

View from the Editor's Desk: Community by Choice

The spring issue was only the second one we've published, but after it came out, someone told us "That magazine keeps getting better and better." We were delighted to hear it, although it sounds as if we've been publishing *Escarpment Views* for a long time.

Someone else said "It's a fantastic magazine. And long overdue. Where was it before?" We've even had a subscriber call and ask "Where's the next issue?"

This magazine seems to be meeting a need that people haven't identified before. Yet when they see it, they recognize that it reflects their values and interests. As a neighbour of mine told me recently, "It's a community that is self-selected, just by choosing to live here."

People who treasure the Niagara Escarpment have a lot in common regardless of where they live. We're starting to discover that everywhere along the length of the Escarpment, people have wonders to enjoy and share.

This summer issue looks north along the Escarpment, to places that many southerners have traditionally gone to for recreation and relief from the heat. Robert McCaw has a spectacular photograph of The Grotto on Georgian Bay, in Bruce Peninsula National Park. See it in our centre spread. We invite you to take an imaginary dive into the aquamarine water. Heaven!

This summer you might want to explore the Bruce Trail's biggest reroute in its history, the Bayview Extension east of Owen Sound. Ken Haigh shares his hike there through words and photographs. Anywhere along the Escarpment could be a good place to take a wildflower hike, suggests Nandy Heule, and her photographs show why. Alex Henderson of the Royal Botanical Gardens at the Hamilton/Burlington border, generously gives the secrets to cultivating brilliant lilacs. There's some care that should be given in summer. Deborah Palmer reveals her passion for farmers' markets in an article that may inspire you to load up with fresh produce. Chef Misty Ingraham explains what to do with the treasures once you get home, before you prepare a meal or dinner party.

We tried to list all the farmers' markets that might be close to our readers, but there are likely many we missed. We learned recently that Caledon's Inglewood General Store hosts a farmers' market every Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. through the summer. Campbellville seems to be experimenting with one in a barn behind the coffee shop at 11 Main St. North. So ask around your community and tell us of any farmers' markets close to the Escarpment that we should know of.

Please keep your subscriptions, letters, cards, emails and calls coming. We love hearing from you. You give us some of our best ideas for content. Let us know of special events this summer and fall, and perhaps we'll see you there. Look for me in The Grotto on a hot day, and in September, we hope to see you at the 20th annual Eden Mills Writers' Festival! Stop by our table to say hello.

Finally, subscriber Paul Subject insists that we publish his letter, which is a call to all you members of our community. We love his boldness, so his letter appears below.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt
Editor



I know you don't publish letters to the editor in the magazine, although you do on your Web site, but I really want you to make an exception for mine. First of all, I want to tell you how much our family enjoys reading your wonderful magazine. You are to be congratulated; the topics are appealing, the photos outstanding and the general impression of the magazine is one of quality and environmental awareness. I am sure it has not been an easy startup; however you and your team have made it look effortless. But the main reason for my letter is to encourage your readers to be sure to visit the magazines' advertisers and mention they saw their ad. Also, suggest the magazine to potential advertisers. Be proactive. This will ensure the ongoing success of a magazine we have all come to enjoy and appreciate.

Paul Subject, Burlington, Ont.

Escarpment Views

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Escarpment Views is published four times a year. Subscriptions in Canada are \$21.00 (GST included) a year. Subscriptions to the U.S. are \$30.00 (GST included) a year. 30,000 copies of this issue were printed. More than 25,000 copies were distributed by Canada Post to selected postal routes. About 5,000 copies went to paying subscribers and selected outlets for the public to pick up.

Delivered by



Publications Mail #41592022

The publishers of *Escarpment Views* are not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the contents of the magazine, whether in articles or advertisements. Views expressed might not be those of its publishers or editor.

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ISSN 1916-3053

Printed on paper with recycled content.