

HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS NEWSLETTER

c/o Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3A6

DECEMBER 1980 - MARCH 1981

25

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DECEMBER 1980 - MARCH 1981

NUMBER 25.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 8.00 P.M. in the Auditorium on the ground level of the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Hfx.

Field Excursions are held at least once a month.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the natural history of Nova Scotia. Membership is available at any meeting or by writing to -- Membership, Halifax Field Naturalists, c/o N.S. Museum. Individual membership is \$5.00 yearly; family membership is \$7.00. Members receive the newsletter and notices of all excursions and special programs.

Directors for 1981-82. -

President	. . . . .	Anne Greene
Vice-President	. . . . .	Bill Freedman
Past President	. . . . .	Joe Harvey
Membership Secretary	. . . . .	Colin Stewart
Treasurer	. . . . .	Erick Greene
Directors	. . . . .	Magi Nietfeld
		Colin Stewart
		Doris Butters
		Udo Prager
		Pierre Taschereau

<u>Newsletter</u>	. . . . .	Anne Greene
		Mike Burke
		Colin Stewart
		Jim Stewart
		Edna Todd
		Magi Nietfeld

Mailing Address Halifax Field Naturalists
 c/o N.S. Museum, 1747 Summer Street
 Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6

HFN is a member organisation of the Canadian Nature Federation
HFN is incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act.

hfn news



HFN NEWS

SOCIETY SHOW -

The annual Society Show will be held at the N.S. Museum throughout May and part of June. Each Society that uses the facilities of the Museum is invited to set up an exhibit describing their activities, in the main foyer. This year, the Museum has offered those societies not exhibiting (that's us), the chance to participate on a smaller scale.

One option - well suited to HFN - is to hold a field trip open to the public, tentatively planned for early May, which we will call "The Flowers of Trees". Tree flowers, being wind-pollinated and relatively non-descript as a rule, often go unnoticed, appearing just before the leaves are out.

Hopefully, with the publicity which will coincide with the Society Show, we will get a good crowd and spark enthusiasm for some of the natural phenomena right in everyone's backyards.

MORE INFORMATION FROM PEGGY'S COVE-WEST DOVER STUDY AREA-

As we described in our last newsletter, several weaknesses showed up in our first Area Study at Peggy's Cove. One of these was the lack of attention paid to the small-mammal population. Fortunately, Michael Downing (who made all our bird observations at Peggy's

Cove) has agreed to undertake a small-scale study of the small mammals in the area this summer.

He will be assisted in this by Fred Scott of the Nova Scotia Museum who specialises in small mammal biology and distribution in Nova Scotia. The Museum is very interested in the outcome of the study, as this habitat-type, though abundant in the province, has scarcely been looked at in this respect. Barring calamity... it looks as if everyone will gain. Thanks Michael!

HAWK OBSERVERS WANTED -

The Hawk Migration Association of North America wants volunteers in Atlantic Canada -

Any time you could devote to watching and reporting on migrating raptors would be useful, but the weekends of April 25-26, May 2-3, August 29-30, September 12-13 and October 3-4 are suggested for special attention so that we can obtain simultaneous reports from a number of sites. For full details and hawk-watch forms write to:

David Christie,
RR#2, Albert, N.B., EOA 1A0

The Hawk Migration Association was formed in 1974 to promote and coordinate studies of raptor migration in North America. The

association's newsletters contain summaries of spring and fall migration in 13 regions of the continent, news of special projects and recent publications, notes on hawk watching techniques, etc. To join, send \$8.00 U.S. (\$5.00 students) to the treasurer, Nancy Clayton, 95 Martha's Point Road, Concord, Mass. 01742, but you don't have to belong to participate; what we need most in this region is observers -- David Christie.

AREA STUDIES PROGRAMME -

We have received several comments from members on the first write-up of our Area Studies Programme (see Newsletter #24):

The Peggy's Cove West Dover Barrens
All have been favourable. Scott Cunningham, a founding executive member of HFN had some helpful comments, which are worthwhile sharing, in a recent letter to HFN - "I think it would be very helpful to those reading...the study report.. if the authors included a good bibliography. I can envision some nature buffs wandering about the barrens with the study as a reference and being totally at a loss as to what they are observing. I know that your objective was not to produce a "field guide" for the area, but some people will use it as such, and without a strong background in botany, ornithology, etc. will encounter problems. In any case a bibliography doesn't take up much space and, at least in my experience, there are always many people looking around for good resource material.

...It was mentioned in the back of the report that several areas of study were omitted and one of these

was the fungi...This cannot be done in any meaningful way with the higher fungi (mushrooms, conks, etc.). Higher plants, birds, rodents, periwinkles, etc. are quite visible to the eye and usually rather prominent. They are there from one season to the next (and often throughout all seasons) and can be observed by any occasional hiker over a reasonable period of time. Such is not the case with mushrooms. Although we do know some fungi that prefer boggy acid soil for example, and some that would never grow there, the exact mushroom component for any given area is very difficult, if not impossible, to establish. The fruiting of mushrooms (and that is the usual manner of ascertaining their presence) is extremely dependent on environmental conditions and literally years can pass between one "sighting" and another. This makes any list of observed species of dubious value since (1) it will include only a small percentage of the actual number of species, and (2) those species it does include may elude the eyes of any nature buff by not fruiting that particular year. If one does want to mention fungi (and there are indeed more of them around than plants, higher or otherwise, one could discuss why there are very few species growing in such a habitat (essentially for the same reasons that there are few vascular plants) and why it is difficult to demonstrate the presence of those few. Indicate those mushrooms that might be present (e.g. species of *Entoloma*, *Inocybe*, etc.) and suggest a good guide (Mushrooms of North America by Miller, is the best) that will help to identify those found."

Scott Cunningham

HALIFAX FIELD NATURALISTS LIBRARY -

HFN regularly receives periodicals and various government documents which are of interest to naturalists. We have organised these as a small library shelved at the Nova Scotia Museum, Summer Street, directly behind the Information Desk on the main floor. The area will be clearly marked, but if you have questions as to the library's whereabouts, just ask the person at the Information Desk. We encourage all members to borrow items they are interested in and to return them once finished. Those who borrow material are asked to use the sign-out book provided.

In this and following newsletters we will describe some of the material available. Many thanks to BRENDA MacAFFEE who is largely responsible for organising the material and setting up the library.



1. The Prince Edward Island Natural History Society, Charlottetown, P.E.I., formed in 1889, must be one of Canada's oldest naturalist clubs. The group publishes the Prince Edward

Island Natural History Society Newsletter eight times a year and includes in it, items on many subjects related to the natural history of P.E.I. The format of the newsletter resembles that of the HFN publication, possibly because Winnie Cairns, one of HFN's founding members was instrumental in its recent production (small world!). We have Newsletter No.44, January 1980, onward.

2. The Blomidon Naturalists Society Newsletter comes to us from Wolfville, N.S., published by the Blomidon Naturalist Society. There is always something interesting in this newsletter and it is well worth reading (not every newsletter can boast of contributions from Robie Tufts, author of Birds of Nova Scotia!). The newsletter is published on the equinoxes and solstices of each year (reflecting a healthy interest in astronomy) and is available in an incomplete series from 1975 onward.

3. The Catherine Traill Naturalists' Club, Montreal, P.Q., publishes a very informative newsletter which succeeds in transmitting the excitement of the group and its editor, Wendy Dathan. The club's namesake, Catherine Parr Traill (1802-1899) an immigrant to Canada in 1832, was a keen naturalist and the author of many books including two classic botanical works: "Canadian Wildflowers" (1868) and "Studies in Plant Life in Canada" (1885). The group lives up to her example; members are extremely active and have a wide range of interests. A group HFN should try and keep up with! We have an incomplete series of newsletters beginning with No.48, October 1978 onward.

4. Many of you are familiar with Nature Canada, the lovely publication of the Canadian Nature Federation, the national repres-

entative of Canadian naturalist groups. The magazine is published quarterly; we have Vol.9 (4) 1980 onward.

editorial

GAME OF LETTERS

=====

*Extracted from SEASONS,
Winter 1980 (Federation
of Ontario Naturalists)*

If environmental abuses make you see red and feel blue, take heart!. You can brighten up your life and the world with a letter. Here's how to do it.
By Ron Reid.

So you're upset with the government's record on protecting wilderness areas. Maybe they've just caved in again to yet another corporate pollutor. And they will insist on building roads through our most scenic recreation areas. You want to do something to help change their ways, but the enormity of the task makes success look hopeless. What can you do?

One of the most effective weapons, readily available and proven by the test of time, is simply a letter to the various Ministers responsible for protecting the environment. Such letter-writing can become a fine art, but most of us are a little uncertain just how to begin.

Do letters really count for anything? You bet they do! A senior Ontario Cabinet minister told a group of us last year, "I look to letters to tell me how much people care about an issue." The implication is clear -

if a Minister receives dozens of letters on one side of a subject, he has a measure of his constituents' feelings and a basis for action.

But why write a Minister, when he probably doesn't know anything about your particular gripe anyway? Well, for several reasons, depending on the circumstances. You may be unsure just who within the bureaucracy deals with your problem, and writing to the Minister is the best way to get it channeled properly the first time round. You may want to shake up some civil servants who have been unsympathetic or downright unhelpful in earlier dealings. Even though these same people may write the response for the Minister, his involvement can have a wondrous effect in changing their viewpoint. Often you may want to write a politician as part of an organized campaign, to demonstrate the strength of numbers holding your view. And finally, you can write because it's fun! Creative hell-raising by correspondence should rank right up there with birding and photography as an invigorating sport - a stimulating way to exercise your creative flair, often with environmentally beneficial results as a bonus!

But what if you're uncertain of all the technical complexities surrounding an issue? Not to worry. You probably know as much about it as the Minister, and anyway those thousands of civil servants are

supposed to be paid to help *you* understand the technical details. One of the biggest hurdles to effective letter writing is the groundless fear that you have to be an expert to discuss an issue, a fear all too often cultivated by civil servants.

Cast out such thoughts, and banish them forever! We live in a democracy where everyone has the right to set goals and to urge action towards these goals. The experts should be telling us how to get where we want to go, but they have no special claim on naming the destination. If you feel strongly that wildlife should be preserved, or the waters of Lake Erie made clean again, or whatever, feel free to speak up. The most important role of politicians is to set these goals, and decide their priority, and then to instruct, cajole, harangue and bully the bureaucracy into accomplishing them. To do that they need your help, often for direction and moral support, but seldom for technical expertise.

What then should your letters contain? The contents vary according to their purpose, but in general they should be relatively short, forceful and to the point. Be as specific as possible without being tedious, and if you have the talent to be witty, a little humour never hurts. (Among other things, you can then fantasize how some anonymous, grey civil servant will be sweating out how to respond without looking silly .)

If you can praise the Minister's record, even by suggesting that this particular action is out of character, do so. If you can link the subject of your letter to other government actions, policy stances or statements by other Ministers, be sure to suggest these links. Local examples are especially effective, because

they convey the usefulness of your suggestions ("If we'd only had this legislation when poor old Uncle Walt's well got poisoned back in '68...").

If you're uncertain of your technical basis, ask leading questions instead of making statements. In any case, be sure to put in questions so that the Minister has to respond.

Most important, be specific about what you want him to do. The most common weakness of letters to politicians is their failure to identify a specific request, to which he must react. Even if you are unsure of exactly what action is needed to correct your concern, try to force a specific response. (For example, you could ask what options the Ministry has examined to deal with this problem, and the advantages and disadvantages that they see in each option.)

How spiteful and vindictive should you be? On the first letter, especially if you are opening a new subject, I'd suggest that you give the Minister the benefit of the doubt. Be forceful but positive (I'm sure you agree that this kind of protective measure will benefit us all...etc.,etc.).

If your first response is particularly asinine, or if some nitwit Minister has a consistently bad record, a colourful hatchet job may be the only recourse. Creatively pouring all your venom into a political letter can be therapeutic, even though it's seldom especially effective. And you have to be prepared for the occasional backlash - one particularly vicious letter writer got a fast response from a Minister inviting her to telephone and say those things in person!

What can you expect in response to a first letter? Undoubtedly, a long wait. Ministers are notoriously slow in answering mail. At the

federal level, they now even acknowledge the receipt of your letter by an assistant so that you don't give up hope as the weeks roll by. If you hit a sore spot in the government's thick hide, expect either an unusually long wait, while they sort it all out, or a surprisingly short one, to try to fob you off quickly.

Minister's responses are usually of three varieties - affirmative, agreeing with your stance (seldom); zero, ignoring all your questions and saying absolutely nothing (tried fairly frequently); and bafflegab, when they swamp you with technical details and excuses (would probably be tried more often but too much work). The overwhelming odds are that your first response just won't be satisfactory.

Minister's live in the fond hope that you'll just go away. But don't give up, the fun is just beginning. Go back to your original letter, and pull out all the questions the Minister didn't answer. Point out inconsistencies between his response and others you have received on the subject. If you're lucky, there will be inconsistencies in the Minister's letter itself - point those out too. Refute his arguments - there are always weak spots - and re-emphasize the desirability of your goals. If you're concerned about winning an issue, it's the second letter, and the third, that really count, because it makes the Minister and his advisors really look at what you're saying, rather than just fobbing you off. If you're writing mostly for entertainment, these subsequent letters give your creative genius a chance to really shine, responding to some of the incredibly silly things that politicians are wont to say when they're not paying close attention. Letter-writing is like a slow game of ping-pong -

always try to keep lobbying it back to your opponents in their weakest spot.

One easy way to increase the effectiveness of all your letters is to copy them to other interested parties. After all you don't want to waste all that creative genius on only one Minister. Send copies to the leaders or critics of both Opposition parties, - it keeps them informed and sometimes they go after the Minister for you in the Legislature. If you are dealing with a split jurisdiction or you are quoting another Minister, send him a copy as well - nobody likes to be embarrassed in front of his colleagues. If you are having trouble with a particular Minister, send a copy to the Premier, to keep him on his toes. If you're dealing with an issue of local interest, your newspaper editor will usually willingly print a copy of the letter. And if you're dealing with an issue of interest to a conservation group, send them a copy as well. It keeps their spirits up, and you might even get some free help.

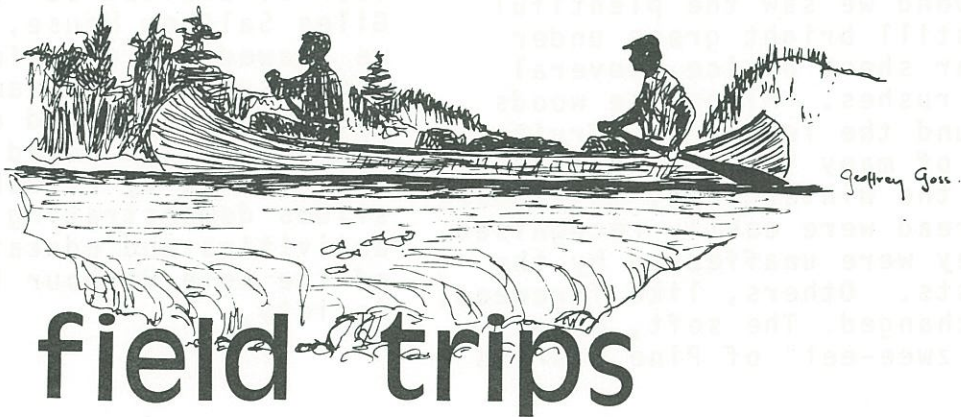
If you are deadly serious about accomplishing results with your letters, the three R's apply: be right, reasonable and repetitive. But don't forget to have fun along the way.

Some budding authors sponsor letter-writing parties, to stimulate creative sparks and see who can come up with the wittiest letter. Others prefer the Lone Ranger approach, rising restlessly in the middle of the night to dash off a letter, or holing up in a favourite armchair with a writing pad and a bottle of gin.

But whatever the technique, an enthusiastic approach to letter-writing can create a new art form, and increase the effectiveness of us all in championing conservation causes. The pen is still mightier than the sword, and its cut and

thrusts can be almost as painful if aimed in the right direction. (Anyway, it's tough to find good swords these days). So dust off your

favourite cause, pull up a chair, and make that paper sing - there are politicians by the dozens just waiting to hear from you!



field trips

COLE HARBOUR WALK -

Brilliant sunshine and biting wind greeted the 16 members who joined Anne Greene and Joe Harvey in an exploration of the woodlot and lake at Cole Harbour Heritage Farm on November 16, 1980.

Mrs. Rosemary Eaton welcomed us and gave an interesting account of the history of the Giles Saltbox House, headquarters of the Cole Harbour Heritage Society, and explained how the Society was able to purchase the house and have it moved to its present site.

We then walked out to the marshy pond nearby, where the Society has built a wooden walkway over the water. Here, dryshod, we could stand over the marsh, seeing at close hand the features Joe was explaining to us as he outlined the essential role played by the clay soil in the historic development of the agricultural community of that area.

Essentially, when the ice retreated from this area at the end of the last ice age, it left behind it three different substrate types: bare bedrock, sandy or gravel soils and clay deposits. Unlike the others, the molecules which make up clay soils have an ionic structure (that is, a structure with a definite electrical charge) and have the ability to attract and adsorb soil nutrients important to plant growth, such as nitrogen. Thus clay soils are often very productive, a fact which is evidenced by the location of many farming communities (especially on the south shore of Nova Scotia) on areas of clay deposits or clay drumlins. Such an area occurs in the vicinity of Cole Harbour, once very important as a market gardening area. The productivity of the marsh we stood over bore witness to this.

The Nature Trail laid out by the Society leads through mixed woodland from the pond to Settle Lake which, in the mid-19th century, provided water to run James Bissett's oat-mill. Anne and Joe pointed out how the three areas - marshy pond, woods, and lake - provided in a relatively small area, three ecologically distinct habitats where a variety of plants, birds, and animals could be observed.

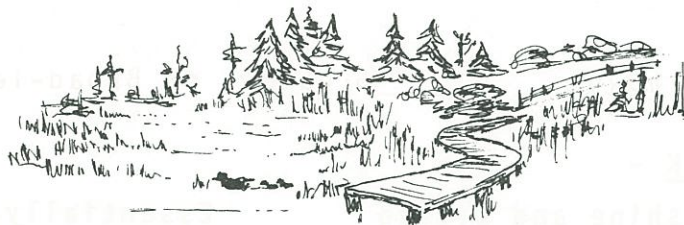
At the pond we saw the plentiful duckweed, still bright green under a thin clear sheet of ice, several mosses and rushes. Along the woods path we found the leaves and fruiting bodies of many familiar plants. Some, like the wintergreen, mayflower, and goldthread were easily recognised because they were unaffected by the recent frosts. Others, like fireweed, were much changed. The soft, wheezy "zwee-eet, zwee-eet" of Pine Siskins

feeding in the trees overhead accompanied us and the chaff from their banquet glinted in the sunshine as it fell through the branches

Returning by a different path, we were delighted to find a particularly large and luxuriant clump of Witch Hazel showing all stages of the two-year fruiting cycle from blossoms to empty seedpods.

Welcome warmth, hot drinks and cookies awaited our return to the Giles Saltbox House, where, while we thawed out our fingers and toes, Joe described and named for us the specimens collected on the walk. The expedition ended with a delightful showing by Elizabeth Corser of slides demonstrating some of the activities and educational programs of the Cole Harbour Rural Heritage Society.

Maud Godfrey



BIRDS - COLE HARBOUR HERITAGE FARM

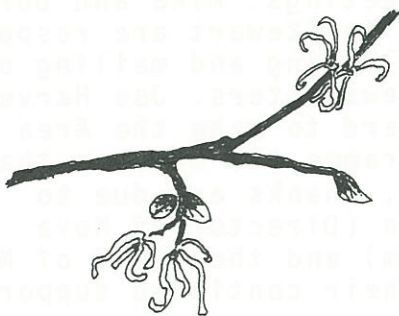
Corvus brachyrhynchos
Cyanocitta cristata
Larus argentatus
Melospiza melodia
Parus atricapillus
Parus hudsonicus
Regulus satrapa
Pinicola enucleator
Carduelis pinus
Sitta canadensis
Turdus migratorius
Zonotrichia albicollis
Wilsonia pusilla

Common Crow
 Blue Jay
 Herring Gull
 Song Sparrow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Boreal Chickadee
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Pine Grosbeak
 Pine Siskin
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 Robin
 White-throated Sparrow
 Wilson's Warbler

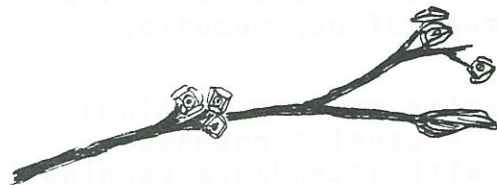
PLANT LIST - COLE HARBOUR HERITAGE FARM

Abies balsamea
Anthemis
Centaurea nigra
Crataegus
Dryopteris cristata
D. spinulosa
Epilobium
Glyceria canadensis
Hamamelis virginiana
Ilex verticillata
Juncus articulatus
J. canadensis
J. effusus
J. pelocarpus
Kalmia angustifolia
Leucobryum glaucum
Limonium Nashii
Matricaria maritima
Myrica Gale
Nemopanthus mucronata
Onoclea sensibilis
Osmunda regalis
Picea mariana
P. glauca
Plantago major
Ranunculus repens
Raphanus Raphanistrum
Rubus allegheniensis
R. hispidus
R. strigosus
Senecio vulgaris
Solidago canadensis
S. puberula
S. rugosa
Scirpus cyperinus
Spiraea latifolia
S. tomentosa
Vaccinium Oxycoccos

Balsam fir
 Chamomile
 Knapweed
 Hawthorns
 Crested Wood-fern
 Shield fern; Wood fern
 Willow-herb; Fireweed
 Rattlesnake grass
 Witch-hazel
 Canada Holly; Black Alder
 -
 -
 Soft rush; Common rush
 -
 Lambkill; Sheep laurel
 moss
 Sea lavender; Marsh rosemary
 Mayweed, scentless
 Sweet gale
 False holly
 Sensitive fern
 Royal fern
 Bog spruce; Black spruce
 White, Pasture or Cat spruce
 Greater, or Broad-leaved plantain
 Creeping buttercup
 Wild radish; Charlock
 Fall blackberry
 Evergreen bramble; Trailing blackberry
 Wild raspberry
 Common groundsel
 Canada goldenrod
 Rough, or Downy goldenrod
 Rough-stemmed goldenrod
 Woolly-headed sedge
 Meadowsweet; Hardhack
 Steeple-bush
 Small cranberry



Unlike most trees, Witch Hazel
 flowers in the early fall as
 the leaves are falling.



Over winter the seed pods
 are obvious on the branches

REPORT ON HFN ACTIVITIES in 1980

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

31 January, 1981

Looking back on 1980, we can be rather proud of what HFN has accomplished. Our 1979 Survey of city trees was written up and handed to City Council. It was considered in a decision not to spray the city's trees for elm leaf miner last Spring. We have been active in various environmental appeals varying from the creation of a grasslands national park in Saskatchewan to the protection of Shubie Park (Dartmouth) threatened by a proposed bypass of the 107 highway.

We have invested some of our members' dollars (see Financial Report) in a membership campaign which centred around the production of new pamphlets and posters describing our interests and activities. Most important, we initiated our Area Studies Programme, exactly one year ago at our last AGM. I think we are all proud of the results. The natural history of three areas was carefully studied: Peggy's Cove-West Dover Barrens, the South End Railway Cutting and Conrad's Beach (the first in a proposed IBP site, the last a proposed regional park). The detailed descriptions of the areas are beginning to appear in our newsletters (see HFN newsletter #23). We are grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication shown by many of our members.

Our regular monthly meetings were held as usual throughout the year, with attendance ranging usually between 20-60 people. The number of field trips per month

increased this year over past years, with up to three per month during the summer. The HFN newsletter was a rather rare commodity last year, with only two produced. This was due to organisational problems, lack of sufficient material and our emphasis on the field work involved in the Area Studies. We plan to remedy the situation in 1981 and have committed ourselves to four newsletters for the year (minimum!). We are better off in terms of material, now that some Study Areas have been described; however we still need contributions from members!

Most of the 1980 Executive has agreed to remain in office for another year. Marjorie Willison, who is retiring as our Membership Secretary deserves our most sincere thanks for the single-handed job of modernising our membership filing system. Marjorie transferred our membership list (now 181) and our mailing list (now approximately 400) to a computer file which has vastly improved memberships, mailing and finances. Many thanks, Marjorie. Thanks also due to several others who always seem to do more than their share to keep HFN going. Doris Butters types our entire newsletter and organises and often provides our tea at the end of meetings. Mike and Doreen Burke and Colin Stewart are responsible for collating and mailing our flyers and newsletters. Joe Harvey has worked hard to make the Area Studies Programme the success that it is. Finally, thanks are due to Lynton Martin (Director of Nova Scotia Museum) and the staff of N.S. Museum for their continued support.

Anne Greene.

Halifax Field Naturalists
Statement of Receipts and Disbursements
For the Year Ended December 31, 1980

Receipts

Membership dues.....	\$869.00
Total receipts for the year.....	<u>\$869.00</u>

Disbursements

Membership promotion.....	\$314.00
Meeting expenses.....	25.00
Publications and stationery.....	64.27
Postage.....	377.67
Dues, Canadian Nature Federation.....	25.00
Projects - Science Fair Book Prize.....	<u>25.00</u>
Total disbursements in year.....	<u>\$830.94</u>
Excess of receipts over disbursements.....	38.06
Add - Opening Balance - January 1, 1980.....	<u>856.68</u>
Closing Balance, December 31, 1980.....	<u>\$894.74</u>
Consisting of:	
Cash in the bank.....	\$869.74
Cash on hand.....	<u>25.00</u>
Total.....	<u>\$894.74</u>

Accountants' Comments

I have prepared the above statement of Receipts and Disbursements of the Halifax Field Naturalists for the year ended December 31, 1980 from the records of the Society and other information supplied to me by its officers.

Halifax, Nova Scotia
January 23, 1981

A.W. Linton
Chartered Accountant

Cape Breton Highlands National Park
Thursday 5 March 1981

Slide Presentation by Greg Croft

Those who arrived early for Greg Croft's talk on Cape Breton Highlands National Park must have wondered if they were in the right place. Leaning against the front wall was a pair of cross-country skis. The far side of the stage area was dominated by a packpacking tent - up and ready for duty. In a chair near the door sat a black object, vaguely suggestive of Michelin's Blippo, but with a bump for a head. This body was attached by a hose to a scuba tank!

Greg's two summers as an interpreter in CBH showed in the slick production (with background music!) and in the enthusiastic promotion of the park's natural areas. The talk itself explored a number of aspects of the park. Leading groups on weekly exploration of a bog resulted in a series of photographic impressions, then a close-up look at the diversity of flowers which appear

in the bog in the course of the summer (orchids, pitcher plant, lady's tresses, sheep laurel, etc.)

There were shots of terns and gulls on Tern Island only a few yards off the point at the end of Middle Head (near Ingonish). After a brief peek at the view from some of the hiking trails we descended beneath the waves for a look at some of the less commonly inspected plants and animals like skates and flounders. (Our friend Blippo keeps the wearer dry if somewhat bloated-appearing while under water). National Parks are also open in the winter as evidenced by shots of cross-country skiing and winter camping. Aha! the display makes sense: the tools of the modern explorer.

Greg's talk will undoubtedly lure a few more people north to the highlands for a weekend or a week!

Colin Stewart.

NEXT ISSUE

Area Studies Report

SOUTH END RAILWAY CUTTING

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sincere thanks to all who participated in our Fall-Winter Programme; Paul Brodie for his very interesting slide show on whales, Greg Croft and R.R. Brooks for their informative and entertaining contributions, field trips led by Bill Freedman and Bob Granthum were both well attended and much appreciated.

Thank you