

Advance Publicity for “A Walk on the Beach ... with Mergansers”

Mergansers are a type of duck that is common on Georgian Bay in the summer. You only see the males early in the year and then it's only the females taking care of their brood of up to 17 chicks. The life of a Merganser chick is a perilous one, starting with a 20 foot drop from the nest in a tree to the forest floor and then it's swimming with Mom and trying to avoid predators on land (like Foxes), in the water (like the Northern Pike) and in the air (like Gulls and even Loons and Herons).

Richard Jordan is a former **Toronto Star** local history columnist. His feature articles on historical subjects have also appeared in the **Saturday Star** and the **Sunday Star**. He spends his summers at his cottage on Georgian Bay and takes long walks every morning along the beach studying and photographing birds.

The photo below shows a mother Merganser and her brood of 10 chicks. Some of them are even hitching a ride on her back! Mergansers make excellent mothers and we'll focus on the life story of a chick as it grows into a juvenile and adult.

