

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.

## Free Tap Water in The Blue Mountains

This summer, restaurants, businesses and Town facilities in The Blue Mountains started participating in the Blue W Program, which lets people **refill reusable water bottles** with free Town tap water wherever they see a Blue W decal in the window.

## Get Outside to Get Healthy

*Toronto Star* reported in June that a couple of doctors in Burlington were prescribing walks in the woods and spending more time outdoors, or “**park prescriptions,**” to their patients. Walking trails, conservation areas and botanical gardens are locations they recommend.

## Hamilton's Ottawa Street Second-Greatest Street in Canada

Canadian Institute of Planners awarded Ottawa Street in Hamilton, **second place in their list of great streets** in Canada, for again becoming a great place to shop. First place went to Commercial Street in Nanaimo, B.C.

## Good Gravel

Environmental Defence Canada and Holcim (Canada) Inc. have established the organization Socially and Environmentally Responsible Aggregate, to work toward the certification of **responsibly sourced construction materials** which meet world-class social and environmental standards. For more, see [seracanada.ca](http://seracanada.ca).

## Cyclists Help Protect Habitat for Species at Risk

Conservation Halton recently began **working together** with Guelph Off-Road Bicycling Association and Campbellville Dundas Mountain Bike Group to protect a coldwater stream at Hilton Falls Conservation Area. The stream supports fish that need clean, cold water. Trails that were negatively impacting habitat for species at risk were decommissioned and a bridge was built over a coldwater stream of Sixteen Mile Creek. Members of these cycling groups support the protection of the natural environment.

Photo by Mike Davis.