

Escarpment Views

❄ Winter 2010

Reflecting Niagara Escarpment lifestyles & values



**All aboard! Christmas past at
Westfield Heritage Village**

**Headed for extinction? Black Bears on the Bruce
End of an Amazing Dollhouse Collection**

Misty Ingraham's local harvest combinations

Independents Matter! Booklore, Curiosity
House, and Ginger Press Pick Gift Books

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POLITICIANS ALONG THE ESCARPMENT

This issue, with municipal elections behind us, we take a look at the Niagara Escarpment and its political boundaries. Did you know that the entire Niagara Escarpment geological feature is actually international? The southeastern end begins along the south shore of Lake Ontario in the United States, and the Escarpment enters Canada at Queenston near Niagara Falls. The northern end passes through Tobermory and along

Manitoulin Island, where it re-enters the United States and curves south along the western side of Lake Michigan.

In Canada, there are **16 federal and provincial political ridings** that encompass or are in close proximity to the Niagara Escarpment geological area. Most of these ridings, whether federal or provincial, have the same boundaries. Of the 107 total members in the Ontario Legislative Assembly, 15 per cent represent an area of the Niagara Escarpment. The same is true for the Canadian Parliament, with 15 per cent of the Ontario members, or five per cent of the entire House, representing the Escarpment.

This adds up to a lot of people! Including the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, who oversees the Niagara Escarpment Commission, there are 33 elected federal and provincial politicians on or near the Niagara Escarpment. All of the provincial parties, including the leaders of two parties, and half the federal parties, have members in these ridings. **This is a significant representation.** At the same time, it can be fragmented and not unified enough. While politicians must care about their local constituencies, “keeping it local” as the saying goes, this can distract them from considering the Niagara Escarpment as a whole.

The Escarpment is a contiguous, international entity that should be looked at as a significant geological and natural resource that could serve as an example to the world, of far-sighted resource management and entrepreneurial ventures that provide sustainable jobs without destroying the very feature that makes these opportunities possible. We urge our federal and provincial officials to think outside of the “election boundary” box and **emphasize their care for the Niagara Escarpment as a whole.**

For the convenience of our readers, on page 25 we’ve listed the contact details and party affiliations for our federal and provincial representatives. We also acknowledge the large number of elected officials at the municipal level, as well as appointed citizens who work hard for the good of the Niagara Escarpment although there are far too many to list.

When considered all together, there should be no doubt that many, many people have the responsibility for protecting, preserving and making the best use possible, of the marvellous, international and world-recognized wonder that is the Niagara Escarpment.

Also in this issue, we look to the northern, central and southern parts of the Escarpment area. We learn about studies done on black bears of the Bruce Peninsula, we peek at 19th-century Christmas traditions of Upper Canada, and we note the passing of an important dollhouse collection that used to exist in Fort Erie. Time passes, and what once was, may never be the same again. This needs to be kept in mind about the Escarpment itself. **What took eons to form can be chipped away in a few decades, but never restored. Once gone, it’s forever.**

Mike

Mike Davis, Co-publisher

A vertical advertisement for Glen Eden ski resort. The top half features a snowboarder in a bright green jacket and black helmet, carving a turn on a snowy slope against a clear blue sky. The text "GET READY FOR SOME WINTER FUN" is written in large, white, distressed capital letters across the top. Below the snowboarder, the text "Glen eden" is written in a large, black, cursive font, with "MILTON ONTARIO" in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters underneath. Further down, "lift tickets from \$20" is written in a large, green, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website "gleneden.on.ca" is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. The entire advertisement is set against a blue background with a green border at the bottom containing the word "SKIBOARD" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

Views From Our Readers



Shy fawn and mother, photograph by **John Savage**, Sheguiandah, Manitoulin Island



We first saw him (or her) towards the end of August. (I understand that chipmunks have two litters during the summer, so perhaps this little guy was from the second litter). This little chipmunk is only seen from time to time, as he is a little more timid than the others, who are often quite brazen in their antics! We think that's a good thing, as he is very visible with his white coat and would, unfortunately, be an easy target for a predator. He often runs for cover into the woods on our property, which is in Kleinburg, on conservation land.

Marsha Lomis, Kleinburg

Chris Mills's lively account of the re-enactment of the Battle of Ridgeway (*Escarpment Views*, Autumn 2010) reminds me of regimental history I learned many years ago when I was enrolled in a storied army reserve unit. Along with the scarlet-coated soldiers of the 13th Battalion and other regiments were the militiamen of the Queen's Own Rifles in their dark green uniforms. Formed in 1860, the Queen's Own is one of the oldest military units in Canada, having also served in both world wars. But in 1866, the Toronto-based regiment was called into action to help quell an invasion of 1500 Fenian raiders who crossed the Niagara River, north of Fort Erie.

Unlike the Fenians – those battle-scarred U.S. Civil War veterans who despised the British – the Canadian militiamen were ill-trained and more poorly-equipped than their American counterparts. Confusing orders and miscommunication led to the first casualties suffered by the Toronto rifle regiment, which still fought with distinction and great pride. Eventually, the Irish-American zealots panicked when they sensed they'd be facing heavy British reinforcements and scurried back to the New York side.

The participants in this re-enactment are to be commended for their attention to detail and dedication to accurately portraying a skirmish which helped shape a country that was to undergo a national transformation in 1867. Thanks to Chris Mills and *Escarpment Views* for presenting this vivid account.

Ed Laba, Mississauga



Borer's Falls, Hamilton, photograph by **Chris Hamilton**

In response to Ian Pirie's letter in the Autumn 2010 Escarpment Views: While I appreciate Ian's point that you have to go "off the beaten path" to see rattlesnakes, he really should not be encouraging people to do that - one of the reasons we encourage people to use the "beaten path" is to protect the habitat of Species at Risk such as the Massasauga Rattlesnake. Please, stay ON the "beaten path"!

Caroline Mach, Mansfield

Just wanted to tell you I really enjoyed the article about the Fenian Raids.... nice job. You all do a great job reporting on these historical events (Milton and Fenian Raids), always a pleasure to read well written articlesand well researched too!! Thank You

Donna Elliott (AKA Miss Annabelle)
Communication Officer, American Civil
War Historical Re-enactment Society



"Sunset by Lyal Island, Lake Huron,"
oil painting by **Sue Dymant**



"Snow Fence" photograph by **Carol Ann White, Wiarnton**



"No Picnic!" photograph by
Carol Ann White, Wiarnton



"Quietly Waiting" photograph by **Carol Ann White, Wiarnton**

Worth the Visit:

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Vital Statistics

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Store opened:

Official opening May 2010

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Why it's worth the visit:

"I visit stores in Toronto and Mississauga and price the items I sell much lower. I am now confident that my prices are better and my service is more personal."

The drama unfolds at Topnotch Consignment Furnishings as room upon room of pre-owned furniture awaits exploration.



Keith Thoy presides over a fascinating variety of furnishings and art.



Highly collectible mid-century modern suites and individual pieces are available.



Christmas

This 1910 TH&B Consolidation type steam locomotive at Westfield Heritage Village is one of only two left in the world. Ruby West, Sam Cooper and Dan Sherritt, portraying Father Christmas, check it out.



TORONTO HAMILTON & BUFFALO RY.

Past at Westfield Heritage Village

By Gloria Hildebrandt Photos by Mike Davis

If preparing for Christmas starts to feel hectic, rushed and too commercial, and if the true spirit of the season seems to be missing, there's a place close to the Niagara Escarpment to experience a slower-paced, old fashioned Christmas.

Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton near Hamilton offers a step back in time to Christmas traditions of the 19th century in rural Upper Canada. Here you might see and be inspired by understated decorations made by hand out of everyday household materials or gathered from nature. You may see old

Christmas Past at Westfield Heritage Village

In Santa's railway car, Matthias Cooper doesn't seem worried at being shown a lump of coal.

Volunteer Gerald Ripley portrays a toymaker of wooden intricacies.



Some Christmas Milestones

Courtesy of Westfield Heritage Village

- 1510 Record of a decorated Christmas tree at Riga, Latvia
- 1610 Tinsel is invented in Germany
- ca. 1660 Record of a Christmas tree lit with candles in Germany
- ca. 1880 Tree ornaments are manufactured in Europe
- 1819 John Lewis Krimmel's sketch of an American family with a Christmas tree on the table is released
- 1822 German merchants living in England are seen with decorated trees in their homes
- 1833 Red pointsettias are sold in Philadelphia
- 1841 Christmas crackers are manufactured in England
- 1843 Charles Dickens writes *A Christmas Carol*
- 1846 *The Illustrated London News* publishes a picture of the British royal family around a Christmas tree, popularizing the table-top tree.
- 1848 *A Visit From Saint Nicholas* by Clement Moore is published. This becomes known as *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*
- 1880 Woolworth's sells German glass ornaments
- 1882 Electric Christmas tree lights are sold in New York
- 1896 Eaton's first Christmas catalogue
- 1939 Robert May creates Rudolf, the red-nosed reindeer as a Christmas promotion for a U.S. department store



Matthias Cooper in a man's hat that's a bit too big.



A careful adjustment makes a difference.



Night, night, sleep tight! Lockhart House contains a bed with strings wound tight for a good sleep.



Natural, simple decorations make for a festive Christmas at Westfield Heritage Village.



The kitchen corner in Lockhart House displays some 19th-century domestic necessities.



Volunteering at Westfield requires dedication.



Lovingly made by hand: Christmas tree ornaments of wood shavings, wool and ribbon, doilies and clothespins.

houses, buildings, windowsills and even the old Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo steam locomotive decorated with evergreens or other seasonal treasures. Father Christmas in Victorian costume may make an appearance.

Westfield Heritage Village is described as a living history museum. More than 35 historical buildings have been saved from demolition, moved, and carefully restored to form the village. Volunteers dressed in period costume are ready to interpret buildings and their contents, and give demonstrations of bygone activities.

"Westfield is one of the most interesting historical destinations in Ontario," declares Sarah Gauden of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, which manages the village for the current owner, the City of Hamilton.

How the Village Came to Be

The heritage village was the idea of Glenn Kilmer and Goldie MacDonell, high school teachers in Brantford. In 1960 they bought the land where the village is now located, and eventually rescued the Jerseyville railway station, moving it to become the first building on site. Additional buildings have come from all over southern Ontario.

"Some were moved whole, some were sawn in half and moved in two pieces, and others were dismantled and rebuilt, log by log," explains Rondalyn Brown, manager of Westfield Heritage Village.

In addition to these historic buildings, there are some authentic reproduction structures. Items donated from the community have created a collection of more than 25,000 artifacts.

The visitors who go to the village are mainly young families and adults over 50, but people of

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A Parks Canada researcher measures the size of a bear cub's head. This measurement is an indicator of growth rate and the health of the cub.

At Risk: Black Bears of the Bruce

By Kelly Babcock Photos courtesy Bruce Peninsula National Park except where noted

The Bruce Peninsula's width spreads from low sandy western shores to rugged eastern cliffs that drop to deep water. Recent studies show that since the mid 1800s deforestation to the south has been impacting wildlife and creating unseen barriers, open spaces which are avoided by animals who make the forested areas their homes. One of the more notable examples is *Ursus Americanus*, the black bear.



Peninsula

The bear's traditional migratory corridors no longer exist; travel to find other black bear populations requires miles of walking in open country, a perilous task for the bear to undertake. The risk is being killed on roadways or shot

as nuisance bears. Ethan Meleg, promotion and visitor information coordinator for Bruce Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park says "To put it simply, if you were a peninsula black bear, the dating options became limited!"

Some experts say the survival of the peninsula bear is far from assured. Frank G. Burrows, resource management specialist and park superintendent at Bruce Peninsula National Park, says that a study conducted by Parks Canada and the Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources shows the long term viability of this population is at risk. This would be a great loss, since this study also shows this segregated population is a contained gene pool. They have become genetically distinct.

Ministry of Natural Resources shows the long term viability of this population is at risk. This would be a great loss, since this study also shows this segregated population is a contained gene pool. They have become genetically distinct.

At Risk: Black Bears of the Bruce Peninsula



Researchers prepare an anaesthetized female bear for den study measurements. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Bruce Peninsula National Park partnered to conduct a focused research project from 1998 to 2006.



Measuring a bear in the den study. Bears were also weighed, had their blood, hair and a tooth sampled, and their radio collars checked or replaced, so their movements could be tracked from spring to fall.

Miracles of Survival

We know deforestation has an effect on air quality and thus an impact on humans, but here is an example of our land use practices directly affecting a group of animals that are considered miracles of survival. Bears are

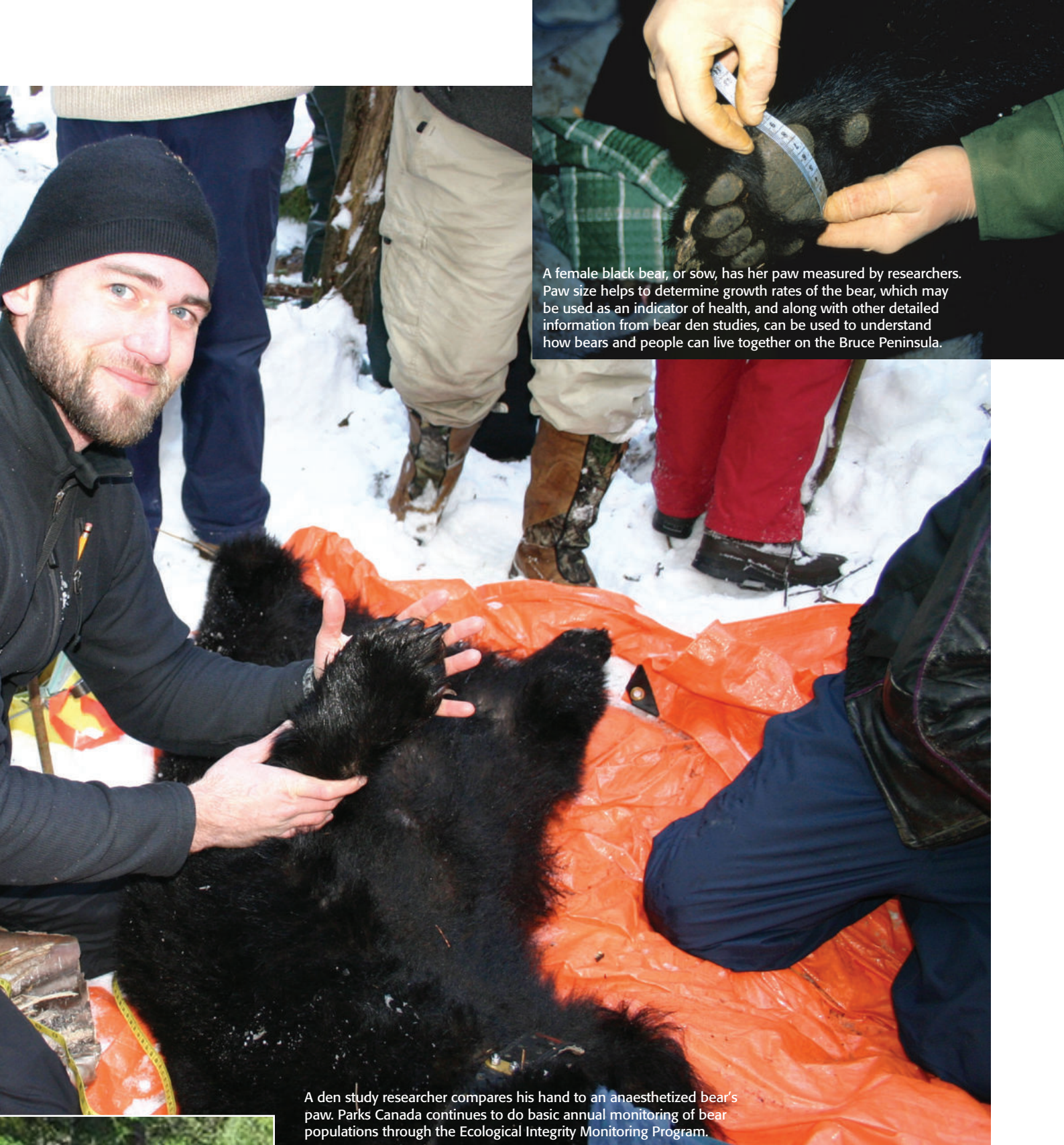
not true hibernators; their temperature doesn't drop drastically; they produce no body waste and lose up to half their body weight during this period referred to by some as "denning."

Jody Scheifley, acting Grey County biologist with the



Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), adds that black bears awake feeling a hunger beyond anything we could imagine, and this happens at a time when food is scarce. Buds and grass roots make up the bulk of their diet in early spring. Augmented by

a few insects this is still barely enough. Weight gain is unlikely at this time, but is imperative before their next hibernation if they are to survive. In early June through to early August, berries help the bears pack on the pounds and nuts and tree fruits



A female black bear, or sow, has her paw measured by researchers. Paw size helps to determine growth rates of the bear, which may be used as an indicator of health, and along with other detailed information from bear den studies, can be used to understand how bears and people can live together on the Bruce Peninsula.

A den study researcher compares his hand to an anaesthetized bear's paw. Parks Canada continues to do basic annual monitoring of bear populations through the Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program.



The increasing loss of black bears' woodland habitats and natural food sources causes some bears to scavenge where they can, risking death by becoming a nuisance. Here, a bear gets close to humans at a campground. Photo by Kathryn Anderson.

such as apples are the fare in autumn. Being omnivorous, bears will add small animals to this diet to prepare for the winter months.

When berry and nut crops fail, the scarcity of food is made worse by the loss of woodlands

due to deforestation. Bears must find alternate sources of sustenance. The MNR teaches through their Bear Wise program that three of these sources are garbage, bird feeders

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Wintry Badlands, Caledon
By Mike Davis

This is the End: Mildred Mahoney's Doll's House Collection

Words & Photos by Chris Mills

The definition of a dollhouse for Mildred Moudry, a poor little French girl born in Niagara Falls December 13, 1918, was a wood slat crate with a Sunkist Oranges label on it.



Bertie Hall, Fort Erie, was the site of the Mahoney Doll's House Collection auction on Aug. 14.



In 1932 Mildred's mother took her to see a travelling exhibit of the "Million Dollar Castle," an elaborate dollhouse owned by American actress Colleen Moore. This seemingly innocent event set a standard toward which Mildred would aspire, and exceed, the rest of her life.

Times were tough, and rumours say she became a cigarette girl at the Hilton Hotel in Buffalo, New York, and that a beauty contest figured prominently.

She met successful criminal attorney William B. Mahoney, 20 years her senior and the son of a powerful Buffalo, New York, family. His



Mildred's starter doll home was this orange crate. Courtesy Fort Erie Historical Museum.

This is the End: Mildred Mahoney's Doll's House Collection



marriage to this little upstart from Niagara Falls may have scandalized the family.

Dream Dollhouses

They owned a waterfront property on Lake Erie in Crystal Beach, Ont., just down the street from the famed amusement park, from where she began to collect and create the dollhouses of her dreams. She travelled the U.S., Canada, and Europe, attending exhibitions and visiting galleries of dollhouses and miniaturist pieces.

Dollhouses are a unique world culture in which you can easily pay almost as much for a miniature armchair, stove or staircase as you would for the real thing. Chandeliers can cost close to \$500 today.

Furniture and materials from European

manufacturers Biedermeier, the most prestigious maker of miniaturist collectibles, and Gottschalk, formed the foundation of Mildred's new pastime.

Detail and authenticity are paramount. She sewed tiny lace curtains and reupholstered antique furniture with brocades and velvets from her cache of antique fabrics. Over the next 37 years she compiled hundred of pieces of staircases, chairs, materials, and houses, in addition to finished dollhouses, prompting an influx of collectors and historians to visit.

Replications of mansions, palaces, shops and historic homes dated from the 19th century to 1980, but the full collection ranged from c.1780, including a house that was owned by seven generations of family before Mildred acquired it.

Mildred M. Mahoney put together a dollhouse collection valued at \$800,000.



Historic Bertie Hall housed the significant Mildred M. Mahoney's Doll's House Collection since the 1980s.



Magnificent obsession: Mahoney sewed lace curtains and reupholstered tiny antique furniture with brocades and velvet.

A Jacobean room had furniture made from 200-year-old oak. A Japanese palace came with Hina Matsuri dolls. Most were so large they'd overflow a typical card table, although some ranged up to 11 feet across.

Bertie Hall

But in 1982 Mildred's husband died, prompting the hunt for a permanent home for her

collection. She persuaded the Niagara Parks Commission to buy the Bertie Hall mansion, an authentic 1826 historic home overlooking the Niagara River.

The Commission leased it to the Town of Fort Erie, which then rented it to Mildred M. Mahoney's Doll's House Collection for \$1 a year, plus upkeep. Her collection was valued at approximately \$800,000.

She formed a non-profit foundation that, through liquidating her assets, provided enough money to give each dollhouse its own electrical wall outlet, and to acquire climate control to protect the centuries-old pieces that would otherwise have suffered the ravages of heat and humidity. Over the years, more were donated to

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The attention to detail in the vast collection drew historians and collectors to Bertie Hall.



The auction of the collection realized less than 10 per cent of the original value.



Misty's View

OF LOCAL HOLIDAY PAIRINGS

This summer I got really excited by the go-local initiatives that emerged in farmers' markets, in the LCBO, and in conversations about the environment all along our unique, long rock. Things that are close to home are being celebrated as never before with new enthusiasm and pride. Gone is the allure of the imported; here to stay is the growth of our local markets. So, whether it is to be on our tables or

in our wine glasses, this winter season is an excellent time to continue the celebration of all things local.

Let's look first to the glass

Here are some of my favourite local VQA whites under \$20 that will pair beautifully with holiday roast turkey, duck or chicken. They will also function as delicious wines for hors d'oeuvres or anti-pasto parties.

- ♦ Guilty Men 2009 White from Malivoire –\$14.95
- ♦ Flourish 2009 Riesling Vidal – \$10.95
- ♦ S & C Trend Chardonnay/Pinot Grigio –\$13.95
- ♦ Tawse Sketches of Niagara 2008 – \$19.95
- ♦ Henry of Pelham 2009 Sibling Rivalry white –“the triumvirate of Riesling, Chardonnay and Gewürztraminer – \$13.95
- ♦ Cave Spring Cellars 2007 Chardonnay – \$13.95

If you prefer a red wine with turkey, test a pinot noir from Tawse or check out the other great reds available from the above vintners. But don't

just take my word for it; these wines come with detailed tasting notes on their labels and many wineries offer the exact composition of their wines, the number of bottles produced and more, on their websites. Also, don't forget how much fun it is to take a road trip for a taste-before-you-buy option!

Now to the table

Here are some suggestions to bring the local harvest into your home. If you were inspired by my last column about the harvest, you might have experimented with oven roasting, or old-fashioned preserving some of our lovely fall produce. Our great-grandmothers would have called it “putting up” their fruit. Or you may have blanched and flash-frozen garden peas or beans and plan to serve them with special pride this holiday season.

If you need to look to others for this taste of fall, then source products that were prepared at the close of the season. Boutique gourmet shops often sell artisan-style treasures. Three such places come to mind: Kurtz Orchards Gourmet Foods in Niagara-on-the-Lake, The Greenville Gourmet in Greenville, and Picone Fine Foods in Dundas. These specialty shops show up wherever there is a demographic and an interest in supporting the best products that come from our special land.

So when entertaining:

- ♦ Pair local fruit preserves with any cheese from Quebec
- ♦ Look for locally produced wine jellies, like Castlefield's Fine Wine and Liqueur Jellies, to serve with your roasts, or on toasts
- ♦ Add flash-frozen strawberries or blueberries to apple crumbles for a subtle reminder of summer
- ♦ Research where to find locally raised free-range fowl and give your guests a taste of something completely different from the battery birds
- ♦ Support your neighbourhood gourmet butcher shop who will likely have an intimate relationship with area farmers
- ♦ Artisanal bakers handcraft their breads daily using no preservatives. Get them fresh and often to enhance all of your needs.
- ♦ Finally, remember that all of these wonderful creations make very special gifts. Wineries, gourmet shops and bakeries gear up for the holiday season. And stores like Kurtz Orchards have on-line gift baskets and will customize your requests, package them and send them out!

Celebrate this holiday season by using the fruits of our home-grown, locally developed fare and give an important nod to the extraordinary food and wine growers on the Escarpment!

Misty Ingraham of Ancaster is co-owner of the catering business The Portable Feast at Home.

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Christmas Past at Westfield Heritage Village

Continued from page 11

all ages can find elements to enjoy, especially at the many special events that are held throughout the year. There are also educational programs that are provided to groups of schoolchildren. Westfield has also set the stage for weddings as well as some films.

Volunteer Life

Westfield is a living history museum in large part due to the dedication of its volunteers who serve as costumed interpreters. There are more than 300 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds.

"We have retired professors, teachers, business people, and ministers," says Janet Knowles, co-ordinator of volunteers. "We also have a large number of youth and junior volunteers. Many of our youth have grown up here at Westfield as their parents came to volunteer. We have a number of families who volunteer together,

and it adds so much to our village life. Our youngest is a babe in arms, and the entire family, parents and five children, are here."

The process of becoming a volunteer at Westfield involves an application, interview, orientation and education on safety and policies, and discussions with interpreters. Volunteers can choose where they would like to spend their time.

"Why do they volunteer?" muses Knowles. "For as many reasons as there are people. Young people start because they need hours, and they love it and stay. Others want to give back something to their community. Others come because a volunteer had such an impact upon them when they were here for the education program as children. Others love history and want to be involved. We care about each other here, and it does become a second family. It's a wonderful place to be, to learn and to give to our visi-

tors whether they be children or adults."

Early Canadian Christmas Traditions

Christmas trees were introduced to Upper Canada by settlers of German descent before Queen Victoria's German husband Prince Albert made them popular in Britain, but they were not practical for the small log cabins of most early Canadians.

Instead, log cabins might have the door decorated with a wreath of evergreens, the fireplace mantle might be hung with a garland, and greenery might be formed into a ball and hung from a rafter. Pine cones, winter berries, nuts, feathers, dried flowers and other treasures from the garden or forest were used as decorations. Stockings were hung on bedposts or the mantle.

Gifts were also simple. Gingerbread, apples and oranges were special treats. Wooden toys were

made by hand. Articles of clothing were often made for Christmas. Talented children made gifts of potpourri, pomander balls, while boys might make wood boxes and girls hemmed handkerchiefs and knitted socks, scarves or mittens.

Christmas cookies and hard candy that was flavoured with peppermint or cherry juice were favourites. Mincemeat pie and plum pudding topped off Christmas dinner, after which simple parlour games might be played. Neighbours and family members would travel to visit each other if weather permitted.

Traditions like these will be displayed and discussed by costumed interpreters at the village. For more information about the special events this December, see www.westfieldheritage.ca or call 519 621 8851 or 1 800 883 0104.

For information about volunteering at Westfield, call Janet Knowles at 519 621 8851.



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At Risk: Black Bears of the Bruce Peninsula

Continued from page 15

and dirty barbecues. Scheifley says in rare instances livestock may be on the menu. These sources lead to bears becoming nuisances, a crime they don't understand but one that can carry a death sentence. The MNR prefers to dissuade bears from nuisance activities by aversion therapy. This involves loud noise as well as beanbags and rubber bullets being fired at the bear. Hopefully the bear associates the pain, rather than the food source he might have found, with the location.

Death by humans, including accidental kills on roads and highways as well as bears shot for property protection and hunting season harvests, causes a gender-specific problem. A male that is killed represents a great loss, but one male can fertilize several sows and so can fill in a vacancy left by another with little extra effort. The killing of a sow, however,

is much worse. Each female lost can represent the loss of up to 11 bears, herself and the ten cubs she could have produced.

From the age of six, the adult female produces cubs every second year if food is plentiful, less often in lean times. The sow can breed more than once in each summer with one or more males. The fertilized eggs go through several cell divisions and then, for want of a better phrase, go into suspended animation. They don't attach to the womb wall at this time but remain viable until hibernation when the sow's body either reabsorbs the fertilized eggs, thereby performing an auto-abortion, or accommodates the eggs by allowing them to attach and restart division and growth.

Scheifley says what determines auto-abortion or proceeding with gestation is the weight gain and health of the mother. If she cannot survive gestation, birth and nursing during hibernation, the

abortion takes place, thereby allowing her another year to gain strength and weight. If she does give birth, she will be a full-time mother for more than a year. Her cubs will be born in the den and return with her to the den for a second hibernation. Cubs become self sufficient in their second summer, hibernating on their own from then. The mother then starts the cycle again, gaining weight and breeding. If all goes well, she will give birth again that winter.

Lost Habitat

Northern Bruce Peninsula has issued on average \$14.2 million in building permits yearly since 2005. In 2009 \$7.8 million of this was new housing, while nearly half a million was new industrial builds. These figures, available from the Eastnor Township Office, aren't a problem, but how many of these residential and industrial builds represent lost

habitat? Enough that those who would protect the environment are sharing a growing concern for much of the peninsula's wildlife, including the black bear.

While some may feel that the extinction of this small enclave of black bears would be no great loss, Meleg's thoughts resonate loudly in the mind of anyone who feels for the peninsula's environment. "Black bears are at the top of the food chain," he says. "While it's difficult to predict what specific effects their loss would cause, it would be a signal that something is seriously wrong in the ecosystem. All things are connected in ecosystems."

Kelly Babcock's family has lived for seven generations in the Escarpment area of Grey and Bruce Counties where he enjoyed a free-range childhood and where he remains out of love for the area. Kelly's website can be found at www.writeofway.ca.



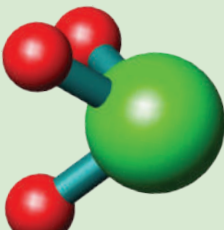
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MPP – Member of Provincial Parliament

This is the End: Mildred Mahoney's Doll's House Collection

Continued from page 21

the collection, including a toothpick house completed by someone in prison.

Mildred hired her best friend June Spears to curate, and part-timers to staff the exhibit and raise funds through bingo. Some of them remember Mildred as demanding, but fun, generous, but fickle.

"She'd call from home and ask us to close the Doll's House for an hour in order to get her some cough drops," said Yvonne Hopkins, a former summer student Mildred hired in 1983. "But she was also fun, and was always surrounded by a cloud of cigarette smoke. She'd call a friend out of nowhere and fly them to New York for an exhibition."

Julie Rivet, who ran bingo games in 1989, added "She never had children. She hated them. But she loved animals, loved her three boxers and her cats, and she was very active with the ASPCA in Buffalo."

They both attest that in her sixties, Mildred carried herself like a lady, fashionably dressed and immaculately coiffed. An existing portrait of her shows a handsome woman with Joan Crawford looks.

"She was very well groomed, but always kept her hair in a tight bun," said Julie.

Yvonne said, "Back then she always told me I should cut my hair. But when I saw her in hospital, she had this wonderful silver mane that hung down to her arms."

She maintained a tight rein over the Bertie Hall operation for the next few years until she contracted emphysema from a lifetime of smoking. Three days before Christmas in 1990, she died.

For the next 20 years, tourism, bingo and Mildred's estate financed the Doll's House, but eventually the tourists ran out, then the bingo, then the estate.

The pitiable entry fees couldn't support the expenses of operating the museum that, along with insurance for the house and the collection, ran in the neighborhood of \$100,000 a year.

Lawyer Steve Latinovich, executor of the foundation, says, "We did everything to cut back over the years. We had a voluntary board, and we tried for funding from various sources, including a one-year Trillium grant. But we just couldn't get the big one to keep us going."

The Auction

As stipulated in Mildred's will, the collection was auctioned. The biggest house went for \$11,000, most for considerably less. About 120 bidders,

former friends and rivals, showed up from New Jersey, Massachusetts, Delaware, and Canada. Long distance bidders filed from Florida, Maine, California and Illinois.

"It wasn't the biggest collection in the world, but we had the three top dollhouse buyers in America here," said Don Plato, of Don Plato Auctions in St. Catharines.

"About 10 per cent of the collection had been sold prior to auction because over the past few years it was needed to keep the place going. It's the same with museums everywhere: you need a new roof, you sell a few things."

Bertie Hall closed in August 2010. The auction realized a return of less than 10 per cent of the original \$800,000 value, and bills that continue to come in will reduce the take further. The final amount will be split between the Fort Erie SPCA, Cystic Fibrosis research and the Salvation Army.

The original orange crate from Mildred's youth is now in the possession of the Fort Erie Historical Museum.

Chris Mills is a writer and photographer in the Niagara Region. He only very rarely in any capacity whatsoever plays with dollhouses. He can be seen at www.chrismills.ca.

Events Along the Rock

Photos by Mike Davis

Please see www.EscarpmentViews.ca for more photos & listings!



Christine Gill talked about delphiniums at Plant Paradise Country Gardens' Delphinium Day on July 3.



Jennifer Woodburn demonstrated her painting style at "Artsburg" on July 17 in Clarksburg.



Despite the intense heat of the summer day, the leading pack of racers in Le Tour de Terra Cotta produced a rush of cool air as they cycled the 108-km signature event on Aug. 2.



Coming Events

Dec. 4, 11 & 18 **'Twas the Night Before Christmas**, Westfield Heritage Village westfieldheritage.ca
 Dec. 9 & 10 **Candlelight Tour of Ireland House**, Oakridge Farm, Burlington museumsofburlington.com
 Dec. 12 **Egg Nog Jog**, Terra Cotta Conservation Area eggnogjog.ca
 Dec. 31 **Orangeville's First Night Celebration**, Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre orangeville.ca
 Jan. 27-30, 2011 **Guelph Organic Conference**, Guelph University Centre guelphorganicconf.ca
 Jan. 29-30 **Guelph Organic Expo & Tasting Fair**, Guelph University Centre guelphorganicconf.ca
 to Feb. 4 **War on the Lakes: 1812-1814 exhibit**, Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation, Jordan npca.ca
 Feb. 5 **Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Festival**, Scenic Caves Nordic Centre sceniccaves.com
 Feb. 25 **Bay Area Restoration Council's 4th Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction** hamiltonharbour.ca

In the middle of intense residential development in the north of Brampton, FarmStart's McVean Farm helps new farmers to break into the farm business. The Aug. 29 Open House showed their wide variety of market crops being grown.



A pink Cadillac made of balloons stopped pedestrian traffic at downtown Georgetown's Rock'N'Roll'N Classics on Aug. 20.



Downtown Hamilton's 17-day Localicious festival was launched on Sept. 14 at the Art Gallery of Hamilton with delicious samples of local food dishes, wine and beer.



During a light rainshower on Sept. 8, Belinda Gallagher, head of horticulture at Royal Botanical Gardens, addressed a crowd at the opening of their newest demonstration garden, Veggie Village 100 Mile Garden.

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation hosted a 20th Anniversary Community Forum on Sept. 22 at Royal Botanical Gardens to share information on Hamilton and Halton-area projects and to present Bay Area Restoration Council with a cheque for \$5,000.



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Book Views

For more reviews of books, go to www.EscarpmentViews.ca

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Abandoned Ontario

By Bruce R. Brigham

"Houses are unique in that they hold tightly in their walls memories of the souls that were born, lived and sometimes passed over within," says photographer Bruce Brigham. In seeking out homes left abandoned, he strives to "capture them in their state today and their somewhat

ghostly existence in our so called modern society." The book includes images of abandoned houses in Grey County, Simcoe County, Dufferin County and Peel Region, including Caledon, Mississauga and Brampton. Architectural flourishes, stamped tin ceiling panels, discarded toys and furniture are presented in stark black and white, as well as a short description of the different

energies Brigham felt in each house. Many of the properties are found in the Hills of Headwaters, including "Haunted Elba" in the township of Mono where heavy footsteps followed by a metallic crash from the floor above seemed determined to drive him out.

Self published, 2010, \$45.00

Reviewed by Tracey Fockler
of BookLore, Orangeville



Aggie's Dream

by Donna Mann

Agnes Macphail was the first woman elected to Parliament in Canada. But you knew that, right? Maybe you didn't know that she was born, grew up and represented Grey County in both the federal and provincial governments. Author Donna Mann has been intrigued by this remarkable woman for many years. She re-created her childhood

in *Aggie's Storms* and her recently released second book chronicles Aggie's high school years (1906-1908) in Owen Sound. Titled *Aggie's Dream*, this book explores the teenage years of the headstrong young woman who was destined to become a leader in national and international politics. The author dedicates *Aggie's Dream* to "young people who have a dream of something in life bigger than themselves, who struggle to develop that dream

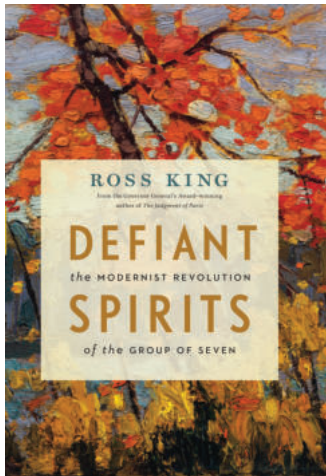
into reality where they can see the image in their mind's eye and who make it their own, having the courage to live it out." This well-researched book is an excellent read for everyone looking to understand the past with a view to making a difference in the future.

Bruce Dale Press, 2010, \$20

Reviewed by Maryann Thomas
of The Ginger Press Bookshop
and Café, Owen Sound

Defiant Spirits: the Modernist Revolution of the Group of Seven

By Ross King



For lovers of Canadian art the arrival of several new books is very exciting. *Defiant Spirits: the Modernist Revolution of the Group of Seven* by award winning author Ross King begins in 1912 with Tom Thomson and A.Y. Jackson heading out on a painting trip to Algonquin Park. In 1912 Thomson was still a painter of limited skill but Jackson had al-

ready studied art in Montreal and in Europe and was showing in his art the influence of the expressionist style seen in the work of European artists. Many of the eventual group met while working at the printing firm Grip Ltd. in Toronto and by 1914 had established studio space together in Toronto. The author deftly weaves together the individual lives of eight painters, those who were to become The Group of Seven in 1920 and Thomson who died tragically in 1917. Not only is this an in-depth biography of each man but also an accounting of the Canadian scene, politically and socially, from the perspective of art exhibitions and the controversy around the "innovative style" of Thomson and The Group. There are many black and white photographs of the artists and some colour plates but it is the author's thorough research and clear writing that tells this compelling story. The book has just been nominated for the 2010 Writers' Trust Non-Fiction Prize.

Douglas & McIntyre, 2010, \$36.95

Bateman New Works

By Robert Bateman



Another book of note is *Bateman New Work*, a wonderful collection of recent works featuring over 100 full-colour reproductions depicting

birds, mammals and other wildlife from around the world. In his introduction and 11 short essays, Robert Bateman shares his thoughts on nature, education, the environment and the role of art in the preservation of the wilderness. The coloured plates are beautiful and exquisitely detailed as his work is famous for. This is a lovely coffee table and the perfect gift.

Greystone Books, 2010, \$55.00.

Reviewed by Catherine Randall
of Curiosity House Books
& Gallery, Creemore.



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Foresight

The seeds of our future are taking root right now, for better or worse. This page shares better, forward-thinking ideas and celebrates significant environmental achievements that can help us lead the way in creating the Niagara Escarpment as a healthy, sustainable example of a thriving World Biosphere Reserve.

MALCOLM BLUFF SHORES PROTECTED

Malcolm Bluff Shores, a 233-hectare piece of the Niagara Escarpment on the Bruce Peninsula a little north of Owen Sound, was bought in March 2010 by Ontario Nature and The Bruce Trail Conservancy as the first part of a planned 400-hectare nature reserve. Two additional properties are to be purchased over the next two years, and Ontario Nature is currently raising the funds needed.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR MORE THAN CONSERVATION

"It is clear that we have already degraded the environment in the long-term and we have significantly compromised the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The lofty goal of sustainable development is, regrettably, off the table. What is actually 'sustainable' is not what we are doing, but something less. Something that involves making do with less and using what we have more wisely. This is not a choice for us; this is the reality being imposed on us by the world we have created.

"Perhaps it is time to reconsider those old values we called conservation. But even the conservation ideas of the previous century are not enough. We need more than that. We need a concept of conservation that is based in our new understanding of ecological processes and the appropriate use of resources. Our conservation ethic must consider the cumulative impacts of our activities, incorporate a precautionary approach to decision making and include intergenerational equity in our considerations. To be successfully applied, conservation ideals must be integrated into our economic system."

Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
Redefining Conservation,
Annual Report 2009/2010

TEEB PUTS ECONOMIC VALUE ON NATURE

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a study by the United Nations that has put a multi-trillion-dollar value on the global natural world.

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Lara Barbier, who writes a blog on a TEEB website, answers the question why value nature, with "[the] economic invisibility of nature is one of the key drivers of its destruction – by replacing natural areas with other land uses which do have visible economic values..."

More information: www.teeb4me.com



It is a great magazine. I gave subscriptions to friends when it launched and they just love it! And they in turn gave subscriptions to their family members. It's a great idea for a stocking stuffer.

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