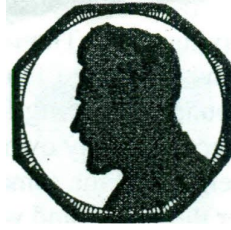


THE
BRODIE
CLUB



ROYAL ONTARIO
MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

THE 978th MEETING OF THE BRODIE CLUB

The 978th meeting of The Brodie Club was held on Oct. 21, 2003 in the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories of the University of Toronto.

Chairman: Ed Addison
Secretary: Oliver Bertin

There were 28 members and 10 guests
Wilfred and Elizabeth Lockett, guests of Jennifer Young
Ron Pittaway, guest of Jean Iron
Joyce Peters on and Henri Selles, guests of Claire Muller
Rosemary Addison, guest of Ed Addison
Sid Daniels, guest of George Bryant
Chester and Camilla Gryski, guests of Sandra Eadie
Sharon Hick, guest of Fred Bodsworth

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

DON YOUNG

Oct. 24, 1914 - Oct. 1, 2003

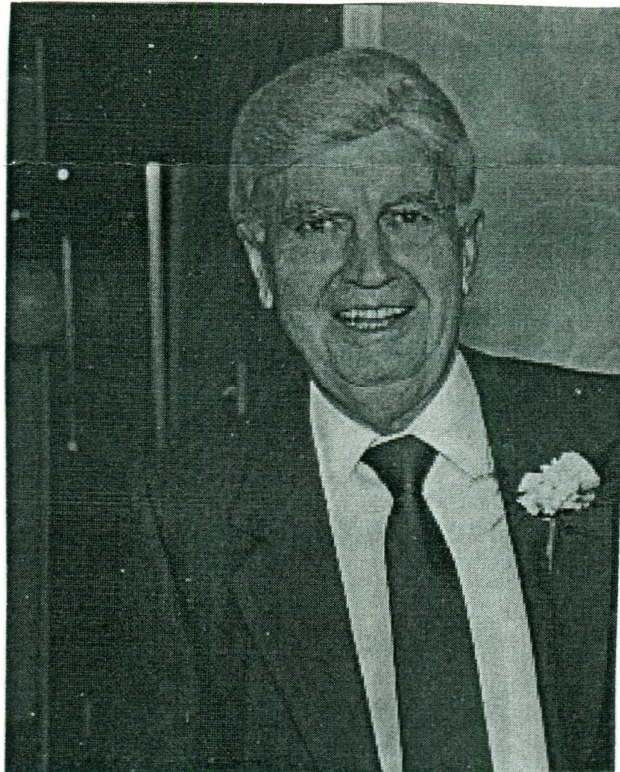
Fred Bodsworth gave a tribute to longstanding member Don Young, who died Oct. 1 after a brief illness:

"Don Young passed away about three weeks ago. He had been in a nursing home for the last three years, but before that he had been an active and regularly attending member of The Brodie Club for more than 40 years. In more recent years, his wife Jennifer also became a Brodie Club member and as you all have cause to know, she is our current tax collector and treasurer, an office which I remember Don also filled for a number of years some time ago. Don and Jennifer were one of our rather few husband-and-wife teams. I am sure we want Jennifer to know our thoughts are with her at this time.

Don was a teacher and educator who ended his career as a special assistant to the deputy minister of education at Queen's Park, but he was also a well-rounded naturalist, a keen birder and a very proficient botanist.

He was a longtime friend of mine. He was the first naturalist I ever knew and I remember vividly how we first met. I was a small-town boy who came to the "big" city of St. Thomas to begin my career as a newspaper reporter. I was lonely and bewildered. I already had a strong

interest in natural history but there was no other naturalist in the town where I grew up. I was a distinct oddball and a short time after arriving in St. Thomas, I was invited to a dinner meeting at the local YMCA. I overheard this fellow across the table telling the person next to him with considerable excitement that he had just found a new twig for his study collection of shrub and tree winter twigs. I had just begun a twig collection of my own and I was beside myself with curiosity and excitement about this guy who apparently had the same weird and esoteric interests that I had. I talked to him at the first opportunity after the dinner and we became lifelong friends.



I remember for some time after that Don was at Western University in London and I would drop over to his house and borrow his binoculars and his first edition of Peterson's bird guide and go birding because at that time I couldn't afford either one of them myself. Don was a very loyal and trusting friend.

He was a teacher for a number of years. For a period during the war, he was in the air force. He had a brother, Sam, whom I knew well for too brief a time. Sam died in the war, a rear gunner shot down over Germany. After the war, Don became a school inspector in various counties in Southern Ontario and then in the late 1950s he was brought into the Ministry of Education here in Toronto as a superintendent and wound up as a special assistant to the deputy minister.

He was active in a number of conservation and nature organizations. He served as a member of the board of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and he was editor of its junior naturalists' magazine. Indeed, many of today's naturalists got their start reading the magazine that

Don edited. He was in demand as a botanist leader and speaker at nature clubs around the province. We did canoe tripping and winter camping and wolf howling together.

He became a Brodie Club member in 1959. Like Jennifer, he was treasurer for some time. I remember that soon after becoming treasurer -- this was revealed later, we didn't know at the time - he apparently lost the club bank book and forgot what bank the club's account was in. Being a new member, he was afraid to reveal this. For a couple of years, until it was time to collect dues again, he financed The Brodie Club out of his own pocket. You know those long lists of dormant, unclaimed savings accounts that banks publish from time to time? Maybe, somewhere in one of those lists there is a Brodie Club account. It was probably a balance of about \$20 at the time but who knows, with interest it might now be worth \$500. Maybe we are richer than we think.

Don had a mind that never stopped reaching out. In his retirement along with Jennifer, he developed a keen interest in art and other languages. He and Jennifer travelled a great deal in recent years, visiting many of the great art galleries around the world. They studied French, German and Spanish and developed a good working knowledge of those three languages.

Thank you for the opportunity to express this tribute and farewell to Don, and to express our sympathies to Jennifer. I want to say that conservation and natural science in Ontario have lost a good and long-serving friend."

from Don's obituary in The Globe & Mail:

Don was born on October 24, 1914 in St. Thomas, Ontario. He spent two years of his early childhood in the wilds of Montana, avoiding rattlesnakes and listening to coyotes howl. During his early adult life, he had a short career playing the guitar for The Royal Canucks, a dance band in London, Ontario. He received his post-secondary education at the Universities of Western Ontario and Toronto. After serving in the RCAP in WW 11, Don began his teaching career, working in Dutton, Haldimand County, Forest Hill and in the Ministry of Education, where he held several senior positions.

Throughout his life Don was especially interested in natural science, birding in particular, and enthusiastically shared these interests with friends and associates. He was a member of several science clubs, including The Brodie Club. Don loved the challenge of learning both practical and intellectual subjects and became skillful at photography, fly-fishing and furniture-making as well as achieving considerable fluency in French, German and Spanish. His love of adventure took him to five continents where, among other things, he rode on the backs of both an elephant and an ostrich. He and Jennifer travelled widely, pursuing their interest in the visual arts.

Don leaves behind his wife Jennifer, brother-in-law David Lennox and wife Virginia, and their sons, Chris and his wife Leola, and Andrew Roach of Barrie, his sister-in law Tina Lennox, her two sons, Jason and Joshua and their families, and his cousin Edna Bate and her family of Brantford. During his long and happy life, Don won many cherished friends who will miss his loyalty and wisdom. During his declining health, Don exhibited grace and fortitude, always the gentleman.

A minute's silence was held for Don.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kevin Seymour was welcomed as a new member.

Trudy Rising recommended *A Place to Walk: A Naturalists' Journal of the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail* by Aleta Karstad, Natural Heritage Books, Toronto, 1995 ISBN:1896219012 \$19.95. Indigo says the book is out of print; Abebooks.com has two copies.

Bruce Falls offered material from the Wye Marsh Centre.

Treasurer Jennifer Young offered to collect dues as cash or cheque payable to The Brodie Club. The annual fee is \$10 for individual members and \$15 for families.

NEW OFFICERS:

Treasurer: Arne Juhola was acclaimed treasurer, replacing Jennifer Young who is retiring. He is a chartered accountant.

Secretary: Oliver Bertin was acclaimed secretary although several members offered to take over occasionally. Their assistance will give a fresh look to the minutes.

Program Committee: Bruce Falls, Fred Bodsworth, Jock McAndrews, Hugh Currie and Marc Johnson volunteered.

Membership Committee: George Bryant, Ann Falls and Jennifer Young all expressed interest.

FON Representative: George Bryant will carry on.

SPEAKER:

Jock McAndrews introduced the speaker, new member Kevin Seymour, who is an assistant curator of palaeobiology at the Royal Ontario Museum. He specializes in ancient cats and other ice age mammals in Ontario.

ICE AGE FAUNAS OF THE TORONTO AREA

The ice age in the Ontario region - the Pleistocene -- lasted from 1.8 million years ago to about 10,000 years ago, while the Holocene includes the past 10,000 years. There were several glacial and interglacial periods in the Pleistocene with no clear distinction between them. The postglacial period includes the past 15,000 years, a very important period for Ontario.

In 18,000 BP, glaciers extended down to southern Ohio with ice-free refugia in the Yukon, Alaska and much of the continental United States. By 14,000 BP, glaciers were receding enough to expose parts of Ontario. Water drained down the Mississippi, not the St. Lawrence, and spruce trees were common. By 11,500 BP, sea water had flooded down the St. Lawrence Valley from the Atlantic Ocean, creating the Champlain Sea, a marine environment with whales and seals, bordered by white pine and jack pine. By 7,500 BP, the glaciers had almost gone. The vegetation turned to hemlock, elm, maple and beech, but the Hudson's Bay lowlands still lay under a giant northern sea.

The climate south of the ice cap tended to be cold and equable, while further south it became warm and continental with greater extremes of temperature. During the interglacial periods, warm-weather animals tended to stay put while cool-weather species followed the ice edge. This led to a strange mixture of fauna in southern localities. For instance, a wood rat was found in the same location in Tennessee as a northern bog lemming, a very different species.

The remains of many northern species have been found in southern Ontario. The skull of a musk ox was found near Gerrard St. and Victoria Park Ave. in eastern Toronto, while a unique

species of deer turned up during the excavation of the Toronto subway. A pika, an obscure relative of the rabbit that is typically found on high mountain tops, turned up on the Niagara Escarpment.

Using modern techniques, palaeontologists can model the distribution of different species, their interaction with other species and the impact of the early human populations. Humans appeared to co-exist with sabre-tooth tigers and mammoths, for instance.

DNA has proved to be a valuable tool that has shown the comings and goings of several species. The Grizzly Bear appeared to go extinct about 35,000 BP and was re-introduced from Asia in about 20,000 BP. The Short-faced Bear took over during the intervening period, but it too disappeared. DNA evidence indicates that cougars went extinct in the early Holocene and were re-introduced from Central America in the late Holocene, from one of six genetic types found in Central and South America.

While there are undoubtedly dinosaur fossils somewhere in Ontario waiting to be found, most vertebrate specimens in the province date from the past 15,000 years. There are a few pollen fossils from the interglacial and glacial eras, 80,000 to 120,000 years ago.

In his talk, Seymour referred to several major sites in the Toronto area. One of the most exciting is a railway embankment near Steeles Avenue, just west of the Humber River. Stratigraphic layer 7 dates back 29,000 to 45,000 years to an interglacial tundra when the area was characterized by pine, spruce, snails, beetles, mammoths, bears and moose. Layer 5 goes back 50,000 to 60,000 years when the climate supported a boreal habitat of spruce, willow, larch, birch, insects and lake trout. Layer 4 -- 80,000 years BP -- sponsored a prairie pond with oak, clams, snails, pike, minnows, short-tailed shrews, deer, mice, meadow voles and garter snakes.

The Don Valley Brickyard has been particularly famous since its discovery as a fossil site in 1893. Just off Bayview Ave., it supplied most of the red and yellow brick to Toronto homebuilders for 100 years until it was closed and filled with the diggings from the basement of the Scotiabank Tower downtown. About 500 species have been found there, including the remains of a 3,320-year-old groundhog skull, a 23,800-year-old beaver tooth, a 25,000-year-old bison skull and a 33,000-year-old deer.

Seymour said he is now working on some promising caves, particularly Koch's Cave near Belleville, which has a rich fauna dating from 10,000 to 4,000 BP.

QUESTIONS:

- Many of the mega-fauna, including horses, ground sloths, mammoths, mastodons and African lions went extinct around 10,000 BP. Some species came back via the Bering Sea land bridge.
- Humans co-existed with some of the mega-fauna from 7,000 to 9,000 BP, notably with the sabre-tooth tiger. There is one record of an arrow-head lodged in the bones of an early camel, but such evidence is extremely rare.
- Fossils themselves are rare. They are usually found where sediments were being formed from water or wind erosion, for instance in river bottoms and sand dunes.
- Cretaceous dinosaurs are found in Alberta and New Jersey but not so far in Ontario. There is no reason why not. They date from 65 to 75 million years BP.
- Koch's Cave is chock full of bones, but most are fragmented. There are similar caves on the Niagara Escarpment.

The speaker was thanked by Marc Johnson.

NOTES & OBSERVATIONS:

- Ken Abraham said Brant Geese have been found to migrate from the eastern High Arctic across Greenland and Iceland to Ireland. It is a shorter journey than flying to southern Canada.
- John Riley has published "*Flora of the Hudson Bay Lowlands and its Postglacial Origins*," a must-have book for \$49.
- Sandra Eadie saw 74 bird species in Bermuda during the fall migration. A Snow Goose has taken up residence for the past year.
- Kevin Seymour has seen Snow Geese in Florida.
- Marc Johnson recalled the aphid outbreak in 2001 was followed by an abundance of ladybird beetles. He did not see a single aphid in 2002, but the ladybird population started out high and subsequently crashed. Aphids seemed to return in 2003, but ladybirds are still uncommon.
- Helen Juhola has seen aphids in her apartment window at Yonge and College in downtown Toronto.
- Ellen Larsen wondered whether wasps switched from aphids to bark lice when the aphid population crashed.
- Bill Rapley observed 50 polar bears from the air and two from his canoe in Polar Bear Provincial Park. He has just returned from South Africa where he was impressed by the world-wide interest in protecting parks and animals. He saw hundreds of different birds in South Africa, an area with 860 species of bird.
- Arne Juhola saw salmon spawning in the east Don River, north of Cummer Ave. near Steeles Ave.
- Sid Daniels saw thousands of ladybirds and green darners in Bluffers Park, at the base of the Scarborough Bluffs in Scarborough. He has counted 45 gold finches at one time at his bird feeder.
- Oliver Bertin saw a Turkey Vulture circling above the downtown Toronto community of Riverdale, near Jones and Danforth.
- Rosemary Addison spied a Black-capped Chickadee nesting in a moose skull.
- George Bryant saw 14 polar bears, 12 Arctic Foxes and crosses of Red and Arctic Foxes on a recent trip to Hudson Bay. He also saw three colour morphs of the Gyrfalcon flying together at one time, white, gray and black.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Nov. 18 in Room 432 of the UofT Zoology department. The speaker will be James Thomson, zoology chairman and pollination ecologist, who will speak on "*The fates of pollen grains and the nature of mutualism.* "

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