

**Emergency Services 3333**

# University

## Environmental project

### Student reports seek safeguards

A group of summer students has produced a series of reports calling on the University to implement its development plans to make the best possible use of its natural landscape and create an "environmental expression" built around existing woodlots and the Black Creek area on its western boundary.

The forty-one students, primarily high school science teachers from around Ontario, were all enrolled in an Ecological Problems Course taught by biologist Duncan Cameron.

They spent less than half their time in the classroom and the rest outdoors taking an inventory of virtually every living tree and shrub on the 600-acre site of the University.

To the confusion of many people on campus over the summer who had begun to wonder if gnomes were playing in the woods, they divided each of the four woodlots with string into 10-foot squares and went through the laborious process of counting, measuring, and grading each bit of plant life.

They found an old and salvageable apple orchard in the bit of forest just south of the main Keele Street entrance, more than 60 species of trees and a bewildering variety of herbaceous

plants ranging from wild raspberries to poison ivy.

One section of the class did a historical survey of land use in the area dating back to the arrival of migrating tribes of Huron Indians in the 15th century.

Since that time, the forest that once stood on the University site has been gradually reduced for firewood or farmland to the four remaining woodlots.

They now total in size slightly more than 18 acres, and the group's concern is to see that this natural legacy is protected and expanded as the physical plant of the University grows.

The woodlots are all located on the east side of the campus — in front of Founders College, immediately behind Osgoode Hall Law School, on Keele Street to the south of the Physical Plant Building, and on Keele Street south of the main entrance to the campus.

Calling for the development of a "total arboretum concept for the campus", (an Arboretum is defined as a living collection of plant specimens, primarily trees, set out in a pleasing environment, the group's reports recommend construction of natural walk-ways through some areas of the woods, planting of pollution-resistant trees



Two members of the Ecological Problems Course held at York last summer measure one of the herbaceous plants in the woodlot across from Founders College. Glen Way, (left) a high school teacher at Northern Secondary School, was a student enrolled in the course, and Michael Boyer, York Science Prof. helped teach it.

on their boundaries to protect existing plantings, and increased attention by the University to protecting natural drainage patterns from the lots.

As part of an attempt to restore the woodlots to their original condition, they also recommend the re-construction of ponds in the Founders and Osgoode lots.

On the rest of the campus, the recommendations include a major reconsideration of parking lot construction, an increase in parking fees to discourage the use of cars, and better on and off-campus transit service.

The reports urge the University to plant trees around the perimeters of the parking lots and in general to plant wider varieties of trees in more suitable locations than the students feel has been the case with landscape plantings in the past.

Dr. Cameron, explaining his

concern that the University continue its growth with this "arboretum concept" in mind, said the woodlots and other plantings "have three basic values — aesthetic, educational and research.

"The North Keele lot has an almost mature maple stand and could be best used for educational purposes for university, high school and elementary school students.

"The South Keele forest on the other hand, because of its diversity, should be designated an experimental forest. The old orchard could be used for experiments on biological pest control, and the area as a whole is ideal for studying successional growth patterns. The area has very good potential for both undergraduate and graduate research."

For the past two years, some members of the York community,

including Dr. Cameron, have been working with the University to develop the kind of total environmental concept for the campus the students recommended.

The Arboretum Project Committee has held a series of meetings with campus planners and had in fact recommended last spring that the type of inventory taken over the summer be done.

Dr. Michael Boyer, who is chairman of the committee and acted in an advisory capacity to Dr. Cameron in teaching the summer course, said the committee's recommendations have been favorably received by University authorities and expressed optimism that plans for the development of a York Arboretum will be implemented.

Both men credited the summer students with doing a tremendous amount of work in a short time



Biologist Duncan Cameron explains the value of the work done last summer by the group of students who took an inventory of the plant life on the University campus.

### Emergency Centre busy in first five months

Last April, the University inaugurated its Emergency Services Centre in an effort to better co-ordinate its responses to crisis situations on the campus.

So far, the Centre has handled more than 3500 calls, ranging from pleas for help from people trapped in stalled elevators to fire alarms and ambulance calls.

The Centre, which can be reached from any campus phone by dialing 3333 or from off campus by calling 635-3333, has been designed as a relay system where persons from the campus can be immediately put through to virtually any on or off-campus

emergency service.

The six operators at the Centre all received intensive training last spring in how to deal with individuals calling in distress, whether from a drug overdose or mechanical failure on the campus.

So far they have had surprisingly few problems, although they look forward to increased activity with the re-opening of classes for the fall term.

The Centre is open 24-hours each day, and members of the York community are reminded that if they need help any time of the day or night, that help can be obtained by dialing the campus' emergency code — 3333.

## York takes control of Lakeshore Teacher's College

Effective September 1, York University took over the control and operation of Lakeshore Teachers College from the Ontario Department of Education.

The move, following lengthy negotiations spanning several years, marked the first concrete step in the creation of a faculty of education at the University.

Creation of the faculty was formally approved at a meeting of the University Senate in June, with discussion expected to be reopened when the full Senate reconvenes this fall.

Although the transfer follows the basic guidelines announced in 1969 by the Department and the Committee of University Presidents, the York agreement contains unique features not present in the previous four transfers of control of teachers' colleges to universities.

The York program will be the first of its kind in Ontario to feature an integrated, concurrent

curriculum. During the four-year and five-year programs to be provided by the faculty, students will combine inter-disciplinary studies with major subject specialization and professional teacher training.

It is expected that a close working relationship will develop between the University and elementary and secondary schools in the surrounding community for the purpose of implementing professional teacher training.

This agreement provides for the preparation of elementary and secondary school teachers as well as teachers of special education. York University will have the first teacher training institution in Ontario for the training of teachers of special education. In past years, teachers of special education have been prepared through summer courses offered by the Department of Education.

Education Minister Robert Welch, in making the announcement August 19 stressed his concern for this area of education, adding that "although we will continue to explore all possibilities for certification in special education within Ontario, the programs to be offered by York University now promise to provide a strong foundation for any future development in this field, and will undoubtedly contribute in a new and meaningful way to this most important aspect of education."

Mr. Welch noted that this is the second transfer of control of a teachers' college from his department to a university this year, and is in line with the recommendation of The Report of the Minister's Committee on the Training of Elementary School Teachers, 1966.

He added that York will develop programs for teacher education but that the Department will continue to be the certifying body for teaching certificates.

Although the transfer is now in effect administratively, it is expected to be at least a year before the York Faculty is in operation on the campus.

Plans call for the eventual discontinuation of the use of the Lakeshore site, but until a Dean has been selected and concrete curriculum worked out, Lakeshore is expected to operate much as it has in the past.

Lakehead Teachers' College was integrated with Lakehead University on July 1, 1969; the University of Ottawa Teachers' College with the University of Ottawa on September 1, 1969; the Windsor Teachers' College with the University of Windsor on July 1, 1970; and St. Catharines Teachers' College with Brock University on July 1, 1971.

### Quote of the week

Look wise, say nothing, and grunt. Speech was given to conceal thought.

—Sir William Osler, 1905