

## View From the Editor's Desk: Necessary Hopeful Changes

The news has been full of frightening predictions for a bad economy. Some companies are near bankruptcy, some people are losing jobs. People with stock portfolios are seeing them decline in value. If you are personally hurt by these developments, I sympathize with you. Yet I believe that the news media are generating excitement that is doing more harm than good. We know that a rocky economy can be made worse if everyone is too frightened to act as usual. Provided that your usual lifestyle is sensible, there should be no reason to change your habits.

If you aren't in a financially precarious situation, you can actually help the economy by behaving normally. Make necessary purchases. Spend fun money if you've saved it for the purpose. Buy some Christmas gifts. Support our advertisers. Don't let fear of the future paralyze you, or we can bring the worst upon ourselves.

There is even opportunity during economic shifts. We will always need food, transportation, clothing, housing, furnishings, recreation. Those who succeed become better at providing the forms these take. As employees and business owners, we may have to become better, more competitive, more effective and provide better service. Don't we naturally reward those who do?

Surely we need a shift in our economy now, to sustainability, energy efficiency, waste reduction. We couldn't go on the way we were, forever. Maybe the time is ripe to make necessary, hopeful changes that will benefit us all. What's your view? Write me or email me, or share your opinion on our new online blog. We've added a public blog to our *Escarpment Views* site because there is simply so much going on that we need the new medium to keep up. Look under "Escarpment Blog" at [www.EscarpmentViews.ca](http://www.EscarpmentViews.ca).

Another new development with this issue is that we have an intern working with us, Johanna Bailey of Orangeville. A graduate of York University's Bachelor of Arts program in professional writing, Johanna approached us in order to gain some experience in the editing and publishing field. If Johanna contacts you, please make her welcome. Getting started with a career is a challenge.

In this issue, Deborah Palmer highlights some food products developed by passionate individuals who are close to the Escarpment. Eating locally in winter is more of a challenge, but these goodies would be special treats for Christmas and the following months.

Dan O'Reilly takes us inside the restoration in progress of Devereaux House in Georgetown. Dedicated people are saving this Victorian farmhouse, trying to preserve as many of the original elements as possible, but incorporating current green technologies in its systems.

We also take you deep inside the Escarpment itself, with words and photographs of a beginners' caving trip organized by the Toronto Caving Group. Would you be able to stomach such an adventure?

Linda Lee reports on the second concert to benefit Burlington's community group Protecting Escarpment Rural Land (PERL), which this summer, featured Sarah Harmer, Bruce Cockburn, Derek Miller and Leslie Feist.

Our theatre columnist Seana McKenna writes about bringing her performance of Medea to the impressive Canon Theatre in Toronto. Friends who saw her act this in Winnipeg in 1992 still talk about it. I saw it in Stratford in 2000 and can still have tears come to my eyes when remembering it. This is one of the most memorable performances in this award-winning actor's life. Do yourself a favour: book tickets to see this show. It will be a life-changing experience.



Gloria Hildebrandt  
Editor