

bellied Sapsucker nest high in a hole in an old tree, with young inside buzzing away, and sometimes a head peeking out. Later, a ride along the headland to see a White Bog Orchid was an unexpected bonus.

At lunchtime, Gerald, Arlene and Paul went to Gerald's home while Joyce and I went to St. Margaret's for a picnic lunch and to see how the mystery plants were getting along. Immature red drupes were forming. I sent that extra bit of information in a letter to Dr. Catling along with the pressed plant in the care of a niece who was motoring back to Ottawa at just the right time and would deliver the package personally.

Dr. Catling's reply came Aug. 3rd stating that "the plant is one that can be difficult to identify. It is sometimes called "Star Toadflax". The correct scientific name is "Comandra umbella" (L.) Nutt. It is included in the "Plants of Prince Edward Island" as "Comandra richardsiana" on page 134, map 337. It is known from at least four locations on the north shore in open sandy ground, often with bayberry and blueberry, and it is probably more widespread".

Having learned the name, I found it listed in several plant books at the library. It belongs to the Sandalwood family (Santalaceae). It has no corolla. The calyx is usually 5-lobed, but sometimes 4-lobed even in the same cluster. the plants are often parasitic upon the roots of other plants.

August 16 found us headed east again, via St. Charles and Selkirk to St. Margaret's and Comandra Park, what else? At this time the Comandra drupes were blue and the size of small blueberries. Peaches, plums and cherries are drupes. Comandra drupes are "just skin and stones".

Lunch over, we had a new objective - Fountain Head" - the big spring that is the main source of North Lake Creek. With an old topographical map that showed wherre Fountain Head Station used to be, down the Souris Line Road we went past Harmony Junction, then turned east and went along to the second road parallel to the Souris Line Road. Turning north we drove less than a quarter mile to the railroad but missed the spring because it is on the east side of the road. returning, I spotted the spring easily - a strong flow surging up in the middle of a deep pool, even after so much dry weather. A lively brook rushed out at the far side, on its way to Baltic and North Lake. It looked like enough water to supply a small town. Someone has placed a strong log across the near side of the pool and has nailed planks to it from the shore. A stake in the pool holds a container for dipping from where the spring bubbles up. The Fountain Head road used to end at the railroad, but now it continues northward.

Road maps do not show them all now, but the stations on the Elmira branch were, from Harmony Junction: Connaught, Fountain Head, Baltic, Munn's Road and Elmira.

Thus endeth this potpourri of geography, history and nature.



CCNB publication

The Groundwater Pollution Primer is a new publication by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick and gives an overview of the groundwater pollution problem in Canada. One million people in the Maritimes alone rely on groundwater for their supply of fresh water, and contaminants are turning up in wells with increasing regularity. Available for \$5.00 plus \$1.00 for postage from the Conservation Council, 180 St. John St., Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4A9.