

Toronto's Magazine about parks and urban nature

Fall 1996 Volume Three, Number Three

\$1.00

HIGH PARK

A Park Lover's Quarterly

**Our
take-back-the-park
issue**

**Poster campaign
flushes out
park pervert**

**High Park founder's
floundering finances**

The perfect playground for your inner child • Harvest Festival '96



Savour the flavours of the sun

Pasta
from the
Mediterranean

Salads
greek, spinach, mix greens
all-you-can-eat salad bar

Pizza
fresh from our
wood burning stove

Sandwiches
vegetarian
& the old favourites

Desserts
Movenpick ice cream
fruit salad, sundaes...



Parkside Drive

Lakshore Blvd. W

1755 Lakeshore Blvd. West, 536-5207

Open weather permitting



HIGH PARK

A Park Lover's Quarterly

Editor - Gigi Suhanic

Writer - Jill Franklin

Columnists - Mary Lou Kumagai, Joan Miles

Cover photograph by D. W. Dorken of the statue "The Hippie", in High Park.

High Park - A Park Lover's Quarterly is published four times a year by High Park Quarterly Inc. Editorial enquiries and letters to the editor are welcome and should be sent to: High Park Quarterly Inc., 53-C High Park Boulevard, Toronto M6R 1M9. Telephone/fax 588-5678. Subscriptions are available for \$4/year or \$7 for two years. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher. Canada Post second class mail registration number is 0248419698. High Park Quarterly Inc. is an independent publishing organization.

Departments

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Park Politics | 4 |
| Briefly | 5 |
| Naturalist's Notebook | 12 |

News

Getting our man

Susan Martin's spontaneous and angry poster campaign lit a fire under police and politicians and resulted in an arrest relating to a string of attacks on women stretching back two years. Martin warns women need to get and stay angry to protect themselves and their park

6

It's alive!

Can a bunch of swamp plants, and bacteria pulled together to create "living machine", clean the murky waters in High Park's duck ponds?

7

Features

Providence saves park from auctioneer's gavel

Samuel Jarvis's failure to pay John Howard for architectural services rendered sent the founder of High Park into a financial and emotional tailspin

8

Columnists

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Park Pundit | 11 |
| High Park in History | 13 |



(416) 234-0044

2943 BLOOR STREET WEST
ETOBICOKE ONTARIO M8X 1B3

15%

Migrate to Birders

15%

High Park's Back to Nature Store

BIRD FEEDERS - HOUSES

SPECIALITY SEEDS

BINOCULARS - BAT HOUSES

WEATHERVANES

MARTIN HOUSES

BOOKS - SUNDIALS

INDOOR & GARDEN FURNITURE



15%

Present this ad & receive 15% off your purchase

15%



David Hutcheon
City Councillor - Ward 1

If you need help with city government please call me at: 392-7907

Constituency office open at 2231 Bloor Street W. Thursdays, 2-7 p.m.

DR. J. A. CAREY & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRISTS



Dr. J. A. Carey
B.Sc. M.Sc. O.D.

Evening appointments available

Underground parking paid for

The Mutual Group Centre, 3300 Bloor Street West
416-234-8789

Join **WTJHS** Join

West Toronto Junction Historical Society

- quarterly newsletter
- 8 meetings per year
- walking tours
- local history research
- a voice in neighbourhood planning issues
- Over 250 members
- founded in 1980

c/o Annette Library, 145 Annette Street M6P 1P3

President Diana Fancher 763-3161

Park Politics
- a guide to grassroots involvement in High Park

HIGH PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of every other month. Upcoming dates for 1996 are Sept. 18, 7 p.m., and Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m. in the gym at the Keele Community Centre at Keele and Glenlake. For more information phone 392-1954. The committee meets to discuss the work of the High Park subcommittees on Safety and Recreation, the Natural Environment, and Transportation. All meetings are open to the public and newcomers are welcome.

HIGH PARK COMMUNITY-BUILT PLAYGROUND. To learn more about this new project attend one of the following sessions: Sept. 18, 7 p.m., or Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m., in the gym, Keele Community Centre, Keele and Glenlake. For information phone Jamie Bell at 392-1954 or Murray Boyce at 392-0584.

HIGH PARK TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE meets Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. at the High Park Training Centre, south of the Grenadier Restaurant on Colborne Lodge Drive.

HIGH PARK NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE meets October 17, 6:30 p.m. Keele Community Centre, Keele and Glenlake.



David Miller
Metro Councillor
Suite 228 - Metro Hall
55 John Street
Toronto ON M5V 3C6
392-4072

PARK WATCH meets every Wednesday at the High Park Training Centre, 6:30 p.m. For more information call 766-7754.

HIGH PARK VOLUNTEER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM hosts a community planting event on Sept. 22, 10:30-1. Meet at south side of Grenadier Restaurant. Come and plant a variety of native species of wildflowers and grasses. For more information phone the High Park volunteer hotline at 392-7276, ext. 301 and leave a name and number.

THE RIGHT FIXED INCOME INVESTMENT FOR YOU

A wide range of fixed income investments are available today - each with their own features which fill specific needs. But which one is right for you and your particular circumstances? To help you understand your investment alternatives, Nesbitt Burns has created *The Bond Book*, an easy to follow Q&A brochure which helps you understand and evaluate the fixed income investments currently available to you.

Learn more about:

- Interest Income
- Bonds & Debentures
- Strip Bonds
- Guaranteed Income Certificates
- Bond Mutual Funds
- Treasury Bills
- Term Deposits
- Canada Savings Bonds
- NHA Mortgage-Backed Securities

To receive your complimentary copy of the *Bond Book*, call today.

Ian D. Pyper, B.A.
Investment Advisor
(416) 359-7568



Member CIPF

Eleven deer released from High Park zoo

Deer released by a midnight prankster from the High Park zoo led park staff on a gruelling chase that ended many hours later in Grenadier Pond.

Eleven spotted fallow deer escaped into the park sometime during the morning hours of Aug. 20 after someone cut the locks on the main gate into the zoo and then broke open the animals' pen.

All 11 deer were returned safely to their pen the same day. Ten were captured quickly. The eleventh one eluded park staff until well into the evening.

It was cornered at the south-east corner of Grenadier Pond where it was darted with a tranquilizing gun as it ran into the pond.

"This is a story that should be told," said High Park supervisor Carol Guy.

During the day events unfolded in a "Chaplinesque" way.

When the group of 10 deer were caught staff mistakenly thought they had rounded up the whole lot, only to realize that one animal was still missing.

Toward the evening, and with the doe still on the loose, the park began to fill up with television media attending a second special meeting on the so-called High Park flasher.

As camera crews and reporters loitered out front of the meeting place, park trucks raced back and forth in front of them. One reporter from Citytv wondered out loud, "What's the big deal?"

This incident is the first to punch holes in new security measures installed at the zoo in 1994. A perimeter fence was installed around the zoo, and gates erected at each end of the road running up the middle of the zoo. The thought was that the fence and gates would confine the movements of any animals released from their pens.

In January 1994, prior to completion of the work, bison were released into the park.

Raptor group on the watch

It's raptor season in High Park – a time when birds of prey use the park as a major migratory channel.

For the fall migration the Greater Toronto Raptor Watch is staffing a hill in High Park to count birds as they pass overhead.

briefly

The hill, located north of the Grenadier Restaurant is called "hawk hill". It will be staffed with knowledgeable birders from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, 9-5, seven days a week.

Don Barnett of the Greater Toronto Raptor Watch said newcomers are welcome to participate.

Last year a wide variety of species was identified from 12 types of hawks to eagles.

Celebrating the harvest

The High Park Harvest Festival this year is focusing the days' events around the traditional foods of fall.

The Harvest Festival will be held at Colborne Lodge, at the south end of High Park, Oct. 6, 12-5 p.m.

The festival will feature a harvest marketplace, entertainment and Victorian period music, and community and environmental displays.

Historic varieties of foods will also be highlighted. Participants include the head gardener of historic foods at Doon Pioneer Village; Seeds of Diversity, a group that works to preserve heritage seed species.

There will also be demonstrations of apple cider pressing, apple-coring/fritter making and basket making.

The Toronto Historical Board will re-create an 1865 picnic. A number of organic farmers will have produce tables.

The High Park Harvest Festival is presented by the Toronto Historical Board, the High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee, and the City of Toronto Department of Parks

and Recreation.

Conference a natural

A two-day conference on naturalizing and restoring landscapes has most of the angles covered on this increasingly popular mode of environmental activism.

"GroundWorks '96" is a two-day forum in October on the ins and outs of transforming and maintaining landscapes into natural areas of biodiversity.

"GroundWorks '96" happens Oct. 4-5 at Metro Hall, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The conference is presented by the Evergreen Foundation and Metropolitan Toronto Parks and Culture. The Evergreen Foundation promotes the restoration of nature in the city.

A guided tour of the High Park Greenhouse is also on the agenda.

Registration fees range from \$120.00 for the two-days to \$25. For more information call conference coordinator Martha Stager at 596-1495.

ROYAL LEPAGE



Carolyn Hillman
Sales Representative
762-8255



372 Durie Street

Vintage Village. Classic oak trim. Fabulous reno'd kitchen. Sunny music room. Nanny's suite. Private fenced garden.



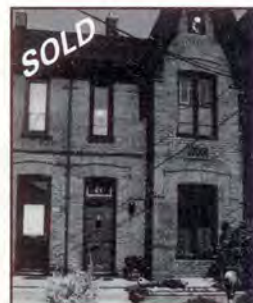
34 Halford Avenue

Old Mill Perfection. Exquisitely renovated & restored. Large principal rooms. Marble hearth. Superb family room. Sunsets. CAC. Private drive.



118 Galley Avenue

Architect's own dream home. Spectacular layout with loads of space & floods of natural light. Top floor sanctuary. Landscaped garden.



181 Mavety Street

Splendid Victorian c. 1892. Open spaces & high ceilings with lovely period detail. Skylights, eat-in kitchen, lush private garden. CAC.

Carolyn Hillman, 762-8255

Call for a complimentary evaluation of your property.

All enquiries in confidence.

Get angry and get even

Anger is an extremely useful emotion.

It was anger, one woman's outrage, that set a fire under police and resulted in the arrest of a man accused in a string of reported attacks in High Park stretching over two years..

Susan Martin vividly recalls the moment when she said something "snapped" inside her and in a furry she pounded out and posted a warning to the attacker that women were not going to take his abuse any more.

"I wrote this to the guy and I think it took me 45 seconds. I wanted this guy to know I was pissed off," Martin said.

"By these actions I hope to make my outrage contagious," Martin said.

Susan Martin walks her three dogs every day. Usually she takes them to Trinity-Bellwoods which is close to her home. She will also take the dogs on the subway to High Park. She is a solitary pet owner. When she comes to High Park she does not talk to anyone or join up with other dog owners.

Susan Martin is also a writer. She is working on a thriller novel and recently has been researching the subject of sexual predators.

These are the two significant factors in Martin's life that in combination with other events in High Park served to transform her into the naive stranger that brings the winds of change.

"This is not my neighbourhood. I don't know anything about High Park, but I like it," she said.

Martin said she first found out about the flasher through a chance encounter with two sisters walking their Chow dog. "Have you heard about our pervert?" they asked her.

It was shortly after that Martin happened on a larger group of women, again discussing the "pervert".

Through these encounters Martin learned that this individual wasn't just a flasher, he was a dangerous menace who made a grab for his victims. In one assault which occurred in the winter months Martin discovered the man had kicked the woman's dog, grabbed her crotch, and stuck his tongue in her ear. According to Martin, this

woman, a new-comer to Toronto was told by police to, "Get used to it".

"I saw the fear and I said don't be afraid, be angry." Martin said. "Something snapped and I went berserk," she said. the by-now famous poster campaign was the result.

Martin noted that four days after she put up the flyers most of them had been taken down. She also put up some posters in out-of-the-way places. It was probably one of these flyers that a CBC radio reporter found while walking her dog, that spawned the media frenzy, and lead to an arrest.

"The reason it happened is because it was a high profile case - it was an embarrassment to the police and politicians," she said.

Some may think the problem is solved. Martin said there are plenty more teetering on the edge of sexual criminality while the police assign a low priority status to flashers and masturbaters. "There are 100s of instances of molestations and they are totally low priority," Martin said.

Police protested, at two special community meetings, that they take seriously crimes like exhibitionism. The events - that this particular flasher had been known to police for two years and that a full description was available - don't support that position.

"These guys always start this way. They don't emerge from the womb as full-blown rapists. They begin some way," Martin said.

To Martin recent events are just proof that if women want protection from police they will have to agitate for it.

Of course, women will have to get over their own nagging doubts first as well about the seriousness of crimes like flashing and masturbating in public.

Martin said she has noted in herself a tendency to suppress reactions and minimize what has happened.


Martin recalls, that a few weeks before the poster episode, she was walking in High Park and came upon a man masturbating about 20 ft. in front of her. She now believes it was the same individual the police arrested. "I felt a stab of fear. And then I thought, oh it's just a wanker and I repressed the fear and I went home. I even made a joke to my husband."

- by Gigi Suhanic

Etobicoke Farmers' Market



Featuring

FRESH FRUIT ♦ HERBS ♦
VEGETABLES ♦ EGGS ♦
POULTRY ♦ CHEESE ♦
AND MUCH MORE...



SATURDAYS JUNE 22 - OCTOBER 26

Etobicoke City Hall
399 The West Mall
8:00 am to 2:00 pm



the West End Vegetarian RESTAURANT

A jewel in the Junction, dedicated to serving nourishing and healthful food that is delicious by any standard!

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Tuesday Nights.

Mon. - Thurs. & Sat. 11:30 am - 9:00 pm
Fri. 11:30 am - 10:00 pm
Sun. 4:30 - 9:00 pm
2849 Dundas St. West (416) 762-1204

Pervert-alert campaign perks up Park Watch

The by-now famous poster campaign warning of a dangerous attacker in High Park has produced some positive spin-off effects in the area of park safety.

The campaign, instigated by Susan Martin, firstly blew the lid off police inactivity in the face of mounting reports involving the same individual.

Also, the campaign, media attention and two special meetings that followed have brought a renewed sense of purpose to the notion of a Park Watch program.

Park Watch came on the scene two years ago, and has had some trouble getting off the ground.

In the wake of recent events, Park Watch has tripled its membership.

According to Park Watch co-chair Nadine Harris the group has some short-term goals the she believes will bring tangible results.

One of the projects Park Watch will be working on is a reporting line for High Park. "This will be the first big service Park

Watch offers," Harris said.

She said the phone line is a key priority. The questions that need to be answered are whether the phone will be staffed or just be an answering service, and what the role of the line will be.

Ward 1 Councillor David Hutcheon who offered the phone line, at a special safety meeting said he "hopes" the line happens although he said he doesn't know what shape it will take.

Jerry Everson, founder of Park Watch said the phone line would really help define the group's role. "The phone line is important if people really feel harassed and they don't want to talk to the police - that's a plus for Park Watch," Everson said.

Members are also working to create a media plan, establish police relations, and define the Park Watch's long-term role.

In the area of police relations, Park Watch is looking to improve communications. "We want to establish a joint committee to meet and bring issues to the table and not wait until there is a crisis and then talk," Harris said.

Harris expects Park Watch will have a focused mandate and action plan completed



Susan Martin's poster was a catalyst.

to take to a meeting of the High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee in November and then on to Toronto City Council.

Ultimately, it's hoped Park Watch will create a volunteer host program to offer people assistance and information.

- Gigi Suhanic

Pilot project tests "living machine"

A new pilot project is slated for High Park to test the increasingly popular concept of the "living machine" - an engineered ecosystem that uses plants, bacteria, and other organic materials to clean contaminated water.

Toronto City Council has approved up to \$200,000 to create and test such a system in High Park's south duck pond, possibly in 1997. The pond is located in the south-eastern corner of the park, near Parkside Drive.

According to David Creighton of the city of Toronto's Public Works and the Environment, the department will be putting out a request for proposals for the project sometime in October.


"There's a lot of talk and interest in the "living machine", Creighton said. "In Canada there's not a lot where it has been applied. We want to see whether it can be used in this situation," he said.

So, what can the living machine do for the duck pond?

"The most critical thing in a lake is the lake's own ecosystem. What the goal might be (in High Park) is to give the lake a boost. If you can get pollution below a certain threshold then the lake might be able to take over," said Andrew Hellebust, a chemical engineer and microbiologist with Living Technologies Corporation which builds "living machines".

Continued on Page 10

*High Park
Bed & Breakfast*



*Victorian home, antique furniture
beautiful garden, delicious breakfast
free parking, smoke free*

4 High Park Boulevard
531-7963

SWANSEA TOWN HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE



**Space Available
- reasonable rates -**

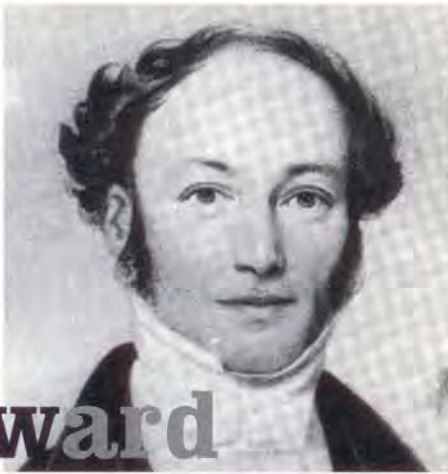
meetings - weddings - workshops
mailboxes - forums - seminars
courses - concerts - cultural events
lectures - debates - recitals - parties
social events - banquets - sales - dances

**call 392-1954
95 Lavinia Avenue**

Jarvis



Howard



Armed only with his questionable pedigree and upstart ambition, John Howard the founder of High Park would run head-long into the family compact cronyism of Samuel Jarvis's milieu.

by Jill Franklin

In the same year as John Howard bought the property that would later become High Park (1836), he began his ill-fated relationship with Samuel Peter Jarvis that nearly changed the course of history for our use of this treasured piece of property. The two men knew of each other by reputation but they were not, and never would become friends.

At the time Howard was first hired by Jarvis to measure and draw up designs for the shutters and cornice on Samuel Jarvis's home "Hazelburn", both men were overcoming the obstacles fate had dealt them and were enjoying a period of prosperity.

Howard had only been in Canada for four years after emigrating from virtual unemployment in England. He was an intense

man, with an obsession to make a respected name for himself in the colony as a prominent architect. But his business dealings with Jarvis contributed to his near death in the early 1850s.

Ten years older than Howard, Jarvis had fought in the war of 1812, become a lawyer, clerk of the crown in chancery and in 1837 he was appointed Chief Superintendent of Indian Affairs. He was the eldest surviving son of Connecticut-born William Jarvis who had fought in the American Revolution with the Queen's Rangers and came to Upper Canada with John Graves Simcoe in 1791, being given land grants and the position of Provincial Secretary.

Samuel Jarvis would always be remembered for being the survivor of the last duel fought in York in 1817, killing 18-year-old John Ridout, son of the Surveyor General Thomas Ridout. At the time, William Jarvis was accused of misappropriating government funds, heavily in debt and being urged to resign his position. Attempting to save some of his property, William signed over a 100-acre lot between Queen and Bloor Streets to his son, then died while Samuel was in jail waiting for his manslaughter trial resulting from the duel. He was acquitted.

Samuel had expected to succeed his father as Provincial Secretary but instead found himself unemployed and burdened with his father's bankrupt estate and reputation. The bright spot in his future was his marriage in 1818 to Mary Boyles Powell, daughter of Chief Justice William Dummer Powell - the judge who presided over his trial.

Samuel and Mary built their home in 1824 and called it "Hazelburn". It was located on what today is the centre of Jarvis Street, south of the intersection with Shuter, with its long front drive coming north from Queen St. In 1837 Howard built Colborne Lodge on his High Park land and lived there with his wife Jemima for the next six years.

By 1843, both men were facing complications in their personal lives. The first of Howard's three children with his mistress Mary Williams was born, and he was taking on more work than he could realistically manage.

Jarvis was under investigation by his employer, the Department of Indian Affairs. Representatives of the Indian bands were accusing him of fraud, immoral behaviour and blatant favouritism in the distribution of annual presents from the Queen. Examination of his account books revealed unexplained withdrawals of funds allocated to the tribes. Jarvis denied all of the charges.

photos courtesy Toronto Historical Board and Metro Reference Library

HUMBERSIDE MONTESSORI SCHOOL AT 411 CLENDENAN AVE.



**INVITES PARENTS TO REGISTER THEIR
CHILDREN FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR
STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1997**

- **Primary level: ages 2½ to 6 years old.**
- **Elementary level: ages 6 to 9 years old.**
- **AMI certified teachers**
- **Before and after school programs**
- **Home school bus pick-up and delivery: door-to-door service**



**A special place for your children
to learn, to grow and to be happy.**

**For further information,
application form
and appointment
please call: 762-8888**

The government accountant determined that Samuel Jarvis was in debt to the Indians for nearly £10,000, then lowered the amount to just over £4,000, suspending him from his office on June 30, 1845.

The humiliated Jarvis immediately hired John Howard to survey the "Hazelburn" property for subdivision and sale. Howard was deeply entrenched in building the Lunatic Asylum on Queen Street, but he devoted much of the next year preparing the plans, which included laying out the new Jarvis Street from Queen to Bloor Streets, to run right through the Jarvis family home."Hazelburn" was demolished in 1846.

Jarvis preferred adventurous travel and fishing expeditions over business deals, giving Howard the authority to act as his exclusive sales agent for a term of five years. The Howards left Colborne Lodge and moved back to their house on King St. at York.

While maintaining his other contracts, the amount of time, energy and money Howard spent on the Jarvis property resulted in exhaustion and a virtual nervous breakdown. He refused his doctor's orders to take a one-month rest cure in Saratoga Springs. With his health failing, and a personal debt growing, he advertised the sale of High Park and Colborne Lodge as "That beautiful and romantic LOT OF LAND AND RESIDENCE, SITUATED ON THE LAKE SHORE." There was no buyer.

In frustration, Howard penned a bitter complaint to Jarvis over not receiving one shilling in cash for his labour, commissions and expenses. Jarvis ignored the letter, and Howard began to hound him. Seven months later, an annoyed Jarvis wrote back denying that he had ever entered an agreement for longer than one year, and accused him of overstepping his authority.

Howard responded, "I maintain that after you had placed your Estate in my hands for five years which I am prepared to prove you did and allowed me to incur very heavy expenses you had no

right to dispose of a single Lot without paying me my commission... I feel satisfied that if you will spend an hour or two with me in going over the Books, we shall be able to settle the matter amicably without referring it to any legal Tribunal, although' should it come to that, the evidence that I can bring forward will be sufficient to give me a verdict for all I claim." At the time, he put High Park up for sale again. But again, there was no buyer.

Howard was naive to think that a Toronto legal tribunal would not be made up of the oligarchy into which Jarvis was born. His appeals were met with indifference, but perseverance finally led to an arbitration in 1853.

The lawyer acting on Howard's behalf could only succeed in getting two lots from Jarvis as settlement - on the less-valuable George Street. For this, Howard was billed an arbitration fee and given three months to pay.

Howard had become so overwhelmed that he was unable to sleep for six weeks. The doctor called on him every day; his failing health forced him to take a six-month leave of absence from his part-time teaching position at Upper Canada College. He was bled with leeches, injected with potent medicines and told that if he continued his business, it would kill him. Jemima finally convinced him to take a three-month trip with her to England to celebrate his 50th birthday.

In 1856 the Howards sold their King Street house and moved back to Colborne Lodge. The following year, Samuel Jarvis died at the age of 65. In noting the death, William Lyon Mackenzie wrote in his weekly newspaper "...he embezzled many thousands of dollars of the money of the poor Indians, which he was paid to protect. Of course the government winked at all this".

Samuel Jarvis was buried in St. James Cemetery — not far from John Ridout, whose remains were brought there after John Howard designed the place in 1844.

They're **OUR** PARKS

Let's work **together**
to keep them **safe.**

Call the City of Toronto
Safe City Line



392-SAFE 392-7233

Produced for the Safe City Committee by the City Clerk's Department

Over 80 years service
WEST TORONTO

PAINT & WALLPAPER



- **FREE LOCAL DELIVERY**
- **500 WALLPAPER BOOKS**
- **COMPUTERIZED COLOUR MATCHING**
- **PART OF COMMUNITY SINCE 1909**
- **HIGH QUALITY CANADIAN-MADE**
PRODUCTS AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

**3132 Dundas St. W.
(E. of Runnymede)
767-5171**

"Living machine" an eco filtre

The duck pond, like Grenadier Pond is part of High Park's natural water system. Both bodies of water are also links in the city's massive storm water sewage system.

Water quality testing has been done on the duck pond. Creighton said the exact figures would be available when the request for proposals went out. He said the quality is at the very least comparable to that of Grenadier Pond. It has tested positive for higher-than-acceptable levels of phosphorus and fecal coliform, bacteria found in feces.

The "living machine" was originally designed by John Todd, president of Ocean Arks International. Todd has created several machines, mostly sewage treatment systems for such clients as the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, Florida, and the Body Shop.

Todd's concept was to use sunlight, bacteria, green plants, animals like clams and snails, to purify water.

The "living machine" has been described as an "ecological filtre". Air pumps water through stones and aquatic plants which trap contaminants. A bacterial mix stirred into the pot goes to work to break down the contaminants.

The concept can take shape in many

different forms – for example as a floating island with a windmill to circulate the water, as a swamp located on the shoreline. "Living machines" can also be housed in green houses.

The technology has been more widely used to clean water from sewage. Few examples exist of its use to improve water quality.

The best-known example is the clean up a badly polluted flax pond in Harwich, Massachusetts near Cape Cod, using something called a "Lake Restorer" – a floating platform standing almost six metres high, with nine separate organic filters. Water is lifted through the island by a mill powered by wind and solar energy.

Work on Flax Pond was started in 1990 with the goal of reducing high levels of ammonia, increasing oxygen, and the bottom-dwelling animals.

The project was considered a success because some of these goals were achieved.

"In the five years of restoration efforts..., some improvements have been dramatic while others remain elusive," wrote a member of the project.

In Metro Toronto, at present there are no examples of a pond clean up using a "living machine". The nearest example of a working "living machine" is the Body Shop's

system at its headquarters, in Don Mills Road.

The project was built in 1993 to treat water and sewage from the toilets, showers and sinks. Hellebust, who maintains the machine for the Body Shop, said it treats about 4,000 litres per day, or 50 per cent of waste water produced by 100 employees. That figure will increase to 100 per cent when a new plumbing system recycles the clean water to the toilets, Hellebust said.

In the initial stages of the Body Shop system the sewage and water is treated first in a septic tank where solids settle out, and are broken down by bacteria, and then in a second set of tanks where the waste water is blasted with oxygen and more bacteria.

From there it goes to a tank filled with aquatic plants, and bacteria. The plants, Hellebust said, are mostly there to provide habitat for the bacteria.

Finally, the water passes through a metre-deep floor of stones, and the roots of sub-tropical plants.

The water that comes out at the end look remarkably clear, although Hellebust said that he wouldn't drink it.

"We're in the same range of performance as a conventional system that has filtration. We offer the secondary benefits of using no chemicals," Hellebust said.

– Gigi Suhanic

We have it all!

- * Stock photography
- * High end Black & white and colour scanning
- * Desktop publishing (Macintosh and PC)
- * Full pre-press file preparation
- * Graphic design
- * Illustration
- * High resolution image setting
- * and of course, High quality printing... all under one roof



85 Newkirk Road North
Richmond Hill
Ontario
L4C 3G4

Telephone (905) 883-3700
Facsimile (905) 883-1243
Modem (905) 883-5296

Inner children need fun, too

Trying to figure out how little kids have fun is, it seems, serious business. Especially when the city of Toronto is willing to hand you 125,000 smackers with which to design and build a new playground in High Park for the little anklebiters. Add in another \$125,000 you're raising the hard way, a few loonies donated at a time, and fun begins to look like way serious business.

So you hire an expert from the United States — after all, Canadians can't know much about business or fun — look how many of them are unemployed and not enjoying it.

And you form a committee, and lots of little sub-committees — committees for organizing people and places and things, committees for acquiring stuff and dispersing stuff and arranging stuff and talking about stuff.

And you have lots and lots of meetings — with politicians and parents and children and experts and advisors and teachers and, of course, committee meetings with other committee members. And you send out questionnaires to everybody in the immediate world — questionnaires that you will have to read and tally when they're returned.

After a while you may realize you are not having fun yet. This is because your inner child keeps whining "How come those little crumbsnatchers get everything and I get nothing?" Your inner child is right. Fair is fair. This playground should be fun for you, too.

Toward that end, we offer here suggestions on what might be added to the playground design to entertain your inner child. In the spirit of public consultation they have been gleaned from serious meetings of several inner children, who prefer (understandably) to remain anonymous.

1. Really Big Swings — these should have Really Long Chains so you can go up Really High, and Really Wide Seats to accommodate those who have accumulated the usual assets of a life well-lived.

2. Porch-type Swings on Shorter Chains — for those who don't swing as much as they used to.

3. Hammocks — for those who prefer the quiet life, but still like to swing now and then.

4. A Very Long and Slippery Slide that runs the length of the longest hill in the park, with a slow and uncertain tow-rope for the return ascent — for those who put their RRSPs into mutual funds last spring. Or those who once said "Having a couple of kids won't change my lifestyle."

5. A Row of Exercycles, equipped with Water Cannons. When pedaled, they pump water from an underground stream, delivering a healthy squirt at passing targets — for anyone who has ever been nearly mowed down by a mad cyclist or chased by an unleashed mutt.

There are certain to be those wet blankets who will complain that such suggestions will cost money to implement — money that would have been spent on fancy equipment and constructions for the little kids' playground. Pish, tosh, we say to them. And, for good measure, nyah-nyah-nyah.

The truth is, elaborately designed, overly complicated playgrounds are just wasted on the young. Pearls before sucklings, as it were. Everybody knows that little kids would be blissfully happy with just a pile of sand, a nice big gooey mud pit and a good assortment of refrigerator and washing-machine cartons. Oh, and maybe a couple of sprinklers to run through. Hey, and wouldn't it be cool to have little cars you could really drive on a really little road? Oh, and maybe a playhouse with lots of rooms and doors and windows...or a castle with turrets and a moat and pretend alligators...But I digress. Back to the serious business at hand. If your inner child has some neat ideas for the new playground in High Park, please have him or her (or them, if multiple) draw or print them in the margins and send them in. Kindly use crayons. Our inner child will tally them. Maybe later. First she has to take a nap.

HIGH PARK

Harvest Festival

Foods of Fall

Presented by the Toronto Historical Board,
City of Toronto Department of Parks and Recreation
and the High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

A Community Fall Fair at Colborne Lodge

Sunday, October 6, 1996

12 noon - 5 p.m. (rain or shine)

- Harvest Marketplace
- Entertainment & Period Music
- Victorian Picnic & Bake Sale
- Colborne Lodge Gift Shop Sale
- Community & Environmental Displays & Activities

INFORMATION - (416) 392-6916

Colborne Lodge is located near the south entrance to High Park

Naturalist's *notebook*

Volunteers critical to oak woodlands' success

Twenty-five volunteers are needed to look after High Park.

The High Park Volunteer Stewardship Program is calling for 25 "dedicated" individuals interested in participating in a hands-on way in the oak woodlands restoration program.

Volunteers are needed to participate in a test plot program that will provide the Department of Parks and Recreation with research information to restore High Park's oak woodlands.

The commitment would involve a couple of evenings or one weekend per month in the spring, summer and fall of 1997 and into 1998.

"We're encouraging individuals with no experience to get involved," said Christopher Harris, a member of the Volunteer Stewardship Program.

An orientation session for those interested in participating in the oak woodlands test plot program is planned for Nov. 13 at the Training Centre in High Park, 6:30 p.m. The agenda includes a discussion of the history of the restoration work in the park with a focus on the test plot program. Time lines for the completion of the work, and the training aspect will also be discussed.

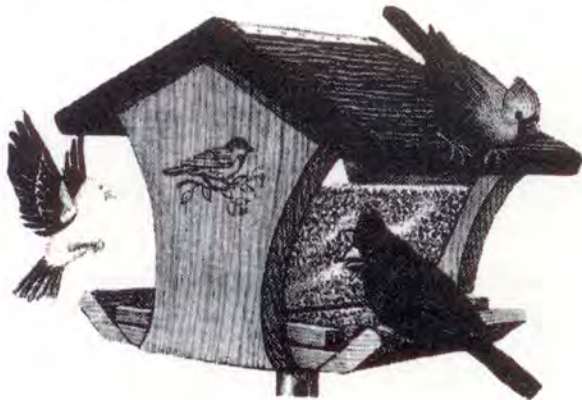
There are 16 test plots in the park all to test different restoration techniques for achieving a variety of results.

Some of the work volunteers would be asked to do include monitoring, planting, removing shrubs.

If people are interested in outdoor work in High Park, then another day to mark on the calendar is Nov. 24. Volunteers will head out with a park staff member to remove invasive shrubs like European buckthorn and tartarian honeysuckle. This work is also in aid of the woodlands restoration project. Meet on the south side of the Grenadier Restaurant, 10:30 a.m.

For more information on any of these events call the High Park Volunteer Hotline at 392-7276, ext. 301 and leave your name and phone number.

Looking For Great Bird Watching? (There's nothing in your way.)



Discover backyard birdfeeding with a visit to the Certified Birdfeeding Specialists at Wild Birds Unlimited.®

Wild Birds Unlimited Features: our own patented Supreme birdfeeders

- nesting boxes • quality seed & custom seed blends •
- bird baths & fountains • water gardening supplies • binoculars •
- field guides • nature books & recordings • wildlife clothing & jewelry
- and many more special nature gifts for all ages.

Wild Birds Unlimited®

We Bring People And Nature Together.®

5468 DUNDAS STREET WEST

(3 BLOCKS EAST OF 427, AT SHAVER)

(416) 233-3558

Birdseed • Feeders • Birdbaths • Nature Gifts

GET HIGH PARK DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

HIGH PARK

A Park Lover's Quarterly

subscription form

one year.....\$4 (incl. gst)
two years.....\$7 (incl. gst)

Please make cheque or money order payable to:
High Park Quarterly Inc., 53 High Park Boulevard,
Unit C, Toronto, Ontario M6R 1M9. Telephone/fax
588-5678.

Date:.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

Postal code:.....

Phone number:.....

Please indicate method of payment:

cheque or money order

What is your favourite thing about High Park?

Comments here.....

.....

.....

Pond's potential exploited by 19th century owners

by Joan Miles

High Park in History

Prior to Grenadier Pond falling completely into the hands of municipal government, the body of water was legally titled to many different owners throughout the 19th century.

The holdings of John George Howard acquired in 1836 as the nucleus of today's High Park included a 13-acre cove in the southeast part of Grenadier Pond, sometimes referred to as Howard's Lake. Howard's 1874 plan shows the rivers flowing into the headwaters of the pond through his Lot, while the Lot to the west containing most of the body of water is owned by John Ellis. The various points along Ellis's aquatic boundary are denoted by the simple device of a cedar post.

In 1889 bootmaker Alexander Gemmell bought a 100-foot-wide parcel of land from Ellis with an agreement to build within three years. Gemmell's architect son John, with his partner Smith, who created such Toronto landmarks as St. Paul's United Church and the Church of the Redeemer, designed the house. Its location takes full advantage of the view east across Grenadier Pond. In 1906 John Gemmell moved into the house at 181 Ellis Avenue.

The Chapman family, contemporaries of John Gemmell, recognized the commercial potential of the pond in winter as a renewable resource. The Grenadier Ice Company, founded in 1880, was harvesting 9,500 tons of ice by 1886 and employing a local work force, summer and winter. For many years westenders tobogganed without interference on what was strictly speaking Chapman territory.

The 1930 purchase by the city of Toronto of the Chapman Grenadier Pond property, which respected existing private boating and fishing rights, was also a timely transfer of 35 acres of the pond to municipal ownership.

By the mid-twentieth century, local industrial giant Stelco was exercising its negotiated riparian rights which entitled it to an assured and steady source of water from the pond for use as a coolant. This practice, which resulted in fluctuating water levels, was discontinued with the closing down of the site in the early 1990s.

John Ross Robertson eloquently expressed the inherent character of Grenadier Pond and its surroundings in *Landmarks of Toronto* in 1896: "The noble demesne now known as High Park consisting of a wide stretch of varied surface composed of brooks, pond, hill and dale, landscapes and forest is the most beautiful section lying around Toronto... eminently adapted by its natural advantages to the purpose of a public park."

Just For A Moment
by Sheila Hyland

Blazing autumn brilliance
melts my crystal heart
I'm fire
red, golden

But leaves fall
desert trees
my heart becomes
stone cold

reprinted from *Misty Willows* by Sheila Hyland

In memory of the one you love.

Cardinal Funeral Homes has joined with Toronto Parks and Recreation by sponsoring the planting of trees in parks and throughout the city. We do this because we care about our community and protecting the environment.

But more importantly, we do this to honor you — the families we serve. To symbolize the preservation of your loved one's memory through the growth of new life.



Cardinal
Funeral Homes

92 Annette Street
762-8141


Call the High Park Volunteer Hotline
392-7276, ext. 301

WAKE UP!
& SMELL
the woodland sunflowers

This message appears in the Quarterly courtesy of:

BEADWORKS
CREATE YOUR OWN ACCESSORY SHOPS

Choose from a dazzling variety of beads from around the world & create your own totally unique accessories. Also sold are findings, leather, wire, firmo, tools and books.



2326 Bloor Street West
763-5446

ROYAL LePAGE

Jim Turnbull
Sales Representative

762-8255
2320 Bloor Street West

**From Naturalization...
To Restoration**

*A Southern Ontario
Regional Conference*

October 4-5, 1996
Metro Hall, Toronto

*For more information contact:
The Evergreen Foundation*
Tel: 416-596-1495
Fax: 416-596-1443

**LETTIERI**
ESPRESSO BAR • CAFE

2242 Bloor Street West
604-0908

POLLOCK'S
 **Home**
hardware

Growing on the inside

Our indoor growing supplies include pots, soil, plant food

341-347 Roncesvalles Avenue
535-1169

STRICTLY BULK
THE BULK FOOD EMPORIUM

"BECAUSE YOU DON'T EAT PACKAGING"

924 Bloor Street W.
(1 W. of Ossington) 533-3242

2389 Bloor Street W.
(1 East of Jane) 766-3319

638 Danforth Ave.
(At Pape)  466-6849

POLLOCK'S

NOW OPEN SUNDAYS
12 noon-5 p.m.



**VISIT US NOW
AND SEE OVER
36,000 Choices
Of Fine Broadloom**

NOW FEATURING SPECIAL PRICES FOR FALL!

We Are Your



DUPONT
APPROVED
MasterStore

POLLOCK'S CARPET VINYL & AREA RUG GALLERY

The Place you should be buying all your flooring

HOURS:
Mon.-Wed. 9-8
Thurs. & Fri. til 9
Sat. 9-6



349 Roncesvalles Ave.
535-1160

a community- built playground for High Park?

– Construction of a community-built playground is scheduled for 1997 in High Park at the Parkside playground. Please complete the survey below.

What facilities & features do you use in High Park?

How often do you use these facilities & features?

1. Daily 2. Weekly 3. Monthly 4. Other

Are there safety concerns that prevent you from using these facilities & features more frequently?

1. Yes 2. No

Please comment:

How often do you use the existing playground at High Park Blvd. and Parkside Dr.?

1. Almost every day 2. Once a week or more
3. Once a month or more 4. Other

What would you like to see as a future improvement to the playground?

1. More benches/picnic tables 2. More drinking fountains
3. Better play equipment 4. Better accessibility for parking/TTC
5. More shaded areas for play 6. Other

Would you like to be notified of upcoming High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee meetings on improvements to the Parkside Playground?

1. Yes 2. No

Would you like to be involved in the community playground project?

1. Yes 2. No

Please comment:

Please return by mail or fax:

M. Boyce, Parkside Playground Survey
Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Toronto, 21st Floor, East Tower
City Hall, Toronto M5H 2N2
Fax: 392-0845

J. Bell, Parkside Playground Survey
High Park Citizens' Advisory Committee
12 Valleymede Road
Toronto, Ontario M6S 1G9
Fax: 392-1955

tell us what you think!

Attend two information sessions: Sept. 18, 7 p.m. & Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Keele Community Centre
call Murray Boyce at 392-0584 or Jamie Bell at 392-1954

