

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT *Views*

Formerly Escarpment Views

Centre spread:
Old Baldy & Beaver Valley

Touring to Flowerpot

Last of Larkwhistle Garden

Wonderful Welland Canal

Cabot Head Lightstation Vacation



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(June, July,
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NIAGARA ESCARPMENT
Views Summer 2013
 (June, July, August)

On the cover: Flowerpot Island off
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View From the Editor's Desk

Sssensational Summer

Gloria getting close to a Black Rat Snake at Halton EcoFest, held by Ross Blackwood of Sssnakes!
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



It seems we wait the whole year for summer. Long days spent outside doing what we like best – gardening, hiking, spending time with family, golfing, touring, garage sailing... And then there's our annual

vacation of one, two or more weeks if we're lucky – staying at a cottage, resort or campground.

This issue gives several ideas for where to go and what to see in the northern part of the Escarpment. Larkwhistle is a

fantastic, famous private garden that has been open to the public for decades, but will no longer be open after this summer. This is your last chance to see this remarkable place.

Who knew you could vacation at a lighthouse and perform some of the duties of a lightkeeper? Our newest contributor Sandra Howe shares her experience of a different kind of summer holiday.

Cruising the crystal clear waters of Georgian Bay is always a delight, and particularly when you take in the islands off the Bruce Peninsula, culminating in Flowerpot Island. Mike and I share our tour in this issue's Publishers' Diary.

Another new contributor, Sarah King Head, reveals the amazing history of the engineering wonder the Welland Canal. From hand-dug ditch to

international waterway, it has come a long way in overcoming the physical challenge posed by the Niagara Escarpment.

All this and more pleasures await you in this issue. Grab a lemonade or gin and tonic, head for the shade and take the armchair tour we provide. Then, plan to enjoy some of the many wonderful experiences available along the magnificent Niagara Escarpment for yourself. The days are long, but summer is short, so get out and enjoy it! And let us know what you do and discover. We love hearing from you.

Gloria

editor@NEViews.ca

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

**Write us at editor@NEViews.ca or
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More online at www.NEViews.ca:

- Hooray for Our Interns: Amanda Grant & Nicole Thornburrow!
- Emerald Ash Borer Treatment
- Green Products & Services at the Green Living Show
- Snakes at Halton's 13th Annual EcoFest
- South Grey Museum Speaker Series
- Westfield's Maple Syrup Fest
- Cory Trepanier Nominated for Canadian Screen Award
- Vehicles for the Niagara Escarpment
- Premier Kathleen Wynne When Minister of Transportation
- Charles Hildebrandt Park

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Just as we were finalizing the pages of this issue, we received this letter:

In your editorial "Preventing Inappropriate Quarries," you very accurately and eloquently captured the experience, emotions and opinions of our POWR MAG Inc. Board and members over the last three years. We have been opposing an 'irreconcilably incompatible' pit and quarry application that will operate beside the Magnetawan River and an environmentally protected wetlands (only not provincially significant because it has not yet been evaluated, Phung Tran, MNR Landscape Biologist). The Township of Perry unanimously rejected the rezoning application on Oct. 3, 2012 BUT this decision was appealed to the OMB by the

proponent. The first Prehearing is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2013! As you might imagine, we are scrambling and working hard to get attention to our cause – protecting the natural environment, the river, the ground water and our peaceful quality of life. We received copies of your Spring 2013 issue of *Niagara Escarpment Views* from Gravel Watch Ontario, from Roger Goulet of PERL and from my niece who lives in Caledonia! Would we be able to quote from your article in some of our communications, please? Thank you for bringing attention to the success stories and passing on the learnings.

**Doris Kelly-Capyk, President
POWR MAG Inc., Protectors
of Wetlands & River
Magnetawan Inc., Emsdale**

**NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views**



[illegible]

You are right on with your comment "Shouldn't that be the job of our government ministries and agencies." The only problem is that the three major political parties of Ontario are either run by BIG business or unions and are so concerned with economic growth that the environment and/or low to middle income earners only come into play at election time. In my opinion the NON-RENEWABLE resources of our beautiful country should be owned by the people and not private companies. That means if you buy a farm and plant grain or corn or trees for profit, that is a renewable resource but if you want to dig out 1,000,000 tonnes of gravel and sell it to your neighbor or to the G.T.A. that is removing a NON-RENEWABLE resource from a municipality and a county with very little compensation for the locals. I live in a municipality that is rich in aggregate and without better planning I believe West Grey will look like Caledon in years to come. We already have locations with four pits within one mile. As a municipal councillor and a candidate for the Green Party in the last provincial election, my opinion is that aggregate sites could be run by the local county and costs for material would be fair for all contractors. Sites would have a termination date so locals would know that the site would be rehabilitated in a fixed year and not open ended. We all know we need aggregate, I just ask for better planning. We have to start living sustainable and planning for sustainability.

Don Marshall, Durham, West Grey

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Illustrated by
Kathleen Hilly
Chairman of
Commerce
Entrepreneur of
the Year Award

Spring 2013
Volume
April 2013

As a resident of the Niagara Escarpment, I'm as relieved as anyone else that Highland Companies lost the argument and they won't be allowed to dig that enormous pit in Melancthon Township. But amidst all the celebrations, I have yet to see anyone, anywhere, properly address the underlying issue. Do you live in a cardboard box? Of course not, and neither do I. But if you don't, then you are a consumer of aggregate. Do you drive a car? Work in an office building? Send your kids to a brick-and-mortar school? Attend a house of worship? Shop in a mall? None of our houses, buildings or roads could have been constructed without the sand, cement and gravel that came from quarries. The material that would have come from the potato fields adjacent to highway 124 will now have to come from some other pit elsewhere. So, presumably, some other group will soon have to form itself up and begin organizing the garage sales to raise the money to hire the lawyers to fight the proposed pit in *their* neighbourhood. Sigh. There will have to be many solutions to this conundrum. We need to develop smarter ways to build more efficient buildings. We need to get back to building smaller houses. We need to stop building so many roads. We need to invent better building materials and we need to do a much better job of recycling used materials. On the other hand, there will always be lots of people who love browsing at garage sales.

Richard Griffith, Ravenna

[Editor's note: Highland Companies voluntarily withdrew their application for a quarry.]

I have just finished reading your spring issue, and was so heartened by the article describing the successful efforts by citizen groups to prevent the development of inappropriate quarries. Our current government seems hell-bent on making protection of the environment the least of its concerns. It will take the ongoing will and power of the people to fight such short sightedness. The success of the three groups you describe brings me hope that sustained and thoughtful planning by citizen groups can bring about positive change.

Margaret Thompson, Tobermory

[The following comment was in response to our question on our Facebook page about whether the cover of the Spring 2013 issue is politically offensive.]

I don't think it's offensive at all. It is certainly a departure from your other covers which are always very beautiful but sometimes you need to grab people's attention over a very important and worthwhile cause. Protecting our environment and biodiversity is not an easy task especially when we have political leaders who are easily swayed by big business. There was an article in the Toronto Star... that quoted our PC Leader Tim Hudak saying that the Liberal government should protect jobs more than turtles, birds, and snakes. He wants to slash the regulations that protect endangered species that undermine business and agriculture. How unbelievably shortsighted. Kudos to your cover!

Rita Waterman, through Facebook.com/N.E.Views

I love this publication and that is why I am a subscriber. Having said that, I noticed what seems to be a large change in printing resolution of the pictures. They seem washed out or underexposed but I think that perhaps the colour separation is just not as good as it was. This is so disappointing given how many very beautiful pictures are in the issue. Have you changed printers or was this just a bad print run?

Shelley Mycan, Actor

Although we didn't notice a problem ourselves, and this was the only criticism we received about the print quality, we checked with our printer. No problem was identified. We do appreciate your concern for the quality of our magazine.

I always look forward to reading your magazine but upon review of the recent editions of Escarpment Views I noticed not one article on the new transmission line for the wind turbines coming down the Escarpment to Mountainview Rd in Beamsville. What a shame that they will be cutting a big swath down the Escarpment, placing massive poles and ripping out thousands of trees. This landscape will be ruined for life. I guess the rules are different when money talks.

Barb Condotta, Jordan



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A photograph showing a wooden crate of fresh strawberries on the left and several ripe peaches on the right, all resting on a light-colored wooden surface.

It was really nice to see you and chat for a bit at the Halton Eco Festival. Thank you very much for the free issues of Niagara Escarpment Views. I had a big laugh when I read the story of you zipping the Thunderbird. I would have felt exactly the same. I will take my son there. He will love it. I am not brave enough to ride the zip line, but I will take lots of photos of my son and enjoy to see, how much fun he has.

Monika Caemmerer, Acton

Happy Birthday everyone! It seems a fitting statement this year since the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Niagara Escarpment Plan turn 40 in 2013. The Iroquoian Club of the Bruce Trail Conservancy is turning 50 this year (anyone else?) and Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) turns 35. It is a great time to celebrate the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve, especially after the Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association review last year which confirmed the UNESCO designation.

With mega quarries and high-ways and pipelines all threatening the Escarpment, the swell of public support for protection seems to be at an all-time high. It's much needed, too. Who knows what protections may be in place in the future? So it's the perfect time to ride the wave of public support and spread the word as much as we can... all of us who care about the Niagara Escarpment.

So wherever you are along the "Giant's Rib", I encourage all the groups involved in its preservation

to attend the Biosphere Bash at Ball's Falls this July 7 and showcase the good work we all do. Niagara Escarpment Views, CONE, the Bruce Trail, the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre and local Conservation Authorities are hosting the event and hope to make it an annual thing to celebrate our unique World Biosphere Reserve.

Tell your friends, and hope to see you there!

Chris Hamilton, Burlington





FOTEK Saves Feeder Lands

Friends of the Eramosa Karst (FOTEK) was created in 2007 by Hamilton citizens wanting to protect the Eramosa Karst lands, which was achieved in 2008. Their goal was to have the 80 acres of “feeder” land adjacent to the Eramosa Karst protected as well. Since their beginning, FOTEK have held public events to educate the public, organized clean-ups, and lobbied all levels of government. This year FOTEK finally succeeded in having the feeder lands protected through a lease agreement between Hamilton Conservation Authority and the province of Ontario. To further help protect the Eramosa Karst, FOTEK recently presented the Hamilton Conservation Foundation with a cheque for \$10,000. In Autumn 2008 *Escarpment Views* published an article about the Karst by Rita Giulietti of FOTEK. PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON CONSERVATION AUTHORITY.

—Amanda Grant

Environmentally-Friendly Farm Awarded

Monika Caemmerer of Believe Farm, Acton, won the 2013 Can-Am Annual Environment Award for her environmentally friendly practices including a geothermal heating system, the use of zeolite for the control of dust and ammonia for the horses, an Eco-Grid beneath sand paddocks for drainage, an eco studio, and a photovoltaic solar system on the barn roof. The Summer 2009 issue of *Escarpment Views* contains a photo of a celebration of the installation of this solar project.

PHOTO BY FREDERIC CAEMMERER.



Books Bound for Ontario First Nation

Teen sisters Emma and Julia Mogus of Oakville, founders of Books With No Bounds, are tireless in their efforts to send books and supplies to Aboriginal children and youth of the 49 communities of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in northern Ontario. At time of printing, more than 17,500 books have been sent so far. For more information and to help the cause, see bookswithnobounds.com. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Textures Celebrates 30 Years

Since 1983, Textures of Locke Street in Hamilton has been a not-for-profit collective for local artisans to market their work in a retail gift shop staffed by member artisans. More than 200 fledgling artisans have been mentored and more than 50 local artisans are now members. Textures has won numerous and various local awards. PHOTO BY SANDRA RODWELL.





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More Rare Tufa Found Near Escarpment

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) staff have discovered rare tufa deposits near the Escarpment at Belfountain and Silver Creek conservation areas. Tufa is a type of rock that is naturally produced from calcium carbonate, and in Ontario is found at waterfalls and springs. Tufa has been found at Brantford, Dundas, Niagara Falls and Paris, and last year, at the two CVC conservation areas.

“I would love to see geologists visit Belfountain to shed more light on the significance of this phenomenon,” notes Leanne Willis, Natural Areas Inventory Field Technician at CVC. “There is thus far little documentation of Ontario tufa deposits, and likely more to be found on the Escarpment. The calcium-rich limestone of the Escarpment is an integral component.” Right, mound of white tufa covered by moss at Belfountain. PHOTO BY LYNDIA RUEGG.



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Events Along the Rock

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Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Wastewise board members presented the Town of Halton Hills with a cheque for \$15,000 on Feb. 12 to pay for recycling bins to go in Town parks. From left, Debbie Smart, Mike Foley, Marsha Batchelor, Fraser Robin.

At the 40th Auto Show in Toronto, Subaru staff on Feb. 14 displayed a cutaway Subaru Forrester 2014 with their Eyesight system. From left, Julie Lychak, Joel Felstein and Ted Lalka. ►





▲ Doug Rapien of Stone Edge Estate Bed & Breakfast hosted Halton Hills' Chamber of Commerce Business After Five on March 27.



▲ Bob Barnett of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, at the Green Living Show in Toronto, April 12-14. Bob is a columnist for *Niagara Escarpment Views*.



◀ The 13th annual Halton Eco Festival, this year celebrating biodiversity, was held in Oakville on April 6.

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Events Along the Rock

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▲ On April 14, Brad Mailloux of Georgetown's Feet in Motion, on the bike, led "Spring into Motion" 1km Kids' Fun Run. A 5km race followed for adults. All proceeds went to the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program.

◀ Roger Goulet, executive director of Protecting Rural Escarpment Lands, was invited onstage at the Green Living Show on April 13, by Sarah Harmer who was given an award by *Alternatives Journal* and Green Living, for the successful opposition to an application for another quarry on Mt. Nemo in Burlington. For an article about this and other successes, see the Spring 2012 issue of *Niagara Escarpment Views*.

Brenda Dolling, in red at left, on April 14 gave visitors an introduction to Whole Village ecovillage in Caledon. ▼



Niagara Escarpment Visionary: Eluned “Lyn” MacMillan



Eluned “Lyn” MacMillan had the vision of a Niagara Escarpment protected from inappropriate development. For being instrumental in establishing the Coalition On the Niagara Escarpment (CONE), Lyn is a Niagara Escarpment Visionary.

In the spring of 1978, Lyn and four others gathered around her kitchen table, decided to form an umbrella coalition of support for the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment, and called it the Coalition On the Niagara Escarpment (CONE). They were responding to a Queen's Park private member's bill that would have repealed the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. Overjoyed by the bill's defeat, Lyn attracted representatives like John Willms from the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Ron Reid from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and others from Canadian Nature Federation, Pollution Probe, and the Foundation for Aggregate Studies, a group opposing aggregate extraction.

CONE's first victory was to stop the development of a retreat to be known as Cantracton at the Forks of the Credit. Lyn organized a letter-writing campaign when the Minister of Housing approved the project after it had been denied by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC). The letters drew attention to the possibility that



From left: CONE members Monte Dennis, vice president, Robert Patrick, president, Lyn MacMillan, founder, Josh Gordon, director.



Lyn MacMillan and Don Scott, chair of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, hold Lyn's Niagara Escarpment Lifetime Achievement Award.

this development approval may have been a political favour to the developer. The Ontario Cabinet stopped the project.

In 1980, Lyn led a delegation to see Premier Bill Davis to secure conservancy funds to acquire and preserve environmentally sensitive Escarpment lands. She left the meeting with a commitment for a million dollars from the Premier.

Lyn arranged to have CONE members present at all three public meetings for the rollout of the Niagara

Escarpment Plan, where CONE members often encountered open hostility from local residents and proponents for real estate and aggregate development. She recounts that she walked into community halls where local landowners buffeted her with their elbows out and tried to intimidate her by burning effigies of Bill Davis in the parking lot.

Lyn “walks the talk!” She doesn't ask others to do what she would not do herself. And she leads by example. She and her late husband

Bob MacMillan donated their Vaughan farm to the Nature Conservancy of Canada to protect it from inappropriate development in perpetuity. The farm was valued at over 12 million dollars and was at the time, the single largest conservation donation in Canadian history.

Here's another story that has circulated about Lyn. Once when she felt she had to see a certain government minister, she just showed up at his offices. His receptionist said that he was extremely busy and perhaps Lyn could make an appointment to see him another time. Instead, Lyn said that she could wait, and sitting in his outer office, took out her knitting to keep her occupied until they could meet. Lyn was determined to see the Minister. Her determination was one of her great gifts that made CONE so strong.

In 1985 Lyn was appointed to the NEC. Other people who have helped run CONE over the years include Rob Leverty, Cathy Spoel, Jason Thorne, Bradley Shaw, Phyllis Lee, Leslie Adams and Chris McLaughlin. As current president of CONE, I can state that Lyn continues to be an inspiration to us as she conveys her interest in our activities and continues to be an active supporter of CONE.

In May 2012, she was awarded the Niagara Escarpment Lifetime Achievement award by the NEC.**NEV**



View of Sustainable Gardening: Edible Planting

Written and photographed
by Sean James

Since big leaps can be frightening, baby steps are good. This applies to many things in life and certainly to vegetable gardening. It's easy to start with a baby step, isn't it? And why should you think about starting, you ask? Edible planting is the fastest-growing form of landscaping for homeowners... with good reason.

Many veggies, such as kale and Swiss chard, are incredibly beautiful and add great texture to the garden. Think first about the potential beauty of the plant; texture and foliage colour and even fruit. Whether or not you like Brussels sprouts, they're really surprisingly interesting in the garden and add great contrast to plants such as blue ornamental grasses and purple or yellow coneflowers. Vegetables don't have to be stuck in the corner as if they behaved badly. They can be allowed to play with others quite effectively.

There are lots of great websites out there that can help us learn how to grow vegetables. "Renee's Garden" has a great blog which includes delicious recipes and tips on how to grow plants. Just do a quick search online, using key words like seeds. Tree and Twig is a local company that offers heirloom seeds and also has an amazing and thought-provoking blog. Learn a little bit every time and before you know it you'll be cooking food that you grew with your own hands, and you can be confident that there are no pesticide residues.

Heirloom Varieties

Many people are fans of heirloom varieties, which have been grown for generations without fertilizers and without



▲ Edible plants can add beautiful textures and foliage colours to any garden.

Redbor Kale and Purple Dome Asters make a gorgeous combination. ▼



a lot of work. They usually have superior flavour although they might not be as pretty as some of the newer varieties. The Brandywine tomato is wrinkled and purportedly ugly, but it's often a winner in tomato-tasting challenges.

You can learn a lot at events like Seedy Saturdays that are held in many communities to share and exchange garden seeds, and also at shows like Canada Blooms. Both the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton and the Niagara Parks Botanical Garden have amazing edible gardens. Each of these can give you great ideas. Many communities offer short courses in permaculture, the art of growing your own food sustainably.

It's a good idea to start with a few confidence boosters. Some of the easiest vegetables to grow are different types of

lettuce, as well as beans and tomatoes. Think about using purple-leafed basil or carrots to edge your garden. Just make sure to work up the soil well and add lots of organic matter. Kale takes care of itself and the large, textured purple or blue leaves look amazing with dwarf 'Purple Dome' asters.

Start Small

Try little things every year, such as a pot of herbs or bush zucchini outside the kitchen door, or on an apartment balcony. The best vegetable gardeners out there are not professional landscapers, but regular homeowners who have built, year after year, on the small amount of knowledge with which they began.

Get the family involved. You can enjoy spending time cooking your harvest with the kids or someone special. One of the things we often forget is that gardening should be

enjoyable. Our society is losing track of the fact that at the end of a Saturday afternoon of gardening, you've really accomplished something special and beautiful. You can save some money and increase your property values. There's a whole industry called horticultural therapy because gardening makes us feel good emotionally and veggie gardening satisfies our appetite as well. Try new things. Try new flavours. Share the fun and the food.

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. Reach him at 905.876.4852 or www.fernridgelandscaping.com.

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End of an Era: Larkwhistle's Last Public Season

By Gloria Hildebrandt Photos by Mike Davis

Near Dyer's Bay, close to the Niagara Escarpment in the far northern part of the Bruce Peninsula, where southern gardeners would not expect to find an impressive garden, is one that you may want to visit this year while you still can.

This will be the last summer and fall that the public can visit the beautiful garden Larkwhistle, near Dyer's Bay.



Larkwhistle is one of the most famous private gardens in Canada, thanks to several books and magazine articles its owners have had published over the years. Patrick Lima and John Scanlan came to the area in 1975 and got to work creating what has become an inspiration to countless other gardeners, most with much gentler growing conditions. What they were faced with is evocatively described by Lima in their 1992 book *The Kitchen Garden*: "...a flat field waist-high in swaying grass. A towering dead elm tree, gray and barkless, spread its twisted arms against the sky. A leaning barn, sided with weathered wooden shingles, sheltered a flock of swallows. Toppling fence posts, looped with rusty barbed wire, outlined what may once have been a garden. Half-hidden in tall grass, an old iron hand-pump stood beside a shoulder of exposed rock. The flat field was broken here and there by piles of rock, old apple trees and banks of lilac bushes."





▲ One of the seven water-and-fish-filled pools throughout the garden that make watering by hand convenient.

◀ Although the plan was to stick to organic vegetables, perennial flowers in colour schemes were soon added. Scanlan loves roses and takes care of the flowers while Lima tends the veggies.

House with a view: front windows look onto the one-acre front yard that is the intensively planted Larkwhistle Garden ▼



They began growing food organically. Then as is usual for gardeners, they became more ambitious.

"John tells me that when he first saw the flat hayfield that was to become our garden, he thought, 'I'd like to make something beautiful here.'" So wrote Lima in their 1998 book, *The Art of Perennial Gardening*.

What they achieved is amazing: a beautiful combination of flowers, vegetables, herbs, fruits, shrubs, trees, in a one-acre space that is large for a garden but actually small for the wealth of what they grow. Everything is intensively planted together, vegetables among flowers, which in some places have been planted



▲ Flowers and vegetables co-exist beautifully. Note the care taken with the watering can. “I don’t like to see water on the paths,” says Lima. “It doesn’t do any good there.”

◀ The potting shed is conveniently located in the middle of the planting beds. Its design is in harmony with the house and adds beauty to the garden.

The potting shed where seeds are started. Hot peppers, grown in pots in the shed all summer, produce well. ▶



according to colour schemes, with the result being a lush, rich space that intoxicates with scents and buzzes with bees, butterflies, birds and hummingbird moths.

Those who like structure in a garden will admire the harmony created by the rustic components here. There are no stretches of lawn, only narrow, hard-trodden,

permanent walking paths around rich beds. Cedar rail fences divide the space. Arbours provide height, support for vines, and vertical interest. A few wooden benches are available, but not enough to be a distraction from work. Containers and pots of plants add variety through the garden. Concrete pools of sun-warmed

water are spaced throughout, providing easy access when watering is required.

Hand Watering

“During the 18 years when we had no electricity and hence, no water pressure, we watered the whole garden with watering cans,” explains Lima. “After we

‘got in the hydro’ as old-timers used to say up here, we still water quite a bit of the garden in the same way, warm water dipped from pools poured selectively on the thirstiest plants as and when they need it. We also use a wand attachment on a hose to water

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NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views



Hats Off to “Merritt’s Ditch”: A Portrait of the Welland Canal

Written & photographed by Sarah King Head except where noted.

Take a simple engineering challenge. How do you use gravity to raise a ship?
With lots of water, that’s how – especially if that ship is climbing
the Niagara Escarpment on the Welland Canal.

The region’s earliest settlers all knew that a journey from the St Lawrence River system and Lake Ontario over the Escarpment and into Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes involved a perilous portage around the geologic feature’s most iconic aspect: Niagara Falls.

It was not until the end of the American Revolutionary Wars at the end of the 18th century, however, that a combination of geopolitics

▲ View towards St.
Catharines Skyway from
Lock 6. PHOTO BY SEAN YOUNG.

and market forces compelled British North America to find a more permanent solution – one that linked the centre of the continent with the Atlantic Ocean and climbed the “mountain.”

Upon reflection, it is simple to appreciate the Welland Canal’s accomplishment compared to other canals worldwide. Indeed, one has only to look at the impressive geology it overcomes – the nearly 100 metres of Silurian

shale that comprise the body of the Niagara Escarpment beneath its hard dolomitic limestone capstone. It also contends with two distinct geographic terrains, above and below the mountain.

But two centuries ago, such an undertaking was considered to be too audacious and risky for governments, let alone an individual, to undertake.

Enter William Hamilton Merritt in the early 1800s.

The American-born, United

Empire Loyalist was not alone in petitioning the House of Assembly for the Province of Upper Canada to receive a charter for the construction of a canal in 1818, but it was ultimately down to Merritt’s acumen and financing that the Welland Canal did indeed become a reality.

Ever the pragmatist, Merritt realized that success would be achieved in following natural water courses as closely as possible. From Lake Erie, his

canal flowed down the Niagara River before entering the Welland River at Chippawa. Moving upstream, it wended its way to Allanburg and via a “Deep Cut” to Port Robinson before beginning its descent of the Escarpment at Thorold. From Thorold, it passed through Merriton into St. Catharines and along Twelve Mile Creek, exiting at Port Dalhousie into Lake Ontario.



Construction began on November 30, 1824, with the first sod being turned at Allanburg by Merritt's business partner and president of the Welland Canal Company, George Keefer.

And, five years to the day later, the Welland Canal would see Merritt standing proudly on the deck of one of the two vessels to make that first upbound journey, the schooner called Ann and Jane.

Four Canals

In spite of this success, construction had been fraught with financial crises and controversy. Indeed, it became immediately clear that the canal's 40 wooden locks were neither large nor robust enough to accommodate much maritime traffic. In response, the Government of Upper Canada assumed ownership and financing of the canal, and plans were drawn up for its reconstruction with stone-faced locks and by cutting a direct

ship channel through to Port Colborne on Lake Erie.

Both the second and third iterations of the Welland Canal, opened in 1845 and 1887, responded to ever larger vessels and the demands of emerging domestic and international markets by carving an increasingly direct route between the lakes, reducing the number of locks and enlarging their capacities.

By 1932, the canal's course ran from Port Colborne, skirting eastward of Welland and St.



▲ The M.V. Rt Hon Paul J Martin upbound to Lake Erie at Lock 4. PHOTO BY SEAN YOUNG.



▲ Captain John Carlson, M.V. Cuyahoga, wearing top hat at the launch of the 2013 navigation season.



▲ From left: RCMP Constable Yolande MacArthur, Marine Security Operation Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Captain John Carlson, M.V. Cuyahoga, First Engineer George Lundrigan, M.V. Cuyahoga, and RCMP Staff Sergeant Steve Brown, Marine Security Operation Centre, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Catharines, to Port Weller by means of just eight locks. Of these, its world-class engineering credentials were established with a series of three twinned flight locks between St. Catharines and Thorold. Stretching nearly 1.25 km over an incline of

42.5 metres, Locks 4, 5 and 6 make it possible for vessels to pass in opposite directions simultaneously.

The first phase of an unrealized fifth canal was construction of a bypass around Welland in 1973, which

linked Port Colborne and Port Robinson more directly.

Annual Top Hat Ceremony

What began as “Merritt’s ditch” in 1829 is today regarded as a testament to the engineering ingenuity of the pioneers

who first settled the Niagara Peninsula.

This remarkable achievement is celebrated in many ways each year, not least with the opening of the canal’s navigation

Continued on page 36 ►

H.M.C.S. Ojibwa upbound to Port Colborne. PHOTO BY SEAN YOUNG. ▼





Beaver Valley from Old Baldy Conservation Area.
Photo by Mike Davis

Keeping the Light: Assisting

Written & Photographed by Sandra J. Howe

The historic Cabot Head Lightstation perches on the northeastern tip of the Bruce Peninsula, much as it has since 1896. Though operating systems have changed, this important navigational aid still serves to guide vessels large and small on Georgian Bay's often turbulent waters. The light itself now stands atop a steel tower, solar-powered and automated. The lightstation and lightkeepers' cottage remain vibrant and alive with activity, preserving the human and natural history of this beautiful, rugged coast. Cabot Head witnessed the heyday of Great Lakes shipping and fishing, of timbering and pioneering in the Bruce Peninsula's remote wilderness. Today visitors from around the globe come to explore maritime history, and relive the pioneering spirit.

"Friends of Cabot Head" was formed in 1993 by area residents concerned with keeping the lighthouse alive. In agreement with the Canadian Coast Guard and Lindsay Township, the organization undertook major renovation work from 1994 to 1996. The Cabot Head Lightstation now operates as a museum and historic site, maintained and managed by staff and

volunteers. Funds are generated through donations, gift shop and gallery sales, and the Assistant Lightkeeper Program. Our week as assistant lightkeepers at Cabot Head was a wonderful adventure. The history, scenery, and people brought me great joy. I look forward to my stay there again next year.

What a unique opportunity to live amidst the past!



▲ Cabot Head Lightstation, old and new. Today's automated, solar-powered navigational beacon stands atop a steel tower adjacent to the original, wooden lighthouse structure built in 1895.



at Cabot Head Lightstation

Assistant lightkeepers have private kitchen, lounge, bed, and bath facilities in the actual lightstation. The rest of the building houses museum displays depicting lighthouse and pioneer life. Stories of shipwrecks, timbermen, fisheries, and local flora and fauna cover the walls. A blackboard offers visitors a place to add their experiences: “Met a black bear while riding bicycle,” “Saw bald eagle with

fish,” “Rebuilt rock armchairs on beach,” “Saw rattlesnake on path.”

Area residents generously donated family antiques, and the Bruce County Museum loaned artifacts. Local craftsmen meticulously built models of the Meneray Fish Camp, and of Cabot Head Lightstation. The community rallied to protect and share this precious heritage. It is clearly a labour of love, and

I was excited to play a small part.

It was a lovely September morning when John Vanderburgh and I arrived at Cabot Head. The gravel road in from Dyer's Bay winds between the cliffs and boulder beaches. The views of Georgian Bay's crystal clear waters and rugged shoreline are spectacular. Kathleen and Guy Langman welcomed us kindly. This is their eighth

season as site managers at Cabot Head. From May to October they live full time in the lightkeepers' cottage, keeping all operations in ship-shape condition. Guy showed us around the lightstation, and then left us to get settled in our home for the week. The quarters are rustic but functional. Luxuries like electricity, hot running water, and a flush toilet came late to this remote post.



◀ Stormy skies over the bluffs of the Niagara Escarpment, and the lightkeeper's cottage. This is the summer home of Friends of Cabot Head staff, and The Lightkeeper's Locker Gift Shop.





▲ Author Sandra Howe at work. Daily chores for Assistant Lightkeeper include cleaning windows, sweeping down cobwebs, and keeping the lightstation in ship-shape condition.

John Vanderburgh of Paisley descends lookout tower ladder with caution after doing daily sweeping. ▼



As assistant lightkeepers, we helped clean and maintain the lightstation and grounds, welcomed visitors and answered questions, and worked in the gift shop and gallery. The duties were light and relaxing, in September, but summer months are busier. We settled easily into the routine of sweeping, dusting, and cleaning windows. I enjoyed the quiet times of reading, writing, and chatting. John was more outgoing with visitors, sharing stories and laughter. Sunrises, sunsets, storm-watching, and star-gazing

were incredible from the lightstation tower. In off hours, we hiked, kayaked, explored, and did photography. It is a simple life, close to nature, a pleasure to the soul.

Saturday brought the fall tour of the Horseless Carriage Club of America in their pre-1915 automobiles. It must have been a tough drive in because the Cabot Head Road is very bumpy, and those cars lack good suspension systems. They had picnic lunches on the grounds, climbed the tower, and checked out the exhibits. Many visitors



▲ The main floor of the lightstation functions as a museum from early lighthouse days, and is furnished with authentic house and kitchenwares donated by local families. It is easy to get a real feeling for what life was like for the pioneer lightkeepers. Stories and photos accompany the artifacts.

The old cookstove in the lightstation museum. ▶





▲ The southern Ontario group of the Horseless Carriage Club of America visiting Cabot Head with their pre-1915 vehicles. They enjoyed a picnic on the lawn and toured the museum.



snapped pictures of the antique cars in front of the historic lighthouse.

Several visitors also chatted with Dorothy Dedels, a local artist who at age 81 still volunteers regularly in the Shipwreck Gallery. Dorothy notes, "The lighthouse has always been a symbol of hope and courage. When we come here, we step into our basic nature. We are in touch with the beauty of the place, the bears, the wildlife. I love the Escarpment; it feels like home."

Dorothy told a story about life in the lighthouse: "When I first stayed in the lighthouse, I hoped to meet a ghost. I watched and waited because it seemed there should be one. I was very disappointed. I think the lightkeepers worked hard but they were happy." Dorothy is clearly a lively and happy person with a fondness for bears. She was working on a lovely oil painting of a grizzly, and eagerly shared photos of the

black bear that visits her yard.

Each evening sailboats ventured into the sheltered harbour of Wingfield Basin. A 10-minute walk along a path to the west brings visitors to this historic anchorage. Relics of docks, winches, and rails mark an old landing site. One evening we walked the beach looking for remnants of the lumber and shingle mill that worked in this basin; nothing remains but a massive log full of iron rods. I imagine this as part of a log boom used to transport the Bruce Peninsula's massive pines off to southern markets. Several old car engines are strewn along the beach, their purpose unclear.

Wingfield Basin provided shelter for any boat that could pass through its narrow mouth. The Gargantua was one that passed in, in 1952 but never left. Today the hull of this faithful steam tug is home to a family of beavers, and many

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NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views



Publishers' Diary: Cruise to Flowerpot Island

Photos by Mike Davis Written by Gloria Hildebrandt

A hot sunny day would be a heavenly time to take the Fathom Five Tour to Flowerpot Island off Tobermory. Even on the chilly, windy day in early October that Mike and I went last year on the boat called The Great Blue Heron, the views were beautiful. Snuggled in a cosy, soft blanket conveniently available on the top deck, I enjoyed the sights in the open air. Here are some highlights from that tour.

Cruising to Flowerpot Island is “armchair” travelling at its best. Gorgeous scenery slides slowly by as the boat leaves Little Tub Harbour in Tobermory, turns into Big Tub Harbour, passing impressive cottages, and moves out of harbour for the other islands off Tobermory at the northern tip of the Bruce

▲ Flowerpot Island, famous for its sea stack, or rock pillars visible above left, is part of Fathom Five National Marine Park, and is 6 ½ km northeast of Tobermory. The Niagara Escarpment makes a dramatic appearance on this east side of the island.





◀ The Great Blue Heron, a glass-bottomed boat owned by Blue Heron Cruises in Tobermory, comes into Tobermory's Little Tub Harbour to pick up passengers.





▲ Passing Lightkeepers Home on Flowerpot Island. Left, Flowerpot Lightstation is on the northeastern point of the island.

◀ Big Tub Lighthouse, on the mainland entrance to Big Tub Harbour in Tobermory, dates back to 1885. Note the person studying the light from the top balcony, while in the water, scuba divers explore 15-metre underwater cliffs. The Tobermory area is famous for fascinating dive sites from 20 to 230 feet deep.

From the boat, two shipwrecks at the end of Big Tub Harbour are clearly visible in the crystal waters. The City of Grand Rapids, seen here, was a passenger steamer that caught fire in Little Tub Harbour and ended up sinking here. ►





▲ Built in 1879, the City of Grand Rapids caught fire in 1907, was towed out to Georgian Bay where wind pushed her into Little Tub Harbour. Looking like skeletal remains of a huge animal in this low water, ribs of her frame and part of the boiler are visible.

Peninsula, including Russel Island, Cove Island, South Otter and North Otter Islands, to circumnavigate Flowerpot Island, which are all lands and waters protected by Fathom Five National Marine Park.

Shipwrecks

The waters off the Bruce Peninsula contain many shipwrecks suitable for snorkelling or scuba diving. Tours to Flowerpot Island include a visit to two wrecks in Big Tub Harbour. In the middle of the harbour lies the Sweepstakes. Built in Burlington in 1867, the two-masted schooner was wrecked in 1885 at Cove Island,

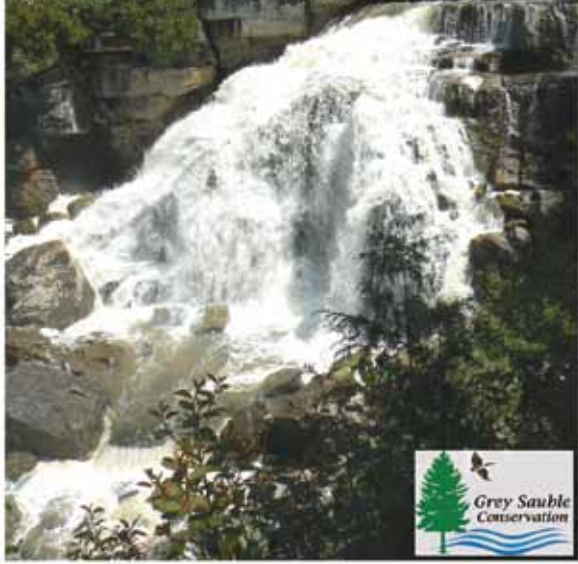
Continued on page 40 ►

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the large beds of vegetables, all of which are sculpted with a raised rim of earth around their edges, so that the water stays where it's needed and doesn't flow into the paths. Very occasionally, we'll set up a sprinkler to soak a wide perennial bed, but for the most part we find sprinklers both a bother and a waste. Soaker hoses might be run the length of a row of leeks or snaked through a potato bed, but before you know it, they've sprung a leak or worse, and we go back to the trusty watering cans or standing in the garden with hose in hand. We're very fortunate to have an excellent well, not very deep but always full of water."

The Beginning

Lima and Scanlan have opened their garden to visitors for more than 35 years. After this year, they will scale back the size and relax from the pressure of having to keep it in perfect shape for the public's scrutiny.

"Early on, we knew that opening to visitors was something we just had to do, part of the flow of our work," says Lima. "We were so enthused about gardening, and so gratified by the results of our work, we simply wanted to share the place. I remember one June morning, before the garden was officially open to the public, the garden was so colourful and fresh, a few



cars driving slowly by, people inside rubber-necking to see from the road. So eager was I to show off the flowers, I actually waved them down and called 'Come on in!' The enthusiasm of youth. Then, once the books came out and were well received, and more and more people came to see the garden, we understood that we could earn a decent living opening to the public. Not vast sums but more than enough to live on, to keep the garden going and to give substantial amounts to several charitable organizations."

Now, they are looking forward to changing their habit with



▲ Cedar rail fences divide the garden into sections and arbour structures add vertical interest.

◀ Patrick Lima, left, and John Scanlan began to create Larkwhistle in an abandoned hayfield. Lima's writing and Scanlan's photography made their beautiful garden famous.

The heady perfume of dianthus draws a hummingbird moth. ▼



no regrets. With both of them reaching retirement age, it's simply time they feel, to keep their garden private and make it smaller. They have been able to do what they love, and support themselves financially from it.

"The response from visitors was always encouraging, and gave us an impetus to continue," says Lima. "I remember once

being very tired and discouraged, just one of those temporary fed-up feelings. I went into the garden shed and leafed through our guest book, and was really touched by what people had written, how much they appreciated the colour and beauty of the garden, how thankful they were that it was open. We learned how good-hearted people are, who are interested in plants, gardens and nature. Considering the thousands who have come through Larkwhistle, we have had two, maybe three run-ins with unreasonable folks."

"Green" Concerns

After a career spent working with and writing about growing things, Lima has a strong observation for us.

"This culture is addicted to a destructive way of being," he notes, "the rapid extraction and use of natural resources in pursuit of maximum profits, leaving a toxic and blighted landscape in its wake. The planet is heating inexorably; the sun is scorching. Waterways are shrinking. Birds, fish and other creatures are diminishing and forests are ailing. Sadly, there is no pulling back. Endless economic growth is still trumpeted as the highest good and 'green' tinkering is held as a hopeful solution. This planet of such beauty, diversity and abundance is being wrecked in the cause of power, acquisitiveness and comfort. How misguided, how short-sighted, how very sad." **NEV**

Larkwhistle, 191 Lindsay Rd. 40, Dyer's Bay
519.795.7763
Open to the public in 2013
from May 11 to Oct. 14,
every Wed., Fri., Sat.,
Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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Books in print by Lima and Scanlan:

- *Herbs: A Complete Gardener's Guide*, Firefly Books, 2012
reissue from the 1986 original
- *The Kitchen Garden*, Five Rivers Chapmanry, 2011.
Originally published by Key Porter Books, 1996.

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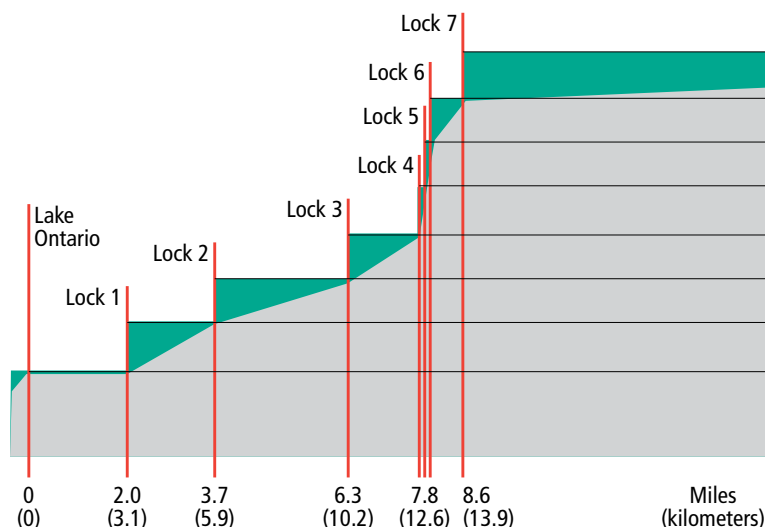

▲ This map of the Welland Canal shows the location of the eight locks needed to sail between Lakes Erie and Ontario, which is at a much lower elevation. Note the closeness of Locks 4, 5, 6 and 7 at the Niagara Escarpment. Niagara Falls, which goes over the Escarpment, is the reason that the Niagara River needs to be bypassed. Map by Agyle courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

season at the annual Top Hat ceremony during which a ceremonial top hat is presented to the first upbound ship captain. Inaugurated in 1947, the ceremony is on to its third top hat – and one that is no longer silk but fashioned of beaver felt.

Explains Kathleen Powell, the curator of the St. Catharines

Museum: "We decided to have the hat made of materials that better reflect those used during the era of Merritt. Back in 1829, beaver pelts were used to construct top hats because of their distinctive water repellant properties. And today, they serve to remind us of Canada's early fur-trading history."

Welland Canal, Ontario, Canada



▲ This profile drawing of the Welland Canal shows the length of the canal with distances marked along the bottom. Differences in elevation are given between Lake Ontario, left, and Lake Erie, right. Elevations



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She notes that the original hat is in the St. Catharines Museum collection along with other artifacts from the First Canal, including an original shovel and a model of the Ann and Jane.

On March 22, Powell presented this top hat to Captain John Carlson of Phelps, Ontario, the master of the M.V. Cuyahoga, the first upbound vessel for the 2013 navigation season.

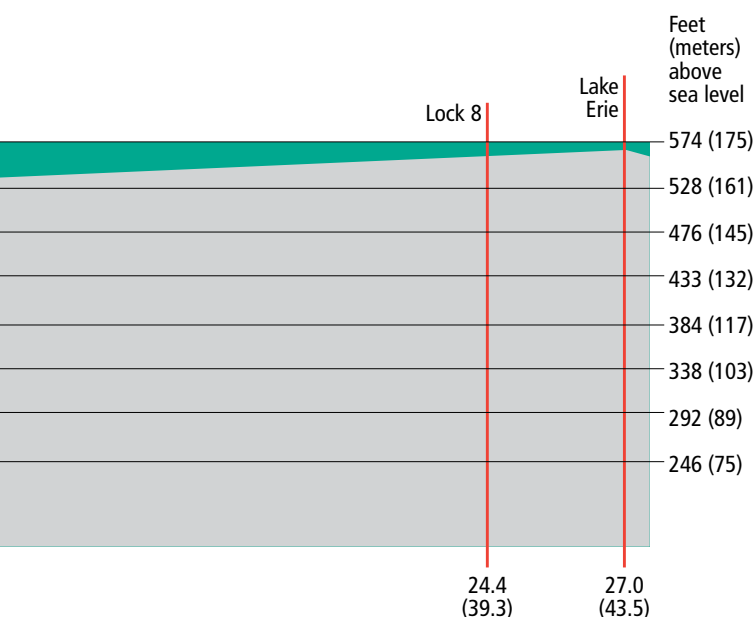
The comparison between the transit of the M.V. Cuyahoga and that of the Ann and Jane in 1829 is striking. Not only in terms of size, comparing the self-unloading, bulk carrier with that of a schooner, but also lock capacity. While a total of about one million litres of water were displaced between all 40 locks in 1829, a modern vessel today will displace an astonishing 91 million litres of water at each one of the eight locks.

Moreover, modern ships are regulated by increasingly strict environmental controls. The M.V. Cuyahoga, for instance, was the first vessel on the Great Lakes to be repowered with a tier-1 emissions-compliant engine at

the beginning of this century. Legislation like this has actually made the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway system fleet superior to other transportation modalities, specifically trains and trucks, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and fuel efficiency. In the same way, bilge management regulations control the discharge of harmful waste and ballast into the marine environment.

Over the course of its history, it is easy to see how the Welland Canal has been able to respond and adapt to new economic, social, political and technological realities. It is also possible to see it as a barometer of change, a reflection of the people who shaped, and continue to shape, the Niagara Peninsula. **NEV**

Sarah King Head M.A., Phil.M. is a freelance journalist, editor and historian based in the Niagara Region. She earned her graduate degrees at the University of Toronto and has worked in the education industry and for cultural institutions in western Canada, southern Ontario and England. She can be reached at kingheadsarah@gmail.com.



of the eight locks are listed on the right side. The centre of the drawing shows the distinctive edge of the Niagara Escarpment. Drawing by Daniel M. Short courtesy Creative Commons, Wikimedia Commons.

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Cabot Head Lightstation
Continued from page 29



swallows. Paddling my little kayak around this 150-ft. vessel that served throughout the Great Lakes, I was reminded of the essential role played by boats in the opening up of Canada. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the sailors, pioneers, and woodsmen who came before us. So many lives passed over these waters, and many were lost to the waves

and winds. The Gargantua sank here in a December storm without loss of life. The half dozen other wrecks close to Cabot Head were less fortunate.

Each day we filed an informal report about our adventures. Lightkeepers Log, Day 7: Winds light out of southeast. Waves under 1 metre. Visitors numbering 50 adults, 6 children.



▲ Wingfield Basin provides an excellent sheltered harbour. Rails and winch from original boat docks are still visible, as well as old engines, sawmill remains, and a very photogenic shipwreck.

◀ John Vanderburgh on the rock "sofa" on the beach at Georgian Bay.

Skies clear until noon with clouds increasing in east by mid-afternoon. Red sunset bodes for good sailing tomorrow. Swept tower and museum, deadheaded flowerboxes, dusted art gallery. Observations: Vultures circling low over beach feeding on dead cormorant and fish. One visitor said she had seen a black bear on road driving into Cabot Head Lightstation. Several commented on quality of museum displays.

Guests from across Ontario, Michigan, Florida, and Europe. Lots of smiling faces taking in the peace and history. Another relaxing day in this wild and beautiful place! **NEV**

Sandra J. Howe writes, plays, and guides adventure tours in Bruce County. She loves to kayak, and hike, especially on the Bruce Trail. Visit her at facebook.com/greybruceadventours.

Stewardship Opportunities in Bruce Peninsula

► Cabot Head Lightstation

Join Friends of Cabot Head and apply for the Assistant Lightkeeper Program: cabothead.ca

► Flowerpot Island Lightstation

Friends of Bruce District Parks Association: castlebluff.com/fpi.htm. See Volunteer Lightkeepers.

► **Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory** has several types of stewardship activities from groundskeeping to assisting with bird monitoring and banding programs. Their facility is across Wingfield Basin from Cabot Head Lightstation. See "Stay with Us" under bpbo.ca.

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▲ The Fathom Five Tour passes beautiful scenery on the way to Flowerpot Island. Wildlife and rare plants including ancient Eastern White Cedars abound on these protected islands. Here, the erosive nature of water can be seen in the caves that have formed on the shore of North Otter Island.

Flowerpots in the making? A rock formation on Flowerpot Island that shows vertical cracks and signs of erosion, that may eventually break down and leave more sea stacks. ►

At 39 feet high, this is the larger of two sea stacks, or natural rock piles, that make Flowerpot Island famous. ▼

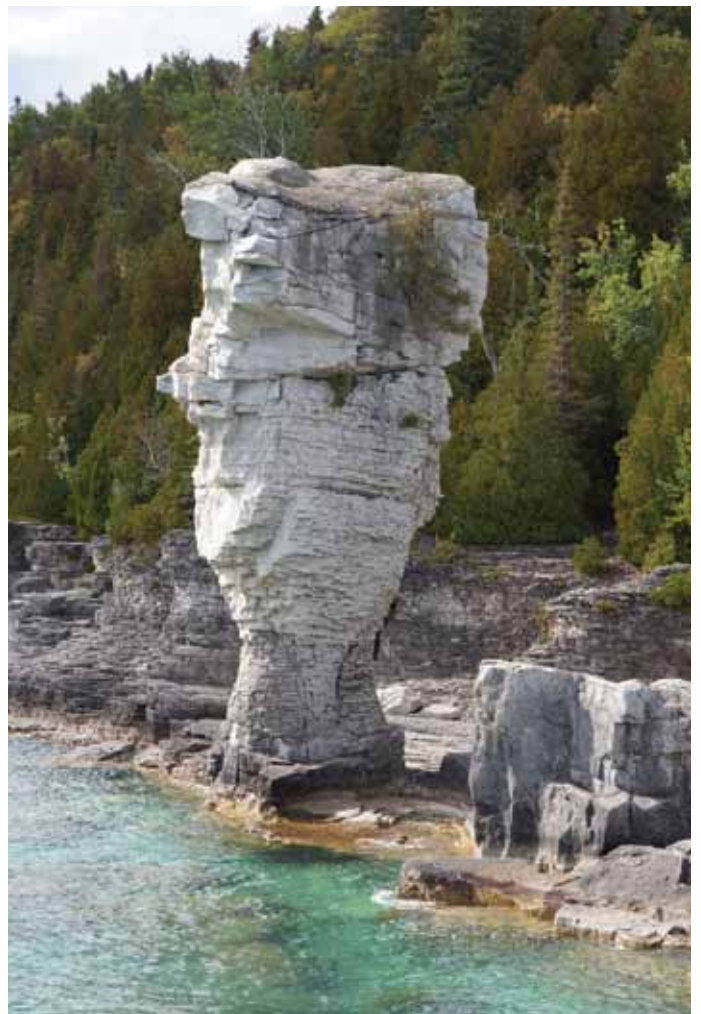
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where the lightkeeper managed to rescue all of the crew. She was towed here to be salvaged and sank afterward. The second wreck is the passenger steamer City of Grand Rapids, built in 1879 and destroyed by fire in 1907.

Wind, Water, Waves

This is how sea stacks or flowerpots can form. The waves of the Great Lakes constantly batter the rocky shores. The weaker rock such as limestone erodes away and caves can start to form. When water opens the

cave all the way through, an arch can be left. Rain and meltwater seep into deep vertical cracks, widening them. Waves keep wearing away the sides of the arch until the top of the arch collapses, leaving harder rock formations standing as sea stacks. These are called flowerpots because of their shape. **NEV**

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Some people in a township on Manitoulin are upset because Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC), as a land trust that owns land on the Island, is exempt from municipal property taxation. They say they're losing about \$2,200 of tax revenue. They do however, get more than \$200,000 from the provincial government as "partnership" funding, which is a concept similar to federal equalization

payments.

The Ministry of Natural Resources' report *Ecosystem Services in Southern Ontario* calculates the value of ecological services provided by nature at \$84 billion dollars a year. These services include water quality improvement, air quality improvement, carbon sequestration, pollination, tourism, recreation and protecting biodiversity. The report adds that every acre of

Property Tax: Nature's Enemy?

forest provides our economy with \$2,750 of services every year, while every acre of wetland provides a greater value of \$14,000.

For example, a current highway proposal northwest of Toronto, going through the Greenbelt, would require 8.5 square km of land and would cost us \$11 million dollars a year in lost ecological services. EBC provides over \$21 million a year in ecological services from 117 nature reserves.

Nature Owners Pay Too Much Tax

Landowners who pay property tax but leave their land natural, are paying a big tariff every year for giving these ecological services to the people of Ontario for free, and keeping income taxes down. A few landowners are exempt from taxation because their properties have special ecological features like rare plants or important wetlands. Other taxpayers have their taxes reduced because they "manage" their forest. Managed or not, why are they being taxed for having their natural lands provide services which keep down the income taxes of city dwellers? Yes, rural landowners get some enjoyment from their woodlot or swamp, but they put a lot of effort into fending off invasive species, diseases and beetles. Many spend a small fortune planting trees to benefit the rest of us. They will never live to see a harvest.

High property taxes can force us to sell or develop our land to cut the property tax hemorrhage. If we take off the gravel we can make a profit instead. Harvesting timber, selling lots or having a golf course all generate a profit. Converting the land

to agriculture, draining the swamp and tiling the field all increase revenue but decrease the services the land provides to the community. By doing those things we can offset the taxes we pay to the municipality, region and school board.

High Taxes, Few Rural Services

People need emergency services like police, fire and ambulance to be paid for by taxes. Forests and wetlands rarely use municipal services other than road access to the houses on the lots. Those rural properties don't even get garbage disposal like city dwellers ... owners have to truck it to the dump themselves.

We need a big realignment of our property tax system. Property taxes alone are a poor way to raise all of a municipality's money. Rich municipalities like Toronto may use land transfer taxes, vehicle taxes and even casino revenue. Rural municipalities should not have to subsidize cities by giving them all those ecological services for free. Rural landowners who are not cutting their trees or digging their gravel should not have to pay for schools and emergency services.

Yes, the people in that township on Manitoulin have a good point. They, as well as EBC, should be fairly compensated for the \$62,750 in services that the nature reserves in their municipality give to all the residents of the province every year. The issue is a lot bigger than making up for \$2,200 in lost property taxes.

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

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June 5-Aug. 30 **3rd Annual Gore Park Summer Promenade**,
Hamilton. 905.523.1646 downtownhamilton.org



June 8-Oct. 19
20th Anniversary, Farmers' Market,
downtown Georgetown.
downtowngeorgetown.com

June 9 **Through the Garden Gate**,
Georgetown Horticultural Society, Georgetown. geohort.com

June 12-19 **Anchorage, Alaska Birding Tour**,
Flora & Fauna Field Tours. florafauanfieldtours.com, 705.874.8531

June 15 **Big Daddy Festival**, downtown Georgetown.
downtowngeorgetown.com

June 16 **26th Annual Classics Against Cancer Car Show**,
Cedarvale Park, Georgetown. classicsagainstanccancer.ca

June 20 **Giant's Rib Summer Solstice & Fundraiser**,
Hamilton Air Force Association Banquet Hall, Hamilton. tickets@giantsrib.ca

June 22 **The Sound of Meow-sic** benefit concert, Meaford Hall.
519.599.2186 clarksburgcatshelter.org

June 23 **Sean James on Integrated Pest Management**,
Burlington. burlingtongreen.org

June 25 **Jerry's Peachbud 10K, 5K & 1K**,
Subaru of Hamilton Niagara Running Series, Grimsby. instride.ca

June 29 **Bruce Grey Country Jamboree**,
Marsh St. Centre, Clarksburg. 519.599.7837

July 6 **150th Birthday Bash**, Orangeville. orangeville150.ca

July 7 **Niagara Escarpment Festival**,
Ball's Falls Conservation Area, Jordan. 905.562. 5235 ballsfalls.ca

July 13 **Beamsville Bench 5K**,
Subaru of Hamilton Niagara Running Series, Beamsville. instride.ca



July 19
An Evening of Unfortunate Events: The Summer Scandal,
Westfield Heritage Village,
Rockton. conservationhamilton.ca,
519.621.8851

July 19 **Art in Park Event**,
Happy Hearts Tent and Trailer Park, Tobermory.
happyheartspark.com, 519.596.2455



July 19-21
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Alton Mill, Alton. altonmill.ca,
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Aug. 17&18 **Port Dover Summer Festival**,
Port Dover. portdoversummerfestival.com

Aug. 17-19 **Carenie Little Workshop**,
Perivale Gallery, Spring Bay, Manitoulin Island. perivalegallery.ca 705.377.4847

Sept. 8 **Feast of Fields**,
Cold Creek Conservation Area, King Township. feastoffields.org, 905.859.3609.

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Sept. 14 **Festival at Fort Willow**,
Historic Fort Willow, Springwater Township. nvca.on.ca 705.424.1479



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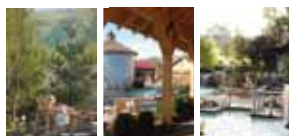
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The seeds of our future are taking root right now, for better or worse. This page shares better, forward-thinking ideas and celebrates significant environmental achievements that can help us lead the way in creating the Niagara Escarpment as a healthy, sustainable example of a thriving World Biosphere Reserve.

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A pair of bald eagles, the first to nest on the north shore of Lake Ontario in decades, have successfully hatched chicks. Their birth signifies that **the environment is improving in the area**, and there is hope that the restoration efforts made at Cootes Paradise Nature Sanctuary might encourage other species to breed their young here.

PROTECTION SOUGHT FOR NIAGARA ESCARPMENT IN NEW YORK

The Western New York Land Conservancy is aiming to **protect their part of the Niagara Escarpment**. Having successfully protected over 5000 acres of land, the Conservancy has now started grassland restoration projects along the Escarpment. A 36-acre preserve, the Conservancy's first Escarpment property, has already been protected.

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