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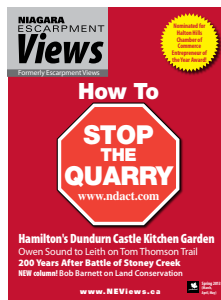
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NIAGARA ESCARPMENT
Views



Preventing Inappropriate Quarries



Gloria in two-fisted drinking, reporter mode at the Twenty Valley Winter WineFest in Jordan Village on Jan. 12. Hard work but somebody has to do it... PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

It can be done. David slew Goliath. Community groups have triumphed over quarry applications. When we heard the news that the Highland quarry application was withdrawn, we counted three recent successes by community groups all along the Niagara Escarpment and asked professional writer Dan O'Reilly to see if there might be any lessons for others. His article on page 30 shares his findings.

It is no easy thing for citizens with busy lives and families to care for, to take on the mammoth task of learning about regulations, legislations and the sciences, not to mention raising the money to pay for lawyers and experts, in order to conduct an effective objection to an economic activity

that will permanently alter their part of Ontario's natural or rural areas. In other words, taxpayers often have to spend money, energy and time from their non-working hours, to oppose professionals representing corporations with large financial objectives. "Ordinary" people have to battle paid professionals who are working full time for financial gain. The former have to sacrifice in order to keep things the same. The latter stand to make significant profits. Which has more motivation and resources? It's not an equal contest. These successes are therefore all the more significant.

Sadly, this has been happening up and down the length of the Escarpment for decades. Every group of

concerned citizens is having to re-invent the wheel and get up to speed. Perhaps Dan O'Reilly's feature can give people some ideas and save them some time, so their chances of protecting the Niagara Escarpment can be greater. I'm sure that everyone wishes that protection of our natural areas and farmlands was stronger and more permanent. Something seems wrong when private citizens have to be so vigilant. Shouldn't that be the job of our government ministries and agencies?

If you take issue with any of this, I invite you to write me. We may publish your views, because we're delighted to be a forum for discussion.

Also in this issue: a new column on private land conservation by Bob Barnett of Escarpment Biosphere

Conservancy and our Winter 2012's Niagara Escarpment Visionary. Ken Haigh returns with a story about Tom Thomson's connections to the Tom Thomson Trail. Tess Bridgwater reports from the 200-year-old front lines of the Battle of Stoney Creek. Helen Powers has us yearning for warm weather with her profile of the kitchen garden at Dundurn Castle and Sean James suggests companion planting as a way to protect our sustainable gardens.

There's much to celebrate this spring, so get out into Nature!

Gloria

Gloria

P.S. Keep wild spaces for wild animals.

Write us at editor@NEViews.ca
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50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2.

**There's more content online
at our newly redesigned
website: www.NEViews.ca:**

- ▶ Twenty Valley Winter Winefest
- ▶ PM's Visit to Ford: Auto Funding & Idle No More
- ▶ Memoir Writing by Sarah Yates
- ▶ 2012 Halton Hills Christmas House Tour
- ▶ Niagara Textile Project



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Correction: Guest Matthew Pope will accompany pianist and conductor Ron Greidanus and the Georgetown Bach Chorale at the March 3 concert "Relics of the Romantic Era" at Norval United Church at 8 p.m. An ad for the concert gave an incorrect name for the guest performer. We regret the error.



Mike, I want to send you and Gloria a note, congratulating you on building an impressive magazine from humble beginnings. I read and enjoy each and every issue. Your name change was a good move as well. Best wishes for a successful 2013!

—**Helmut Dostal, Publisher, HOMEFRONT**

Lovely new issue of the NEV. Enjoyed lingering over the lovely photos and the interesting articles. That photo of you about to jump into the void is priceless.

—**Laurent Thibault, Georgetown**



Thank you for the excellent article about our Black Bank Hill project. The article is informative and well written and the photos artful. I am very pleased and hope we can work together again in the near future!

—**Christine Lolley, Solares Architecture Inc., Toronto**

I'm very happy with the way my photo came out in the center spread. Issues were distributed amongst our camera club. Even my dentist commented on my photo. I'm enjoying the articles too.

—**Greg Coman, Georgetown**

Clarification:

In our Winter 2012 issue, Evan Hernder was identified as being of Hernder Estate Wines. Although a member of the Hernder family, Evan Hernder is not affiliated with the winery.

Editor



Today, as I was looking in my hall closet for something else, I found a Winter 2011 copy of Escarpment Views. Whatever I had been looking for was forgotten as I devoured the pages of your magazine. On page 18 [in "The Ultimate Antique" by Chris Mills], I spotted two chairs on each side of the fireplace that were exactly the same as a set I use each day... When I think of the Escarpment, my thoughts travel back to life on my grandparents' farm which extended from Fly Road to the top of the escarpment in Vineland. The lane to the farmhouse turned in from Fly Road and travelled north, bisecting the farm and ending at what is now Vineland Estates Winery. Our six-bedroom farmhouse and the entire farm was swallowed up by a large stone and gravel pit. But the attic at the top of the house was a haven for me in my growing-up years. A north-facing window had a window seat overlooking the farm and beyond to Lake Ontario. It was a perfect spot to curl up and read the many old books that were there. Please find enclosed a cheque for subscriptions for myself and my daughter and her husband. His sister and her husband had been storing this furniture. They have an island cottage near Manitoulin Island and she has walked the entire Bruce Trail. I am looking forward to receiving my first issue of *Escarpment Views*.

—**Lois Filce, Beamsville**

Just wanted to share how much the Autumn 2012 Chris Mills feature on Sir Isaac Brock meant to me. Dear friends from Queenston, where I grew up, had passed along a copy of your stellar magazine a while back. I apologize for getting this note off to you only now. It was an absolutely genuine treat to be reminded of the most significant, historical setting where I was privileged to spend my formative years. Almost literally, my family of six lived in the shadow of Brock's Monument. We kids attended Laura Secord Memorial School (now closed, sadly), and later Niagara District Secondary (also no more). Too, there was membership in the congregation of St. Saviour's Anglican Church -- I served there as an altar-boy into my teens. Memories of our times in Queenston will remain forever with us, aided in no small way by things like the terrific photos that accompanied Mills' article. None of us is in the area any more, sorry to say. One brother, Jim, lives in Florida while our parents both died here in B.C., where my other two siblings and I live. Immeasurable thanks to you and all concerned, for this fantastic piece of work!

—**Jerry Pickard, Richmond, B.C.**



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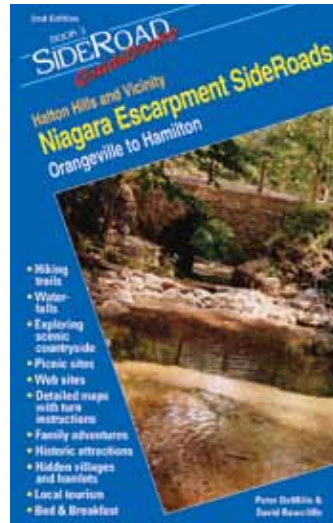
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Halton Hills' CASh Needs Help

Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASh)

is looking for local volunteers, especially for their April residential, door-to-door fundraising campaign. CASh was formed on Jan. 1, 2000 due to the closure of the Canadian Cancer Society's local office in Halton Hills. Even though Halton Hills was rated second overall in Canada for fundraising, the Cancer Society decided that the need for their services was not great enough for an office in Halton Hills. The community spoke loudly in disapproval of this decision. Now, 13 years later, CASh has more than 500 volunteers providing the practical services of transportation to and from treatment centres, equipment, supplementary meal replacements, relaxation therapy, wigs, hats and more, which are given at no cost to the patient. More than 2,000 clients have been helped over the years. CASh even assisted Mount Forest to set up Cancer Patient Services Corp., a similar system for practical care. Volunteers are always welcome, particularly as drivers, but canvassers are particularly needed for April. For more information, contact CASh at 905.702.8886 or through cancerassistance.org.



Niagara Escarpment Road Guides

Two new guidebooks to the side roads of the Niagara Escarpment give routes for tours by vehicle and suggestions for places to explore in detail on foot. Short paragraphs full of fascinating information deepen a visit to the places listed. *Niagara*

Escarpment Sideroads comes in two volumes, covering Orangeville to Hamilton, and Orangeville to Bruce Peninsula. Authors Peter DeMille and David Rawcliffe have provided maps, photos, descriptions and details to prepare you for some wonderful experiences.

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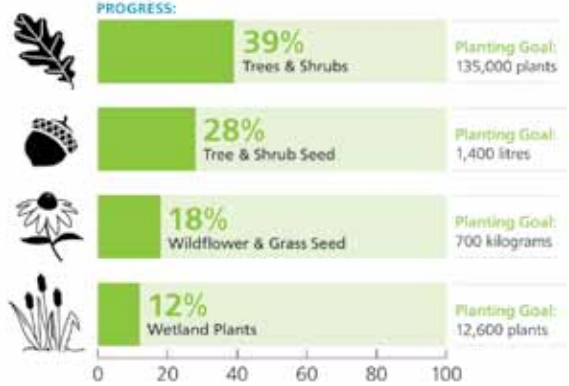
The Métis Nation of Ontario and Hydro One helped Conservation Halton to plant tree seeds and remove invasive species in Glenorchy Conservation Area in north Oakville, last fall. Glenorchy may be open to the public in five to 10 years.

Glenorchy Conservation Area

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Events Along the Rock

Please see www.NEViews.ca for more photos & listings!
Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



◀ On the rainy evenings of Oct. 26 & 27, people explored the Haunted Forest at "Terror Cotta" Conservation Area.

Niagara Region launched the art installations "Niagara's Bounty" & "Escarpment Perspectives" on Nov. 15. Here, some of the photographers and artists who collaborated to create these works. ▶



▲ Brian Martin, left, author of *Ernie's Gold*, gave a presentation to the Esquesing Historical Society on Nov. 14, about his uncle who owned the property on the 10th Line north of Glen Williams that was featured as a centre photo in our Autumn issue. Current owners Margaret Ann & Dr. Gerd Oster attended the meeting.

Barbara & George Weider, from left, hosted a reception for donors and sponsors of Theatre Collingwood on Oct. 28. Harold Bickerstaff, chair, second from right, listens to Artistic Director Steven Thomas make some remarks. ▶





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Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

The United Way of Halton Hills held its Christmas House Tour on Nov. 17. This Glen Williams traditional limestone farmhouse owned by the Gallagher family was one of six houses featured. ▶



On Nov. 24, Southbrook Vineyards owners Bill & Marilyn Redelmeier and winemaker Brian Hamilton, right, held a celebration in Niagara-on-the-Lake for winning Winery of the Year at the Intervin International Wine Awards. ▶



Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited the Ford plant in Oakville on Jan. 4 to announce the renewed funding of \$250 million for the auto industry to build greener products. ▶





◀ Tim Hudak, leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, his wife Debbie and daughter Miller, enjoyed Twenty Valley's Winter WineFest in Jordan Village on Jan. 12.



Fabian Reis of Konzelmann Estate Winery holding their Vidal Icewine, with Stephanie Wiens at Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival on Jan. 19. ▶



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Events Along the Rock

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Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Once the crowds thinned, the Jan. 22 launch of A Taste of Burlington was quieter. Flat Rock Cellars of Jordan offered Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and their Riesling-based blend Twisted, while most of the 23 participating restaurants served signature dishes. A Taste of Burlington runs Feb. 17 to March 10.



▲ Hon. Michael Chong, MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, was one of many speakers at the Jan. 25 official gala opening of the renovated Halton Hills Library and Cultural Centre in Georgetown. An ambulance was called when at least one person fainted.



◀ The Guelph Organic Conference offered educational seminars from Jan. 31 to Feb. 3 and an expo Feb. 2 and 3 at the University of Guelph. Here, throngs of people sample food and pick up free items. *Niagara Escarpment Views* again was pleased to be a media partner.



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Stories from the Kitchen Garden at Dundurn Castle

Written and photographed by Helen Powers

Hamilton has many beautiful heritage properties which tell stories from the past and show us how people lived here in different eras. One of the most famous is Dundurn Castle, a stunning mansion built by Sir Allan MacNab on a 50-acre estate overlooking Hamilton Bay. This property has been the setting of many stories during its lifetime and the kitchen garden played a surprising number of different roles. Today it stands in its original glory, having been restored as a living example of sustenance, beauty and social activity in 1855.



Sir Allan MacNab was a local politician for 30 years and the premier of Canada from 1854 to 1856. He was involved in many high-profile initiatives including the establishment of Hamilton's first bank and

railway line. The MacNab family home was finished in 1836 and today there are 40 restored rooms on three floors which delight and educate thousands of visitors each year.

Although the Niagara Escarpment provided a



dramatic visual backdrop to the community, it was the property's location at the head of Lake Ontario that was important to MacNab. He wanted to establish his own opportunity away from Toronto and be part of vibrant

and growing Hamilton with its abundant assets.

Simon Taylor, coordinator of Dundurn's historic garden, feels the kitchen garden adds a great dimension to understanding the family's life. "This was a working

estate in that period and they spent time out on the land, walking and talking, and going to market," he says. "It was functional in that it fed people, impressed people and it is where the girls talked about how delightful it was

◀ The Kitchen Garden at Dundurn Castle, Hamilton, has been restored to resemble the way it was in the 1850s. Visitors especially enjoy seeing garden staff and volunteers in their period costumes.



▲ Simon Taylor, coordinator of the estate's historic garden, delights in sharing and hearing stories about the garden's history.

to start their gardens in April and compete to see who could grow the best flowers."

Authentic Restoration

The diaries of MacNab's daughters were just one source of information used to recreate the two-acre garden in its original location, a short walk from the house. "The fact that the garden gate has a direct axis to the drawing room door shows how important this part of the property was to the family," explains Taylor. As one of the prettiest rooms in the house, the drawing room was often used for entertaining and this included strolling through the beautiful garden.

A landscape architect created a restoration plan based on archeological



The garden's main path forms an axis to connect the tool shed, a central water feature and beyond that, the garden gate and path from the mansion's drawing room. ▼



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digs, historical records and garden design principles of the time. The digs actually discovered original remnants of the perimeter picket fence posts, a portion of the central water feature and the garden pathway locations.

“Dundurn echoes the design of many British estates of the time where the necessity of growing food was equally as important as the beauty of the property,” explains Taylor. In 1855, growing one’s own food was

very common and the estate was a living example of sustainable living with local food. At the time, MacNab owned land across the road where he grew wheat and raised livestock. Together with the garden’s abundance, the

MacNabs met their nutritional needs within the community.

In the later 1800s, food became less local as transportation routes developed and food could be brought in from greater distances. With less need

In late May, established plants like flax and parsley form colourful borders to the open annual beds. ▼



▲ Behind a sweep of lavender, rustic tripods will support climbing annual vines.



▲ As in MacNab's time, espaliered pear trees line up along the garden perimeter.

to grow their own food, Dundurn's kitchen garden became more of a flower garden. Greater changes were to come when in 1900, the city of Hamilton bought the estate and its storyline began a new chapter as a public park.

Throughout the next century, the property's role as a park sometimes ran contrary to its needs as a museum. Large parking lots and recreation features were built which were well used by the public but blurred the setting's

historical significance. In 1964, as Canada's centennial drew close, plans were made to reinstate the picturesque landscape style which had been a factor in its designation as a national historic site. Or as Taylor puts it, "The city

began to think about putting MacNab back into his castle." Restoring the kitchen garden however would come several decades later and while this was welcomed by

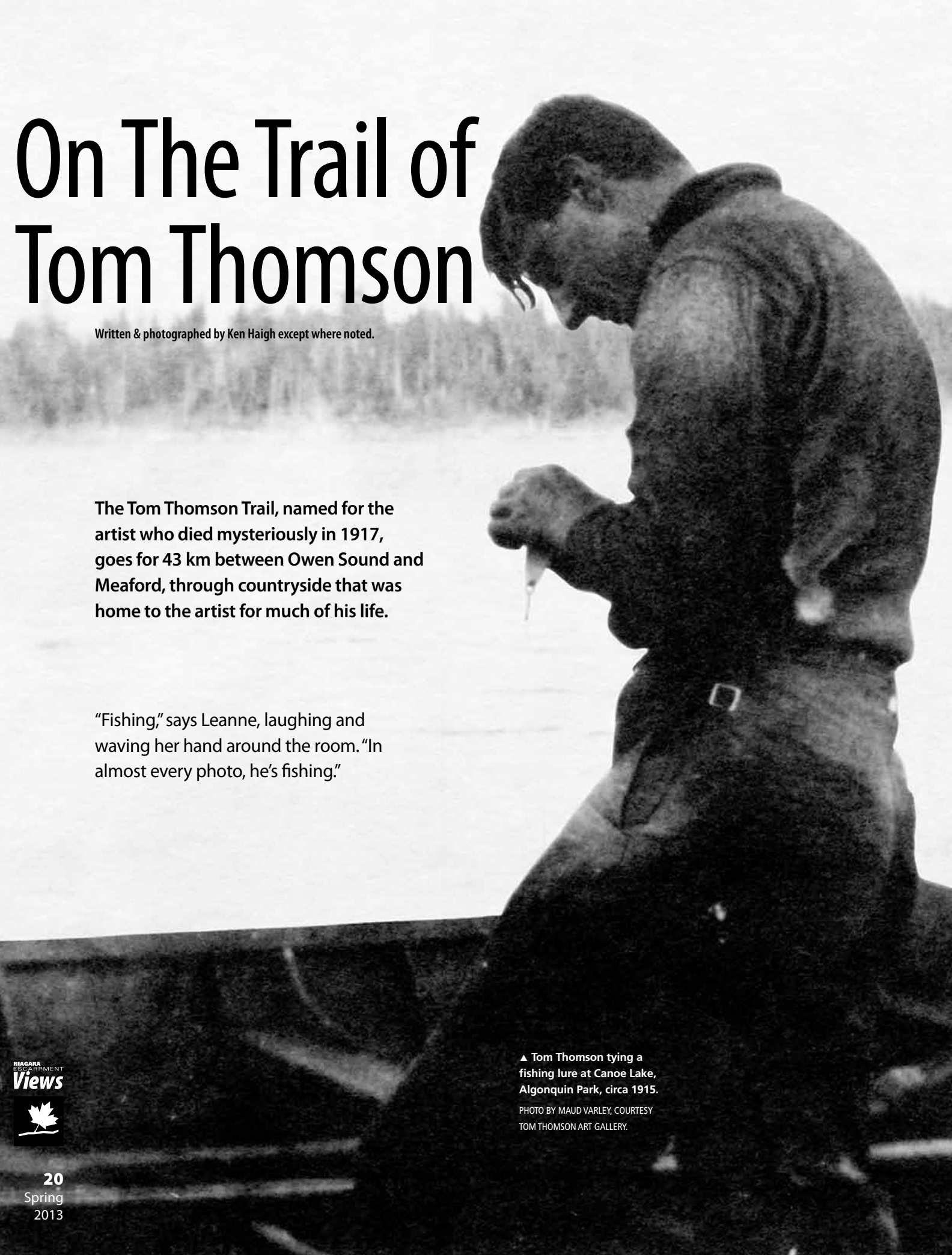
Continued on page 34 ►

On The Trail of Tom Thomson

Written & photographed by Ken Haigh except where noted.

The Tom Thomson Trail, named for the artist who died mysteriously in 1917, goes for 43 km between Owen Sound and Meaford, through countryside that was home to the artist for much of his life.

"Fishing," says Leanne, laughing and waving her hand around the room. "In almost every photo, he's fishing."



▲ Tom Thomson tying a fishing lure at Canoe Lake, Algonquin Park, circa 1915.

PHOTO BY MAUD VARLEY, COURTESY TOM THOMSON ART GALLERY.

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would form the core of The Group of Seven, Canada's best-known art movement. Yet, for my money, Thomson was the best of the lot. Who knows what he might have accomplished had he lived longer?

Thanking Leanne, I get in my car and drive east, to the Bayshore Community Centre. From the kiosk behind the arena, the Tom Thomson Trail wends its way east over the

two existing rail trails: the Georgian Bluffs Trail, which starts at Owen Sound Harbour, and the Georgian Trail, which runs between Meaford and Collingwood.

Leanne Wright is the manager of marketing and development for the Tom Thomson Gallery in Owen Sound, and she has agreed to show me around the collection. I am planning to cycle a portion of the Tom Thomson Trail, a three-season, non-motorized trail for hikers, bikers and equestrians, which runs between Owen Sound and Meaford, and which passes the Thomson farm, where the artist grew up, and the churchyard where Thomson is buried. Before I leave, I am looking for some background on the painter. There are black-and-white photos of Thomson scattered around the gallery, sandwiched between examples of the artist's work. Leanne is correct. In almost every photo, Thomson is fishing. But then, that fits. Part of the Thomson mythology is of Thomson the outdoorsman, the canoeist and fisherman, who captured the real Canadian north in his paintings.

Tom Thomson is Canada's best known artist, and the Tom Thomson Gallery holds the third-largest collection of Thomson's work, after the National Gallery of Canada and the Art Gallery of Ontario. Canvases like *The West Wind* are iconic, endlessly reproduced on posters and t-shirts. Thomson has shaped the way we see our country and ourselves. And yet Thomson came late to painting. As a young man, he worked in commercial art, where he specialized in lettering. It wasn't until the summer of 1912, when he first visited Algonquin Park that he turned to landscape painting. Between 1912 and his early death in 1917 at the age of 39, Thomson produced all of the paintings for which he is famous. He also introduced his co-workers at Grip Ltd., a Toronto commercial art firm, to the beauties of Algonquin Park. After his death, these painters

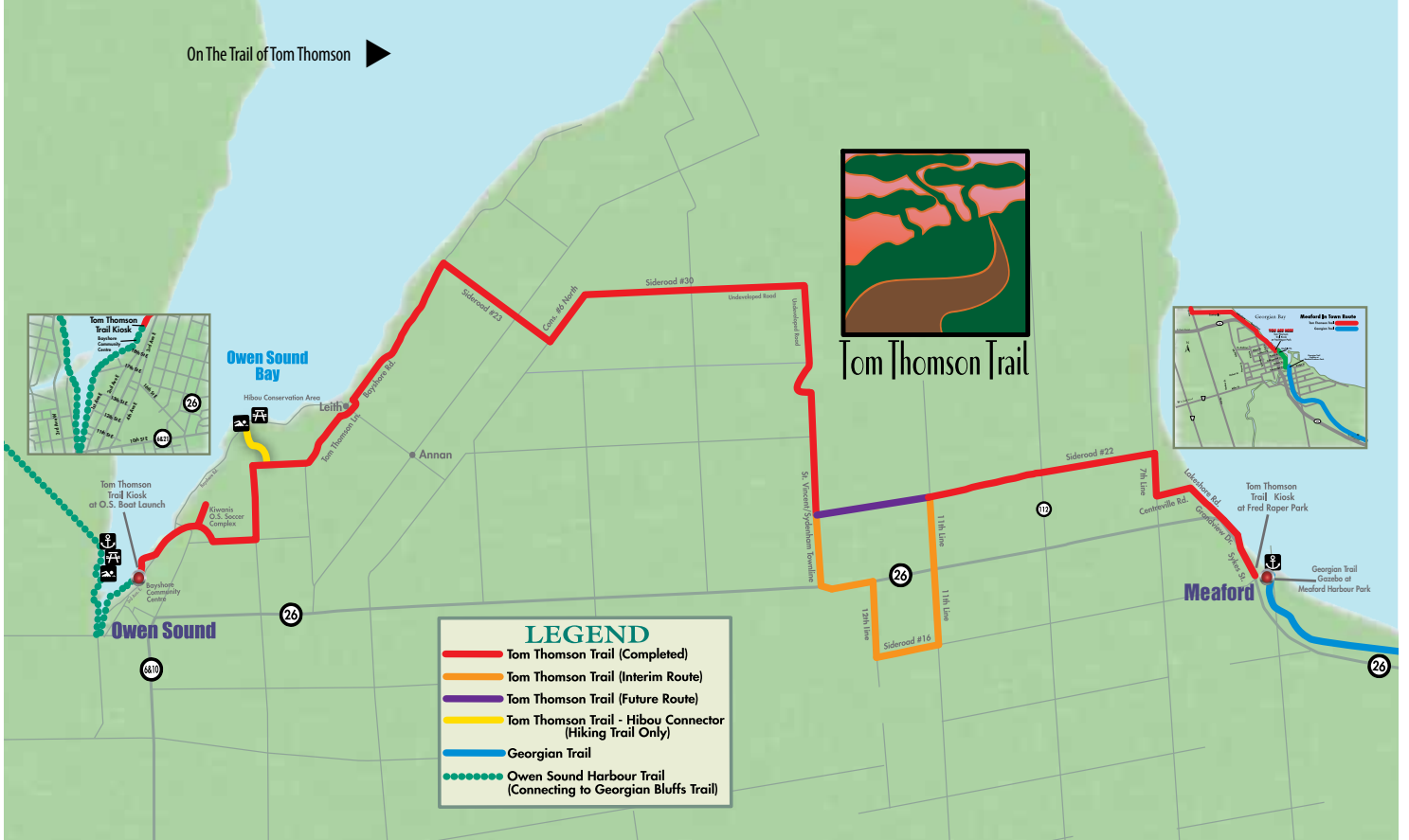


▲ View of Owen Sound Bay from Bayshore Road east of Owen Sound, a suggested route back from Leith.

Sydenham Peninsula. Earlier, I had spoken to Tom Hakala, the vice-chair of the Tom Thomson Trail Group, about the genesis of the trail. Hakala explained that the Tom Thomson Trail was designed as a bridge between

“The initial version of the trail was completed in 2008, but that was not the ideal route in our minds. The trail continues to evolve as we acquire new and





▲ The 43-km Tom Thomson Trail connects Georgian Bluffs Trail at Owen Sound to Georgian Trail at Meaford. Map courtesy The Tom Thomson Trail Group.





▲ Sign for Tom Thomson Trail.



▲ Historic Leith United Church where Tom Thomson is said to be buried.



▲ Mystery surrounds the death and burial of painter Tom Thomson. Some claim his body is not here despite the grave marker.

◀ Tom Thomson Trail below the Bayview Escarpment at the end of the 22nd Sideroad section.

better routes. Our goal at the moment is to have the complete trail north of Highway 26, so users do not have to cross the busy highway. There is still a lot of work to do to complete the trail, but we have a dedicated core of volunteers who will get the job done.”

I am not planning to cycle all the way to Meaford today, a distance of 43 km. Some sections, particularly those on the 22nd Side Road Extension, require a mountain bike to complete. My ambitions are much smaller, a short jaunt to Leith, the small community where Thomson spent the first 24 years of his life, an easy loop of perhaps 15 km.

I park my car, unhitch my bicycle from the carrier, and begin my journey. The first stretch is a pleasant glide along the water's edge on the bed of the former CN rail line. At the edge of the city, I leave the rail-trail and continue east on quiet lanes toward Leith. Cycling along the appropriately named Tom Thomson Lane, I pass a modern equestrian centre that was once the Thomson family farm, Rose Hill. A few minutes later and I've reached Leith United Church. The church is simple, but

Continued on page 36 ▶



Canada's Defining Moment: Battle of Stoney Creek



By Tess Bridgwater Photos by Mike Davis except where noted

The Battle of Stoney Creek on June 6, 1813 was the defining moment of the War of 1812. It is termed "a near death experience for Canada," by James Elliott, author of *Strange Fatality*, the definitive book on the battle. Without a victory here, Canada would have become another state of the Union.

▲ In June 1813, the American forces marched toward Burlington Heights on the Niagara Escarpment, reaching Stoney Creek, the furthest point they would push into British North America, the future Canada. Here, re-enactors fire a cannon during an annual commemoration of the Battle of Stoney Creek. PHOTO COURTESY OF TOURISM HAMILTON.



The Americans, who had declared war on Britain in June 1812, advanced a force of about 3,500 men from Detroit towards Burlington Heights on the Niagara Escarpment and a smaller force of about

800 British and Loyalist members of Natives. This area commanded a crucial view over Lake Ontario, an entry point to Upper Canada and a narrow escape route across both frontiers.

Yet the British were

demoralized after the Battle of Queenston Heights on the Niagara peninsula in October 1812, when the British commander Major General Isaac Brock was killed and some Native warriors had withdrawn their support.

In a skirmish at Fort George, Niagara, in May 1813, the Americans had been the victors, but morale was low in both camps. By summer, transportation points,

▶
Battle of
Stoney Creek



▲ Early in the morning of June 6, 1813, the British soldiers unexpectedly attacked the American camp which had set up on Gage Farm at Stoney Creek. RE-ENACTMENT PHOTO COURTESY TOURISM HAMILTON.



▲ Reproductions of 1812-era British uniforms, on display in Gage House.



▲ Buttons, buckles and bullets from the battle. The portrait is of a Colonel Taylor, who was wounded at Stoney Creek but survived and became a judge. On the right are a bayonet, a cannonball, musket ball and grapeshot, all used to inflict damage. Above the portrait are uniform buttons and belt buckles. These period artifacts are on display in Gage House.



▲ The monument for the Battle of Stoney Creek rises on top of a hill near the Niagara Escarpment, which was called the mountain by 1812 soldiers.



▲ Mary Gage was on the property during the Battle of Stoney Creek, but she and her children were kept in the cellar of their house throughout the fighting. This portrait of Mary hangs on a wall in Gage House today.



▲ A cannon near the monument points to Gage House in Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek.

farmland and communities had been destroyed; settlers were suffering hardships and troops were weary. Yet 3,000 Americans reached Stoney Creek on June 5.

In need of rest, they happened upon a large farm belonging to the Gage family, in the lee of the Escarpment, overlooking Lake Ontario and only 300 yards from the thoroughfare along which they were marching, now known as King Street. They requisitioned the property for their camp. Mary Gage and her family were confined to the cellar of the farmhouse when the battle began.

At nightfall, the Americans, certain that the British would not attack in the dark, settled down for the night. But they badly misjudged the British force.

Surprise Attack

Back on the Heights, British commander Lieutenant Col. John Harvey, prepared to reconnoitre the encampment with some Native warriors, led by Mohawk War Chief John Norton. Catching the Americans by surprise, in the early hours of June 6, a 45-minute battle ensued, during which field guns and two American Generals were captured, with casualties

Continued on page 38 ►

2 Important Landmarks

Battlefield House Museum and Park has been spruced up for the anniversary.

The Gage house will have special events, displays and activities.

The park is open year-round for family activities with a trail leading onto the Bruce Trail.

It is also the 100th anniversary for the tower, which was paid for by the ladies of the Wentworth Historical Society in 1912. The monument has undergone restoration and will re-open for the anniversary with a rebuilt viewing platform. Open for escorted tours, there are information plaques inside.

The main anniversary celebrations will take place over the weekend of May 31 to June 2, 2013. More than 1,000 re-enactors and merchants are expected to take part in a gala re-enactment on June 1 and 2.

Getting to Battlefield Park, site of the Battle of Stoney Creek:

Located at 77 King Street West, in Stoney Creek. Take Centennial Parkway south from the Queen Elizabeth Way and follow the signs. The park is about a one-hour drive from Toronto or Niagara Falls and the U.S. border.

More Information: battlefieldhouse.ca, tourismhamilton.com



STOP THE QUARRY

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How Three Community Groups Did It

By Dan O'Reilly
Photos by Mike Davis

Judging by the outcome of three high-profile campaigns against quarry proposals on or very near the Niagara Escarpment, citizen groups can prevail over seemingly insurmountable odds.

▲ North Dufferin Agriculture and Community Taskforce (NDACT) had these signs posted by countless supporters.

An example is The Coalition of Concerned Citizens' 13-year fight against the proposed James Dick 80-acre Rockfort Quarry which would have abutted the Escarpment. In November 2010 the Ontario Municipal Board ruled against the quarry.

Then, in October 2012, Protecting Escarpment Rural Lands and its community defence partner, Environmental Defence scored a decisive victory against Nelson Aggregate Co.'s 26 million-tonne quarry expansion plans on Mount Nemo when the Joint Board of the Ontario Municipal Board and the Environmental Review Tribunal ruled against its application for a Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment.

A month later the Highland Companies announced it was withdrawing its application for a 2,316-acre 200-foot below-the-water-table open-pit limestone quarry in Melancthon Township after facing a fire storm of opposition spearheaded by the North Dufferin Agricultural and Community Taskforce (NDACT).

The three organizations were not connected and used different strategies. But there are threads which link them symbolically.

In interviews, spokespersons for each emphasized they stayed focused, utilized the different skills of volunteers, and acted professionally in dealing with both their adversaries and members.

"We were always respectful. There was no place for egos," says NDACT Chair Carl Cosack.

A public meeting held in January 2009 to raise the alarm about Highland's intentions led to the birth of NDACT and a board of directors. As the board became more formalized, potential new members were asked to submit a resumé

outlining their reasons for wanting to join. Each director was responsible for a certain set of tasks. Items were dealt with at regular monthly board meetings, but if a vote or discussion was required on an urgent issue that was done by conference calls and emails.

“We elevated the facts so there was a common understanding of the (environmental) issues,” says Cosack, crediting the efforts of chef Michael Stadtländer, the Canadian Chefs’ Congress and hundreds of other volunteers in generating public awareness of Highland’s plans via the highly successful 2011 Foodstock fundraiser and a similar Soupstock in 2012.

In an overview of its struggle against the Rockfort Quarry, Coalition director Lorraine

The Niagara Escarpment: It’s like having the Serengeti Plain in your backyard.

Symmes says there was a realization that “a professional approach” which included fully researching issues and carefully preparing oral and written submissions to government and quasi-judicial agencies, was crucial.

“They (agencies) will listen to you. But you have to be prepared.” A sense of humour was also helpful. “Penny provided that,” says Symmes, referring to Penny Richardson, the president of the Coalition since its inception in 1997.

Like any group, the Coalition was comprised of a diverse range of individuals who didn’t always agree. Maintaining a



▲ Singer-songwriter Sarah Harmer next to a poster of the Mount Nemo Declaration with signatures gathered at a fund-raising event in Burlington in 2009.

Rockfort Quarry

The Coalition of Concerned Citizens waged a determined battle against James Dick Construction's plans for an 80-acre, open pit dolostone mine at Winston Churchill and Old Baseline roads in the Town of Caledon. As the quarry would have involved mineral extraction up to 100 feet below the water table, it was concerned about the threat to watershed, plus the impacts on roadways, the Niagara Escarpment ecosystem and a local moraine. In November 2010 the Ontario Municipal Board ruled against the application. In its ruling the board said the "natural heritage and cultural heritage recourses" of the subject lands outweighed their aggregate importance.

How Three Community Groups Did It ▶



Mount Nemo

An application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission by Nelson Aggregate Co. to expand its existing quarry on Mount Nemo in north Burlington was opposed by Protecting Escarpment Rural Lands and its community defence partner Environmental Defence on the grounds it would endanger native species, wetland health and groundwater supply. In October 2012 the Joint Board ruled against the application, in part, because the quarry would threaten the habitat of the Jefferson Salamander.

Melancthon Township mega-quarry

In November 2012, faced with a storm of protest spearheaded by the North Dufferin Agricultural Community Task Force, the Highland Companies announced it was withdrawing its application for a 2,316- acre 200- foot below-the-water-table open pit limestone quarry. Local residents and urban dwellers alike were worried about the quarry's size, location, potential detrimental impact on the headwaters of several significant rivers, and the loss of farmland.

sense of humour helped to diffuse often heated arguments, explains Richardson. "We had to compromise, persevere, and listen to opinions. It wasn't just about one person. Numerous people were involved," says Richardson, citing the

Coalition's board of directors, a group which met every Sunday to deal with ongoing issues, and a 150-strong contingent who organized highly successful yearly garage sales which helped defray legal costs and consultant studies.

"There was no magic bullet," she says, in explaining how the Coalition prevailed. "It was contingent on a lot of things, hiring good legal counsel and scientific experts, good fund raising, and finding people willing to work hard

and stay the course."

When asked what lessons PERL learned which could be emulated by other Escarpment-based citizen bodies, executive director Roger Goulet says

Continued on page 40 ►



▲ In 2011, Foodstock raised awareness and funds for NDACT's cause.



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▲ On a bright summer morning, the garden is an oasis for all ages.

some, others were not happy. At one point, the garden had become a semi-professional baseball diamond and later it was covered with a large pavilion which was highly enjoyed by the locals for dances, roller skating and concerts. During restoration discussions, Taylor enjoyed listening to the community's memories because he feels Dundurn is all about stories, both to be told and heard.

Delightful Abundance

When the physical restoration work began in 2004, the pavilion was removed and the garden began to take shape by building the perimeter fence and the pathway network. The early stages looked very barren but today apple trees, privet hedges, currant bushes and espaliered pear trees frame views and provide structure to the annual and perennial planting areas. Lush peonies, roses and lilies combine with many fragrant herbs and an



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abundance of produce to delight the senses.

The Dundurn staff selects many heirloom plants to grow, guided by family diaries and records of prizes won by the estate at local fairs. A local company's seed catalogue from the 1860s is another great resource to see what was available and popular. It is surprising to learn that there were five varieties of eggplant to choose from that long ago but Taylor says the MacNabs had twice as many cultivars to choose from than we do today.

Gardening practices are kept as authentic as possible and visitors especially enjoy seeing the staff and volunteers in period costumes as they work in the garden. The produce is used in the castle for various programs or donated to local agencies in need. There are many interpretive programs for visitors including the opportunity to harvest food in

the garden and prepare recipes typical of MacNab's era up in the castle kitchen.

Dundurn Castle wonderfully illustrates how this prominent family lived in Hamilton during the Victorian era. The pastoral setting beautifully displays the mansion and other buildings, blending the estate's dual roles of public park and museum. Visitors pass through on paths, picnic in the pavilion and enjoy the views from shady benches. And in the kitchen garden, the MacNabs' stories are being retold, the bounty of the past and present intertwining like a lush garden vine. **NEV**

Helen Powers is a communications consultant in Hamilton whose love of gardens has persisted past her first career as a landscape architect. She first heard of Dundurn Castle through her mother's stories of playing there as a child in the 1930s.

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elegant, now a designated heritage site under the Ontario Heritage Act and is in the process of restoration. Church services are still held here occasionally, and the church has become the venue for a local music festival. The surrounding cemetery is beautifully maintained, and I wander aimlessly up and down the rows of headstones searching for Thomson's grave.

An elderly couple is leaving, and I ask them if they know the location of the grave. The man smiles and points to my left. I'm standing right in front of it. I guess I was expecting something a little grander, for the gravestone is a simple granite rectangle, and Thomson's isn't the only name on the monument. There is a mountain of loose change spilling off the top of the gravestone.

"Why do people put coins on Thomson's grave?" I ask the couple.

"Don't know, but maybe we should put a collection box here," laughs the man. "We'd make a mint."

I thank them for their help and, after they leave, pause for a few moments at the grave. I'm not sure exactly what I should be feeling.

I sometimes think that the public's fascination with Thomson has less to do with his art and more to do with the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death. On July 16, 1917, Thomson's body was found floating in Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park. There was fishing line carefully wrapped about one ankle, a bruise on his temple, and blood issuing from his ear. The medical examiner ruled that his death was accidental, but not everyone agreed. In 1970, Judge William T. Little wrote that Thomson was murdered and



▲ On the Tom Thomson Trail near Leith.

maintained that Thomson's body was not in the Leith cemetery, as his family believed, but was still buried in the cemetery at Canoe Lake. Roy MacGregor, Thomson's most recent biographer, concurs.

Is Thomson's body in the Leith cemetery? If it isn't, then who is buried in Thomson's coffin? Does it matter? I hop back on my bike and continue into Leith, turning left towards Georgian Bay. A quiet journey along Bayshore Road carries me back to Owen Sound and my car.

For more information on the Tom Thomson Trail and a route map, see tomthomsontrail.com

- ▶ For more information on the Tom Thomson Gallery, see tomthomson.org. For information regarding ongoing special events celebrating the life of Thomson, click on "Canadian Spirit." Celebrations culminate in 2017 with the anniversary of Thomson's death, the 50th anniversary of the gallery, and Canada's sesquicentennial.
- ▶ For more information on the historic Leith Church: leithchurch.ca



Back at the gallery, I had asked Leanne whether she ever got tired of visitors asking about the mystery of Thomson's death.

"No," she had said. "It brings people into the gallery. They may come because they are curious about his death, but they return because they love his paintings."

And perhaps that is how it should be. **NEV**

Ken Haigh, author of Under the Holy Lake: A Memoir of Eastern Bhutan, is a frequent contributor to this magazine. His last article was "Mysteries of Ekarenniondi, The Rock that Stands Out," Summer 2011.

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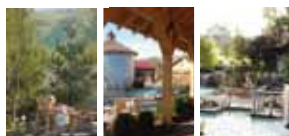
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Battle of Stoney Creek
Continued from page 29



▲ The public can meet re-enactors and explore the encampments at battle commemorations. PHOTO COURTESY OF TOURISM HAMILTON.

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▲ A 200-year-old period flintlock musket displayed in Gage House.

on both sides. Many of the dead lie buried in nearby Battlefield cemetery. Although the war limped on for another year, the Battle of Stoney Creek signalled the end of a decisive moment in Canadian history.

In a telephone interview, James Elliott explained “It was the furthest incursion of the

invading army of the entire war. If, in 1812, the Americans had gained control of Upper Canada, along with Michigan, New York and other border areas, Upper Canada would have become part of America.”

Battlefield Park commemorates the 200th Anniversary of this event on



and original paintings, while an annex contains uniforms from regiments that took part in the war. Special exhibits are planned for the re-enactment of the battle on June 1 and 2.

From the first re-enactment in 1981, it is now the longest running War of 1812 re-enactment in North America. For two days every year, hundreds of volunteers recreate the historic battle. Craig Williams, the "American commander" who co-ordinated the event a few years ago, helped make the surroundings feel authentic.

Fritz Steele of Brampton, a retired teacher and history buff, does about 32 re-enactments a year as Ships Carpenter. His tent is furnished with genuine artifacts relating to his trade, collected over time. "All re-enactors have an interest in history," he says, "but I think there were more interesting personalities then." He plans to be there for the 200th anniversary celebrations.

The re-enactment appeals to all ages, from young families to retirees. Mingling among the busy encampment as the red and blue-coated troops muster, officers command, privates march, camp followers and vendors mill around, children and dogs play and musket and cannon fire drifts over the horizon, it is a day to step back in time into a living history lesson and reflect on... what might have been... if the outcome had been different in the dawn light of June 6, 1813. **NEV**

June Re-enactment

Battlefield House Museum and Park is now a National Historic site at the north end of Stoney Creek. The original Gage farmhouse, where the family lived from 1796 to 1835, has been restored and furnished with period furniture

Cambridge writer *Tess Bridgwater* is a history buff who enjoys writing historical features for local magazines and newspapers.

For other War of 1812 features see "Who was Sir Isaac Brock?" by Chris Mills, Autumn 2012, and "DeCou's House of Heroes" by Adam Shoalts, Winter 2011.

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trees on your property. The trees that are in good health and structurally sound could be treated. It may not be feasible to treat



every ash tree on your property in which case the tree should be removed. An ash infested by the Emerald Ash Borer can decline very quickly and may reach a dead and hazardous stage within a couple of years.

The signs and symptoms of EAB infestation can be very difficult to detect in the early stages. If you have an ash tree on your property you should consult with a certified arborist. Ash trees can be identified based on their stout twig formation and the opposite bud arrangement. Hiring a qualified arborist is very important, as arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns. Well cared-for trees are attractive and can add considerable value to your

property. Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability. Pruning or removing trees, especially large trees, can be dangerous work. Tree work should be done only by those trained and equipped to work safely in trees.

Treatment against the Emerald Ash Borer currently entails injecting an organic

pesticide into the tree. The amount of pesticide used is based on the size of your tree which is also directly related to the cost of

the treatment. The treatment must be repeated every other year; leading consultants are anticipating that treatment will need to continue for the next 10 to 15 years. Research is continuing and another solution may be on the horizon. An arborist can help you weigh your options.

Maple Hill Tree Services has been in business since 1976 and is a full-care arboriculture firm. We offer a complete range of services and pride ourselves on our professionalism and dedication to the preservation of trees in the urban environment. We have been working with municipalities, school boards, condominiums and homeowners alike since the local EAB outbreak in 2008.

Please contact us for treatment or removal options at 905-824-2100 or contactus@maplehilltree.com.



▲ The Coalition of Concerned Citizens became famous for their enormous annual garage sale that filled a riding arena with donated goodies that funded their legal challenge.

decisions and actions should be guided by scientific research.

“Use technical experts to identify and record the ecological and hydrogeological science for the area. A key factor to PERL’s success was its legal team’s insistence on getting all the relevant evidence before the Joint Board.”

Formed in 2005, PERL maintained morale by attracting people committed to a common vision, keeping them involved, and incorporating fun into its strategies. The most obvious example was singer Sarah

Harmer’s series of Escarpment fund-raising concerts.

“Absolutely. Sarah is amazing. The concerts generated a huge amount of energy, goodwill and public awareness,” says Goulet, when asked if celebrities can help citizen campaigns. “PERL and many other NGOs are striving for the protection of our natural areas and prime agricultural lands, both in scarce supply. We hope that the Niagara Escarpment and the Greenbelt will finally receive true protection from ecologically non-sustainable development.”



The Coalition's Penny Richardson also believes there is now heightened public and political will to protect the Escarpment. "It's like having the Serengeti Plain in your backyard."

The counsel for Environment Defence is a little more guarded. Of the three development proposals, only the Mount Nemo lands are specifically on the Escarpment and in the summer of 2012 the Joint Board approved Walker Aggregates' application for a 42-million tonne quarry on the highest point of the Niagara Escarpment

near Duntroon, says David Donnelly.

"I'm not sure the political landscape has changed. The Niagara Escarpment Plan does not protect the entire Escarpment, only a portion of it. It (the plan) is sorely out of date and in need of a thorough review and updating." **NEV**

Dan O'Reilly is a frequent contributor to Niagara Escarpment Views. His last article was "Energy-Efficiency at Black Bank Hill" in Winter 2012.

For a related feature, see "Singing for the Escarpment" by Linda Lee, Escarpment Views, December 2008.

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View of Sustainable Gardening

The “Magic” of Companion Planting

Written and photographed
by Sean James



▲ Nasturtium, here near broccoli and cardoon, trap aphids.

Over the years, many ideas have been found and lost and sometimes found again. In between, those ideas often seem like junk or magic, the stuff of witch doctors. The question to ask to solve any challenge is “why?” Why does companion planting work? Which techniques work and which don’t... and why? We are beginning to gain a deeper understanding of the interactions between species. Research is being carried out to give us the real reasons so we know what to believe and what not to.

Some interactions are fairly obvious. The “Three Sisters” involve corn, beans and squash. Corn is a heavy feeder and the beans, in fact all legumes

and a few other plants, take nitrogen from the air to fertilize themselves and share it with the surrounding plants. The squash shades the roots of the corn and beans, keeping heat down and preserving moisture.

Conversely, there are plants whose benefits are still up for debate. Some research has shown that mosquito plants, a type of geranium, don’t actually repel mosquitoes. Other research shows that carrots do actually help tomatoes. Marigolds release a chemical from their roots that hinders many microscopic creatures and attracts pollinators to their flowers.

The most interesting kind of companion planting is lure cropping, planting a plant which attracts a pest. It goes against intuition but planting lupines or fava beans ensures a regular population of aphids. Why would any gardener want this? Always having aphids ensures you’ll always have predators such as ladybird beetles and lacewings. If the aphids have a population explosion elsewhere in your garden, predators are on standby to bring things under control. Nasturtiums will also trap aphids, protecting cabbages, beans, squash and their relatives and even apple trees.

From the biodiversity files, attracting birds and pollinators

to the garden will control pests. We need pollinators for food and birds, well, we just plain LOVE birds in our gardens. Planting shelter trees for birds and planting to ensure flowers early and late in the season for pollinators helps ensure pests will never get out of control. Even Japanese Beetles can be kept in check this way. Biodiversity practically guarantees balance and remember, a few pests are not a cause for concern. Many pollinators are also excellent predators and parasites. For example, the hoverfly is also an aphid predator and the tomato hornworm can be heavily predated upon by a beneficial wasp.

Many herbs such as sage and basil release volatile oils which could repel certain insects, or possibly mask the tasty scents of other crops from pests. While we enjoy onions in our food, most animals do not, so interplanting onions with plants that wildlife feed on, from tulips to roses, helps reduce feeding damage.

One of the niftier concepts is that of dynamic accumulators. Dynamic accumulators, many of which are weeds, have deep root systems which not only break up the soil but bring nutrients from deep in the soil to the surface. When these are thrown in the compost at the

end of the year or mulched into the garden they release these nutrients which have been used up on the surface. Thistles, Queen Ann’s Lace and mullein are some of the prettier weeds but you may not want them in your garden. Switch grass is one of the more ornamental dynamic accumulators. Based on its deep root system, asparagus should be another, and it’s quite beautiful when it’s mature, especially in its golden fall colour stage.

We still have a lot to learn, or relearn, about companion planting...and garden ecology in general. As usual, the lesson is that Mother Nature knows how to do it. Take her lead and life will be easier, your flowers will be less work and more beautiful and your veggies will be more plentiful. Read up, experiment...and don’t get too stressed about minor problems. Gardening should be fun! **NEV**

Sean James is the owner of Fern Ridge Landscaping and Eco-consulting and is the Chair of Landscape Ontario’s Environmental Stewardship Committee, a past president of the Milton Horticultural Society and a member of the Perennial Plant Association’s Environmental Committee. Email him through editor@NEViews.ca or reach him through www.fernrighdlandscaping.com/forum.



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NIAGARA
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42
Spring
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By Bob Barnett



Without protection, could your land end up like this? PHOTO PROVIDED BY EBC.



Protected land can look like this. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Don't like gravel pits? Then get \$50,000. We've won some important victories over gravel pits and quarries, but it's been an expensive fight. The Mt. Nemo confrontation alone cost the residents \$500,000 of a total \$2,000,000 expended between the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Region and the Conservation Authority. Fighting these applications through the tribunals and hiring experts is very expensive. It's like being on the operating table in a hospital. Preventative medicine is far less expensive and may be much more effective. If you're not a rural landowner, skip to the bottom of this article to learn how inexpensive it is to protect rural land using preventative medicine.

Let's keep up the momentum against the pits and quarries. Landowners who don't want one on their property can save a lot at income tax time. Here's how it works ...

A landowner can select from a list of covenants to be placed on title for their own property. They can say, "I never want rock, sand or gravel taken from my property," or "I never want my property subdivided" or "I never want a commercial wind generator." Other common restrictions can include commercial timber cutting, hunting, sport ATV riding,

draining wetlands or allowing dumping. Such restrictions can be placed on the parts of the property you want to protect like the forest and wetland. You can protect your farmland from subdivision. Each agreement is custom made to suit your wishes. Some owners want no hunting at all, others want no commercial hunting while most wish to remove nuisance species like groundhogs or porcupines which girdle trees. You can talk to one of the 40 families, often near you, who already have an agreement.

Some landowners want this protection because we need our farmland, forests and wetlands. Others appreciate that they can get an income tax receipt for putting these covenants on title. Such donations are normally appraised at about half the value of the land, not including the "improvements" like houses and barns which are unaffected by the restrictions. Values run from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per acre plus the value of lots not created and trees not harvested commercially.

Here are the steps to protect both your land and that of your neighbours:

1. Have an on-site discussion with a conservation organization like Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) to discuss the process, potential restrictions and probable value.

2. Have EBC draft up an agreement which meets your needs and check it with your family and advisors.
3. Have EBC appraise that agreement professionally.
4. Get approval from Environment Canada so you can save the capital gains tax and have the receipt value accepted by Canada Revenue Agency.
5. Register the agreement on title and get your tax receipt. Your income tax receipt saves you 40 to 46 per cent of its face value and can be used against up to five years of earned income, capital gains tax, spousal income and RRSP income.

If we had such an agreement right in the middle of a proposed quarry it would be crippled. Even having an agreement next door means there is a big setback required. If enough landowners agree to such an agreement on their own land, we'll make sure that the misfortune about the nice young couple who assured the nice older couple they wanted to bring up their kids on the farm, but who turned out to have far different plans, never happens again.

Protecting rural land at a low cost to you is the "preventative" medicine which keeps land free from development like gravel pits and protects the habitat of our rare and endangered species.

EBC always has both donation and purchase projects on hand to protect land from development. Such donations are a great gift, but EBC must come up with the funds to accept them. Appraisals, legal work and staff time cost about \$10,000, but that's not bad when the donation is worth \$50,000 to \$600,000.

Generally:

- ▶ \$100 can protect \$2,000 worth of "donated" land or about two acres
 - ▶ \$100 allows us to purchase a quarter of an acre. We already have 60 per cent of the money raised for our project on Manitoulin's south shore, protecting a half km of shoreline with alvar and rare species
 - ▶ \$300 allows us to steward a whole nature reserve for a year. We're exempt from property taxes, but we do need to insure and visit them
 - ▶ \$3,000 allows us to steward a property in perpetuity
- Just call me to discuss protecting land without any obligation whatsoever.

EBC has protected 9,000 acres on 117 sites from Acton to Goderich on Lake Huron and along the Niagara Escarpment to the west end of Manitoulin. **NEV**

Bob Barnett of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy can be reached through www.escarpment.ca or rbarnett@escarpment.ca or 888.815.9575.

NIAGARA
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Views





Coming Events

For more events go to www.NEViews.ca

March 2-April 7 weekends, holidays & March break **Maple Syrup Time**, Mountsberg Conservation Area, Campbellville. conservationhalton.ca 905.854.2276.

March 3, 10, 13, 14, 17, 24, 29, 31 **Maple Syrup Festival**, Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton. westfieldheritage.ca 1.800.883.0104.

March 11-15 **Discovery Day Camp**, Halton Region Museum, Milton. halton.ca/camp 905.875.2200 x 31

March 15-24 **Canada Blooms**, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto. canadablooms.com

March 20-21 **Perivale Gallery's 3 Day Workshop with artist Carenie Little**, Spring Bay Community Centre, Spring Bay. perivalegallery@gmail.com 705.377.4847.



March 23-24 **Old-Tyme Maple Syrup Festival**, Sauguen Bluffs Conservation Area, Paisley. publicinfo@svca.on.ca



March 23-24 **Sweet Taste of Spring**, Terra Cotta Conservation Area, Terra Cotta. creditvalleyca.ca 1.800.367.0890.

April 6 **Halton Eco Festival**, Glen Abbey Rec Centre, Oakville. oakvillepeacecentre.org/haltonecofest

April 7 **The Escarpment Project**, Hamilton. escarpmentproject.ca

April 8-9 **Endangered Species Act Conference**, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

April 12-14 **Green Living Show**, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto. greenlivingonline.com/torontoshow

April 27 **Wayzgoose 2013**, Grimsby Public Art Gallery, Grimsby.

April 27-28 **Quilts in the Garden**, Halton Quilters Guild, Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington. quiltsinthegardens.com 905.520.8928

May 16 **Plant Sale and Silent Auction**, Milton & District Horticultural Society, Milton Fairgrounds, Milton. 905.876.4405.



June 1-2 **200th Anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek**, Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek. battlefieldhouse.ca 905.662.8458.

June 2 **20th Annual Secret Garden Tour**, Dundas. www.carnegiegallery.org, 905.627.4265.

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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.

BRUCE TRAIL'S FIVE NEW RESERVES

In less than 90 days, Bruce Trail Conservancy donors raised \$1.3 million for five new nature reserves: Cedar Springs Woods in Burlington, Songbird Nature Reserve in Caledon, and three in Beaver Valley: Fairmount Wetland in Epping, Kimberley Springs in Kimberley, and Pinnacle Rock in Kolapore. This **permanently preserves 292 acres of Niagara Escarpment land** for conservation.

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Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton Conservation, Conservation Halton, McMaster University and other community partners are creating the Dundas EcoPark, a 3,325-acre urban park from the Niagara Escarpment to Cootes Marsh, and Dundas to Hwy 6. This will be **one of the largest urban eco-parks in Ontario**. The Government of Canada has promised a grant of \$502,274. Fundraising details are at DundasEcoPark.ca or 905.525.2181 x 111.



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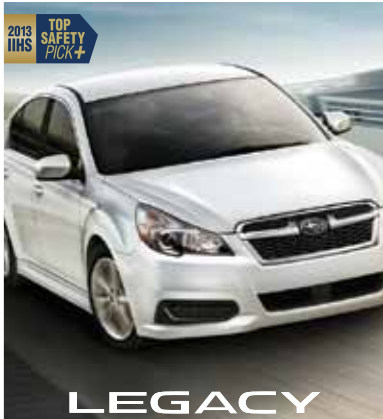


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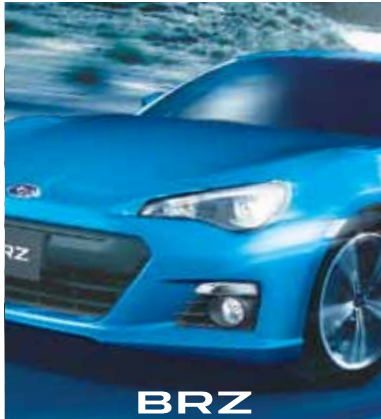
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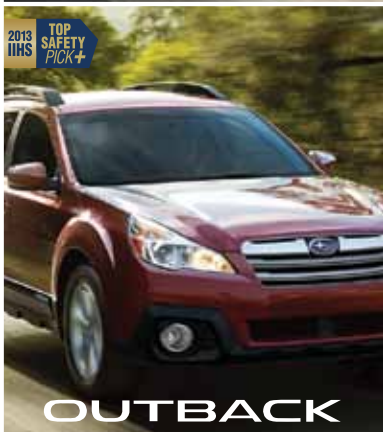
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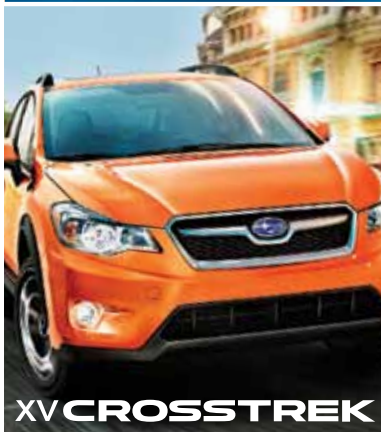
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- Owen Sound
Downtown Owen Sound Visitor Centre
Inglis Falls Information Centre
Owen Sound Subaru
- Rockton
Westfield Heritage Village
- Springmount (Owen Sound)
Earth Power Tractors & Equipment
- Spring Bay
Hettmann Studio

- Lion's Head
- Warton
- Sauble Beach
- Owen Sound
- Meaford
- Tara
- Chatsworth
- Chesley
- Markdale
- Flesherton
- Formosa
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Robertson Rentals
St. Catharines Home Hardware
Subaru of Niagara
- Stayner
Earth Power Tractors & Equipment
- Stoney Creek
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- Tara
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