



View From the Editor's Desk: WINTER BEGINS OUR FIFTH YEAR

Our launch of the Autumn issue on Sept. 4 in partnership with the City of St. Catharines in Lakeside Park, Port Dalhousie, was a success despite threatening weather. We met many people who were delighted with the Carousel that we hope we've made a little more famous. We certainly heard from a lot of people about how much they've enjoyed it over the years.

We've now completed our fourth year of publishing, quite an accomplishment for any business in these uncertain economic times. To celebrate, we hosted a Customer Appreciation

Day in early October for advertisers and subscribers and were happy to lead a group in a hike along the Niagara Escarpment, with many people taking photos. This was followed by a hot buffet supper with beverages, and a draw for an Escarpment Views gift basket, which was won by Steve Baksa of Oakville. We're looking forward to hosting our fifth anniversary celebration next fall.

This winter is a time to dress warmly, get out in the bright sunshine and enjoy some traditional or new outdoor activities in the Escarpment area. With skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, snowboarding or simply hiking quiet forest trails, there's no need to hibernate. Until you want to warm back up and relax. There are saunas, steam baths and perhaps spas to toast yourself in. Perhaps you want to snuggle up near a fire and indulge in some delicious food.

We know of shops, big and small, all along the Niagara Escarpment, that are dedicated to offering the very best to eat and drink.

If you like to stay inside and putter around your home, or love to see how other people live, this issue has plenty to offer. **Our Special Homes & Holidays issue** takes you inside the long-running Dundas Holiday House Tour, and shows how some people decorate their own homes for Christmas. We've highlighted some of the most delightful ideas to replicate in your own space. Our Niagara Region contributor, writer-photographer Chris Mills, has a jaw-dropping feature article about a renovation that is almost unbelievable. This may be the most amazing before-and-after story I've ever seen! I still shake my head when I look at the photos. And in this issue we present our

first War of 1812-related article with a story by Adam Shoalts, about the stone house that John DeCou built near Thorold, and the historic role it played in the conflict with our U.S. neighbours.

With this winter issue that begins our fifth year of bringing you the wonders along the Niagara Escarpment, we wish you Merry Christmas or whatever holiday you observe, Happy New Year, and even a loving Valentine's Day! Look for us again in the Spring, if you don't see us out and about before then.

Gloria

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P.S. Please protect the animals.