

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.

ECOCIDE AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME

Lawyer Polly Higgins of Scotland, author of *Eradicating Ecocide: Laws and Governance to Prevent the Destruction of Our Planet*, published by Shephard-Walwyn, in 2010 submitted a proposal to the United Nations that **“ecocide” should be considered an international crime against nature and humanity.** She defines ecocide as “the destruction, damage and loss of ecosystems.”

OAK RIDGES TRAIL CONNECTS TO NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Oak Ridges Trail Association has completed **a 275-km trail all along the Oak Ridges Moraine** from north of Mono Mills, at Hwy 9 & Airport Rd., to Warkworth, east of Peterborough. The natural corridor is intended to promote “an appreciation and respect for the Moraine’s ecological, cultural and scenic integrity.”

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT IN WISCONSIN BECOMES A PRIORITY

Through the work of Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) and the support of Assemblyman Al Ott, the Niagara Escarpment in Wisconsin was added to a state list of six priority landscapes. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund, Wisconsin’s state-wide land acquisition funding program, **added the Niagara Escarpment as a priority for funding consideration.**

The Bill passed both houses of the Legislature unanimously and received strong support from several other statewide organizations.

COUGAR HABITAT

According to Stuart Kenn, president of the Ontario Puma Federation, the forested **corridors in the Niagara Escarpment are a good place for pumas**, also known as cougars. Although cougars are classed as endangered provincially, sightings have increased over the past 10 years. A recent study by Rick Rosatte of Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources concludes “the presence in Ontario of free-ranging Cougars of unknown origin.” Cougars prey on white-tailed deer and are very elusive, so they are highly unlikely to attack humans.

