

Escarpment Views



Spring 2012

(March, April, May)

Reflecting
Niagara Escarpment
lifestyles & values

Annual Special
Garden Issue
**Pond & Waterfall
Gardens**

**Roses After the
Pesticide Ban**

Maple Syrup Time! White Meadows Farms

**Artist Robert Bateman's Love of
the Niagara Escarpment**

Misty's Way with Herbs

New! Buy Local Books from The Book Band! p. 42

Worth the Visit:

Heatherlea Farm Market | Islandview Farm Equipment | The McGibbon Hotel

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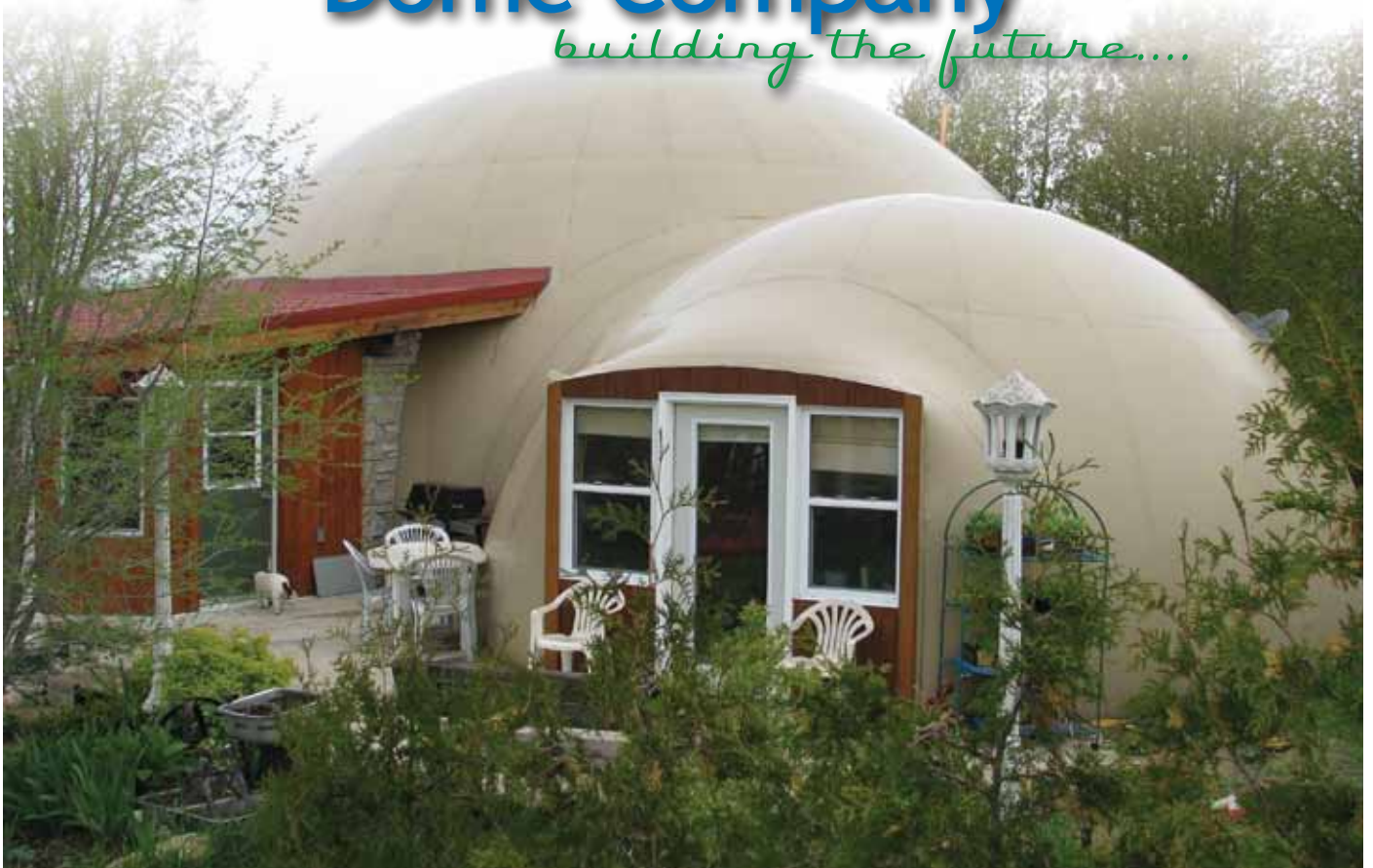
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Escarpment Views

✿ Spring 2012
(March, April, May)

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Photo by Mike Davis



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the Niagara Escarpment

Escarpment Views

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View From the Editor's Desk: THE BOUNTY OF NATURE

One of the 27 people who were honoured in January with The Order of Ontario is **Charles Garrad**, who contributed photos to, and was interviewed for the article "Mysteries of Ekarenniendi, 'The Rock that Stands Out'" [Summer 2011]. Garrad was recognized for being Ontario's longest serving licensed archaeologist, and for helping to register more than 90 archaeological sites in Ontario. We are delighted to add our congratulations!

Also in January, as a media sponsor for the Guelph Organic Conference, we attended an interesting keynote forum by **Miriam MacGillis** and **Margaret Webb** about agricultural transformation. Before the formal talk began, we chatted with **Monique Blais**, a biodynamic beekeeper with Whole Circle Farms of Acton. Now I have a slight interest in beekeeping because my father keeps one hive. Last fall he told me he didn't want to harvest all of the bees' honey. "They work all summer making honey for the winter, and then we take all their honey and leave them sugar water," he said. I had to agree that it didn't seem fair.

Monique mentioned that she doesn't take any honey until the blossoms are open in spring. She hasn't lost any bee colonies over the winter, either. Perhaps there's a connection? She said that she and "a woman in Collingwood" are practising biodynamic beekeeping. Later, at a reception hosted by USC Canada, where Southbrook organic wine was poured generously, we met **Linda Proudfoot** of Pretty River Inn, a new advertiser with us, and it turns out that she is that "woman in Collingwood." Small world.

Dessert at this reception was Linda's homemade shortbread cookies and four kinds of honey to sample, including Monique's. While all the honeys were excellent, I was amazed at the smooth creaminess of one honey without a hint of crys-



talization, or turning to sugar. When I asked the beekeeper, **Marianne Shlueter**, about her honey, she said she does nothing to it, and that the honey she was serving dates back to 2008! Then she silently handed me a tub of it to take home. It didn't last long.

If organic honey from healthy bees is harvested in spring it will join maple syrup as an almost-miraculous fruit of nature that we enjoy in this season. As we have done every year, we celebrate a local maple syrup festival

in this issue. This time it's White Meadows Farms' Sugar Bush Adventure, presented by our Niagara Region contributor **Chris Mills**.

This is also our annual gardening special issue, and we have two gorgeous features for you to study and dream over. We show some of the most beautiful and soothing pond and waterfall gardens in the Golden Horseshoe, and take a close look at how the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington is nurturing its rose garden without drugs.

Mike Davis has a full circle moment when he interviews the brilliant artist **Robert Bateman**, decades after first seeing his sketches. Bateman was very generous with his time and tales, giving us plenty of provocative and beautiful material to work with. If there's interest, we wouldn't mind sharing more from this extraordinary champion of nature in a future issue. Do let us know what you think of our issues. We pay close attention.

Gloria

Gloria
editor@EscarpmentViews.ca

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces. Keep wild spaces wild!

For back issues, events, photos and more, see
our website www.EscarpmentViews.ca

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We look forward to serving you!



Thanks for including the photo of me at the Zhiibaahaasing PowWow of Aug 2011. It's very beautiful, but I would like to clarify a little of the information that is in your caption. The dance wand I am carrying is of a horse and it honours my grandfather who owned horses. He did not serve with horses in WWII, he did serve and is a war veteran, but he didn't serve with horses. I don't want your readers to get the wrong information about my family history or my dancing. Once again thank you for including my photo and I hope to see you again maybe at another powwow up on the Manitoulin.

David Migwans, M'Chigeeng

I just want to let you know I'll be renewing my Escarpment Views.

**Pamela Johnston,
Georgia, U.S.A.**

My patients enjoy the magazine and I'm looking forward to receiving it as it's published.



The spread was SPECTACULAR! We heard wonderful things about the piece you did on the House Tour, and distributed MANY copies of the magazine. Thank you SO-O much for the amazing story!

Marg Taylor, Dundas



Your winter issue arrived this week – a great seasonal issue. Interesting articles, all well illustrated. And as usual, the centrefold never disappoints!

Cathy Watson, Toronto

Dr. Dana Selby, Acton

The magazines you gave me in the spring were impressive indeed. I had the pleasure of experiencing the beauty of it by kayaking the Lake Huron area in July, it was breathtaking! My fiancé is from that area and is familiar with the wrecks. The next time we head up there, we will take in more of the Georgian Bay area. Thank you for sharing, and capturing the beauty out there... so much to see.

Kathleen Olson, Ottawa

Received the latest issue of EV a week or two ago. Congratulations for continuing to battle on and maintain the quality (special kudos for the photos). Unless my memory is slipping, the magazine seems to have more content.

Brett Ibbotson, Toronto

December: Five new Nature Reserves

Our Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy was pleased to help five families ensure their favorite piece of land became a legacy for all of us to enjoy.

Dr. Watts donated a conservation agreement covering 32 acres with almost 500 metres of Lake Huron shoreline, just north of Goderich. Through this agreement, he ensured that the seven potential lots are never developed and his old log house remains the only one on the property.

Jim and Audrey McKichan found that the three lots they own on Hockley Road, east of Orangeville could not be developed since they're on steep Niagara Escarpment slopes. We helped them conserve the property, just 200 metres from Hockley Provincial Park.

Gunter Springer has conserved another 105 acres on the Bayview Escarpment near Meaford and close to the Bruce Trail.

Jan and Jean Gerhardt have conserved their 49-acre property just north and west of Erin. This Black Spruce swamp will never be drained, excavated or built over, but they continue to own it and will eventually sell it to others.

Members of the Stephens family in Glencairn helped our Conservancy to acquire four lots along the Mad River. Since these lots could not be developed, they decided to protect them and the route of the Ganaraska Trail in perpetuity.

If your family has property, or part of a property, which should never be mined for gravel or covered with houses, please contact us. You'll be surprised at the level of financial support that is available to encourage you to restrict development and leave your legacy for future generations.

**Contact: Bob Barnett,
executive director
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
503 Davenport Road
Toronto M4V 1B8
rbarnett@escarpment.ca
www.escarpment.ca**



The Stephens family of Glencairn helped the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy protect land like this along the Mad River.

Events Along the Rock

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



Fiona A. Reid held a show and sale on Nov. 6 of her work in oil, watercolour and pen and ink, at her studio in Speyside, Halton Hills.



At the Latorell Conservation Symposium on Nov. 17, Paul Aird, left, won a Pioneer Award for lifetime achievement to conservation in Ontario, for the study and protection of endangered birds, specifically the Kirtland's Warbler. Presenting the award is Bill Campbell.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper opened the Burlington Performing Arts Centre on Dec. 2 after the Burlington Teen Tour Band performed. With the Prime Minister is Andrew Frame of Burlington.

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Events Along the Rock



Conservation Halton celebrated the launch of the Mountsberg Shrike Recovery Project on Nov. 9. The Eastern Loggerhead Shrike is an endangered species of bird and a breeding facility for captive birds has been built to help increase numbers. Staff at Mountsberg hope to release hatchlings to the wild this year.



With the Niagara Escarpment in the background, this charming house on Hatt Street in Dundas was part of the Holiday House Tour on Dec. 3.



Massimo Capra of Mistura Restaurant and Sopra Upper Lounge, left, and Jason Parsons of Peller Estates Winery Restaurant, were two of the three authors who were signing copies of *3 Chefs: The Kitchen Men*, their collection of recipes, at Chez Fromage in Fonthill on Nov. 25.



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Runners, their spouses, partners and friends assembled at Feet in Motion, downtown Georgetown, on Dec. 3 for the annual Christmas Pub Run, which involves running or walking to a few local pubs and bars.



This brilliantly clever wreath made of door hinges and bolts hung as door chimes formed one of the decorated doors at Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington during Doorways to the Holidays, Nov. 26 to Jan. 8.

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Events Along the Rock



A Taste of Burlington, running Feb. 20 to March 11, was offered at Royal Botanical Gardens on Jan. 16. Several Burlington restaurants are offering a three-course menu at a special price.



Escarpment Views was a media sponsor at Tubbs' Romp to Stomp [Out Breast Cancer], a fundraising snowshoe race event that was held Jan. 21 at Scenic Caves Nordic Centre, Collingwood, at the base of the snow-dusted Niagara Escarpment.

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

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Worth the Visit:

HEATHERLEA FARM MARKET

Vital Statistics:

OWNERS: Pat & Gord McArthur

STORE OPENED: 2009

EXACT LOCATION: at the back of the farmhouse, in the old original part & the former garage

17049 Winston Churchill Blvd.

Caledon

519 927 5902

www.heatherleafarmmarket.ca

GOOD FOR: drug-free, animal-by-product-free black Angus beef from their own farm, similar chicken, turkey, wild boar, lamb, bison, pork & Berkshire pork from other farms, fish & seafood, Pat's homemade frozen meals, gourmet food products, pasta, rice, homemade baking, maple syrup from their own trees.

PHILOSOPHY: "Through the whole store, we focus on additive-free products with no preservatives," says daughter in-law Melinda McArthur. "We try to keep to local products as much as possible. We do have some Canadian & European food products & giftware."

THE EXTRA MILE: "We offer bulk meat sales, such as whole sides, which saves you money. We also do gift baskets & special-order prepared meals & baking."

WHY IT'S WORTH THE VISIT: "It's a different shopping experience. It's a nice drive & it's fun to come to the farm & for kids to see the animals. It's a more relaxed environment. You're usually meeting our family. We know a lot of customers by name. We like having those relationships. In the autumn we have a corn maze, wagon rides and a fun corral with a sandbox, tractor & straw jump. Last year we donated a portion of the proceeds to the Ontario Association of Food Banks."

PHOTOS BY: MIKE DAVIS



▲ Melinda McArthur in the first room of Heatherlea Farm Market holds one of Pat's frozen chicken pot pies. Fresh-baked bread is available weekends. In the back room are several freezers of frozen meat.



◀ Giftware and specialty foods include dried herbs, kitchenware, dried mushrooms, and pasta of organic kamut, chick peas, green or red lentils, vegetables or organic spelt.

▼ The farm market expanded into the second room, which beautifully displays more of the gourmet, local and specialty food products and giftware.



Worth the Visit:

ISLANDVIEW FARM EQUIPMENT

Vital Statistics:

OWNERS: Charlie & Susan Hughson
BUSINESS BEGAN: 1991

633520 Hwy 10
Orangeville
519 941 9098
www.islandviewfarmequipment.com

GOOD FOR: new farm equipment, specifically Mahindra tractors & accessories

PHILOSOPHY: "We want to make a living, not a killing. We make a day's pay, customers save a day's pay. We want customers to be happy and to come back."

THE EXTRA MILE: "We are more customer service-oriented because we still think like customers. We are a small family business dedicated to customer satisfaction."

EXTRA SERVICES: repairs to everything they sell; storage for RVs, cars & boats; community garden plots for rent.

WHY IT'S WORTH THE VISIT: "We give customers the best bang for their buck. We give personal, hands-on service, making sure that customers are fully schooled in proper safety and the operation of equipment. We don't want customers oversold or undersold."



Charlie & Susan Hughson of Islandview Farm Equipment provide friendly, personal customer service.

Mahindra Tractors available at
Islandview Farm Equipment
north of Orangeville.

PHOTOS BY: MIKE DAVIS



Islandview Farm Equipment
is an authorized dealer
of Mahindra Tractors.

Worth the Visit:

THE MCGIBBON HOTEL



A wide array of fresh, homemade salads is part of the \$11.50 lunch buffet.

Vital Statistics:

OWNERS: brothers Nick

& George Markou

SINCE: 1978

HOTEL OPENED: 1861

STRUCTURE: Substantial 3-storey red brick building at downtown main intersection, newly renovated front.

79 Main St. S., Georgetown
905 877 3388

GOOD FOR: a wide range of domestic & imported beers, wine, liquor, cocktails, mixed drinks. Live entertainment & dancing every Fri. & Sat. night. Catering. Private functions in Gibby's Back Door. Noted for chicken wings & "the best roast beef in town." Bar food every day from noon, except Thursdays & Fridays, 11:30a.m. to 2p.m. lunch buffet of wide array of homemade salads, hot roast beef & gravy, potatoes, vegetables. Plenty of choice for vegetarians. Generous sweets table of pies, squares, cookies, cakes, desserts, tea, coffee, all in for \$11.50 per person! Ask about their friendly ghost.

PHILOSOPHY: "There's something here for everyone."

THE EXTRA MILE: "We deal with local people & know generations of families. We're often at the funeral home. We do a lot of funeral luncheons. We're very generous to the people of Georgetown."

WHY IT'S WORTH THE VISIT: "We're old-style. The hotel has its own nostalgia to it. Everyone knows each other, knows the families." And the staff will talk about the ghost.



Shirley Timbers, carving the ham and roast beef, has worked at The McGibbon for 25 years. She is one of many staff members who have heard footsteps in the cellar and "felt something" of the friendly ghost after the Hotel has closed for the night.

The McGibbon Hotel at the four corners of historic downtown Georgetown dates back to 1861 and has been used for film projects.



"It's a family-run, hands-on operation," says Nick's wife Lynda Markou at the taps, behind the bar of The McGibbon Hotel.



PHOTOS BY: MIKE DAVIS

Sugar Bush Adventure at White Meadows Farms

Written & Photographed by
Chris Mills



White Meadows Farms is located on 600 acres west of Short Hills Provincial Park. About 180 acres are sugar maples, the best kind for maple syrup.



White Meadows Farms near St. Catharines draws crowds eager to experience a Sugar Bush Adventure on a warm spring day.



People wait for the wagon to take them back for pancakes and the petting farm.

A tractor-drawn wagon carries visitors through the rolling hills to the Sugar Bush.

Richard Bering of White Meadows Farms, Master Sugar Maker, loads the fire box that heats the evaporator.



Anna and Vera portray natives at a pre-Colonial era Chippewa campsite, boiling maple sap with fire-heated rocks.



Logan stands guard over three boiling cauldrons, demonstrating 17th-century syrup making.

An old-style spile and bucket on a maple tree.



Toria explains to fascinated children, how and why 40 litres of raw sap become one litre of maple syrup.

Richard Bering looks pretty chipper this morning as he tosses another load of wood into the massive burning firebox of his maple syrup evaporator. His trademark top hat sits gamely on his head. Surprising, since he found himself in the woods at 3:00 a.m. this morning picking up another load of raw maple sap from the 11,000-litre collection tank. It was his third pick-up in the past 24 hours, although during the high season of the sap run, he may make as many as five trips a day.

About a kilometer away, children crowd around the campfire in the snowy recesses of a majestic maple forest, partly to fend off the cold, but also because around this fire two high school students dressed as Chippewa natives demonstrate how maple syrup may have been discovered centuries ago. The Chippewa shared the treat with Europeans hundreds or perhaps thou-

Continued on page 34

Instead of Mowing Lawns:



Pond & Waterfall Gardens

Photographs by Mike Davis Words by Gloria Hildebrandt

An escape beckons in your own back yard if you have a pond or waterfall. The sight or sound of water on a hot, humid day can be as refreshing as a tall iced drink. Any cares or stress seem to wash away, leaving you relaxed and soothed. While some people get to experience this only after driving to a cottage, the fortunate ones have water on or close to their own properties. When it isn't there by nature, it's possible to create the water feature of your dreams.

Last July, homeowners in the Golden Horseshoe opened their yards and gardens to the public for the second Pond Tour for Hospice. Two hospices benefited from the fundraiser, the Dr. Bob Kemp Hospice of Hamilton and McNally House Hospice of Grimsby. There were 23 properties to choose from on this self-guided tour, with locations in Ancaster, Burlington, Dundas, Grimsby, Hamilton, Millgrove and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Here are some views of only a few of the pond gardens that participated last year. For information on this year's tour, see www.pondtourforthehospice.ca, email pondtour2012@gmail.com or call 1-866-270-7663. **EV**

Harry and Nancy DeVries of Grimsby, owners of Cole's Pond Store, have a large and colourful pond garden in front of their rural house. A patio at their front door looks onto a large pond and four small waterfalls. Large rocks edge the pond, stepping stones through thyme form a path through plants and birdsong is heard even on a hot day.

"To create a pond, remember this five-part recipe:

1. Rocks and gravel
2. Plants
3. Fish
4. Mechanical and biological filtration
5. Re-circulating system with the proper sized pump.

Always make the feature 1 ½ to two times larger than you think. Countless times we have had customers saying they wished they made their pond bigger."

Dave DeVries, Cole's Pond Store, Grimsby

Photos for this feature were taken with this equipment on loan from Sony of Canada: Sony A55 camera, Carl Zeiss 16-80 mm lens, HVL-58 flash unit.

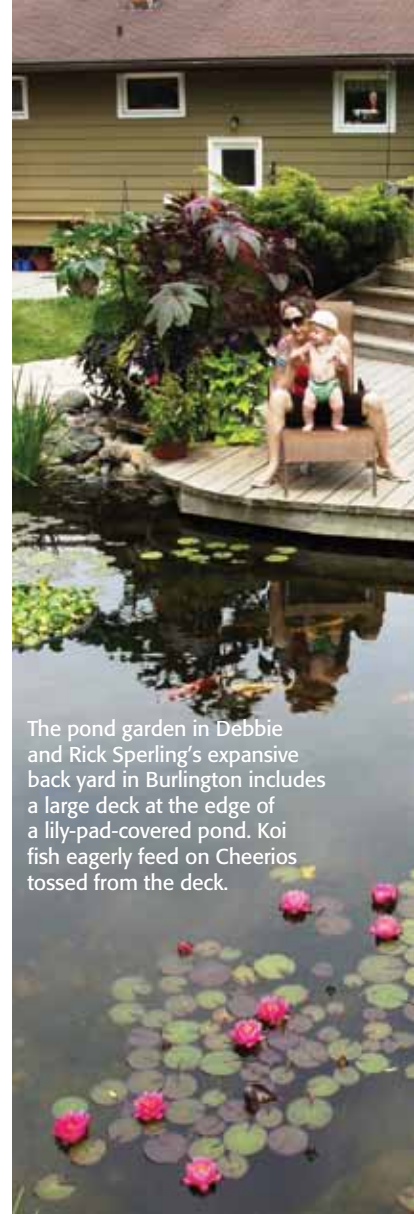
Instead of Mowing Lawns: Pond & Waterfall Gardens



Harry DeVries, owner of Cole's Pond Store, stands in the pond garden outside Cole's Christmas Cottage in Grimsby. Mature plants almost hide the two ponds and waterfalls. Son Dave, who also works at the store, says "We want to show people what you can do instead of having a lawn."



Two visitors on the footbridge study the waterfall dropping into the rear part of the pond in the Sperlings' back yard. A red rose blooms at the top of the falls and flowers, grasses, shrubs and bushes in a variety of colours add to the beauty.



The pond garden in Debbie and Rick Sperling's expansive back yard in Burlington includes a large deck at the edge of a lily-pad-covered pond. Koi fish eagerly feed on Cheerios tossed from the deck.

Patrick Smith and Mary-Frances Fox own a house on a busy street in downtown Hamilton, with a waterfall in their back yard. Stones direct the flow into two streams, screening the noise of traffic. A wood chip path surrounds the pond and leads to a small stony beach with an inviting teak deck chair. Despite vehicles passing out front and houses surrounding the yard, this is a quiet, peaceful place. A shady garden and patio fills the generous space along the side of the house.





Stepping into this garden at the back of Carole and Peter O'Brien's house in downtown Hamilton is like entering another world. Beyond the hanging planter is a small pond and waterfall. A wide walkway leads to several seating areas among mature plants. Padded benches have been placed in arbours to give good views of the garden. Art sculpture is tucked among the plants and bright flags flutter in the slightest breeze.



"Adding a water garden to your yard can transform your outdoor living space into an area where you can relax, unwind and enjoy your surroundings while de-stressing from your busy life. Water features become the focal point of your garden, providing an interesting backdrop attracting a wide variety of birds and butterflies, while the soothing sounds of water also drown out noise from traffic and nearby neighbours."

Valerie Stensson, Sheridan Nurseries, Georgetown

"Buy the right equipment for the size of your pond and the water feature you want to achieve. A properly balanced pond will have a good mechanical and biological filter in conjunction with an ultraviolet sterilizer. Keeping your pond beautiful will be easier if you remember that a pond is a closed-in water environment, and maintaining good water quality will help your pond life flourish throughout the year. A good pressure filter will be invaluable in maintaining a well-balanced pond. It carries all the filtering components in one canister and can be the heart of your pond."

Mario Visca, Big Al's Aquarium Supercentres & Pet City, Hamilton

"A properly built water feature should take about five to 15 minutes weekly to maintain. There is also the option of a pondless waterfall, which is a waterfall stream with no pond. This requires little to no maintenance."

Melanie Downes, Clearwater Ponds, Burlington

"Don't fall in love with fish and don't name them. You are bound to lose some and there could be heartbreak. They're not pets."

I recommend a medium to large water feature. A big ecosystem takes care of itself.

Be careful how big you make your waterfall. Sound travels far and big pumps can annoy neighbours.

Have the water visible from house windows and have lights for the water in the dark."

Sam Harper, Harper's Garden Centre, Ancaster

Continued on page 36



Niagara Falls, Ont. from the U.S.
Photograph by Mike Davis



This breathtaking wall of roses at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington has been formed by "American Pillar," a single, large-flowered rose that can be trained to grow over a pergola.

Photos for this feature were taken with this equipment on loan from Nikon: the D300s camera with a 17-55 mm Nikon lens and a SB-600 Speedlight flash.

Rehabilitating Roses

Photographs by Mike Davis
Words by Gloria Hildebrandt

The Rose Garden

in Hendrie Park at Royal

Botanical Gardens (RBG) in

Burlington is a large area to wander
through, full of dazzling colours, fragrance and
plant sizes. It is also a garden in transition
away from chemical controls.

Rehabilitating Roses

A sign in the RBG garden last summer explained the situation. The 2009 ban on cosmetic pesticide use eliminated the ability to control roses' pests and diseases by chemical means. Some of the roses looked a little stressed, like drug addicts quitting cold turkey and going into withdrawal.

"Bear with us," the sign stated, "these roses may look a little battle-weary, but we've only begun the fight. In the end, we'll have healthy roses – and sustainable ways to keep them that way."

Last summer, Carlo Balistrieri, the head of horticulture at RBG, explained "Since the cosmetic pesticide ban, there are challenges, particularly from black spot and the Japanese beetle. Roses have been high maintenance as garden plants. We're working toward a more low-maintenance rose that's resistant to pests and disease. We're changing the way we do things. We feed, mulch, amend the soil more. We want roses that will grow well with minimum intervention from us."

Recently, when asked which roses look promising based on last summer's performance, Balistrieri replied "I would hesitate to recommend any rose based on only one or two years' performance. Most people are looking for a long life from the shrubs they purchase, and the short view could be misleading. RBG is still adjusting to life with a smaller toolbox. Part of our effort in the Rose Garden, and the reason for planting 765 new plants this past fall, is to continue our look at what will work and what won't." Then he went on to list some RBG favourites from last year. See sidebar page 38.

We also asked some other garden experts along the Niagara Escarpment for their rose recommendations and tips. There was a fair bit of similarity in their answers, suggesting we may be on our way to accepted best practices for growing roses in our biosphere reserve.



Carlo Balistrieri, head of horticulture at RBG, at the strong climber "American Pillar." He advises "It should be deadheaded after the flush in June, to provide a second bloom in September."



The exuberant Hybrid Moschata Rose 'Belinda' climbs the tree branches at the Royal Botanical Gardens.



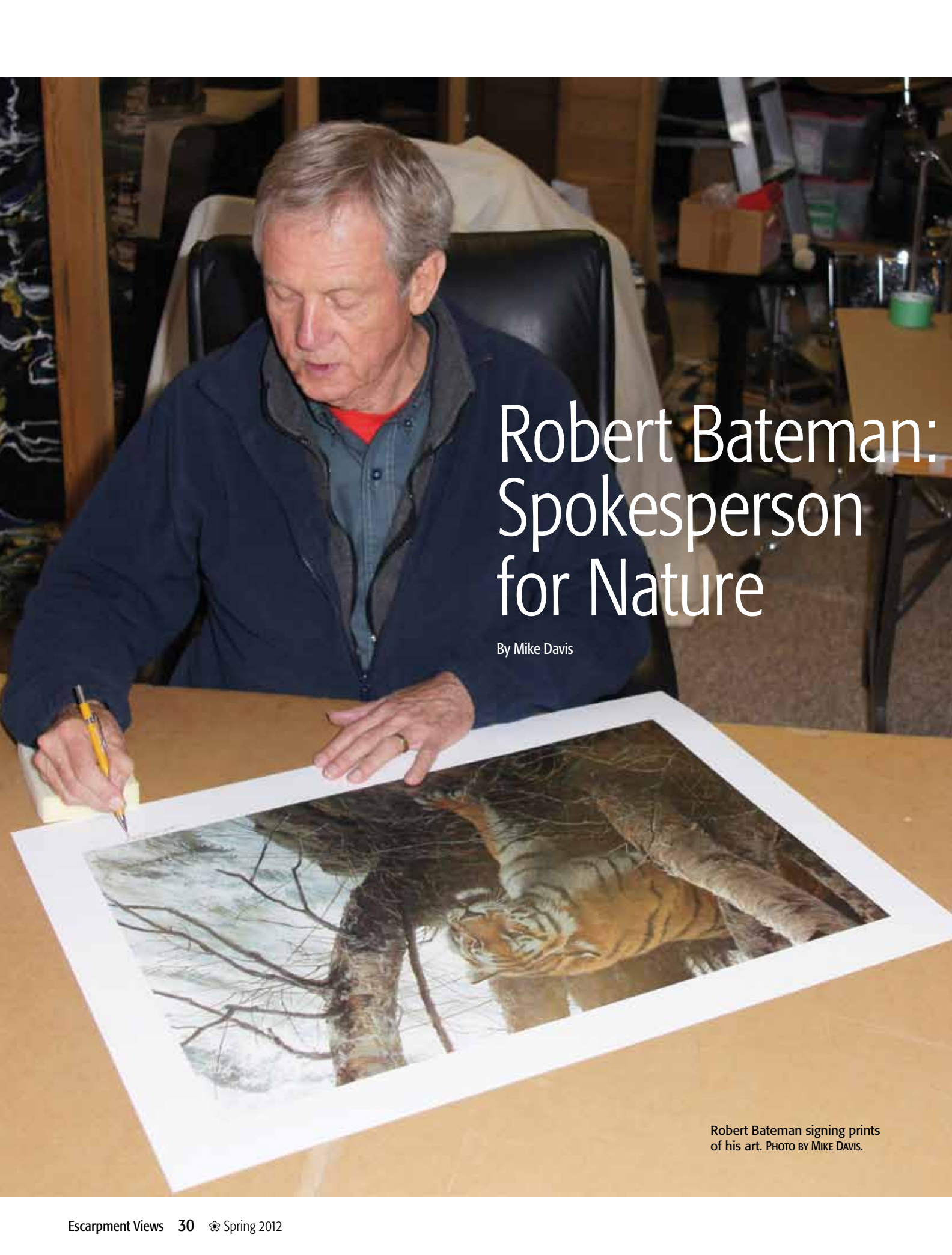


"When I think of roses I think of the romantics," says Balistrieri, "the reds, soft pinks, whites."



Roses have traditionally been used in formal garden designs. Another element of the RBC Rose Garden is a pair of long infinity pools, just visible at the top of this photo.

Continued on page 38

A photograph of Robert Bateman, an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a red shirt and a blue button-down shirt. He is sitting in a black leather chair at a wooden table, signing a large print of a tiger in a snowy forest. He is holding a yellow pencil in his right hand and has his left hand on the print. The background shows a cluttered workshop with various items on shelves and a table.

Robert Bateman: Spokesperson for Nature

By Mike Davis

Robert Bateman signing prints
of his art. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

The first time I met Robert Bateman, the famous artist, was about 25 years ago at a conference I was attending.

He gave a dinner speech and passed around his sketch books for the audience to look at. They had one of his own sketches on the front cover, with a price tag on them. I thought it interesting that he paid for books with his own art on them, when I would have thought he could get them for free. Yet I was amazed that he trusted us with his own personal sketch books. What an incredible

A birder since age 12, Robert Bateman sketched these Canada geese over the Niagara Escarpment. ►
COPYRIGHT ROBERT BATEMAN.



privilege it was to examine them. His drawings included sketches of wildlife and portraits of political leaders like Colin Powell. His command of his pencil and his ability to capture his subject with a few strokes really impressed me. So last November, when I had the opportunity to interview him for *Escarpment Views*, I jumped at the chance.

Early Trail Workers, 1962, from left: Charles Harris, Robert Bateman, Ray Lowes and Aubrie Diem. ►
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BRUCE TRAIL CONSERVANCY ARCHIVES.



Bateman was in Ontario on a promotional tour for his art and he was willing to be interviewed while he signed prints of his painting of a tiger at a waterfall. He had already been asked every question possible, he said. Yet my first question, "When did you first become aware of the Niagara Escarpment?" brought the response "No one has asked me that question before!"

Although Bateman could not pin down when he first became aware of the Escarpment, he said

Robert Bateman built a dream house with a view of Rattlesnake Point in Halton's part of the Niagara Escarpment. ►
COPYRIGHT ROBERT BATEMAN.



MAR 3



Old Buffalo
at Ngorongoro
attacked by 11 lions
took refuge in lake
near hippos
which lions were afraid of.

MAR 4. Same buffalo
the next morning.



SimbaKepe MAR 7

"We can afford the luxury of w



COUCH GRASS
Sporobolus sp.



Just two pages from Bateman's sketchbook while on a trip to Africa. COPYRIGHT ROBERT BATEMAN.

Robert Bateman: Spokesperson for Nature

that he was "conscious of the Niagara Escarpment being a natural area" when he first took up birding around the age of 12 in the ravines of Toronto. While it was "not an outstanding birding area, it was a lovely natural area."

The Best Place

After finishing university, briefly teaching high school in Thornhill and taking a year to travel around

the world, in 1958 he decided to teach at Nelson High School in Burlington.

"I wanted to live near enough to Toronto for the museum or theatre," he explained, "but also to live near rough country and nature. The Escarpment was perfect."

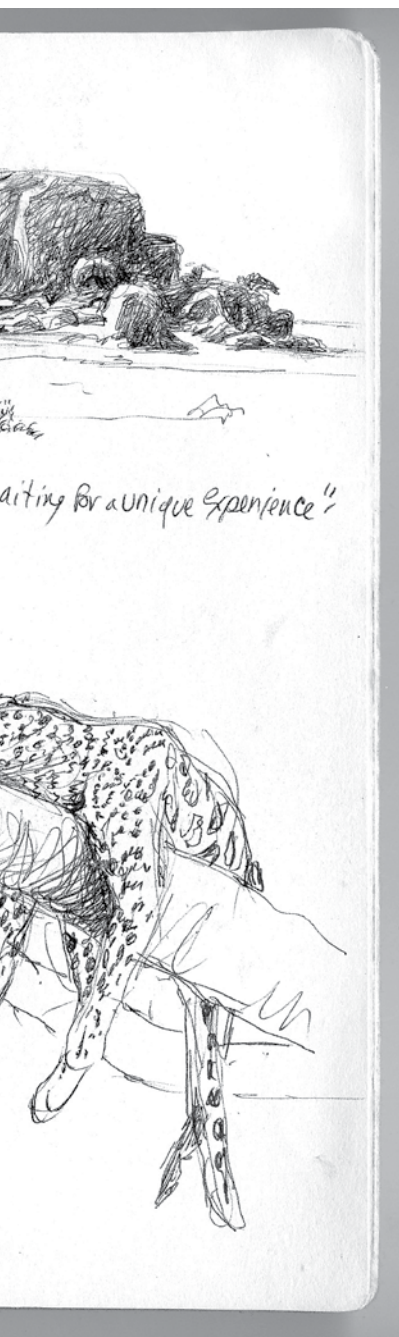
He wanted to build his dream house on land that had a woods, a stream and a view. Being me-

thodical with a geography background, he got a topographical map, drew a 12-mile arc out from the school on it, and visited every spot suitable. He found the perfect place with a north-facing view, which he says is great for artists, and a beautiful view of Rattlesnake Point. He bought the 10 acres near Lowville in Burlington for \$4,500.

He drew blueprints for his house and then had it built with beams that still have adze marks

on them. He also used barnboards to complete the house, adding an upstairs level later. I was fortunate enough to photograph this house and meet the current owners, Klaus and Brigitte Schreyer, for a feature article in the premier issue of this magazine [Winter 2008].

When asked where was the best place along the Escarpment, Bateman had a sharp reply. "That is a hopeless question. It's like asking who is your favourite kid or what is your favourite painting?"



The Niagara Escarpment is so full of beauty spots and wonderful places, except for the quarries and a little bit of development here and there. The entire Niagara Escarpment is the best place."

Then he described the landscape near his house in Lowville. "I'd walk through our woods and over to the end of the Blind Line at Britannia Road. This was a good aerobic hike. I'd go down to Cedar Springs Creek and come to the lovely swing-

ing bridge that the Bruce Trail Association built down there, but I would not usually cross the bridge. I would turn right and walk along the river. There is a beautiful old abandoned stone house that is in ruins down there. We called it the Macbeth House and often if we had company and we had time, we'd go for that hike. It's a beautiful hike back up the hill."

Niagara Escarpment Commissioner

In 1973 Bateman was appointed by then-Premier of Ontario William Davis, to sit on the newly founded Niagara Escarpment Commission. Ray Lowes, a founder of the Bruce Trail, was on the commission at the same time.

"Ray was a legendary figure," says Bateman. "I think that Ray, working at Stelco in Hamilton and living in suburbia, saw his mandate as protecting the Escarpment for the great masses of urban dwellers and people who needed a lovely amenity for family hikes and weekends. He was against all kinds of housing and privatization. I evolved my philosophy as a spokesperson for nature. I wanted to speak for the Great Horned Owls and the Pileated Woodpeckers and the beavers." Bateman agrees with Lowes who said of the Niagara Escarpment, "Use it or lose it."

"We need people to have experiential learning which goes deep into their souls by experiencing the Niagara Escarpment," he said. "Then they are voters and writers of letters to the editor and the political-pressure people to help with the preserve and protect."

Bateman remained on the Commission until he moved to British Columbia in 1985. Through his life and famously through his art, he has shared his passion for nature, in the form of paintings, prints and even rough sketches handed out to audience members. **EV**

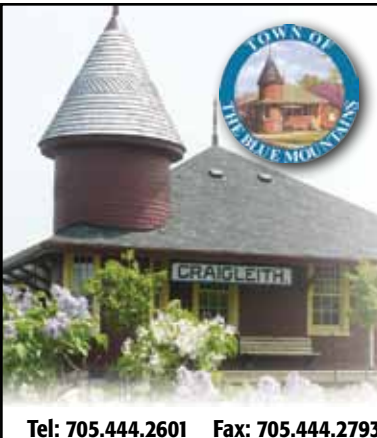
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Sugar Bush Adventure at White Meadows Farms

Continued from page 19

sands of years later, and in a cold February, White Meadows Farms south of St. Catharines passes it on.

Richard Bering, the fourth generation at the working farm and sugar bush, smiles at the thought. His best customers are aged two to 10. They love the actors, the wagon ride and the maple taffy treats. Their parents love the pancake breakfast, the trail through the woods, and the hot dogs and Pepperettes roasted over an open blaze from early January to early April.

Bering is Master Sugar Maker in addition to director of marketing, while his brother, Nicholas, manages the Sugar Bush Adventure, now in its second decade. Both have been involved with the property since toddlers, even playing native children in the native village years ago.

The family owns about 600 acres in some of the prettiest Escarpment area filled with valleys and rolling hills just west of the Short Hills Provincial Park border. About 180 acres are sugar maples, the best kind of maple tree for maple sugar.

"My great-great grandfather moved the family here from out west in 1939," says Bering. "The red brick bungalow over there is the same one that they moved into and it's at least a hundred years old or more. They were in dairy out west, but here they grew grape juice grapes. We didn't start harvesting maple syrup until 1989. That evolved (in 1994) to operating a pancake house inside a greenhouse building."

Maple Everything

The cold weather atop the Escarpment that challenged them to grow grapes proves particularly auspicious for maple syrup that needs cold nights and warm days to make the sap run. In fact, the

grape vines were recently removed in favour of popping corn that's a mainstay of their fabulously popular Maple Kettle Corn.

Photos from that era line the walls of The Pancake House and depict a kiosk handing pancakes and maple baked beans for pa-



At the 19th-century station, Kelsey demonstrates making maple sugar taffy in the snow.



Andrew lets kids choose a slice of log which he then brands for them as a souvenir.

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trons in snowsuits at picnic tables under a plastic cover.

"People started asking us to take them to see the bush operation, so we hitched up a big wagon behind a tractor and started running them out there. Then we added stations where we describe the process of gathering and refining maple sugar. Then we added the costumes for pre-Colonial time, then the 17th century, and it all just grew from there."

The sugar processing that began on the farmhouse kitchen table in 1989 moved into a shed that's now attached to the new restaurant where they serve brunch year round.

A small store where they sell maple-something for everyone has maple sugar candy, maple syrup in myriad manifestations, colours, shapes and sizes, maple kettle popcorn, maple fudge, maple granola, maple barbecue sauce, maple mustard, maple salad dressing, and maple butter.

"We want to show that maple sugar isn't just for pancakes," says Bering, whose website includes recipes for maple syrup and a run-down of products available online at whitemeadowsfarms.com. Almost all of it has been created and finished on site, including Black Angus beef from their 40-head herd, and almost all of it can be taste-tested in the evaporation room beside the store.

Outside Fun

He adds that they're about to expand the store because "when one to two thousand people pass through here a day in the high season, it can get a little crowded."

The family operation employs close to 70 people during the high season as actors and guides, or servers in the restaurant, many of them demonstrating the evolution of maple sugar processing from the pre-European native era to modern day.

It's all very hands-on so that visiting kids can make maple taffy

on the snow, drill tree holes with a bit and auger, or saw a slice of log into a pancake-sized platter that can then be branded with a red-hot branding iron.

"It's great to get the kids outside," says financial overseer and matriarch Ann Bering. "People get to see the value in showing kids where food comes from and at the same time have fun." School groups, daycare groups, busloads from the YMCA, and even groups from English as a Second Language classes show up.

"People from overseas really appreciate what they're seeing when they come here since what they're seeing is an element of Canadian history."

They can follow the billowing steam and roaring fire from the evaporation room where they see a job that used to take several days conducted in about an hour and a half. Oh, and about three cords of wood a day.

Bering has also recently adopted measures to "minimize our carbon footprint." They've supplemented heating with solar panels, replaced halogen lights with LED bulbs, reclaim waste and rainwater, compost on site and recycle just about everything else.

Currently the family operates about 5,000 taps in the trees that run downhill to the collection tank via flexible plastic tubing, but in the next few years they hope to double that number.

By the end of the season, the family will have processed close to 325,000 litres of raw sap into about 5,000 litres of sweet maple syrup, all on site. Meanwhile, the filtering machine needs new filters for the second time today, a job Richard conducts, despite the cold outside, wearing a T-shirt and his trademark top hat. **EV**

Chris Mills writes about the Niagara region from Fort Erie where he lives with his wife, son and two Maple Kettle Corn-loving dogs. He can be reached at chrismills.ca.

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A short dock gives a good view of the pond and its goldfish and catfish. Owner Peter O'Brien explains that he and Carole took possession of the property in January 2011. The pond had been professionally built for the previous owners. "I wasn't a gardener before," says O'Brien, "but I sure am now."



Barbara Kerr and her partner Urmas Soomet helped to create a wildlife pond on their rural Millgrove property, that is now home to fish, turtles, herons, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, blackbirds, deer, coyotes and more. When they moved in and saw standing water over a low part of land behind their house, they eventually had the area excavated. Natural springs fed the pond and all sorts of wildlife were drawn to it. Now there is a wood duck nest box that has been used successfully, and native wildflower seeds are growing into established plants. Kerr calls their property "our hearts' delight."



The lower pond of the Stopps-Ouellette water feature contains smaller fish than the large koi that inhabit the upper pond. Frogs and toads share the space.



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One of the largest waterfalls on the tour was in the garden of Arlene Stopps and Jim Ouellette of Dundas. A large upper pond spills over into three waterfalls that end in a lower pond. Built entirely by themselves, the pond stream circulates between a large round patio and the house, which has a large upper deck ideal for viewing the water below. "It's an ecosystem by itself," says Stopps. "Once a week, Jim takes care of the water. I just do all the gardening."



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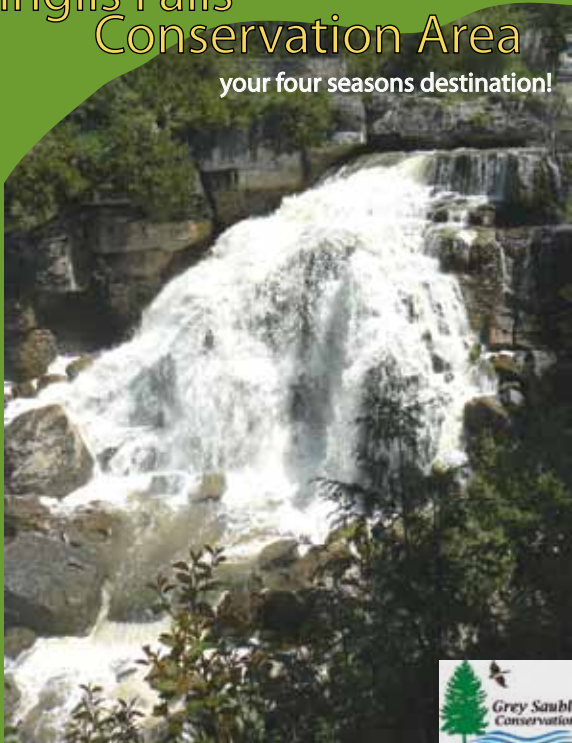
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"We gave away our lawnmower," says Smith. A large pond and deck completely fill the back yard where before there was just grass. At four feet deep at the deepest part, this urban pond is swimmable.

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Rehabilitating Roses

Continued from page 29

Promising Performers at RBG in 2011

Rosa "Tabris"

Rosa "Wekvossutono,"

sold as Julia Child

Rosa "Elina," a 1985 hybrid tea that

appears to be disease resistant

The Knock Out™ Series,

disease-resistant shrub roses in seven colours

Rosa Rugosa and its cultivars, disease and insect resistant

How to Grow Great Roses

A sunny area with a minimum of six to eight hours per day, and good circulation, clear from tree roots with good drainage, are ideal.

Barb McColl,
Sheridan Nurseries,
Georgetown

Tips for Growing Without Pesticides

Companion planting with insect-detering plants such as lavender, marigolds and garlic, will deter pests from the area with strong fragrance and less-than-favourable taste to aphids. Natural and homemade remedies from onions, garlic and baking soda.

Colleen Zimmerman,
Terra Greenhouses, Waterdown

Good Roses to Grow in Northern Parts of the Niagara Escarpment

Parkland series of roses such as

Morden Blush or Morden Sunrise

Weeks roses such as Party Hardy

Explorer roses such as John Cabot,

Champlain, Henry Hudson, Henry

Kelsey, Alexander MacKenzie

Knock Out roses

Oso Happy series such as Oso Happy

Smoothie or Oso Happy Candy Oh

Lorraine Roberts,
Plant Paradise Country Gardens,
Caledon

Roses for Niagara Region

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School of Horticulture to look at their

collections in bloom!

Carlo Balistrieri,
RBG, Burlington EV



The perfect placement of this wooden





Water, sunshine for roses and a long shady pergola to walk under at the edge of the Rose Garden provide a lovely afternoon in July.



bench in the RBG Rose Garden is another example of attention to detail.



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This project was supported, in part, by the National Science Foundation.

Celebrate our blooms

- May: **Tulip Festival**, Rock Garden
- May/June: **Lilac Festival**, Arboretum
- June: **Iris and Peony Festival**, Laking Garden*
- June/July: **Rose Festival**, Hendrie Park

*Laking Garden is **RE-OPENING** May 21 to August 7



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Misty's View of Herbs



Basil

Oregano

Parsley

What does it take to make a dish taste like spring? Putting a vase of fresh tulips on the dinner table may psyche the mind but it won't fool the palate. For that you need to **bring up the intensity of your recipes with fresh, emerald-green herbs.**

If your idea of herbs is associated with a nifty set of little glass bottles full of pale bits of dry foliage, then you are in for an adven-

ture. Clear your counter; put your apothecary set away. Make room in your fridge for loads of green.

But what is the difference between fresh herbs and dried ones, apart from the higher price? Dried herbs need to spend longer periods of time in the cooking process in order to deliver their flavour to the dish. They are excellent to use for braising, stewing and roasting but must not be too old. Bitterness or lack of flavour can be a factor depending upon the amount used

and the age of the herb sample.

Fresh herbs can also be lost if they try to do the job of dried herbs; they need to be treated differently. Thyme and bay leaves are great for doing double duty, however. A big bunch of fresh thyme tied in a bundle with a bay leaf or two, along with some long celery and carrot sticks will do wonders for a stock or soup and the string is handy when removing the spent herbs. When spring beckons in early March with the emergence of shoots and flowers, what better time to experiment with using fresh herbs as an impetus for new menu creations?

Get a mini home laboratory going: buy or grow fresh green herbs like tarragon, chives, cilantro, oregano, savoury, marjoram, basil, flat Italian parsley and then taste test them.

The easiest way to do this is to wash them in cool water, remove and drain them on a towel. Next, chop them up individually and add them, in a series of little bowls, to

a small mixture of mayonnaise spiked with a little lemon juice or good red wine vinegar.

In your taste lab you will get a chance to **experience the floral, earthy or pungent qualities of these herbs.** You will immediately know if you recognize and like the flavour of each herb and might remember when you tasted it before in a dried format.

It is vital to understand fresh herbs in order to get the best out of them. You'll need to recognize how potent they are or how delicate so that you can **determine for yourself what quantity is required for your purposes.**

Recipes will typically include a suggested herb, but you will be far more informed if you have a taste reference already stored in your mental library of flavours instead of relying on a book to tell you what to do.

I have a friend who thinks that more is always better when it comes

Classic Pairings for Herbs

Basil: works well with tomato, pork, seafood and as an herbal tea

Chervil: a beautifully delicate last-minute addition to soups, vinaigrettes, omelettes

Cilantro/Coriander: key ingredients in Mexican salsa and Thai dishes, along with hot peppers

Dill: salmon and herring. Great for cucumbers and egg salad

Marjoram and Oregano: all Mediterranean dishes

Parsley: mild flavour additive to all dishes

Rosemary: lamb, poultry, game meat, French and Italian soups

Tarragon: eggs, fish, seafood, turkey, rabbit, chicken, and Béarnaise sauce

Thyme: I use it in everything, if I can. It is a stable, flavour enhancer



Italian parsley

Rosemary

HERBS SOURCED FROM SOBEYS. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

to food. He followed this spirit and added far, far too much marjoram to his veggie dip. Although it looked beautiful, dark green and very appetizing, it tasted like a pureed bunch of flowers. Had he used his palate, the most sophisticated guide to herbs in his possession, he would have used parsley for the colour and a sparing amount of marjoram for the flavour.

How do I know this? I learned it from my intimate, responsive approach to getting to know the pow-

er of the ingredients I use. Food preparation can be drudgery if one's creativity and personal knowledge is not a part of the equation.

If you're wondering what to do with your mayonnaise and herb test samples, blend them together and create your own version of a *salsa verde*. Get out the veggies and have a dip!

Misty Ingraham and husband Bill Sharpe of Ancaster own the catering business The Portable Feast at Home.

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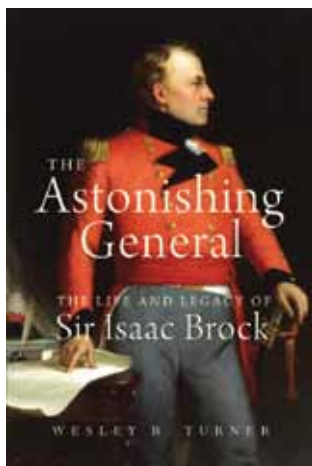
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The Astonishing General: The Life and Legacy of Sir Isaac Brock

By Wesley B. Turner



Not all books on history are as compelling as this one. It reads like a personal biography of Isaac Brock while providing the political and military context of his time. Author Wesley B.

Turner provides a convincing answer to the question of "how a British general whose military role in that two-and-a-half year war lasted less than five months became the best known hero, and one revered far and wide."

With the War of 1812 bicentennial commemorations beginning this year, especially the Battle of Queenston Heights, this book is a delightful way to understand local history.

Dundurn Press, \$35, 2011

Bats

By Phil Richardson



Incredible photography captures the mysterious behaviour of bats in this richly illustrated, comprehensive reference book of bats around the world.

Like too many animals, bats are dying out due to thoughtless human behaviour, such as deforestation, the use of insecticides and hunting. Diseases have decimated fruit bat populations and in North America, "white-nose syndrome" is thought to be killing tens of thousands of bats each winter. A chapter on bat conservation suggests that installing bat boxes can help.

Firefly Books, \$19.95, 2011

The Ontario Table

By Lynn Ogryzlo



This is a joyful celebration of 20 food-producing areas in Ontario, including most of the areas close to the Niagara Escarpment. Recipes are

mingled among short descriptions of small food businesses while beautiful photographs of raw food, cooked dishes, farms and farmers encourage you to experience local foods for yourself. The book issues an interesting challenge: "If every household in Ontario spent just \$10 of their grocery budget on local foods each week, there would be a \$2.4 billion dollar influx into the provincial economy each year!"

Epulum Books, \$29.95, 2011

HIGHLIGHTS from The Book Band: a collaboration with Escarpment Views

In a Company of Fiddlers

by Rob Ritchie



This brilliant second novel by Rob Ritchie of Wiarton, Ontario tells the story of an emerging singer and a troubled love affair. At the height

of her successful singing career, the great Margaret Calloway retires to the family farm on the Bruce Peninsula. Set against the backdrop of a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, *In a Company of Fiddlers* shifts through time, moving to a surprising climax.

Seraphim Editions, \$22.95

Shoo-fly Dyck

by John Janzen Kooistra



Richard 'Shoo-fly' Dyck is a Menno-nite workaholic trying to save the family farm from bankruptcy who can throw a baseball at more than 100 miles per hour, with either arm. The

Toronto Blue Jays are very interested. Meanwhile, an ex-prostitute is stalked across Canada while trying to escape her past. An entertaining off-beat blend of pathos and high comedy.

Catchfire Press, \$19.95

Drowned, They Said

by Michael Nelson



In this very personal account, Michael Nelson explores his Métis family history following a visit to the grave of his grandfather, Bernhard Anders Nelson, who was an experienced hunter

and trapper in the Lake Superior region of northern Ontario.

Seraphim Editions, \$21.95

King Joe, a Matter of Treason: the Life and Times of Joseph Willcocks

by John B. Lee



Irish immigrant Joseph Willcocks, trusted by Isaac Brock to negotiate the support of the

Six Nations in the war, was branded a traitor after the War of 1812. A thoughtful exploration of a man who ultimately turns his back on his adopted home and offers his services to the Americans.

Heronwood Enterprises, \$13.95

Prices include postage. **To order:** make your cheque out to "The Book Band." **Mail to:** Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown, ON L7G 2V2.

☐ *In a Company of Fiddlers* ☐ *Shoo-fly Dyck* ☐ *Drowned, They Said* ☐ *King Joe, a Matter of Treason: the Life and Times of Joseph Willcocks*

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Coming events

Weekends Feb. 11 to April 1;

March Break (March 12-16)

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White Meadows Farms, St. Catharines

whitemeadowsfarms.com 905 682 0642

Weekends March 3 to April 9;

March 4 **Flapjack Olympics**

March Break (March 12-16)

Maple Syrup Time

Mountsberg Conservation Area

conservationhalton.ca 905 854 2276

Sundays in March (4, 11, 18 & 25);

Wed. & Thurs. in March Break (14 & 15)

Maple Syrup Festival

Westfield Heritage Village

westfieldheritage.ca 1-800-883-0104

March 24 & 25

The Old-Tyme Maple Syrup Festival

Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area

saugeenconservation.com/maplesyrup.php

April 14

Halton Eco Festival

Glen Abbey Rec Centre, Oakville

oakvillepeacecentre.org/haltonecofest

to April 15

Chocolate: The Exhibition

Royal Botanical Gardens

rbg.ca/chocolate 905 527 1158

May 22

International Day for Biodiversity

Halton Peel BioDiversity Network

mainstreambiodiversity.ca 905 873 1820

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battlefieldhouse.ca 905 662 8458



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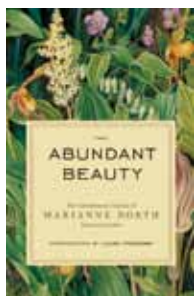
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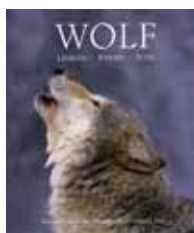
**Abundant Beauty:
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Travels of
Marianne North,
Botanical Artist**

Greystone Books, \$19.95



**The Shaw Festival:
The First Fifty Years**

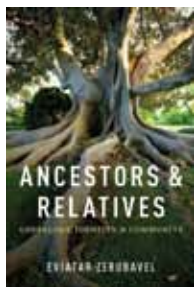
by L.W. Conolly
Oxford University Press, \$50



**Wolf: Legend,
Enemy, Icon**

by Rebecca L. Grambo
Firefly Books, \$24.95

Recently Received



**Ancestors
& Relatives:
Genealogy, Identity,
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by Eviatar Zerubavel
Oxford University Press, \$24.95



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**Traveling The Silk
Road: Ancient
Pathway to the
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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.

ESCARPMENT BIOSPHERE CONSERVANCY A WINNER FOR PROTECTING LAND

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) received the 2011 Land Trust Achievement Award from the Ontario Land Trust Alliance. Since 1997, EBC has created 104 nature reserves, **protected 8,217 acres** with 13 km of Lake Huron shoreline and the habitat of 59 rare or endangered species.

CLEAN, SAFE DRINKING WATER AT THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

The Town of The Blue Mountains received a **100% rating from the Ministry of Environment (MOE) for their drinking water system**. The MOE inspected the town's water system for compliance with legislation and guidelines and gave a perfect rating for 2011.

AWARD-WINNING CARPOOL LOT IN BEAMSVILLE

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) gave the 2011 ECO Recognition Award to the Ministry of Transportation for its QEW carpool lot at Ontario St. in Beamsville. The carpool lot was designed to promote carpooling, manage stormwater and divert waste. Half of the lot's surface layer contains rubber-modified asphalt, which is the equivalent of **624 tires saved from landfill**.

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS STARTS TO GET BIKE FRIENDLY

Metrolinx presented the Town of Halton Hills with the Smart Commute Halton "Employer of the Year" award for its successful implementation of the Smart Commute program at the Civic Centre, including **a carpool matching service, the installation of secure bike lockers and encouraging cycling** through such programs as bike sharing.

LOCAL KIDS VOLUNTEER TO BETTER THE WORLD

Three Escarpment-area children were among 15 honoured by *Canadian Family* magazine in their Winter 2012 feature "Canada's Top 15 Under 15." They are Harnoor Gill, age 13, of Georgetown, Simon Sabo, age 12, of Angus, and Elena Umbriaco, age 9, of Niagara Falls. *Canadian Family* called their top 15 kids "young people who are, in big ways and small, **working for positive change...in order to create a better world.**"

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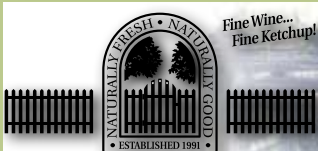
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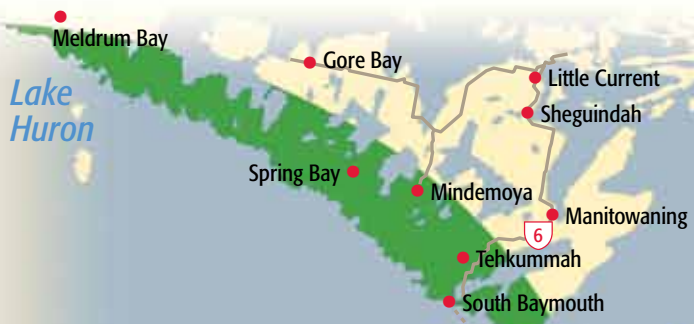
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