



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

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, Acton

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.

Editor

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



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