It took me less than 10 seconds to find that “John Brant or Ahyounwaehs was a Mohawk chief…” Is there any recognition anywhere of the native names of the two Six Nations war captains? If these warriors used their native names that should be indicated in your copy and on the statues. I believe that all statues and monuments should have the total historical perspective presented. Please correct me if I’m wrong or if I missed something.

O.J. Grolman, by email

Editor’s reply: Good point! The plaques at the base of the statues of the two war captains give their native names first: Teyominhawkawen for John Norton, and Ahyounwaehs for John Brant.

I have just been reading your current issue and I wanted to let you know I am enjoying the articles and pictures. Now that I live in [Thornbury] surrounded by escarpment I appreciate the area more every day. I am also impressed with your advertisers – so many and from a wide geographical area. Even Maiolo’s Restaurant which is my favourite… Congratulations on your success over 10 years.

John Drewry, Thornbury

A few days ago, I picked up a copy of the latest issue of Niagara Escarpment Views, @ RiverBrink Art Gallery, Queenston, On. “Indigenous Allies Honoured at Queenston” on the cover caught my eye, since I live in the historic area of the Village of Queenston, and am minutes from Queenston Heights. In my humble opinion, “Nature’s Porn” (photo, etc.), degrades N.E.V. and is ‘infradignitetem’ for what I formerly considered a ‘FAMILY’ publication. If I were a ‘supporting’ advertiser, I would withdraw my support immediately. And, since I’m familiar with several advertisers, I will certainly bring this to their attention.

Yvonne Pagani, Queenston

I don’t think we’ll advertise in your magazine again. That nature’s porn article was very inappropriate. Why would you not let porn articles for porn magazines? [sic] We expected much better of this magazine than such a waste of paper!

Bervie Supply, Kincardine

Editor’s reply: We are sorry about your response to the Autumn issue. We did not mean to offend, but rather to educate. Please note that we did not tamper with the photo in any way. The fungus appears exactly as we found it. We are fascinated by the many varied and unusual forms and shapes of life forms that are found in nature. We believe all are valuable, interesting and sometimes funny. The vast majority of responses to this photo have been similar to ours: surprise, curiosity and amusement. We believe in learning more about the marvels of nature to be found in our unique Niagara Escarpment.

Mary Ellen Miller, Hillsburgh

I thought the article was incredible and not because I wrote it. Your choices and the quality of the photos were fantastic. I was really impressed with the size you printed. I have a copy sealed in plastic for posterity. I particularly enjoyed your story about the Fungi Porn in your editorial. That was quite a picture and I can see how friends and family could think of it as a practical joke. Since the article, we have found many more unusual and beautiful fungi. Friends and family alike were very impressed with the article and with the magazine in general. I think we have some converted as I’m starting to get questions about fungi as people are starting to notice them.

Art Weaver, St. Catharines

Editor’s note: We received another letter from a reader who objected to the photo of the unusual fungus, but this reader signed it “Anonymous.” We do not publish letters from people unwilling to give their names. We will, however, withhold a name upon request, provided a name is given for our records.
Just read your article [“View from the Editor’s Desk”] and the P.S. [“Wild animals need wild spaces.”] I agree with you completely. In a position of contact with more people could you do something? The smallest animal that can feel pain both emotional and physical is a mollusk. Wiarton Willie has been kept in isolation as a prisoner for the last 13 years until it died. What a life! No one would put their dog in there! This groundhog had done no harm to be imprisoned this way. There has been much opposition from the public regarding the imprisonment of a wild animal - until it died - for the selfish purposes of Wiarton - such as recognition from tourists and making hopefully some money. Wiarton does not listen to these moral people who can think and have some empathy for others. The Council and Janice Jackson of Wiarton ought morally to do some thinking about this abuse.

Sure, this groundhog is well fed, has a roof over its head and will not have to deal with nature but its life is not a normal life. It cannot have friends and a family as nature intended. It cannot run in the wild. It has done nothing to warrant being imprisoned in isolation until it dies. This is simply animal abuse for the purpose of man.

The proof that a groundhog can feel is that this new one recognized his keeper when he comes to feed him. If the groundhog had no intuition, feelings, needs and etc. it would not welcome its keeper. It would not know the difference. Thus, it is abuse to restrict it and keep it prisoner from a normal life with friends, family etc.

May I offer that these unfeeling people read books from knowledgeable authors such as Peter Singer, Jonathan Balcombe. They both explain how animal’s emotional inner lives aren’t that different from our own. Maybe these books may awaken some sort of feeling and empathy and very importantly - a feeling of morality in these people of authority in Wiarton.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and hopefully you will present this note to the public and most importantly that the tourist department of Wiarton does develop some empathy and morality.

Another question is: what and who gives us the right to use and do this to an animal?

Louise Bowlby, Wiarton

P.S. Would they put their dog in there in isolation until it dies? It would have a cute little house and be fed every day.

Editor’s note: What do the rest of you readers think about Wiarton Willie? What about other captive animals? Let us know your views.

I often read the Niagara Escarpment Views and appreciate the interesting articles that roll out with each season. I especially enjoyed learning about some of the different fungi that grow along the Bruce Trail and of course their comical names in your latest issue.

Sarah Earley, Manitoulin Island

Correction:
There is an error in “Art For All,” Autumn 2018, which reads: “The largest size of work they [In2Art Gallery] have offered has been in the range of 70 square inches.” Instead of 70 square inches, it should have read 70 inches by 70 inches, or 4,900 square inches, or about 34 square feet. We thank an eagle-eyed reader, who wishes to remain anonymous, for pointing out this error.

On July 20, 2018, I picked up the final copy of 2017. WOW!! (At Grand River Boat Cruises). On July 30, 2018, I picked the next two issues in Meaford, Ontario. I’m a huge LMM fan, so Norval is on my list to visit. This magazine is great. Living close to Hamilton Ontario, I see the escarpment when I drive down the mountain. I’m hooked! Looking forward to receiving the Fall issue. Imagine, 10 years and I just found NEV!!!

Mary Hubert, Caledonia

I was first made aware of your beautiful, quality publication by a friend. She had attended the U.P.E.I bi-annual conference in June. Kathy Gastle had taken donated copies to the conference. I am a long-time adherent to the literary study of Lucy Maud Montgomery, and friend of Kathy. We in Dundas are always aware of the Escarpment surrounding our town.

Beverley Hayden, Dundas

WE VALUE YOUR VIEWS! Write to: Niagara Escarpment Views
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