York City's Central park, "a nut, gathering squirrels." While the concept holds a certain charm for victims of the insidious peanut-snatching rodents, in the end we must admit this would be one nut too many.



ECOTONES

High Park's avian activity

by Bob Yukich

Each autumn thousands of birds leave their northern breeding grounds and migrate southward. Upon reaching the shores of Lake Ontario – a formidable expanse of open water – they tend to bunch up and move westward in search of a safer, narrower crossing, such as Point Pelee on Lake Erie. High Park, strategically located near Lake Ontario, is a haven for birds offering a wide variety of habitats to these travel-weary migrants.

The first to appear in the park are shorebirds from the Arctic, commonly known as, “sandpipers”. Beginning in July, one can see a variety of species probing for tiny creatures in the mud at the north end of Grenadier Pond, fattening up for the long journey to Central and South America. The adult shorebirds arrive first, while their young migrate later, eventually rejoining their parents on wintering grounds as far away as Argentina – an amazing feat!

In the late summer and early fall, various herons are also feeding at the pond. The most conspicuous is the migrant Great Blue Heron, but the smaller, locally-nesting Black-crowned Night Heron feeds here as well. You can recognize the handsome adults by their short necks and black caps, and the young birds by their duller, brownish-streaked appearance. The even smaller Green Heron is seen here occasionally.

While strolling through the wooded areas of the park in late August and September, an alert observer may notice tiny flashes of yellow darting through the greenery. These elusive birds are some of our prettiest, and often the most difficult to identify in their fall plumage. They belong to a family of brightly-coloured insect-eating birds known as Wood Warblers.

Some of the park's most fascinating birds are not *in* the park, but are migrating a thousand feet above it. Look up on sunny days with cool northwest winds and puffy white

clouds. Various species of hawks may be moving overhead, often in the hundreds. The best place to observe this phenomenon is around the parking lot of the Grenadier Restaurant where there are fewer trees to block one's view. In early September, Sharp-shinned Hawks (slightly larger than a Blue Jay) begin to pass over. If you are fortunate you may see one dive and try to snatch a sparrow for a quick meal en route.

One of the most spectacular hawk-watching events begins mid-September. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of Broad-winged Hawks use thermals (warm air currents) to rise upward, looking like swarms of tiny gnats beneath the clouds. Then, gliding down to a distant thermal, they continue this manoeuvre all the way to South America, rarely flapping and thus expending very little energy.

During October larger hawks known as “buteos” move through, including the familiar red-tailed Hawk

of Ontario farmland. Large, black Turkey Vultures pass over, teetering on upward-tilted wings. Bald Eagles can sometimes be seen in early fall, while a few Golden Eagles pass through in late October and November.

After the third week of October flocks of migrating Eastern Bluebirds often stop over near the allotment gardens. Look for their orange breasts and vibrant blue backs as they fly from the trees to the ground and back in search of insects. The females and young are less colourful than the brilliant males.

Most people are familiar with the Canada Geese and Mallards on Grenadier Pond. You may also notice groups of Northern Shovelers swimming in tight circles as they filter particles of food from the water with their specially adapted, long spoon-shaped bills. Small, dapper, black-and-white Bufflehead and the stunning harlequin-patterned Wood Duck are among several other species of waterfowl that can be seen here in late fall.

Bird-watching tips: Use a pair of binoculars (7 to 10 power) and carry a field guide (Peterson's or National Geographic are best).

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Grenadier Pond purchased to avoid costly legal suit

by Joan Miles

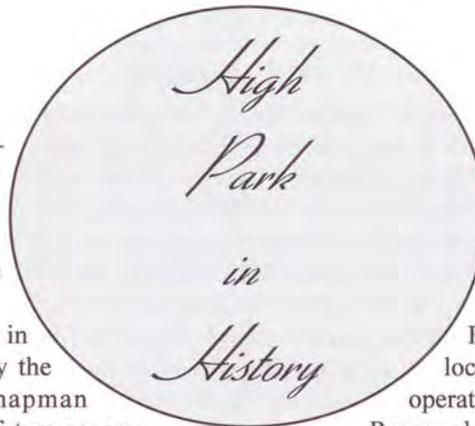
High Park assumed the bulk of its present-day geographic boundaries in the 1930s when the municipal government of the day, anxious to avoid a legal suit, purchased part of Grenadier Pond and the lands east of it.

The move by the city of Toronto in 1927-28 to avert a costly damages suit by the outright acquisition of the 71-acre Chapman Grenadier Pond property proved a boon to future generations of Torontonians. The \$150,000 purchase of November 15, 1930 included not only 35 acres of Grenadier Pond, but also the 36 acres of land north of Queen Street and west of the park's then official western border, containing "725 fine trees similar to those in High Park." Today those lands are known as Suicide Hill. The one condition of the purchase was that private boating and fishing rights on Grenadier Pond were to be retained.

The claim that had loomed against the city was based on the obstruction of the Chapman's right-of-way to Bloor Street posed by the massive filling and grading operation started in 1916, to make the Bloor more viable for transportation purposes. This legal argument combined with the fact that for years people had freely tobogganed on Chapman territory, swayed the city council to approve the expenditure.

Mercantile affairs were the Chapman family's forte. In 1882, the firm Chapman & Sons (George, George A. and Alfred) was the proprietor of the city wharf and storage elevator on the Esplanade, while Chapman & Son (George and George A.) were produce and commission merchants dealing in grain and other commodities. In 1883 George A. was both a commission merchant and treasurer of the Grenadier Ice Company.

Founded in 1880, that year the firm harvested 2,000 tons of ice from the pond. The high demand for this form of refrigeration, from an expanding population resulted in approximately



9,500 tons being cut in 1886 – about 1,000 tons of which were sold to the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways, from which lucrative contracts had been secured. There was a work force of 40 men in winter, 14 during the summer, and 14 horses. For many years, Brydson, whose family ran the local post office, was foreman of the ice-cutting operation.

Renamed Grenadier Ice and Coal in 1888, the company was also dealing in that fuel. In 1906 George A. was president, brother Alfred vice-president, F. W. Trent, the first manager and a life-time employee, secretary-treasurer, and E.J. Aikins superintendent of Ice & Coal of what was now Chapman's Limited.

Alfred H. Chapman is best remembered, however, as the architect of several Toronto landmarks. In 1912 Chapman and McGiffin designed the Dovercourt (now Bloor/Gladstone) branch public library. Chapman designed the original Old Mill Tea Room, which opened in 1914, and was a consultant for the stone bridge over the Humber River by the Old Mill. During the 1920s Chapman and his partner, J. Morrow Oxley, an engineer, collaborated on the design of the Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion and the Runnymede Theatre.

It wasn't until 1956, that the former Chapman hold-

ings, along with the former Ridout lands to the east were legally dedicated for public park purposes. Swansea joined Toronto some 11 years later and the city acquired two acres of land from the former village, thereby assembling the western section of today's High Park.

Sources: Archives, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, City of Toronto; City of Toronto Directories, 1880-1948; Windermere, reprinted from The Times Exhibition Number vol. IV, no. 34 – Parkdale, September 2, 1887; Swansea Historical Society.



The Grenadier Ice Company was founded in 1880 by the business-minded Chapman family. In the company's first year of business it harvested 2,000 tons of ice from Grenadier Pond.

photo courtesy Swansea Historical Society

Continued from Page 9

with permit users. For example, Moffitt is the contact for film companies in the park. He also has to get the yard staff to do the work that needs doing.

Moffitt is a quiet man, an introvert by nature. Still he has the tools to get the job done. "I call him 'Uncle Harry', because I respect him very much," says long-time work mate Jose Ture. Ture has been a High Park foreperson for nine years and has known Moffitt for 20 years. There's only one instance Ture can remember, although he didn't witness it, where he suspects Moffitt's temper may have flared.

The 'bread man' visited the duck ponds like clock work, arriving in a station wagon loaded with bread in the back and on the roof, which he would dump in the ponds and on the lawns. Parks' staff had asked the man to stop, but to no avail. One day, as Ture recounts, Moffitt approached him and asked him to go to the ponds and see if the 'bread man' was

there. Ture says he could see Moffitt was upset. That was the last day anyone saw the 'bread man'. Ture asked Moffitt what happened but he wouldn't say.

"I learned a lot from Harry: patience, knowledge, how to handle jobs." "Everybody in the yard respects him because of the way he approaches people. He cares for the employees, the public, and the park."

All eras must come to an end. Moffitt's departure signals, not only the end of his tenure, but the end of a philosophical approach to running High Park. When Moffitt started with Parks and Recreation in '59 George Bell was commissioner. It was Bell's feeling that parks should be tailored to suit people's needs. In High Park's case marshland was filled in for that very purpose. Hillside Gardens was completed after Moffitt started with the department. The work crews laboured to tame High Park's wild side. Today, the emphasis is on naturalizing High Park.

As Harry drives through the park in one of the yellow city vehicles, his two-

way radio hisses and hums. He makes little anecdotal comments about various landmarks. His favourite spots are, not surprisingly, people places: a little square with benches across from the Grenadier Restaurant, and the zoo. Harry loves the zoo. He especially admires the Scottish Highland Cattle. Everyone is joking that a baby animal should be named after Harry, maybe the calf the llamas are expecting in January.

Moffitt's eyes cloud. "I'm going to miss the routine. I'm used to getting up for 35 years now. In some ways I'm glad to get out. "Harry is ready to get out and so am I," says Eileen. "Things have changed," she says. High Park is no longer Toronto's best kept secret. It's become the focus of a lot of community activism and angst and political manoeuvring. Too much intrigue for a straight shooter like Moffitt.

Funnily Moffitt hasn't decided on his last day. Maybe November, maybe January, he says. Old habits and loves die hard.

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FALL

guide

october

October 1 - Angels of Grenadier. A photo and collage exhibit of Grenadier Pond's resident Eurasian Mute Swans, by Carlie and Jeff Svamvour at the Runnymede Library, 2178 Bloor Street West. Continues to October 31. For more information phone 393-7697.

October 18 - High Park - A Park Lover's Quarterly, The High Park Interim Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Bloor-Swansea Eco-Village Movement sponsor an all-candidates meeting focusing on High Park and the environment, at Swansea Town Hall, 7:30 p.m., 95 Lavinia Avenue. Refreshments served.

October 29 - Hallowe'en Moonlight 8K

Run. Starting time is 8 p.m. at the Grenadier Restaurant. Entry fee is \$20 before October 21 and \$25 after. Entry forms available at the Running Room, 2100 Bloor Street West, Unit 8. For more information phone the High Park Running Room at 762-4478.

november

November 10 - The High Park Interim Citizens' Advisory Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. at the High Park Training Centre, adjacent to Hillside Gardens. For more information phone Hans de Vaal at 392-6669.

November 21 - A Dickens Christmas starts at Colborne Lodge. Adults \$4.50. Seniors and teenagers \$4 and children \$3.50. Guided tours, seasonal treats, Christmas as it was in 1870. Ends December 18. For more



information phone 392-6916
November 22 - Artificial indoor and open air rinks open. Parks and Recreation will also maintain a rink on Grenadier Pond. Skating on the pond is subject to weather conditions and the safety of the ice. For information phone 392-1111.

december

December 31 - A New Year's Eve 5K fun run hosted by the High Park Running Room, 10 p.m. at the Grenadier Restaurant. Proceeds in support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Toronto. Phone the High Park Running Room for more information at 762-4478..

jan/feb

Colborne Lodge holds thaw-out tours every Sunday afternoon in February. For more details phone 392-6916.

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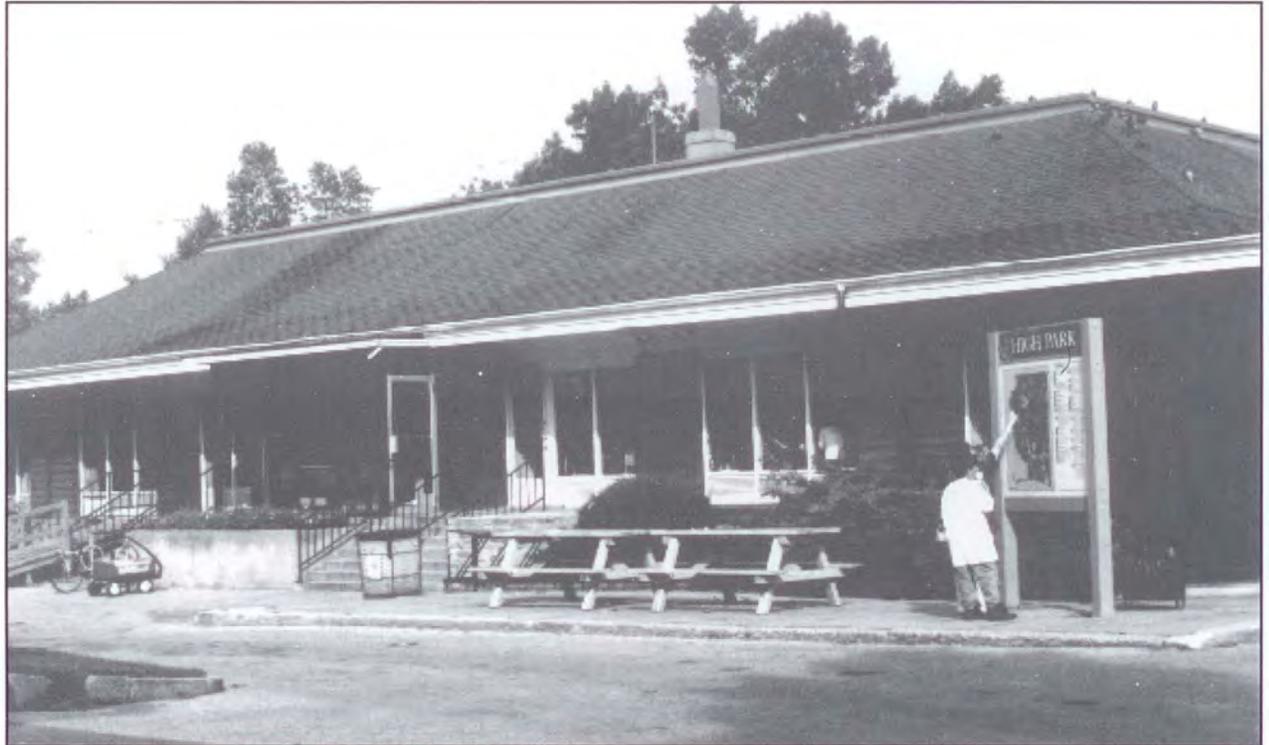
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(INTERIM)

HIGH PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON TRIAL! PUBLIC SUPPORT NEEDED

A few years ago **we, the people**, demanded that City Council set up a Citizens' Advisory Committee to help the Department of Parks and Recreation do the right things in High Park. They agreed in 1993 and gave us a year to prove our worth. Our term was extended by one more year in 1994. The staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation have been very supportive - planning agendas, calling meetings, providing meeting space, taking notes, etc. They are committed to continued support, but **we, the people**, need to take a stronger role now. The Committee has met approximately every two months. Several active sub-committees share the work...

1. **The Natural Environment** sub-committee needs help promoting greater public awareness and support for the restoration of the rare oak savannah ecosystem and Grenadier Pond.
2. **The Transportation** sub-committee needs help developing options to improve access and parking and the circulation of pedestrians, bicycles and cars.
3. **The Safety and Recreation** sub-committee needs further suggestions of ways to give legitimate park users protection from antisocial dogs, and inappropriate behaviour of other park users.
4. **The Permanent Advisory Committee** sub-committee needs help finalizing guidelines for the composition, terms of reference and operating rules for the permanent High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee.

If you would like to participate in any or all of these activities and help make High Park better and better and better, contact James Bell (769-3541), Barb Cowan (537-0001), David Hutcheon (762-2952), co-chairs of the Committee, or Hans de Vaal (392-6669), the Committee liaison with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Staff Training Centre in the Park.