

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY UPDATE

by Jane Symmes

NEWS AND NOTES

OCTOBER MEETING: The first meeting of the fall season was held on Tuesday, October 1, in the new meeting rooms in the basement of the Health Building. We had a surprise visit from Diane Griffin who was home on a short vacation. Dan MacAskill was away so there was no formal CNF report.

Pat Doyle gave an outline of the Island Nature Trust's activities over the summer months - the major news item being that after acquiring the land at Royalty Oaks, the provincial government may be expropriating a section to accommodate construction of the new Charlottetown bypass. Future construction could go right through the centre of the property. The Trust also has calendars on sale for \$2.50 - artwork by local artist Floyd Trainor.

Evelyn Meader had her summer's quota of acid rain news to share. Among the items was the news that Ontario's Environment Minister expects to have hard regulations in place by the end of the year to control Inco Ontario Hydro emissions.

Under new business, Rosemary Curley will be setting a meeting date soon for those interested in participating in the BREEDING BIRD ATLAS project. Colonel Wootton thanked the NHS for the red oak tree donated on Arbour Day. The tree is doing well although it hasn't turned red yet! Holland College is having an exhibition next April entitled "For The Birds". The NHS voted to donate a year's membership and a Peterson's Field Guide as a prize. Mary Willms has offered to help set up a filing system for our newsletters, newsclippings, acid rain news ect. in the office at Beaconsfield. If anyone is interested, please contact Mary Willms.

Those who missed our October meeting missed an exceptional talk by Reg Porter of the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation. The talk and accompanying the talk were slides showing artwork from Paleolithic France to World War II. Many thanks to Reg for a superb presentation.

NOVEMBER MEETING: It was held on November 5 and included several reports. Dan MacAskill gave a comprehensive run-down on the Canadian Nature Federation's recent activities. Among the problems being tackled is the continuing debate over the South Moresby archipelago in B.C. The B.C. government has established a Task Force to study 16 areas of parkland and other areas in B.C. (including South Moresby) with a view to possibly cutting back the size of some areas. A new NFB film "Water Walker" is now being shown across the country and is about Bill Mason (canoeist and painter) and the Lake Superior area.

The members present agreed on a motion to send the NHS membership list to the CNF for membership drive in which the Federation is offering rebates to affiliate members.

The Island Nature Trust has received funds to make three Public Service Announcements regarding water conservation. Also the construction at Royalty Oaks is underway. The INT has moved several smaller oaks out of the way, replanting them elsewhere within the area. Some larger trees were cut down and they hope to re-root the stumps and encourage sucker growth.

The annual Christmas Bird Count is coming up in December, probably the 21, 28, and January 4. Please contact Jane Symmes (675-4806) if you wish to participate. Also in December, a nominating committee will be looking for volunteers for the 1986 executive. Our affiliation and membership to the CNF will be renewed, as well as our subscription to American Birds which we donate to U.P.E.I.'s library. After a short "recess", Rosemary Curley gave a slide presentation on her past summer's work in New Brunswick on the inland ponds,