

# Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

SUMMER 2025 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)

## Anne Fraser's **BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY**

## Rescued Farm Animals' **PERMANENT HOME ON MANITOULIN**

## Studying Bats for Conservation

## **ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE CONSERVANCY UPDATE**

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Summer 2025  
(June, July, August)

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Photo by Anne Fraser

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*The Gift of Land:  
Living With Nature:  
a memoir*, Published 2024



*Views & Vistas, Favourite Photographs  
from the Entire Niagara Escarpment in  
Canada*, Published 2021



Conservation Halton Award, 2014  
to Mike Davis in Media/Blogger Category



# Helping You Buy Canadian



In mid-March, the head of Canada's steel association, on CBC's midday news program referred to "this post-truth world" and it hit me like a slap in the face. Surely not. We haven't come to this, have we? Then doubt crept in: perhaps we have. Yet whatever might be promoted by supporters of extremist views, you won't find this publication participating in "post truth." We may make mistakes, but we always aim for truth, accuracy and some educational value, along with the enjoyment that we hope reading our magazine produces.

No one can deny that

thanks to the administration in the United States, we're in challenging times. The silver lining is that many of us now are focussing our spending in Canada as much as possible. We're "buying Canadian," seeking out Canadian products instead of automatically choosing our usual items. We're planning to vacation in Canada, or at least not in the U.S. This is already benefitting our compatriots, as sales of Canadian goods, services and activities are increasing.

The advertisers in this magazine want to remind you of the joys to experience close to the Niagara Escarpment area of Canada. From Manitoulin Island in the north, to Niagara Falls in the south, there are fabulous places to stay, things to do, buy and enjoy, right here.

## In this Issue

We celebrate the work of GLO Farm Sanctuary on Manitoulin Island, that provides a wonderful home for rescued farm animals. For various reasons, the horses, cattle, pigs, goats,

sheep and chickens have found permanent safety under the dedicated care of a few special people.

We also have a feature by Don Scallen on the mysterious bats found in Escarpment lands, and a conservation project conducted by Toronto Zoo. No, bats will not get entangled in your hair, and they won't try to suck your blood. What they do, however, is help control insects. Yet they don't need a "job" to have a right to existence, as part of the wonderful range of life on the planet.

If you like the sound of songbirds, you may enjoy seeing amazing photos of some of the many different and beautiful birds that enjoy our warm weather. Anne Fraser takes photographs that are the result of great patience and the desire to go beyond the usual walks most of us take.

Are you ever annoyed or frustrated when something you own needs to be thrown out after it gets broken or stops working? You might want to find out if there's a

Repair Café near you. Martha McGloin reports on the first year of operation of the Repair Café that operates monthly in Owen Sound's library. Here, volunteers with knowledge fix your possessions for free! There are other Repair Cafés near the Escarpment that could be worth looking into.

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy returns to these pages with a column that brings us up to date with developments there. We can't avoid politics these days, and we show the winners of the recent provincial election, as well as map the new federal election ridings and the names of the elected candidates of the swift federal contest that was held on April 28. Results were unofficial at the time of printing.

*Gloria*

Gloria Hildebrandt

*P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.*

The offices of *Niagara Escarpment Views* are located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, specifically The Ajetance Treaty No. 19, of 1818, when Chief Ajetance sold the lands to the Indian Department of the government.

## Let us know what you think!

Write us at [editor@NEViews.ca](mailto:editor@NEViews.ca) or  
*Niagara Escarpment Views*,  
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## More Online!



Keep in touch with Escarpment news between issues at our website. We have unique content not seen in the magazine, and you can leave comments in response. See [www.NEViews.ca](http://www.NEViews.ca).



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## ■ READERS & VIEWERS



The article on the Turtle Guardians was most interesting and educated me about a subject and an environmental goal I have little knowledge of. A worthy article in a worthy publication. Yet I had no idea where Kemble is. The article did a good job of locating it, but may I suggest that for articles relating to a lesser-known community (i.e., not on your last-page map) that you include an inset map locating it. You could just use part of your last-page map. There are definitely times when I cannot specifically locate the area being discussed in an article. And Nicholl Spence's article

was quite interesting, and I think she deserves a more informative author summary because the one used does not refer to her work for the magazine. Yes, people can read mastheads, but they also can choose not to. I suggest a second sentence: "Among her work is the design and layout for this magazine."

**Doug Yonson, Nepean**

I usually pick up a copy from Foodstuffs. However, I thought I should finally subscribe. Print is definitely not dead!

**David Orsini, Georgetown**

We have had a subscription to your wonderful magazine for several years now and thoroughly enjoy each issue. My husband and I lived in the Halton Region for 60 and 50 years prior to moving to Vancouver Island in 2001... Due to the present tensions facing Canada today, I would like to suggest a contest to

see which community along the Escarpment can raise, paint, fly or post the most number of Canadian flags and boost our patriotism at the same time. Let's show them what Canadian spirit looks like!! Are you up for it?

**Pamela Brown, Comox, B.C.**

*Editor's note:*

*If you have flags flying where you are, we'd love to see them! Email photos to [editor@NEViews.ca](mailto:editor@NEViews.ca)*

As a resident of the Saugeen Peninsula, I enjoy the free copies of your magazine delivered to Peacock's and at the Tobermory Information Centre at the Community Centre in my home town. Attached, a cheque for a one year subscription to a friend who was my neighbour in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood. I moved from St. Lawrence seventeen years ago on April 1, 2008. I trust you and Mike

Davis will find yourselves at the Sources of Knowledge Forum in Fall 2025.

**Janet Pugsley, Tobermory**



Regarding the Spring 2025 issue (which was great) I especially liked the cartoon at the top of "Readers and Viewers". Truer words were never written. However, I noticed that on the opposite page was an advertisement for the real estate firm Century 21 advertising 132 acres of property in an area of fine homes and rural farmland to which you can build your estate home. Hmmm. Great magazine.....

**E. Fagen, Niagara**





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## ■ READERS & VIEWERS

Thanks for making my life so much happier. I was so much happier to receive one of your magazines just before the recent mail strike that started on Nov. 15/24. I've also been enjoying your recent book (*The Gift of Land*).

Carol A. Wilcox, Hamilton

I continue to enjoy receiving and reading your enlightening and pure-Canadian magazine. Thank you. I'll share your lovely cards with friends.

E. Brook Wilson, Burlington

I recently read your spring edition that my wife picked up from somewhere in her travels. As soon as I read the title of the magazine it reminded me of a great disappointment arising out of a visit to the Beamer Conservation Area in the summer 2023. On line info about Beamer states that it has "Niagara's most breathtaking and panoramic views of the Niagara Escarpment". That summer a relative from England was visiting so I took him to the Beamer lookout to see the great views. However, the lookout was almost completely overgrown with tree branches and weeds resulting in NO views on the lake or escarpment. From the look of the overgrowth around the lookout, it appears that the area has not been tended to in a number of years. For anyone wanting to see the view from the lookout, it was a total waste of time.

I have not been back since so I do not know if the area has been recently tidied up.

I letting you know this as you probably have the connections with the individuals that can remedy this situation.

Murray Wright, Grimsby.

P.S.: it is a nice magazine.

### CORRECTIONS

I noticed that an ingredient and its quantity was omitted from the Lemon Poppy Seed Loaf recipe featured on page 2 of the spring 2025 issue. Could you please provide the information required, please? Namely, the amount of lemon juice? Thank you.

Roseanne Nelson, by email

I am in the middle of preparing the ingredients for the above loaf and find that the recipe is NOT complete. In the ingredients there is no mention of Lemon Juice, however, in the Direction No. 4 it states: ".....set pan on rack to cool. Meanwhile, bring remaining sugar and lemon juice to a boil, just until sugar dissolves..... My question is how much lemon juice is being used in the loaf itself and the "remaining lemon juice" for brushing the top. I would appreciate a quick response if you could send it. I don't want my zest to dry out (I even doubled the recipe) and don't know how long it will keep etc. etc. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Gesine Cherniak, by email

The amount of lemon juice is 3 tbsp (45mL). Unfortunately this was missed in the proofing stages, but grateful for your reader's keen eye and enthusiasm.

Foodland



*Editor's note: the following corrections are made to the feature "Halton Hills Turtle Guardians and Other Heroes," in Spring 2025. Don Scallen wrote the feature, but not the captions to the photos.*

The hatchlings on page 23 are Painted Turtles, not Snapping Turtles and on page 26 the caption reads "Painted Turtles like this one are not considered a species at risk." This is

true provincially. The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario lists Painted Turtles as "Not at Risk" However, COSEWIC (the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) lists Painted Turtles as "Special Concern". In fact all eight native species of turtles including Painted Turtles are considered "at risk" by the national body.

Don Scallen, Georgetown

### Niagara Peninsula

#### Conservation Authority replies:

While we understand that visitor experiences in natural spaces can vary, we'd like to gently note that the comment reflects a visit that occurred nearly two years ago and doesn't accurately represent the current state of Beamer Memorial Conservation Area. Beamer is one of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's most iconic and treasured properties, offering panoramic views of the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario. The main lookout features tiered viewing platforms designed to elevate visitors above sensitive escarpment flora, including centuries-old cedars, which are vital to the ecosystem and help prevent erosion.

The suggestion that views

are blocked due to overgrowth does not align with the current condition of the site, and in fact, the lookout remains one of our most popular and celebrated features. We also want to reassure the public that this area is regularly monitored and maintained to support public enjoyment while balancing ecological integrity.

That said, we are sympathetic to the visitor's perspective and always welcome feedback. We encourage guests to connect with us directly when visiting one of our conservation areas, either through our website, social media, or by phone, so we can address any questions or concerns in real time.

Looking ahead, we're excited to share that a comprehensive management plan for Beamer will soon

be underway. This process will involve community engagement and input, helping us enhance the site experience while protecting its unique natural features.

The NPCA manages 41 conservation areas across the watershed and regularly faces challenges such as vandalism and environmental pressures. Despite these, our staff remain committed to the stewardship of these spaces for current and future generations. We appreciate our community's passion for the environment and welcome ongoing conversations as we continue to protect and enhance these important natural assets.

Erika Navarro,  
Niagara Peninsula  
Conservation Authority



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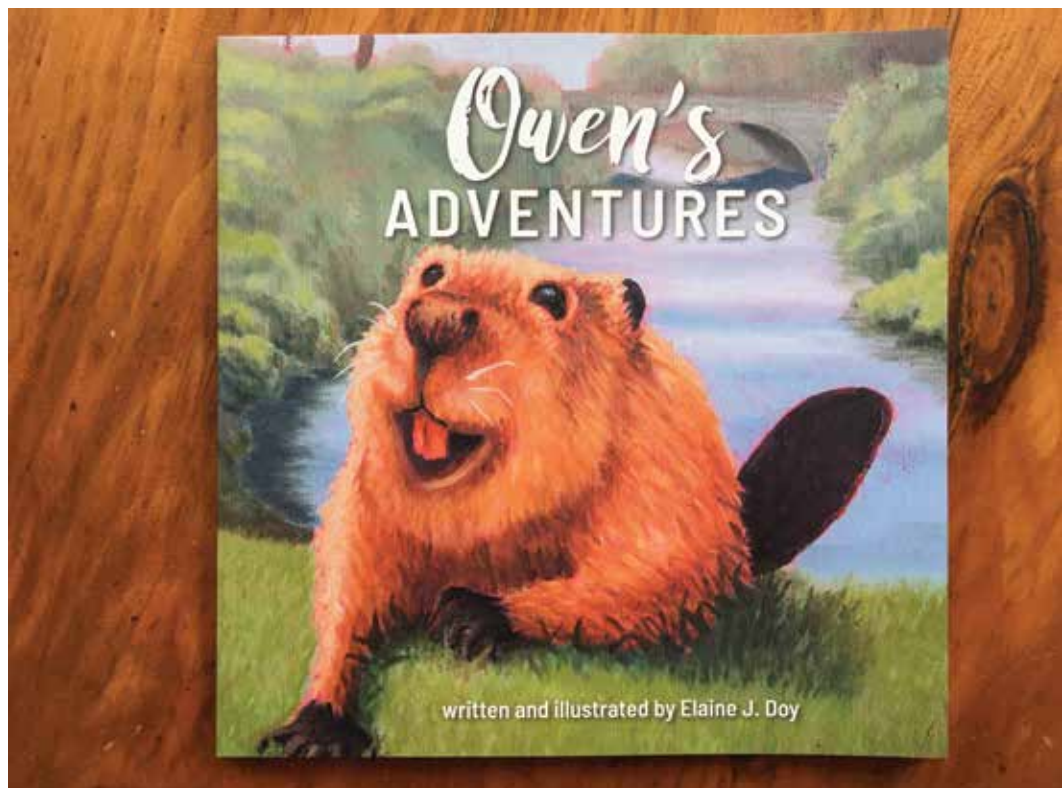
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## ■ EVENTS

Photos by Mike Davis  
except where noted.

► Recently published by The Ginger Press, *Owen's Adventures* is a picture book by Elaine J. Doy. It is based on the true story of a beaver who left Sydenham River and wandered in downtown Owen Sound until Public Works staff members guided it back to the river.





## EVENTS

► During the Sugar Bush Season, members of Debajehmujig Storytellers were making maple syrup.  
PHOTO BY ASHLEY MANITOWABI.



▲ The Stan Mikita Exhibition Gallery opened in January in the St. Catharines Museum and highlights recreation and leisure in the Garden City and how these have contributed to the distinct character of St. Catharines over time. PHOTO PROVIDED.



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► A replica of an 1889  
Benz Patent Motorwagen  
was shown at the 2025  
Canadian International  
AutoShow in February.





## EVENTS



▲ Spotted at the Hamilton Adventure Expo on Jan. 25 was this group from Walk & Roll, a service that offers dogs hikes, group walks, off-leash play and a weekly dog camp.





▼ The Gallery Upstairs held an exhibition and sale of local artists' work at Holcim Gallery, FirstOntario Arts Centre in Milton, from March 18 to April 6.



▲ Volunteers helped to clean up the shoreline at Lakewood Conservation Area in Niagara Region at the beginning of March. This initiative is part of a coastal wetland habitat and shoreline restoration project. PHOTO PROVIDED BY NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY.



◀ In February, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority hosted an invasive species workshop with attendees from 38 different organizations from across the Niagara Peninsula watershed. PHOTO PROVIDED BY NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY.

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## EVENTS

► Royal Botanical Gardens' (RBG) Winter Showcase, Alice in Bloomland, ran from Feb. 1 to March 30 at the RBG Centre. RBG's most successful event to date, Alice in Bloomland was enjoyed by over 85,000 visitors.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF RBG.



◀ On March 16 Tunde Otto, executive director of Willow Park Ecology Centre, led It's Maple Time, when members of the public learned about why the tree's sap flows in spring, and were able to taste the sugar water. PHOTO BY LUKE THOMAS.

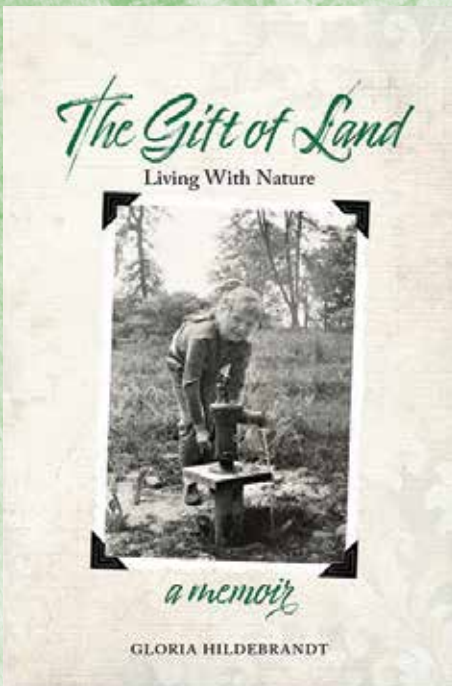




◀ Julia's Garden Centre in Ballinafad held a grand opening on May 1. Some of the Lanzarotta family owners lined up, from left, Anna, Felicia, Natasha and Julianna.



▲ Holding fresh bread from Anna Jodelka of The Girl Next Dough, centre, are at left, Natasha Lanzarotta Vieira of Julia's Garden Centre, and at right, Gloria Hildebrandt of Niagara Escarpment Views.



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# GLO FARM Sanctuary

COMPASSION IN ACTION

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MIKE DAVIS

All the animals are mixed together and are free to move in and out of the barn and fields as they like. The herd instinct seems to be strong, however, as once the cows decided to go inside, the goats and sheep followed. The barn remains open 24 hours a day, so humans do night checks on the animals for their safety and comfort.





**G**LO Farm Sanctuary gives a permanent home to rescued farm animals to live out the rest of their lives

in comfort and safety. Located on Manitoulin Island, the farm covers 223 acres, 50 of which are fenced for the animals. There are several acres dedicated for the pot-bellied pigs.





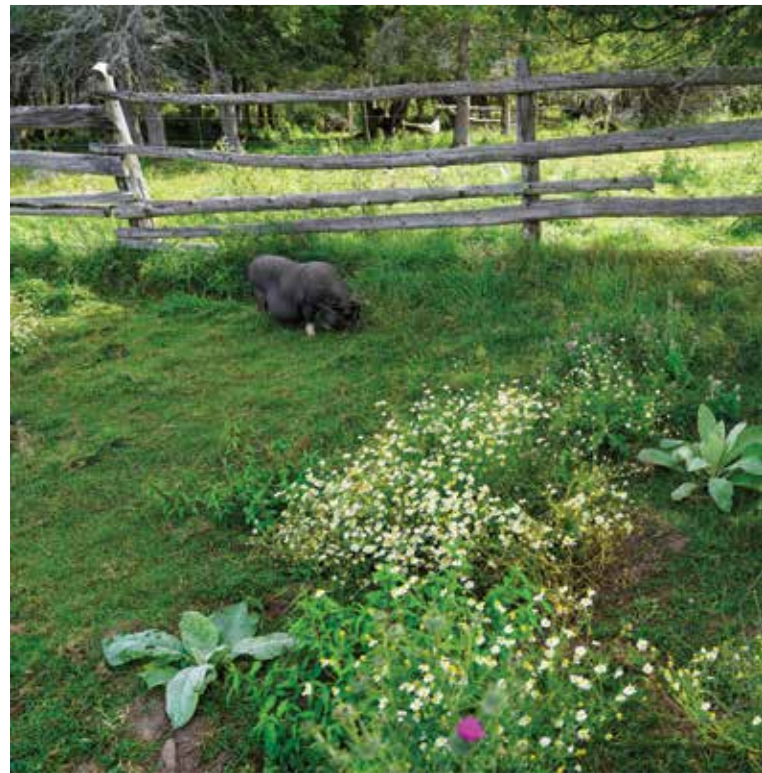
◀ Hanging out with a friend: Allison holds Meg, the hen, in a doorway of the barn. Meg was attacked by their rooster one night and needed emergency vet care. Meg needed months of recovery but survived. Recently, she had major surgery to remove a large mass in her abdomen, and is still thriving today, Allison reports.



▲ There's every reason for the animals to enjoy being inside the barn. It's shady, clean and carpeted with a thick layer of comfortable straw. The barn gets cleaned twice a day.

**T**he people managing the farm are property owner, founder and executive director Allison Valentine, veterinarian Dr. Sarah Dodd and her husband Richard Dodd, property manager. The farm is a registered charity with a governing board. The name GLO Farm Sanctuary comes from its beginnings in 2015, when Allison started a Community Supported Agriculture enterprise called Green Living Organic Farm & Microsanctuary. "It become clear very

quickly that we needed the space for the animals, and also the time, so we rebranded to GLO," she explains. In 2023 the sanctuary was moved from East Garafraxa near Guelph to Manitoulin Island in order to have the acreage wanted. "The sanctuary is a long-term care home, not a rescue place," says Allison. "Our animals have been in quarantine on other farms before coming to GLO. 50 per cent of the animals will need palliative care in the next five years and will need a lot of expensive medical care."



▲ The animals are free to go where they want. Here, pigs are in a shady, flower-filled part of a field.





▲ Allison inside the barn with a cow who approached her to be petted. "I've worked very hard to build a life I don't need a vacation from," she says.



► The pigs have access to more than 40 acres of rocky terrain, lush grassy pastures and mixed forests. Here, a pot-bellied pig wanders happily in the field outside the barn, a forest in the background.





◀ Sheep and goats socializing and resting in the barn.



◀ Allison wearing some merchandise that's available for sale, a T-shirt in honour of Boris the Pig, who "lives his best life every day at the sanctuary," as they say. One of the volunteers at the farm is an artist, who drew the design of Boris. It is now also featured on stickers and tote bags, all available for purchase online.



Having a vet living on site is a blessing, but medicine, hospitalization, procedures and specialized tests are very expensive. Early this year,

Rosie, a 28-year-old mare, their duck named Goose, and a goat called Ted, each suffered an injury or illness that required them to be

euthanized. Emergencies like these use up the vet bill reserve. Donations go a long way to help the farm continue its care.



▼ A hen and a pig minding their own business.



▲ Pigs at the barn doorway leading to a large pasture.

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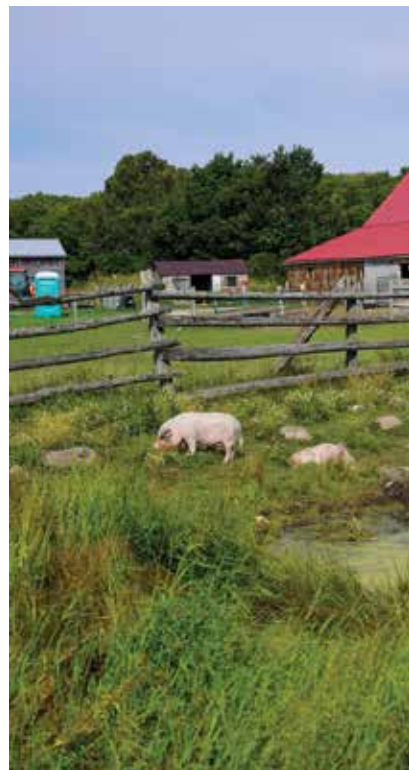
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▲ Pigs in the field outside of the open barn.

▼ Blissed-out piggy sunbathing in the shelter of a metal hay feeder.



## How to Help

### Donate

The farm exists 100 per cent from donations. There is no government funding. Donations are welcome in a lump sum and also by monthly payments, which are greatly relied upon as regular income. No amount is too small. "Three dollars a month makes a big impact," declares Allison.

Donations can be made by PayPal, Canada Helps.org, e-transfer or cheque. Include your name and mailing address for a tax receipt.

### Volunteer

"We always need human volunteers," says Allison. "More people helping with chores can lead to more animals being taken in." The sanctuary has to turn away from 10 to 35 animals a week.

### How to Reach GLO Sanctuary

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ON POP 1N0, 647.898.4577





▲ It's summer afternoon siesta time in the barn for this goat and cow.



▲ Two pigs are near the pond beyond the barn.

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# TELLING BIRDS' STORIES

By Anne Fraser

Yellow Warbler: "A Flash of Yellow"

**B**ird photography allows me to escape from the busyness of life and to go out into nature for its beauty and tranquility. My camera is my companion, my tool, and my excuse to get out any time of year, whether alone or with friends. And when I am out, after a lot of hiking and endless waiting, there is that magic moment of finding my subject. Following, is the magic of clicking my camera, capturing a bird in a quick millisecond, and freezing the action as it gets on with its busy day. This could be an Osprey coming out of the water with a fish, a magnificent Bald Eagle flying overhead on its way to its nest or a songbird caring for its young babies. These moments can be so fleeting and to get an image in focus is the challenge. Trying to tell the bird's story is the reward.





▲ Egret: "Splashdown: Landing in Style"



► Indigo  
Bunting:  
"Time to  
Go"





▲ Barred Owl: "Silent Guard of the Forest"

▼ Red-winged Blackbird: "Sheltered Brood"

There are so many diverse species in Ontario and being a member of the local Naturalist Club introduced me where to find the birds and to learn about some of their behaviours. In Halton Hills, the former camera club and PhotoArt exhibition and competition also provided opportunities to learn about bird photography through guest speakers. I entered into some of the competitions over the years and won a few times. This made me happy that I could share my images. It was also a personal challenge to see how my photos scored. I am now a member of the Guelph Photographers Guild where I will continue to pursue my photographic adventures.







◀ Bald Eagle: "A Home in the Making"



▲ Lesser Yellow Legs:  
"Playing in the Pond"



◀ Osprey: "Hunter's Reward"





▲ Red-necked Grebe: "Proud Mama"



◀ Black-crowned Night Heron: "Warmed by the Sun"

▼ Great Blue Heron: "Lunchtime Success"



My current photography gear for birding is a mirrorless, full-frame Nikon Z6iii camera. The lenses that I primarily use, are a 180-600mm zoom lens or the 500 PF prime lens with a teleconverter. These lenses allow me to take my photos from a distance as I do not want to disturb the birds. I prefer to shoot without the use of a tripod so I am free to move around to track the bird. The setting I like to use is a fast shutter speed of 1/2500, f8 aperture, auto ISO, and a High Frame Rate.





▲ Wood Duck: “Flapping”



▲ Green Heron: “Patience has its rewards”

▼ Common Goldeneye: “Peaceful swim on a glorious day”







▲ Sandhill Cranes: "Triple Flight in Harmony"



◀ Barn Swallow: "Warm Sunlight Perch"



"I use Flickr to post my photos online at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/annie57/>" she says. **NEV**

*Anne Fraser's photography was previously featured in "Endless Possibilities" in the Spring 2022 issue of this magazine.*





▲ Cedar Waxwing: "Berry-licious!"



▲ Juvenile Bald Eagle: "What is Out There?"



▲ Killdeer: "Beach Stop Over"



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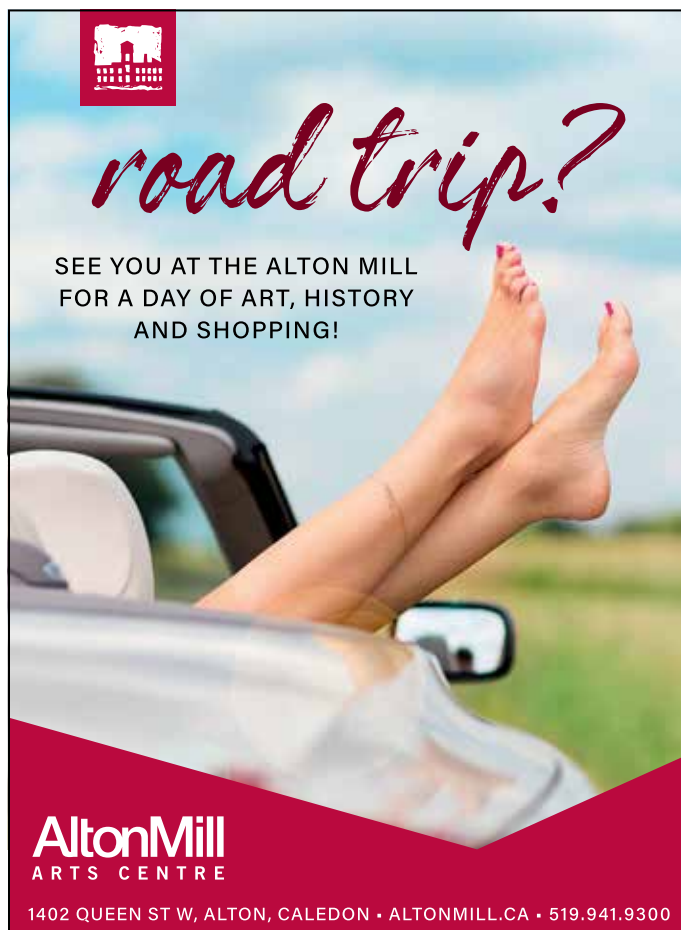
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Niagara River flowing over the Escarpment at  
Niagara Falls, in June. American Falls is in the centre  
and mist from Horseshoe Falls is at right.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.











# Bat Signals

## Detecting Heroes

WRITTEN BY DON SCALLEN  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE DAVIS  
EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

## the Night

**F**iona Reid, author of the *Peterson Field Guide to the Mammals*, lives in a home surrounded by Niagara Escarpment forest. Wildlife abounds, including the bats that Fiona loves.





An Eastern Small-footed Myotis, an endangered bat that was caught in a mist net in Hildebrandt + Davis Park, being examined by a team from Natural Resource Solutions of Waterloo.



In 2022 and 2023 Fiona coordinated a bat monitoring project under the auspices of the Toronto Zoo's Native Bat Conservation Program to gather data on the presence and abundance of the flying mammals on her property and the properties of several fellow members of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club. Participants took turns using a Toronto Zoo bat detector to record bat vocalizations. Each of Ontario's eight bat species has a distinctive ultrasonic call. We can't hear them, but the detectors can.

One of the bat monitoring volunteers was Gloria Hildebrandt, the editor of this magazine. A detector, installed by her co-publisher Mike Davis at their Hildebrandt + Davis Nature Park in north Halton, recorded a total of 1,095 acoustic observations of seven of the eight species of bats native to Ontario. This does not mean the presence of over one thousand bats, but simply the number of times the recording device detected calls – one bat may be responsible for several vocalizations.

Regardless, the Park's results were impressive. Most notably, the vocalizations of an endangered bat called the Eastern Small-footed Myotis were recorded 581 times. Subsequent mist netting at the park by Christy Humphrey of Natural Resource Solutions of Waterloo, resulted in the temporary capture of three of these bats, one a lactating female. Humphrey speculates that there is "likely a maternity colony" near the Park, "likely in a building" – an exciting finding.

Niagara Escarpment forests and wetlands, like those at the Hildebrandt + Davis Nature Park, play a vital role in sustaining bat abundance and diversity. But Fiona Reid notes that the Toronto Zoo bat monitoring project also found surprising numbers of bats flying in the suburban areas of Milton and Halton Hills. The bat detectors picked up the ultrasonic calls of bats wherever they were placed.

### Bats Declining

A caveat is necessary,

however. We don't have historical benchmark data for this part of Ontario. While the species diversity and abundance of bats revealed by this bat survey appear impressive, we don't know how many bat vocalizations a similar study decades ago may have recorded. Our bats have been hammered by two novel threats since the early 2000s: the arrival of a virulent fungal disease called white-nose syndrome and the proliferation of wind turbines on the landscape

which, sadly, appear to be killing lots of bats.

Christina M. Davy, an associate professor at Carleton University in Ottawa, and her fellow researchers recently examined bat mortality data from 594 turbines in southern Ontario, as reported in the journal *Conservation Biology*. The findings were alarming. Her study found a "rapid decline in the abundance of four species in our study area." These results were so shocking that COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered



▲ A bat in the hand: an insectivore, the bat's specialized teeth help it consume its food. This Eastern Small-footed Myotis with its open mouth, that was caught in the Park, may be echolocating to try to understand what is happening. Bats navigate and find insects using echolocation, which is emitting high-frequency sound waves through their mouths or noses.





▲ A mist net, set up in the Park but not yet unrolled, for capturing bats.

► Christy Humphrey and colleagues from Natural Resource Solutions setting up their examination station while hoping to capture bats in the Park.







Mike Davis attached the recorder to this Horse Chestnut tree at the spring end of the pond.

▲ The Toronto Zoo's ultrasonic recorder was temporarily installed at the opposite end of this pond in the Park.

Wildlife in Canada) quickly acted to designate three formerly abundant species as endangered: Hoary Bat, Eastern Red Bat and Silver-haired Bat.

The extent and speed of these declines make it imperative that wind turbine operators take measures to mitigate bat mortality. That doesn't necessarily mean building fewer turbines. Recognizing the necessity of green power to counter climate change, Davy cites findings in her study that could inform the placement of future turbines. Her data show, unsurprisingly, that more forest-dwelling bats like Red Bats and Silver-haired Bats are killed by turbines close to woodlots, so a

possible solution would be to site turbines at a remove from such habitats. She also found that Big Brown Bat mortality decreased with elevation, suggesting that turbines be located in higher elevation areas. She also found that many more bats were killed in late summer than spring, indicating that

the operation and speed of wind turbines at that time of year be closely managed.

Some of us may believe that the mortality of bats is an

acceptable price to pay in our pursuit of green energy – that bat declines pale in contrast to the climate crisis we face.

#### **Insect Control**

Fiona Reid would

► A Big Brown Bat, although not one of the ones detected in the Park, being held for banding.  
PHOTO BY  
MELISSA DONNELLY  
OF TORONTO ZOO.







▲ The ultrasonic recorder was left in place for several nights of monitoring.

disagree. She reminds us that the numbers of bats recorded in both urban and rural areas, revealed by the Toronto Zoo study, show the importance of these mammals in the biological control of insects.

Bats eat a lot of bugs – in fact, according to Bat Conservation International, reproductive-age Big Brown Bats, Ontario's most common species, can consume their weight in insects every night. The implications are profound. Bats save farmers a lot of money, and, new research suggests, may even save human lives.

Daniel Riskin, a bat researcher at the University of Toronto points to a

2024 study that “showed that by eating crop-pest insects, bats reduce the use of pesticides, which results in significantly lower human infant mortality. In doing so, bats literally save hundreds of our babies each year.”

The research Daniel cites was reported in an article in *Science*, the academic journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The author and primary researcher was Eyal Frank, an assistant professor at the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy. Frank's research conclusions are startling and disturbing. He found that the decline of bats due



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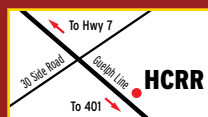


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to white-nose syndrome led to a 31.1 per cent rise in the use of pesticides by farmers in selected U.S. counties. The alarming downstream result of this increased pesticide use was a concurrent rise in infant mortality in those counties averaging 7.9 per cent! Simply put: fewer bats, more pesticides, greater infant mortality.

This study has only strengthened Daniel's appreciation for bats. "Bats have a lot in common with Batman," he says. "They do their good work at night, and it's mostly thankless. They're heroes."

### Citizen Science

Toby Thorne, formerly the Toronto Zoo's Native Bat Conservation program coordinator, and now supervisor of Species Recovery at the zoo, agrees and lauds the value of surveying bats via citizen science. "By identifying areas and habitats with high levels of bat activity, we can continue monitoring populations and implement conservation efforts to protect these species." Toby says that the Toronto Zoo will be "recruiting new volunteer groups in an effort to increase the geographic spread of the dataset."

These citizen science efforts will be vitally important moving forward. The reality that seven of our eight species are now endangered is sobering. Bats are fascinating animals that contribute greatly to environmental health and, it seems, to ours as well. They deserve our admiration and our careful stewardship. **NEV**

*Don Scallen, author of Nature Where We Live, most recently wrote "Halton Hills Turtle Guardians and Other Heroes" for the Spring 2025 issue of this magazine.*



▲ Charles Hildebrandt installed this bat shelter at the pond in the Park many years ago. It's unknown whether this was ever used by bats.

### ONTARIO'S BATS

**Big Brown Bat** (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

**Eastern Red Bat** (*Lasiurus borealis*) Endangered (Canada)

**Eastern Small-footed Myotis** (*Myotis leibii*) Endangered (Ontario)

**Hoary Bat** (*Lasiurus cinereus*) Endangered (Canada)

**Little Brown Myotis** (*Myotis lucifugus*) Endangered (Canada)

**Northern Myotis** (*Myotis septentrionalis*) Endangered (Canada)

**Silver-haired Bat** (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*) Endangered (Canada)

**Tri-coloured Bat** (*Perimyotis subflavus*) Endangered (Canada)





▲ Dan Riskin, a science journalist, bat biologist, and author, is best known as CTV's science and technology specialist, and as the former co-host of *Daily Planet* on Discovery. He is the author of the picture book *Fiona the Fruit Bat*.



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# Repair Café Means No



▲ Clock Doc Paul Vanar with clock owner and fellow volunteer Sheila Brown-SanCartier. Many volunteers bring items for repair.



# Need to Throw Away

BY MARTHA MCGLOIN | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY GEORGIAN BLUFFS CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

Martha McGloin, right, with the fixer for the sweater.



**O**n the second Saturday of each month, Owen Sound North Grey Union Public Library comes to life as people line up clutching broken vacuum cleaners, CD players, vintage lamps, cuckoo clocks, leaky stuffies, jackets with broken zippers and much more. Set up and armed with sewing machines, solder guns, circuit testers and baskets of threads, zippers and three-pronged plugs, more than a dozen Repair Café volunteer fixers, for free, take on the challenge of fixing whatever comes their way. Volunteer greeters sign in patrons and direct them to the proper fixers while baristas set out coffee and cookies.



**E**ach of these patrons has a story. In some cases, it's a treasure passed down through the family. It could be a vacuum cleaner that has served a family for 30 years, an 8-track tape player discovered by grandchildren playing in the basement or the family cat's favorite toy that needs its stuffing restored. Patrons also bring items rescued from the curb – a winter jacket left on a fence was donated to a local charity after receiving a new zipper. A battery-operated miniature car that was put out as garbage was rescued by an observant mother, carried in to the Repair Café and driven away to become a special birthday present for a young boy. Another patron in the process of downsizing, not wanting to add a broken air fryer to landfill, brought it to the Repair Café so that it could be donated in working order.

### The Clock Doc

Volunteer fixers have stories of their own. Paul Vanar, also known as The Clock Doc, recounts how friendly chats with a professional watchmaker led him to start picking up broken clocks from thrift shops, taking them apart to fix and then returning them to the thrift shop in working order. The Clock Doc fixes an average of four clocks at each Café. Fixer Steve reports that his confidence and success as a fixer stems from his hobby of monitoring Kijiji for broken equipment that he can disassemble and return to working order, often using online sources to find missing parts as well as possible fixes. Joanne Veerman is a retired family studies teacher who brings her mother's overflowing basket

It has been extremely rewarding to see the project be so successful.



▲ David Sereda with a new zipper in his jacket, with fixer Annette and his wife Mary.





▲ Repair Café reached its first anniversary on March 8.

of yarns and threads to help find the perfect material and colour match for sweater and socks. Patrons are sometimes sent out to buy a zipper or small piece of hardware.

Evident in its name, the Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Team (GBCAT) identifies actions that address climate issues and build engagement with people beyond its core membership. Hearing reports from activists in nearby Thornbury, GBCAT invited organizers of the Thornbury Repair Café to make a presentation to GBCAT members. That presentation led to repeated visits to the Thornbury Repair Café as well as research into Repair Café International and contact with Repair Café

Toronto. As plans developed, so did the search for a venue. It soon became clear that the library in Owen Sound offered the ideal location and support system.

Tim Nicholls Harrison, CEO/Chief Librarian of the Owen Sound North Grey Union Public Library recalls, "The timing was perfect. Libraries across North America have recognized the importance of being involved in this work. We were so fortunate to have such commitment and energy from our local community members. It has been extremely rewarding to see the project be so successful."

#### Other Repair Cafés

After experiencing the energy



▲ Fixer Murray Smith with Louise Jarvis.





▲ Fixer Rick Krisko tests the repaired apple corer.

Repair Cafés are sprouting up in many communities, including Meaford, St. Catharines, Dundas, Kitchener, Guelph, West Grey and Toronto.

at the Repair Café in Owen Sound, it's no surprise that more than 3,000 Repair Cafés have sprung up around the world since the first Repair Café opened in Amsterdam in 2009. Repair Cafés are sprouting up in many communities, including Meaford, St. Catharines, Dundas, Kitchener, Guelph, West Grey and Toronto. Some are on a regular schedule in the same location. Others function as pop-up events, sometimes featuring specialized repairs such as sewing, bicycle or electronic repairs.

The Right to Repair movement has grown from early concerns sparked by the auto industry around lack of information and available tools. Planned

obsolescence of many consumer goods coupled with manufacturers' control of information and tools needed to access and repair electronics, farm equipment and medical equipment has led to legislation in many countries, including Canada, that limits manufacturers' ability to control repair of their products.

As legislation slowly catches up to demand, Repair Cafés continue to build momentum sharing stories,

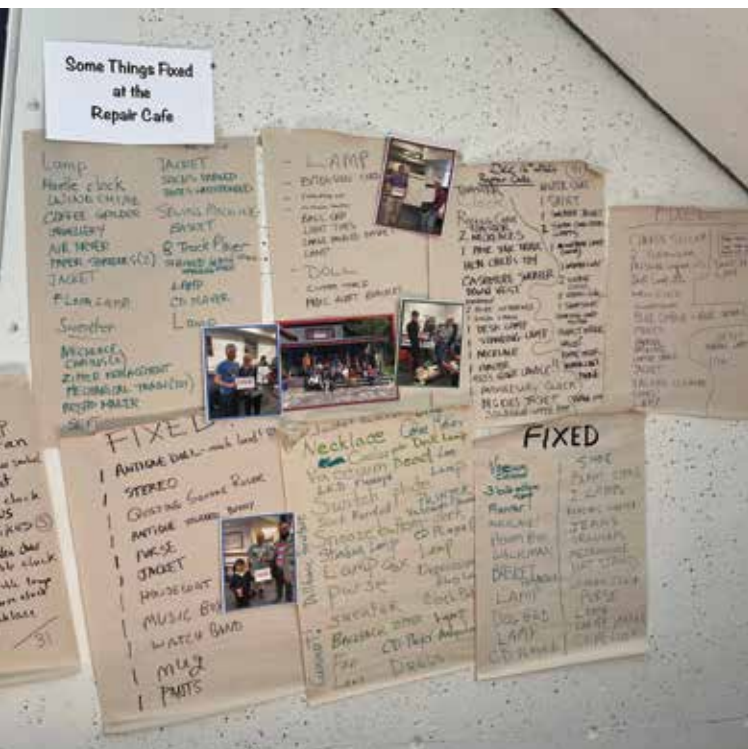
solutions, laughter and even a few tears of relief, with a resounding chorus of "Throw It Away, No Way!" **NEV**

*Martha McGloin is a member of the Georgian Bluffs Climate Action Team and a regular patron of the Repair Café. A retired elementary school teacher, she lives in the village of Oxenden on the lands known as Saugeen Ojibway Nation*





▲ Phyllis Rowe, holding a lamp, attends every month with one or two items for repair.



▲ Close to 500 items were repaired in the first year of operation.

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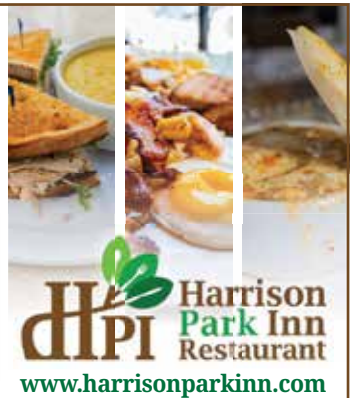
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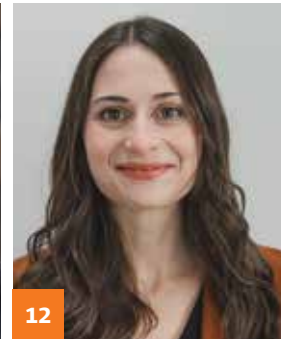
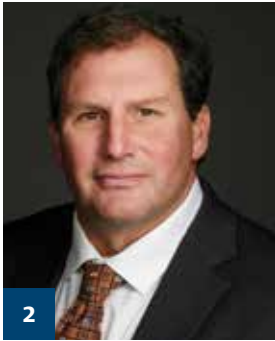
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- 3 SIMCOE-GREY
- 4 DUFFERIN-CALEDON
- 5 WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS
- 6 GUELPH
- 7 MILTON
- 8 OAKVILLE
- 9 OAKVILLE NORTH-BURLINGTON
- 10 BURLINGTON
- 11 HAMILTON WEST-ANCASTER-DUNDAS
- 12 HAMILTON CENTRE
- 13 HAMILTON MOUNTAIN
- 14 FLAMBOROUGH-GLANBROOK
- 15 HAMILTON EAST- STONEY CREEK
- 16 NIAGARA WEST
- 17 ST. CATHARINES
- 18 NIAGARA CENTRE
- 19 NIAGARA FALLS

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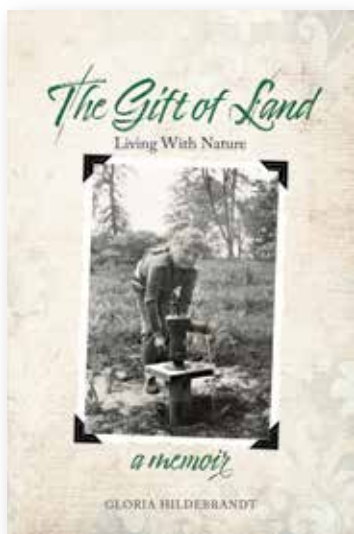
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# Artifacts Update

By Brenda McEnery

I'm writing this followup letter since the publication of "Brenda McEnery Rocks," to present up-to-date thoughts and more on the research regarding the first inhabitants of the Village of Erin.

It's a very perplexing, controversial and test of patience, surrounding any discoveries, preservation, storage and true historical representation of Indigenous archaeology of Ontario. That being said, I am in full support of the Indigenous truth and reconciliation movement. Indigenous archaeology has been wrongly explained and presented within settler museums, major settler publications, and settler respect towards artifacts. Indigenous artifacts are regarded as their ancestors and possess spiritual significance and are not regarded as innate articles. It is for these reasons that our local museum, the Wellington County Museum, is not accepting Indigenous artifactual articles at the present time.

It is my personal hope that progress between settlers and Indigenous people can be accelerated surrounding Indigenous archaeology, due to the rapid development of many towns and villages in Ontario. I know the village of Erin sits on tremendous Indigenous history which has never been documented or respected. The Ontario government does not want artifacts removed and collected in a personal capacity, yet the government allows development to go forward without proper archaeological studies and in this area, gravel pits are literally crushing Indigenous history. I see this as a digression as opposed to a progression of documentation of ancient civilizations, which I feel is important on a large scale, i.e. global as opposed to just the province of Ontario.



Brenda McEnery, centre, with Rachel Robson, left, and Taylor Flynn. PHOTO BY MARIA ROBSON.

It would be very controversial to state that the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport is using this state of political impasse to fast track development without proper archaeological third-stage analysis.

I have retrieved Indigenous artifacts within the village of Erin from construction and landscaping sites where they would have been once again buried. I have reported these sites to the Ontario government where they have been registered as "site leads." The government and the Indigenous nations The Mississaugas of the Credit as well as Six Nations of the Grand, know I hold these artifacts for some day to be either repatriated or placed in a museum.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention two young women, Taylor Flynn aged 16 and Rachel Robson aged 23 of Erin, who showed sincere interest, encouragement and help with my research surrounding this topic. We spent many hours in the field trying to understand what exactly inhabitation of Erin was like many thousands of years ago. Having such young friends show huge sincere interest in the subject of Ontario's ancient civilization is what gives me hope and inspiration that the vast undocumented Indigenous history will soon be realized. Taylor is of Mi'kmaq descent with several of her Newfoundland relatives having their status recognized.



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# Canada D'eh Nature Wear



Finished Canada D'eh shirt ready to wear.

In this project I share a fun twist on traditional tie-dyeing. Typically when tie-dyeing you use a white garment, such as a shirt, sheet or sweater knotted with rubber bands and dipped in vibrant coloured fabric dyes. However, we are swapping the white fabric with dark and using bleach and maple leaves to make a one-of-a-kind, negative impression.

When the maple trees are bursting with large, healthy leaves pick two or three in various sizes. Be sure to keep the whole stem with the leaf, particularly if you intend to stencil words onto the fabric, eg, "eh", because you can use the stem as part of your letters for a graphic design.

## Project Preparation

To start, gather your supplies and lay newsprint to protect your work surface. Place a piece of waxed paper inside the body of the garment to protect it in case the bleach bleeds through to the back. Lay it flat on your protected table and wearing rubber gloves and eye protection, pour a small amount

of Splash-Less Clorox into a container and dip a maple leaf into it to fully coat it with bleach. I like to use this brand because the bleach is more gel-like which coats the leaves consistently making it easier to work with.

I found Splash-Less Clorox at my local dollar store, but any bleach will work for this project.

Carefully place the Cloroxed maple leaf onto your garment and let it sit in place for 20-30 seconds. It doesn't take long and you should

see your leaf impression immediately. Using your stencils dab from the top down a small amount of Clorox onto the shirt to spell out, "eh". You will notice that the bleach soaks quickly into the fabric so you don't need to use much and blotting isn't necessary. You can also paint your letters freehand.

You can make your own (eh) stencils, purchase a variety online from my Etsy store which you cut out at home using your Cricut machine or purchase them from your local craft supply.

I suggest practicing on a scrap piece of fabric before attempting your final design. Let the fabric dry completely and then wash separately for the first wash cycle.

Enjoy (adult) crafting and creating with nature, eh!

## SUPPLIES:

- Rubber gloves
- Safety eye wear
- Dark shirt
- Splash-Less Clorox bleach
- Vessel to dip leaves into
- Apron
- Paint brush or alphabet stencils
- Waxed paper

## Follow Along

You can find a helpful how-to tutorial of this project on my YouTube channel. @FarmhouseStudioOnFifth. Visit [farmhousestudioon5th.etsy.com](https://farmhousestudioon5th.etsy.com) to purchase a stencil pack.

*Nicholl Spence is a freelance graphic designer who works from her rural farmhouse home office in Erin. Among her work is the design and layout for this magazine.*

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► Step 1: Gather supplies and prepare your work surface.



◀ Step 2: Position leaf and stencil on your shirt to get an idea of layout.




▲ Step 3: Fully coat your leaf with bleach including the stem.



▲ Step 4: Position your bleached leaf onto your shirt. Be careful not to drip.



◀ Step 5 (if stenciling): Remove the leaf and place your stencil into position. Dab the bleach from the top down onto the stencil. Don't use too much, a little goes a long way!



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# Building Bluebird Houses for Ball's Falls Conservation Area

by David Brown

**N**estled on the scenic Niagara Escarpment, only steps away from the quaint hamlet of Jordan, Ball's Falls Conservation Area has always been a perfect spot for an outdoor adventure with waterfalls, historical buildings, hiking trails and interactive exhibits. The park showcases the incredibly breathtaking view of the majestic Twenty Mile Creek as it plummets over both the upper and lower falls. Since the Twenty Mile Creek is rain fed, the character of the falls can change dramatically with the seasons, from a raging torrent in the spring to a thin veil in late summer and fall. The 200-acre park includes a Centre for Conservation, designed to have a limited impact on the surrounding environment, featuring permanent and temporary galleries, exhibits and interactive displays, including the conservation practices of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), archaeological findings, and the watershed ecosystem of Twenty Mile Creek. Still standing within the park are the original Ball family home, an operating gristmill, a lime kiln, a restored church, a blacksmith shop, and a carriage shed.

Thousands of plant and animal species grow throughout the Ball's Falls Conservation Area. The list of plant species totals 471 and includes such plants as Wild Sarsaparilla, Wild Ginger, Virginia Bluebells, Canada Yew, Wild Leek, Wild Asparagus, Wild Yam, Red Mulberry, Canada Anemone, Chokecherry, and St. John's Wort. Ball's Falls is made up of



▲ Behind the bluebird houses project, from left, Doug Ransom, Heber Crewe, and Bob Dobrenski. PHOTO BY GRAHAM BROWN.

hardwoods mixed with coniferous trees, lying within the deciduous forest zone. Tree species include Eastern Cottonwood, Butternut, Black Walnut, Shagbark Hickory, Tulip Tree and Slippery Elm. Rare species include Sycamore, Sassafras and Pignut Hickory. Among the species of birds found at Ball's Falls are the Eastern Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Mallards, and Killdeer.

## Peterson Bluebird Houses

Over the years, former education administrator, Doug Ransom has been an NPCA board member and former chairman, actively engaged

in conservation efforts and working in various capacities for the interests of Ball's Falls. This year Doug has channelled his wood crafting talents towards the development of bird houses for Ball's Falls. This project has also been taken up by former quality analyst and pattern maker Bob Dobrenski and former Hydro superintendent Heber Crewe, instrumental in interpreting blueprints and specifications as well as designing jigs, operating machine tools and identifying production problems.

The objective of the project was to construct 15 Peterson bluebird houses which will all be used in open areas within







▲ From left, Heber Crewe, Doug Ransom, Bob Dobrenski. PHOTO BY GRAHAM BROWN.



▲ Peterson bluebird houses ready for installation. PHOTO BY DOUG RANSOM.

the Balls' Falls park. A Peterson bluebird house is a wedge-shaped box, featuring a large steep roof to provide protection from the summer sun and to make predation by raccoons and cats more difficult. The sloping front reduces rain entering the box while the framing provides insulation, moderating temperature extremes within the box. Proponents of the Peterson box feel that an oval hole shape allows the adults to feed the young and remove the fecal sacs. Peterson boxes are somewhat more complicated to build than conventional nest boxes due to the 45° and 27° angles within the box.

Ball's Falls is a pearl suspended on the

string of the Niagara Escarpment. With its rich natural landscape, many trails and lovely waterfalls, Ball's Falls Conservation Area in Lincoln is popular with humans, plants, and animals. It is nice to think that areas like Ball's Falls continue to conserve and celebrate nature and the wildlife that play a vital role in our ecosystem. If you get a chance, you should definitely try to visit Ball's Falls. You might even find some Eastern Bluebirds happily nesting in a Peterson bluebird house.

*David Brown is a long-time resident of Niagara Region with a very strong interest in community service.*



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# Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy Continuing a Legacy of Conservation

By Beth Gilhespy

Since we were last in *Niagara Escarpment Views* there have been new faces and new initiatives at Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC), but our commitment to protection of Ontario's sensitive and vulnerable places has been constant and unwavering. We have been working to protect thousands of acres of sensitive and vulnerable land. You haven't heard from us for a while, but rest assured our work to preserve land continues unabated! I'm pleased to have the opportunity to update you on happenings at EBC.

## New Faces and Spaces

In March 2024 I joined EBC as its Chief Executive Officer following a 14+ year career as the CEO of the Bruce Trail

Conservancy and almost five years as Executive Director of the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy. Conservation of land and wildlife is my passion!

I was privileged to join seasoned staff members Shannon MacDonald (Land preservation), Liv Callo (Land Stewardship), Hannah Jowett (Communications and Education) and Selena Wong (GIS and Data), who have been with the organization a number of years and remain essential parts of its success. Another relatively new staff member is Luisa Rodrigues (Director of Finance and Operations) who manages the finances of our growing organization. To add capacity in our volunteer, engagement and land stewardship areas, we brought in Amy Darrell (Community Outreach and Engagement). Our staff now has one part-time and six full-time members working together to carry out our mission.

There have been other new faces in the organization. Our Board Chair Sean O'Hare, a resident of Manitoulin Island, is supported by Karen MacDuffee as Vice Chair, Kim Neale as Treasurer, and Jason Harlow as Secretary. With the contributions of the other Directors, the Board has provided supervision and guidance as we achieve even more success in land preservation! The next annual general meeting of EBC is June 22, 2025, and we will be contacting members with more information at the end of May.

Our small office is amongst many other not-for-profit organizations at the Centre for Social Innovation at 192 Spadina Avenue in Toronto. Our staff and Board are dispersed regionally, and we are fortunate that working remotely is now so mainstream and communications are almost seamless; we are always a computer click or video call away for meetings and conversations. I personally love the blend of home office work, donor visits, field work and spending time at our office.

## Commitment to Preserving and Caring for our Land

During 2023 and 2024, with the help of donors and other partners, we preserved just over 3,000 acres of land worth about \$8.2 million, on Manitoulin Island, the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula, along the Huron Shore and throughout Grey, Bruce and Wellington Counties. The total amount of land now in our care is a staggering 24,900 acres: 5,000 acres of wetlands, 15,000 acres of forests and 4,900 acres of other sensitive and vulnerable landscape including shorelines, alvars and meadows.

With just under 25,000 acres of land to care for, we are placing a strong focus on land stewardship to ensure we know everything we need to know about the ecology, geology and human impacts on our nature preserves so that we can care for them in the best way possible. This has been a monumental task as many nature preserves have not been visited in a long while, some not for decades. Nevertheless, the task is always a delight as staff and volunteers discover new vistas, find delicate species, create new trail opportunities and find rejuvenation in connecting with the land.

## What's Next?

We are in a pleasant "bubble" right now where governments at both the federal and provincial levels are helping fund land trust work. These programs are designed to leverage donor funds by requiring that the land trusts match the government



Simon Bay Nature Preserve. PHOTO BY ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE CONSERVANCY.



funding with donations. We have had wonderful response to our matching fund programs and are fortunate that the government commitments appear to be extending into 2025. How long will this commitment last, especially given the uncertain political and economic climate? It's clear we need to expand our reach to engage more members and supporters, but if the results of the Fall 2024 Wild Futures Campaign are any indication, when more than \$1 million dollars were donated to match \$850K in government funding, then we are on our way to continued success. I look forward to telling you about the beautiful properties we will be protecting under the 2025 Wild Futures program, including rocky shorelines, upland bear habitat, towering cliffs and sparkling waterfalls.

## YOU CAN HELP OUT!

Our responsibility and our commitment are to continue to build on EBC's incredible legacy of the past 28 years, preserving sensitive and vulnerable places, engaging donors and volunteers, and stewarding the land in our care. We'd love a few more helping hands! Here are some ways you can support our work:

For more information about the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, go to [www.escarpment.ca](http://www.escarpment.ca)

To permanently protect the land you love, contact Shannon MacDonald ([shannon@escarpment.ca](mailto:shannon@escarpment.ca)).

To volunteer to help us care for the land and create and maintain trails, reach out to Amy Darrell, ([amy@escarpment.ca](mailto:amy@escarpment.ca)) and Liv Callo ([Li@escarpment.ca](mailto:Li@escarpment.ca)). To help with communications (graphic design, web page development and social media), contact Hannah Howett ([hannah@escarpment.ca](mailto:hannah@escarpment.ca)). To volunteer and help with office administration, contact Luisa Rodrigues ([luisa@escarpment.ca](mailto:luisa@escarpment.ca)).

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We've got some great items in our on-line store, including individual map cards for 17 hiking trails on our nature preserves from Manitoulin to Caledon. Visit <https://escarpment.ca/make-an-impact/online-store>

Do you have any other questions or queries? I am more than happy to connect with you! My email is [beth@escarpment.ca](mailto:beth@escarpment.ca). With gratitude for the opportunity to serve conservation, and for the people who are making it happen.

*Beth Gilhespy is CEO of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy.*



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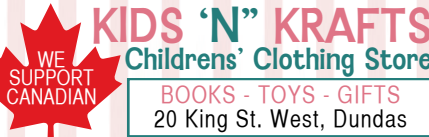
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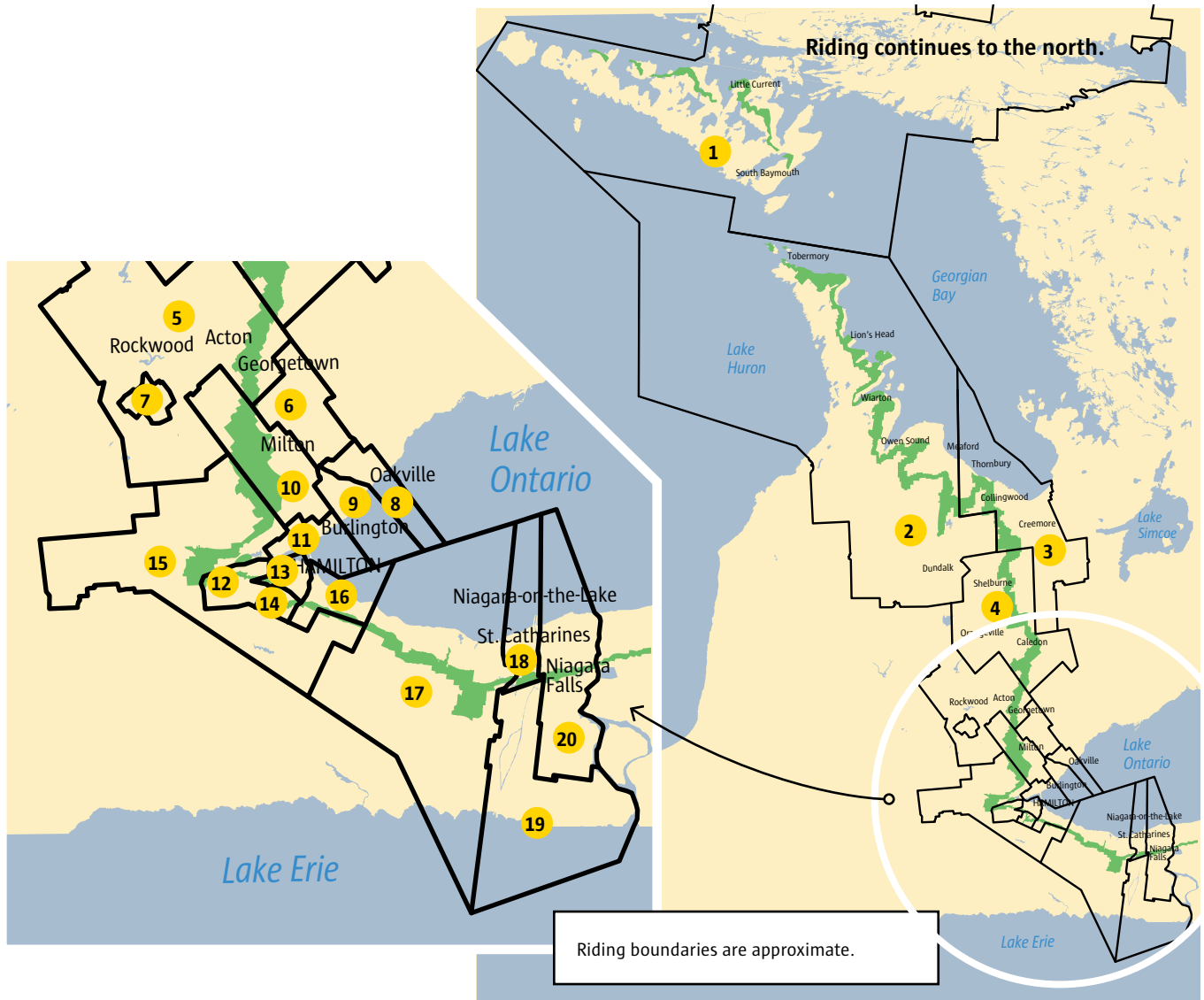
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The riding boundaries were changed for our federal election on April 28. Here is a map showing the general location of each riding along the Niagara Escarpment. A list of the riding names is given, plus their elected candidates. Please note that all the results recorded here are unofficial as of printing.

## FEDERAL RIDING NAMES AS OF 2025 ALONG THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 SUDBURY EAST-MANITOULIN-NICKEL BELT | JIM BELANGER (CONS)           |
| 2 BRUCE-GREY-OWEN SOUND               | ALEX RUFF (CONS)              |
| 3 SIMCOE-GREY                         | TERRY DOWDALL (CONS)          |
| 4 DUFFERIN-CALEDON                    | KYLE SEEBACK (CONS)           |
| 5 WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS NORTH       | MICHAEL CHONG (CONS)          |
| 6 MILTON EAST-HALTON HILLS SOUTH      | KRISTINA TESSER DERKSEN (LIB) |
| 7 GUELPH                              | DOMINIQUE O'ROURKE (LIB)      |
| 8 OAKVILLE EAST                       | ANITA ANAND (LIB)             |
| 9 OAKVILLE WEST                       | SIMA ACAN (LIB)               |
| 10 BURLINGTON NORTH-MILTON WEST       | ADAM VAN KOEVERDEN (LIB)      |
| 11 BURLINGTON                         | KARINA GOULD (LIB)            |
| 12 HAMILTON WEST-ANCASTER-DUNDAS      | JOHN-PAUL DANKO (LIB)         |
| 13 HAMILTON CENTRE                    | ASLAM RANA (LIB)              |
| 14 HAMILTON MOUNTAIN                  | LISA HEPFNER (LIB)            |
| 15 FLAMBOROUGH-GLANBROOK-BRANT NORTH  | DAN MUYS (CONS)               |
| 16 HAMILTON EAST-STONEY CREEK         | NED KURUC (CONS)              |
| 17 NIAGARA WEST                       | DEAN ALLISON (CONS)           |
| 18 ST. CATHARINES                     | CHRIS BITTLE (LIB)            |
| 19 NIAGARA SOUTH                      | FRED DAVIES (CONS)            |
| 20 NIAGARA FALLS-NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE  | TONY BALDINELLI (CONS)        |

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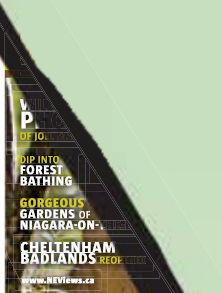
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# Spicy BBQ Beef Kabobs and Southwest Potato Skins

Prep Time: 10 mins | Total Time: 20 mins | Serves: 4

## Ingredients

### Southwest Potato Skins

- 2 Baking Potatoes (about 1 lb/500 g)
- 1/2 tsp Salt (2 mL)
- 1/4 tsp Pepper (1 mL)
- 2 Chopped Green Onions
- 1 Tomato, finely diced
- 2/3 cup Frozen Corn, thawed (150 mL)
- 1 cup Shredded Monterey Jack Cheese (250 mL)

### Spicy Barbecue Beef Kabobs

- 1/2 cup Compliments BBQ Sauce (125 mL)
- 1/2 tsp Ground Chipotle Chili Pepper (2 mL)
- 4 Store-made Beef & Vegetable Kabobs

## Directions

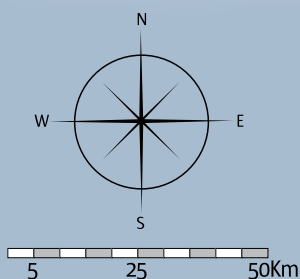
1. Scrub potatoes and prick all over with fork. Microwave on high for about 10 minutes or until fork-tender. Cool until comfortable to handle, and cut in half lengthwise. Scoop out flesh by leaving 1/2 inch or 1cm flesh intact. (Reserve scooped-out flesh for another use.)
2. Season skins with salt and pepper. In a bowl, combine green onion, tomato and corn. Divide the mixture evenly into potato skins. Top with cheese and grill. Close the barbecue lid when not basting (see step 3) for 8 to 10 minutes over medium-high heat, or until cheese melts.
3. Meanwhile, mix barbecue sauce with chipotle chili pepper. Place kabobs on the heated grill, turning and basting with the sauce for 8 to 10 minutes or until cooked through.
4. Serve with Southwest Potato Skins.

## Tip

Freeze scooped-out potato and add to soups.



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