

# Publishers' Diary: Blue Mountains In

By Gloria Hildebrandt Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

Mike and I work hard on *Escarpment Views*. Some days are harder than others. We had a particularly challenging and strenuous day on June 3 when Theatre Collingwood hosted a media day to launch their 2011 season.

We gathered at Blue Mountain Resort which had put out a breakfast spread of coffee, tea, fresh fruit, muffins, croissants and cereal. Leisa Way sang a couple of songs from her tribute to Dolly Parton at Theatre Collingwood. Way has a lovely voice and gives a strong impression of hit-maker

Parton. We met Dan Needles, playwright of the Wingfield Farm series and author of *Fair Play*, a new work for Theatre Collingwood.

Then we had to take a gondola ride up the Niagara Escarpment, which offered spectacular views of the Village of Blue Mountain, Collingwood and the surrounding terrain. On the way up, we passed birds singing at eye level in the tree tops. We first



The gondola ride at the Village of Blue Mountain offers spectacular views toward Georgian Bay.

# June

heard, then saw, a flicker. The gondola is popular with mountain bikers who have their bikes taken up in a special carrier so they can get as many thrilling rides down as possible.

Next we tackled the Ridge Runner, a new attraction at the Village. This is a sort-of self-controlled roller coaster car for one or two people. Mike and I each took a car and Mike



Leisa Way interpreted Dolly Parton in *Rhinestone Cowgirl* at Theatre Collingwood.



Dan Needles' *Fair Play* premiered at Theatre Collingwood in August.

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went first so he could photograph on the way up and go fast on the way down, without being held up by me.

I am not a fan of adrenalin rides. I enjoyed the sedate ride up the Escarpment, although I dreaded the ride down. Even though I could put the brakes on for my car, I didn't like the

descent, shooting downhill, angling on curves, taking corkscrew turns. I would probably get used to it with a few more rides, but honestly, it's not for me. Mike said he could see some people getting to the top, roaring down as rapidly as possible without braking, and having a complete blast.

Next was Scenic Caves, with steps leading up the Escarpment and past specific caves and rocks that have Aboriginal history and significance. Our summer 2011 issue featured Standing Rock, one of the important features here, which I explored for the first time on this trip. There are many more ele-



The new Ridge Runner at Blue Mountain provides thrills down the Escarpment.

ments of these caves with fascinating stories.

In the afternoon we had to go to Scandina-  
ve Spa where we had lunch that is prepared  
daily by Collingwood's Café Chartreuse. Then  
we changed into bathing suits to try out the  
series of sweat lodges and baths. The setting is  
beautiful, surrounded by tall trees with built

waterfalls cascading into pools of varying tem-  
peratures. Quiet is observed while soothing  
music sounds through the area. After trying  
the eucalyptus steam bath followed by a cold  
rinse, we relaxed in the warm pool, letting jets  
of water massage us. Then we moved on to try  
the wood-fired Finnish sauna. Mike could get

into the Nordic pool, even standing under the  
icy waterfall, but I wimped out without sub-  
merging in frigid water. We repeated the series  
with variations, as often as we felt, and ended  
up completely relaxed.

Publishing a magazine is terribly hard  
work...but someone has to do it. **EV**



Aboriginal history is rich at Scenic Caves.



Scandinave Spa offers hot and cold treatments for total relaxation. PHOTO COURTESY OF SCANDINAVE SPA.