

Views From Our Readers

Here is a selection of photos, notes and letters that we've received from our readers. Please keep sending them to editor@EscarpmntViews.ca.



A view from above Webster's Falls in Dundas Valley. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAMILTON

Just wanted to let you know that I received my first issue yesterday and I AM IMPRESSED... haven't finished all the articles but wanted to say I agree completely with your editorial sentiments re development and the OMB...we're in the midst of a "wind farm" controversy here on the Island which sounds so similar...so hard to fight the "Toronto bureaucrats."

John Savage, Sheguiandah (Manitoulin Island)



It was great to read the article by Trudi Down about Frogpond Farm in your current issue. I'm always glad when organic agriculture (especially viticulture) gets some profile like this. Jens and Heike are important colleagues of ours and we value our relationship. We, too, are a certified organic winery, and we are located in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Our 75-acre vineyard was certified last year, also by Pro-Cert, and subsequently so was the winery. We released our first organic wine (2008 Cabernet Rosé) to excellent consumer and critical results in April of this year. So the "organic winery club" has grown by 100%! Frogpond will always be first, but they are no longer "only." I know that we are eager for the "club" to get much larger, because that will mean that more growers will be giving up synthetic fertilizers and pesticides which will be better for all of us.

While we are Ontario's second organic winery after Frogpond, we are Canada's first (and currently only) biodynamic winery.

Biodynamics takes organics to a whole new level, and honours the vineyard as a self-sustaining, living system. And to add to our "serious

green cred," our building is also certified LEED Gold.

**Elena Galey-Pride,
Southbrook Vineyards,
Niagara-on-the-Lake**



The red male cardinal in an old cedar on Manitoulin Island gives Christmas colours in nature. PHOTO BY JOHN SAVAGE



Photographed by Bruce Fielding from a chairlift at Osler Bluffs overlooking Georgian Bay near Collingwood.

Trudi Down's reply:

I'm glad that you saw the article in *Escarpmnt Views*, and I appreciate receiving your comments and learning about Southbrook Vineyards. It's great to learn that there is more than one organic winery in the province. I did of course try to research and verify that Frogpond was the only certified organic winery in Ontario as is claimed, and all sources (via the Internet) seemed to confirm this. It is also interesting to learn that you are a certified *biodynamic* winery.

Thanks for taking the time to contact me. I do appreciate it.

Trudi Down

