

## View From the Editor's Desk: Ways to Help Good Causes



*Escarpment Views* was a media partner for the Guelph Organic Conference in late January. At a conference dinner, Gary Hirshberg, chairman of organic yogurt producer Stonyfield Farm, explained that the biggest objection people have to buying organics is not the principle, which most people agree with, but price. He pointed out that the cost of non-organic food keeps going up because the need for such inputs as fertilizers and chemicals keeps increasing. Organic agriculture, on the other hand, actually costs less over time because natural, sustainable practices keep enriching the soil. He also suggested that people don't have to buy all organic food in order the help the organic industry be able to lower prices. He said that even buying a few organic products on occasion will help organic agriculture thrive and grow. I hadn't thought of this before and I find it a manageable idea.

### Help For Haiti

Also in January, our blog at [www.EscarpmentViews.ca](http://www.EscarpmentViews.ca) was busy sharing information about how to help Haiti. We heard from a couple of organizations based in Escarpment-area communities that are working to help the country survive and rebuild: Helping Hands for Haiti, out of Halton Hills, and Habitat for Humanity Halton, of Burlington. Then there was the son of shopkeeper Noëlle Smith of ellénoire of Dundas, who was excited about a swim meet the Golden Horseshoe Aquatic Club of Hamilton was holding to raise \$10 from each swimmer to benefit Haiti. Of course even as you read this, Haiti will continue to need assistance.

Yet as Hirshberg said, small amounts add up to make a difference.

### Help the Niagara Escarpment

Here's another way to help with a small amount. *Escarpment Views* has teamed up with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) to give them \$5 from each new or renewing subscriber who asks us to. EBC works to conserve natural spaces close to the Niagara Escarpment. In total so far, they have protected over 29 sq km. They say that every \$5 they receive allows them to acquire the land under 15 trees. To benefit EBC when you subscribe

or renew, just let us know you want \$5 to go to them.

### Award Nomination

I'm pleased to share the news that *Escarpment Views* has been nominated for Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur of the Year Award, enthusiastically supported by two of our Halton Hills advertisers, Foodstuffs and Jill Johnson of Johnson Associates. The award goes to businesses established for less than three years, making the magazine eligible. We're starting our third year of publishing *Escarpment Views*. We enjoy taking part in our local Chamber of Commerce, and are happy with this support.

### Original Art

We are honoured to have won the attention of an impressive artist, Paul Morin, who has a studio on Main Street in Erin. He approached us with the unusual idea of painting a spring view of the Escarpment, as our centre spread for our spring issue. Who could resist such a compliment from such an accomplished fine artist? I'm deeply touched to share his work "Sunrise, Spring Equinox, Limehouse" in this issue, and I'm interested to find out what you think of featuring paintings like this instead of photographs. While we will continue to pub-

lish photographs, we're open to including fine landscape art like Morin's on occasion. Is this a good or bad idea?

### Spring Issue

Also in this issue, we present our annual feature on maple syrup festivals. March is a great time to look forward to the increasing warmth of spring by treating the family to a celebration of our local natural sweets. This year we explore the old First Nations' method of producing maple syrup. It should make you appreciate the ease of going to a farm or specialty store and picking up a bottle.

We bring you up close to Ontario's only venomous snake, the misunderstood and often persecuted Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake. Our photographer Scott Currie wants to advise everyone to stay clear should you see one, and not to attempt a close up without a telephoto lens.

If you're more of a literary person, you will enjoy reading about the print and paper lovers who bunch up at the Wayzgoose in Grimsby each year.

But pretty much everyone will enjoy the views of the tulip gardens at Royal Botanical Gardens each spring. The season of delicate beauty is again upon us!

*Gloria*

Gloria Hildebrandt, Editor