

communities worldwide to combine a knowledge of earth sciences with the force of spiritual values.

June 4 - 11: The Environment Week program will be featured in local newspapers. Have you planned any of your own activities? Are you going to help with the beach cleanup?

June 8 - 10: Should you be in the Fredericton, N.B. area, the Fredericton Nature Club is hosting the Annual Meeting of the New Brunswick Federation of Naturalists. They have an exciting program of walks and river tours arranged. Contact the Fredericton Nature Club at P.O. Box 772, Station A, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5B4.

## THE BONSHAW HILLS

by  
Ian MacQuarrie  
illustrated by  
P. John Burden



In his review of this book in the November 4th issue of the Chronicle-Herald, Mr. Harry Bruce wrote that: "Good books by amateurs bolster the repulsive notion that anyone can be a writer .... What's even worse is discovering that a complete nobody - a nobody being anyone I've never heard of - has come out with a superb piece of writing.

That's what Ian MacQuarrie has done, and I wish he'd stuck to his real job. He's a biology professor at the University of Prince Edward Island, and that too is annoying. It disproves my cherished theory that all science writers are rotten writers. MacQuarrie's book, The Bonshaw Hills, is only 75 pages long. It's illustrated by island artist P. John Burden, and published by the University's Institute of Island Studies. The book consists of 25 essays, in which MacQuarrie weaves together memory and myth, science and weird humor, love of the land and its creatures, and a sense of the profoundly spooky."

The following excerpts from the book will give the reader a small taste of its flavour. The essay "Green World" opens with "Come with me down the valley and I will show you at least thirteen shades of green, and more as the seasons change. There is the pale softness of the young tamarack; see how different it is from the dark nightshade along the stone dyke. Oak-green is rare, and different from birch-green. Even the spruces with their casual sex lives show true colours here; the black is more blue than the white, if you follow me."

The following paragraph is from "Crows":

"In the fall flocking season, thousands of crows will roost together each night. They fly in to staging area, then in deep dusk they slip away to the real overnight roost. They move silently now.. with a high wind and eerie light the effect is magnificent - thousands of quiet, black, soaring and diving birds with a common purpose. It is no wonder that crows figure prominently in tales of witchcraft and evil."

and, from the essay "Todd Hollow", this excerpt:

"Todd Hollow at night gains an extra dimension; it is difficult not to remember Jack's ghost stories. If you are lucky you may see a ghostly hunting owl, and certainly bats will flit overhead, making their own unknown journeys"

Intrigued? I hope so. This book is available in most local bookstore for under ten dollars.