

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 Towns Get LEED® Gold Certification

Town of Halton Hills and The Blue Mountains have each received LEED® Gold certification for the **construction of buildings with sustainable features**. LEED stands for “leadership in energy and environmental design” and is a program of Canada Green Building Council. Halton Hills’ Acton branch of the public library and The Blue Mountains Town Hall were awarded this certification.

Ontario’s Greenbelt Saves Taxpayers Hundreds of \$Millions

According to the David Suzuki Foundation, the Greenbelt, which includes the Niagara Escarpment, provides more than \$1 billion a year in economic benefits, by **naturally purifying and protecting drinking water and water flow**. Filtering air and storing carbon are additional benefits provided by large natural spaces.

A Garden’s Wild Spirit

“The garden is not the end, it is the beginning, the place where you **preserve the wild spirit that will save the world.**”

John Hanson Mitchell, *The Wildest Place on Earth*, quoted in *The Armchair Book of Gardens* by Jane Billinghamurst, Greystone Books.



Living Snow Fences

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, County of Dufferin and Grand River Conservation Authority are working together to plant trees at roadsides to form **living snow fences, which reduce blowing snow across roads**. Living snow fences also benefit roadside farms, provide wildlife habitat and can last for 80 years.

Photo of Wild Mushroom by Mike Davis

