

BRODIE CLUB
Minutes of the 873rd Meeting

The meeting took place at the Faunal Lab in the Borden Building on Tuesday, February 18, 1992. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Art Boissoneau with 10 members present and two guests, Jennifer Young guest of Don Young, Frank DeMatties guest of Bill Carrick.

Minutes of the 872nd meeting were approved with minor corrections.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Norm Martin drew attention to a Tatshenshimin Lecture and mentioned he had recently attended Al Helmsley's Wife's funeral. A letter from Louise Herzberg to Howard Savage brought us up to date on her biography of Brodie and there were indications that reference would be made to the activities of the Brodie Club.

The speaker was Dr. Paul Aird, Faculty of Forestry University of Toronto and the Topic was The Ottawa Valley: A Chronicle of Changing Concepts in Forest Conservation. Paul began his talk with a satellite photograph of the Ottawa Valley and with the help of a map he illustrated the main tributaries, the Gatineau and St. Maurice rivers and also showed us the height of land above the Ottawa. He then proceeded to discuss the historical and economic development of the river valley using a transparent water bath and coloured diagram. We followed Champlain in his canoe through the islands in the lower Ottawa, which were free of trees presumably because of frequent burns. Quoting from Champlain's journal we travelled past Oka, roped up a boiling rapid and finally reached Allumette Island. Reference was made to Treadwell's trenches, a device for floating logs past rapids. Potash was exported for use in the glass and dye industry and the refining of bog iron and use of corn, squash, beans, blueberries and syrup by settlers was discussed. Later on the timber industry expanded and dams were constructed at several ports along the river to facilitate the log drives and power the mills which were used to process the lumber. The problem of waste disposal and contamination by humans, by agricultural activity, boat pumpouts and more recently the Chernobyl radioactive fallout was discussed.

Paul concluded his presentation with a discussion about "What is Canada" and showed his presentation to a recent hearing of the Senate and House of Commons Committee. In this presentation he stressed the importance of maintaining a conservation ethic which involved a preservation of our natural surroundings and environment.

QUESTIONS: A wide ranging discussion followed which involved rafting techniques, export markets for timber, reforestation inadequacies, the impact of recycling newsprint, the enormous profits to Government of the lumber industries activities, the impact of clear cutting and the proper way to deal with this problem.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS: DeMatties reported a Snowy Owl in Grey county.

Speakman reported five flying squirrels in a hollow Beech tree used by the Pileated Woodpecker.

Falls discussed the problem of whether or not birds avoid high tensioned electricity towers.

Aird reported a frozen Boreal owl at Bond Head.

Boissoneau reported a Barrows Goldeneye south of Lakefield.

Carrick reported a Trumpeter Swan had strangled itself and another had broken a leg which was repaired by a local veterinarian at considerable expense.

Crins reported the recovery of banded birds wintering near the Bay of Pigs in Cuba.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.