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NIAGARA ESCARPMENT **Views**

Winter 2013-14
(December, January, February)

On the cover: Ice climbing at Tiffany Falls.
PHOTO BY DEREK PURDY.

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Loving Companion Animals

I was very young when I brought home from the school or town library an old copy of *Beautiful Joe*. I couldn't stop reading it despite sobbing so hard that my mother came to check on me. It's a powerful story of horrific cruelty to a dog, and it broke my heart even though there's a happy ending.

The true events on which it's based, took place in Meaford, and there is now a beautiful park that honours all sorts of companion animals. Even now, I cannot walk the park without weeping. Local author Ken Haigh has written a great article about the park, and Mike Davis captured its highlights in beautiful photos. I cried the whole time I wrote the captions for them. I warn all who love pets to



have a tissue handy when you read this piece. For the full effect, experience the park for yourself. Everyone in Meaford will be able to direct you to it.

Getting Cosy Inside

If you enjoy snuggling up inside during the winter, perhaps to read *Beautiful Joe* or other books, you might like our special Homes features. We take you

on an extensive tour inside a mansion on Escarpment land, called Stone Edge Estate. It is lavish, elegant and provides bed-and-breakfast accommodation. As well, we peek inside a few of the more-than 130 homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake that are also B&Bs.

B&Bs can give a different experience than hotels and motels, in that you might have breakfast together with other guests at a large table. If you enjoy meeting other people and having good conversations, B&Bs facilitate this better than bigger accommodations. And B&B hosts tend to be well informed about their communities, and enjoy suggesting things to do and see that you might like but don't know about.

Embracing Winter

If you love outdoor winter activity, you'll want to see Paul Shaker's article about some of the trails near Hamilton, and some of the sights you can see. Ice climbing, anyone?

All this and more, is contained in the pages that follow. Get a hot beverage, put your feet up under a cosy blanket, and begin your armchair tour of the Niagara Escarpment this season.

Gloria

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P.S. Keep wild spaces wild.



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Our website www.NEViews.ca
has additional content not seen
in our print magazine.

Here's the latest on our blog:

- ▶ Halloween Events at Westfield Heritage Village
- ▶ Cup and Saucer One of Best Places to Visit in Ontario
- ▶ Nature Crawl: Fall Colours in the EcoPark
- ▶ Shaw Festival Extends Guys and Dolls
- ▶ Caledon Hills Studio Tour 2013
- ▶ Seana McKenna Awarded Doctor of Sacred Letters
- ▶ Hamilton's 6th Annual Downtown Localicious Experience
- ▶ Concerns for the Monarch Butterflies
- ▶ What to Do in a Car Crash





Mike's View:

Electric Bikes and the Niagara Escarpment



▲ The Amego Wind Ion near the top of the Escarpment overlooking Dundas and Hamilton. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

By Mike Davis

We all know that the Niagara Escarpment can have a significant difference in elevation and a fairly steep grade between the top and bottom of the steep sections. So how do the latest electric bikes do on difficult Escarpment roads?

Electric bikes, known as e-bikes, are pedal bicycles with an electric motor that assist the muscle power of a rider. They take many forms, with different models varying how they assist the rider. Some are designed for more than one passenger.

After contacting several electric bike dealers to try out their bikes, I quickly realized

that in the e-bike world, we are still in the “Wild West” and it’s very much “buyer beware” for potential buyers!

I tried out two bikes distributed by Amego from their warehouse in Dundas. I can recommend one of them for climbing an Escarpment hill. Amego’s Peter Steinke is very knowledgeable about the business and I found him comfortable to talk to. The warehouse is also a repair depot. It has a great collection of various types of bikes. I tried a scooter called an Amego Wind Ion. Ion means it has a lithium ion battery. The look is similar to a Vespa often seen in Europe. The Wind was able to make it up the Escarpment slope from

Dundas to Greensville. It was a steep grade that went for about a km. The bike was straining, but made it without assistance from me. Note, I am a big guy, so any bike would feel my weight.

I also tried an Amego Bold Plus. It is called an open-framed bike, meaning it looks like a traditional mountain bike without the cowl found on a scooter. The model I tested stalled out on the Escarpment grade. It may have needed more pedalling assistance, but it was not optimally set up for me. I am used to a pedal bike with a small seat and the seat post set to my height. Pedaling the Bold, I could not keep the speed up, and I suspect the motor overheated and tripped out for its own protection.

Driving up the Escarpment is extreme, so when I went to try out the rental bikes at ESkoort Niagara in Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL), owner Colin Telfer said he did not allow the bikes onto the Escarpment slope. I tried a scooter and drove around NOTL to various sightseeing locales. I must say it was a lot of fun! The bike worked well on the very flat terrain.

Telfer says that the bikes have a total time of only about 2.5 hours of battery power if run continuously, but people use them for a full day. The renters stop at the many sightseeing locations, restaurants, wineries, hiking trails, so the day fills out nicely. These rental bikes likely take a real beating being out on the road all season, yet the bike I tried seemed to work well. ESkoort primarily uses Emmo bikes. I tried to contact the Emmo distributor for an interview, but my request was unanswered.

Checking the Internet for e-bikes along the Escarpment, I found an interesting claim

on a Hamilton dealer’s website that stated “It’s guaranteed to take you up any Escarpment in Hamilton with great incline power!” I contacted the dealer, but was told that they would not allow a test drive. Not allowing a test drive makes me suspicious of any claims made. I would not recommend having anything to do with such a company.

I sensed in doing my research that most of the e-bikes are produced offshore. Some, it appears, are slapped together for anyone with a few thousand dollars, who sell to unsuspecting customers. I would be concerned about repair parts and service availability throughout the life of the e-bike. You have to be comfortable with both your e-bike and the terrain it will be used on. That means you need to test drive your potential purchase where you are going to use it. If you are looking for an e-bike, I recommend spending some time on due diligence. Make sure the business is legitimate, has been in business for a while, and try to talk to their customers.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation defines an electric bike according to weight, power, maximum assisted speed and control criteria. In considering an e-bike, make sure it has a permanently affixed label stating that the vehicle meets the definition (i.e. meets all the applicable criteria). No driver’s licence, no vehicle registration or plate, and no motor vehicle liability insurance are required. The maximum speed for which the bike is allowed to provide assistance is 32 km/hr, above which the electric motor shuts down. In Ontario, all drivers and passengers must be 16 years or older, and all must wear an approved bicycle or motorcycle helmet.

For the Amego e-bikes tested, the Wind Ion is priced at \$3,150 and the Bold Plus at \$2,450. Amego states that the price typically includes the PDI or pre-delivery inspection cost. ESkoort rentals are \$29 and up. **NEV**



I have included my cheque for a two-year renewal to *Niagara Escarpment Views*. NEV is a very informative and enjoyable magazine. The pictures & scenery are exceptionally done. I look forward to every issue I receive. Please keep up the great job that you & your staff do. I received my Autumn 2013 issue today. I really enjoyed the Greig's Caves & Laura Secord articles & pictures.

Jeannine Wells, Hamilton

I am planning on attending the Bruce Trail Conservancy Annual General Meeting on Saturday, September 21st, to be held in Lipa Park, Pelham, ON. It would be great if we could take some copies of the Autumn magazine for sale or give aways, given the story of the end-to-end journey.

Maureen Smith, Georgetown



Thanks for the smashing article in *Niagara Escarpment Views*! Would you be able to send me a jpeg of the fantastic shot of me and Stella on the patio? I would love to forward it to my clients and link the magazine along with it. Thanks.

Lucille Weber, Inglewood

Thank you, Gloria! The article looked good, although the beginning of it was not effectively titled or easily identified...more like an extension of, and an additional paragraph of the preceeding article of main focus: "Passion for Art" about Lucille Weber.

At the time of printing, our stats with TripAdvisor had also made a change to #2 of 400 shopping experiences in the province of Ontario. Reviews continue to be submitted by excited visitors to our beautiful island...But that is all water under the bridge, and the exposure may benefit. However, onward and upward! No looking back. Thank you, again.

Shannon McMullan, Spring Bay

Just got the copy yesterday and, I must admit, very impressive. I loved the articles. Especially the art work. Going to look that woman up...

Jan Thompson, Calgary



I enjoyed reading a copy of *Niagara Escarpment Views* this summer and I trust you'll continue to do well with it. You create a rich sense of community through the magazine that is pleasantly distinct from the Greater Toronto Area and its issues.

Regina Hickl-Szabo, Signal Mountain, Tennessee

I loved your magazine which I saw when visiting Tobermory, but was unable to buy a copy anywhere. I am now home in the U.K. and would love to get a copy of the summer edition as it would be a lovely souvenir of all the places we visited. Is it possible to send to the U.K.?

Jane Lewis, Aylesbury, U.K.

Editor's Note: Yes, we are happy to mail individual copies to the U.K. and Europe for \$5.00 plus postage & handling.





▲ On the Bruce Peninsula, summer 2013. BY RITA WATERMANN.

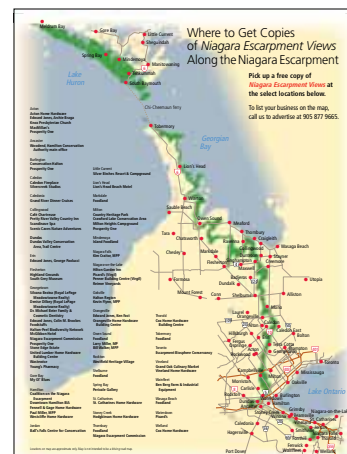
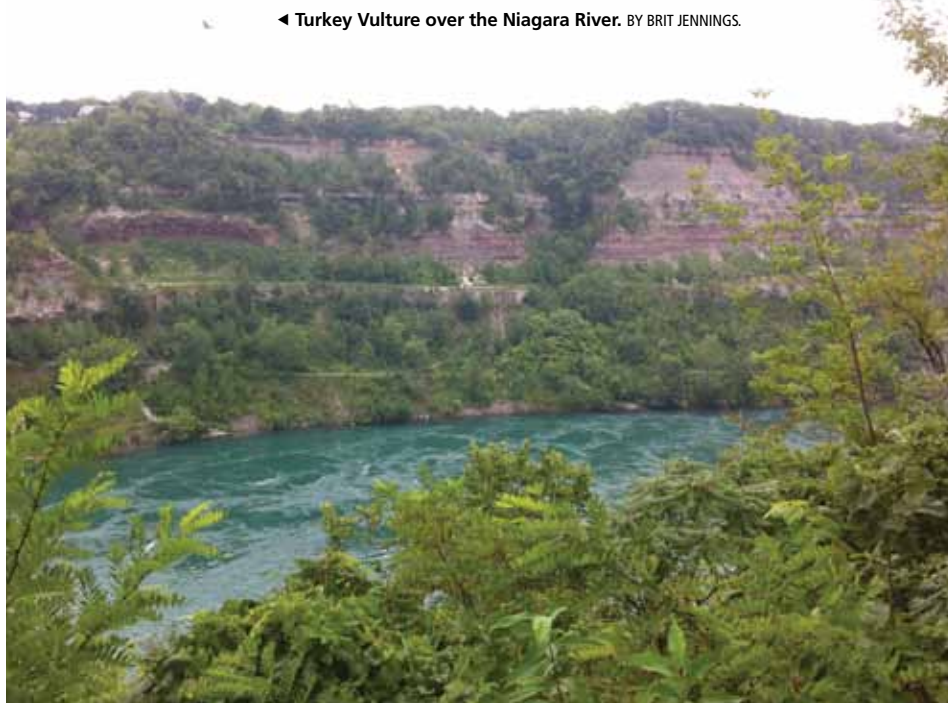


One year gone already. I do enjoy your magazine. The photography is wonderful. I've kept them all. However, I did lose one. It had been on an end table where a plant was sitting. It got well watered. Now it's dried and stiff like a board (Spring 2013). Enclosed find cheque (\$22.00) for another year.

John W. Browett, St. Thomas

Editor's Note: We mailed John a free replacement copy of Spring 2013.

◀ Turkey Vulture over the Niagara River. BY BRIT JENNINGS.



I was surprised and pleased to find Niagara Escarpment Views in our local hardware store in Manitowaning, and to see content that mentions Manitoulin Island. We Manitouliners do like to be included in discussions of the Escarpment, as long as you are talking about the geologic feature on which we live, rather than the land use plan area, which does not apply to us.

On the map of the Escarpment on the back cover of the Autumn 2013 issue, the position of the Escarpment (shown in green) across the southern half of Manitoulin Island is not correct. Technically, you could colour the entire Island green since the whole thing is underlain by NE limestones and dolostones, and certainly one can find rock just about anywhere here, and there are large exposed bedrock plains and alvars along the south shore. However, based on the position of your green in southern Ontario, I suspect you meant to indicate the position of the iconic cliffs.

To correctly show those locations on Manitoulin Island, the green should run east-west across the NORTH side of the Island, with many V-shaped indentations where the Escarpment surrounds the many deep bays. I recommend you check a geologic map, or a topographic map, or even just check Google Maps and click the terrain button to see where the cliffs are.

Thanks a lot for your attention to this, and keep up the good work on an interesting magazine.

Judith Jones, Winter Spider Eco-Consulting, Sheguiandah

Editor's Note: Your letter comes at a good time, as we have been working on improving our map. See the changes made on the back page of this issue!



Animals Being Wiped Out?

Environmental groups Ecojustice, Ontario Nature and Wildlands League have sued the Ontario government for making changes to the Endangered Species Act. Calling the changes “a tremendous blow to species protection,” the groups claim that they “harm species by allowing major industries – including forestry, energy transmission, housing, oil and gas pipelines, mineral exploration and mine development, transit, wastewater management companies – to avoid strict standards intended to protect at-risk species and their habitats.” Blanding’s Turtle, above, is one of the 155 at-risk species that are threatened by changes to the regulations, the groups say. For some local politicians’ positions on this issue, see page 53.



Bruce Peninsula & Hamilton’s Waterfalls Most Amazing

According to the Canadian Automobile Association website, the Niagara Escarpment is pretty spectacular. In their two lists of 10 of the most amazing sights in Ontario, these places along the Escarpment are featured: Niagara Falls, Webster’s Falls in Hamilton, The Grotto on Bruce Peninsula, Cup and Saucer on Manitoulin Island, Flowerpot Island on Bruce Peninsula, Tew’s Falls in Hamilton, and Indian Head Cove on Bruce Peninsula.

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Events Along the Rock

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



▲ Trevor McAlpine of Synergetic Management of Burlington had an amusing and attention-getting booth inspired by Charles Schultz characters, at the Joint Chamber of Commerce event on Aug. 7 at Halton Region's offices.



▲ Sheridan Nurseries held a free BBQ party on Aug. 10 at their Glen Williams' head office to celebrate their 100th anniversary. Hundreds of people attended.

Glen Williams' annual Shad Fly Party at the Credit River was held on Aug. 21 to celebrate the emergence of the flies from their aquatic life stage. "We stand in the stream of angelic shad flies with flashlights on our heads, just to feel them bouncing off us," says organizer Skytree Smith. ▼





Fallbrook Bridge, hand-built by early settlers north of Georgetown, crosses one of the creeks of the Niagara Escarpment, near the Bruce Trail at 27 Sideroad in Halton Hills. A funding partnership by the federal government and Town of Halton Hills is enabling the restoration of the old stonework, and was formally announced on Aug. 23. At the bridge during repair were, from left, Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, Halton Hills councillor Joan Robson, Hon. Michael Chong, MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, and Halton Hills mayor Rick Bonnette. ▶



Seana McKenna, renowned and award-winning actor and director, "the pride and glory of Canadian theatre," on Sept. 4 received an honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Letters from The University of Trinity College, where she had been a scholarship student. She is a leading actor at Stratford Shakespeare Festival and other theatres, and a contributor to this magazine. Here, she is being hooded by theatre critic Richard Ouzounian while Chancellor Bill Graham confers the degree. ▼



◀ On Aug. 27, volunteers with Manitoulin Streams Association planted a riverbank at Providence Bay with a variety of bushes including willow, dogwood, nannyberry and alder.





Events Along the Rock

Almost 100 people enjoyed live music and a silent auction on Sept. 7 at the Marsh Street Centre, Clarksburg, to support the creation of The Cedar Grove Labyrinth of Thornbury, off the Georgian Trail. From left, Gabriel Matamoros, Amy & Patrick Kitchen, Shawn Bergeron, Steve Couchman. PHOTO BY TERESA MATAMOROS. ►



The 24th annual Feast of Fields drew hundreds of gourmards to Cold Creek Conservation Area, King Township, on Sept. 8, where plenty of organic food and drink was available for sampling. ▼



▲ GREENing Niagara, formerly Climate Action Niagara, held a locally sourced Harvest Plate dinner on Sept. 10 at Stokes Community Village, St. Catharines, to raise funds for the Niagara Fruit Tree Trail. Bringing the diners to their feet was the quartet SisterLune.



▲ The Snowbirds, as part of their air show, fly over the 100th annual International Plowing Match held this year near Mitchell, Perth County on Sept. 18.



◀ The Governor General posed for photos on his Sept. 23 visit to Home Hardware's semi-annual dealers' market in St. Jacobs. From left, board member Jim Proudfoot, His Excellency David Johnston, board member Larry Yanchishyn, Darrin Noble, V.P. of Manufacturing, Doug Parsons, Sales & Marketing Manager for Beauti-Tone, and CEO Paul Straus.

Kim Higgins, Minna Schleifenbaum of Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve with sled dogs Nelson and Meekin at the Cottage Life Show, Mississauga, on Nov. 1. ▼



◀ On Sept. 14, Todd Shannon, left, and Matt Bujok were on the set of an Ontario Tourism video shoot at Big Tub Harbour, Tobermory. The custom-built octocopter was used to shoot low-level video.
PHOTO BY PAULINE HEATON OF WATERVISIONS.





Niagara Escarpment Visionary: Ken Hall



Ken Hall with wife Joan, who has been a "rock" in supporting his vision of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre. ►

Written & photographed
by Chris Hamilton

When we think of today's Escarpment heroes, right away names like Ray Lowes and Sarah Harmer come to mind. Yet there are unsung heroes among us; women and men who work tirelessly to preserve and protect our Niagara Escarpment, and Ken Hall of Dundas is one of those visionaries. Since his retirement in 1989 Ken has devoted his time to educating the public about our environment and the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

Ken worked as a teacher and principal in both the elementary and secondary school systems. After retiring he was a primary player and driving force in the formation of Hamilton's Bay Area Restoration Council, played a key role with the Hamilton Naturalists Club in the Hamilton

Harbour Remedial Action Plan, and was a member of the Fish and Wildlife Habitation Restoration Committee that built the fishway into Cootes Paradise. He served on the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and with the Dundas Rotary Club since 1997, was Hamilton's 1996 Environmentalist of the Year and performed volunteer work in Mexico, Gaza and Nepal.

In 1996, six years after the Niagara Escarpment was declared a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, we first heard the words "Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve Interpretive Centre" and Ken had another project to sink his teeth into. The project was the Hamilton area's response to the Biosphere designation and a vision to recognize the significance of the Escarpment, its life systems, and bring that information to

the public. With Hamilton as the largest municipality on the Escarpment, this was to be the "urban gateway" to the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

Ken Hall jumped in with both feet. In the early years he served as chair of this committee and helped to secure funding, enlist assistance and volunteers, and to find a suitable location for the Centre. With reference to a First Nations name for the Escarpment, the project became the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC).

For 10 years Ken worked tirelessly on this vision even when funding disappeared and other complications tabled the larger project. Ken Hall kept the vision alive, leading his volunteers and working with the Hamilton Conservation Authority to finally open a small centre in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area in 2006. Working with

dedicated volunteers and educators, interpretive displays were developed, an Escarpment library was established and public education programs were developed. A monthly lecture series, a monthly arts and photography show, guided interpretive hikes and a curriculum teacher's kit were all designed for one reason: to let people know about this magnificent natural treasure we have in the Niagara Escarpment.

Ken's commitment to communicating about the Biosphere to the public, and his talent for inspiring others to volunteer kept this vision alive. What's more, Ken can always be found getting his feet wet and hands dirty making it happen. Up until 2012, Ken was the program co-ordinator for the lecture series, the arts series, education programs, hike programs, book review program, volunteer coordinator, a Discovery Centre volunteer usually two or three weekends a month, and, if that wasn't enough, served as president.

At the spry age of 84, Ken continues to play a key role in all aspects of the GRDC programs including handling volunteer shifts at the centre and writing the newsletter's "teacher's corner." With a renewed cast of volunteers, Ken's vision of educating the public on the Biosphere Reserve continues into the future with plans for upgrades to the centre and the website, development of new educational resources, and expansion of education programs and outreach beyond Hamilton to the entire length of "The Giant's Rib." **NEV**

Chris Hamilton is current president of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, information officer for Hamilton Conservation Authority, wildlife photographer, an author and has a lifelong passion for the Niagara Escarpment.

His last article for us was "Miraculous, Timid Turkey Vultures," Escarpment Views, Summer 2011.



Beyond Seed and Suet

by Sean James

I didn't want to be a birder. Birders are weird. I used to think that at least – the old English lady in tweed and all that. I just sort of evolved into a birder. Thing is, birds are pretty cool. They bring sound and motion to the garden, which are probably the two most neglected things in landscape design. They bring life. They bring the joy of having a nest of cardinals grow up by your front door.

Beyond aesthetics, birds clean up pests incredibly effectively. I always chuckle when I listen to garden radio shows and people complaining about slug problems in their garden. I don't have slug problems. I don't have Japanese beetles. I don't have any pests that get out of control. It's not that I don't have pests. It's just that they don't become issues.

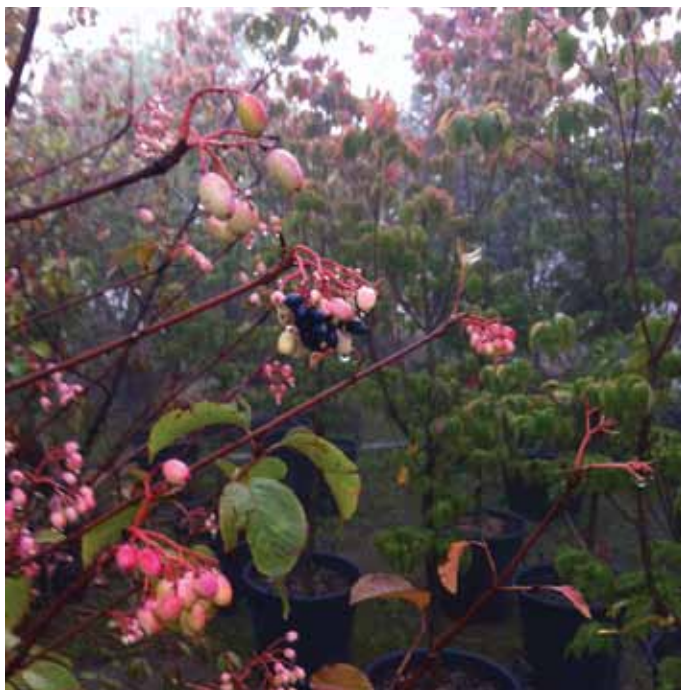
So the big question is, how do we encourage birds to visit the garden? There are a few simple steps to be taken to make birds feel safe and welcome on your property.

There are many things in nature that find birds tasty. If you ever see a puff, (I often semi-jokingly refer to it as a blast-scar), of feathers on your lawn, that indicates a "hawk strike" where some bird, often a mourning dove, has gone on to the Great Nest in the sky. I remember my stepmother being quite distressed that a hawk got a bird near her feeder. She stopped feeding the birds. I laughed it off and thought, "Well, it's a birdfeeder. We have a big one." She didn't see it as lightly as I did. The fact is the birds need 30 per cent cover in your garden to hide when predators come. Planting evergreens and thickly branched shrubs such as hawthorn and serviceberry provide that cover.

Birds also need food for their fledglings so planting an oak, upon which many small



▲ Nannyberry, *Viburnum lentago*, is an excellent tree for a small yard with spring flowers, excellent fall colour and fruit for the birds (and humans). It's a native tree, growing to 15 ft., and tolerates a broad range of soils, light and moisture levels. It deserves to be used more in the landscape. It also has a dense canopy which makes it perfect for nesting sites. PHOTO BY SEAN JAMES.



▲ The Nannyberry tree showing fall colour and fruit.

PHOTO BY PAUL DEGROOT OF NVK CONNOR NURSERIES.

insects feed, is a good thing. The parental birds feed on the small insects and use those to raise their young. We think a lot about how birds need seed and nectar

but we often forget that the babies can't be raised without protein. If you don't have room for a full-sized oak tree, the very narrow Green Pillar Pin Oak

is an excellent choice, offering great fall colour and form which takes up little space.

One of the most important things to do for birds is to abandon the old gardening wisdom of cleaning up the garden in the fall. Leave perennials, especially those with good seed heads such as purple coneflower, standing throughout the winter. Not only does this provide good winter interest and helps the plants shelter themselves by holding snow, it also provides food for the birds. I even leave the odd thistle in my garden and the tall yellow spike of a plant called Common Mullein so the birds will have seed throughout the winter.

Everyone should have a water feature in the garden. A small, heated water feature provides sound and motion to the winter and also the incredible sculptures of ice. That open water source is invaluable for birds and you'll be amazed at how many visit and drink from the feature. It's important that it have perching spots and be shallow enough along the edges from which they can safely drink.

It's interesting to me that many of the things that are good for birds and make them feel safe, also make the garden more beautiful. Isn't it amazing how Mother Nature's great tapestry simply looks more beautiful when we work *within* her designs? Perhaps it's a subtle, primitive psychological trick, knowing that if the birds feel safe, there must be no predators around. This makes us feel subconsciously, more safe and allows us to enjoy our gardens more. Give it a try. Let me know what you think. **NEV**

Contact Sean at 905.876.4852, sjames@on.aibn.com, on Twitter @seanferndridge or at the Fern Ridge website (www.ferndrigelandscaping.com).



Stone Edge Estate:

The Escarpment Ru



▲ The Terra Cotta Room is the smaller bedroom of the Escarpment Suite and can be rented on its own.

Written by Gloria Hildebrandt
Photographed by Mike Davis

There's a bed-and-breakfast residence in the country north of Georgetown that's far beyond the ordinary for several reasons: its impressive hand-built beauty, its luxury, its full accessibility, and its proximity to the Niagara Escarpment.

Stone Edge Estate is an 8,700 sq. ft. two-storey home on 96 acres with the Escarpment running through the back of it, which means that some of the land has a protected designation.

"There are small caves where the coyotes live," says owner Douglas Rapien. There

is no sign at the road, only the civic number at the head of a long driveway that is lit up at night. An entrance to the Bruce Trail is down the road about half a km away.

While this B&B attracts hikers and active outdoors people, it's unusual because of its accessibility for

ns Through It

people using walkers and wheelchairs. A doorway from the garage is at level grade, allowing easy entrance from a car into the first floor of the house. Just steps from the entrance is an elevator, the largest residential size there is, that goes to the bedrooms on the upper floor.

Accessibility Features

The entire house was built with accessibility in mind. All doors are 36 inches wide, more than usual, to fit wheelchairs. Hallways are also extra wide. Flooring is hardwood throughout.





▲ Stone Edge Estate is an 8,700-sq.-ft. house that was built in 2005 on 96 acres of farmland on the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, with interior trim done by the owner, Douglas Rapien.

All light switches are lower down the walls. Furniture is placed away from the walls to permit wheelchairs to get to the windows. There is no transition in level from the first floor to the raised outdoor deck. All the rooms

are large. Upstairs, one of the guest rooms has a wheel-in shower.

These features are only one of the reasons that make this B&B popular for wedding parties. Whole families can be accommodated here,

including grandparents who may appreciate easy accessibility. Even if this is not an issue, the elevator is a distinct advantage when getting luggage upstairs.

Luxury

The luxury in this home makes it more than a house. It's really a mansion or manor house with its 10-ft ceilings on the first floor, yet it remains cosy and comfortable. A curving staircase, popular for bridal party photos, rises majestically in the front hall. Solid cherry wood trim appears throughout the house, installed by Rapien himself. There is also extensive, beautiful built-in cherry wood cabinetry that was also done by Rapien.

To the left of the front hall is the formal dining room where guests gather for breakfast and an optional, extra lunch if arranged. To the rear is the living room with fireplace, also a common area for guests. There are four wood-burning fireplaces in the house, although for safety, they are not in the bedrooms. Smoking is only permitted outside, away from air intakes.

The most dramatic part of the house is the southern wing, which provides guests with a pool and Jacuzzi bath in front of a fireplace. The pool uses ozone instead of chlorine, which eliminates the

Continued on page 38 ▶

The beautiful indoor pool with ozone-treated water is available for guests. ▼



The Escarpment Room, part of the Escarpment Suite, has a king-sized sleigh bed and a large sitting area in a bay window. ▼

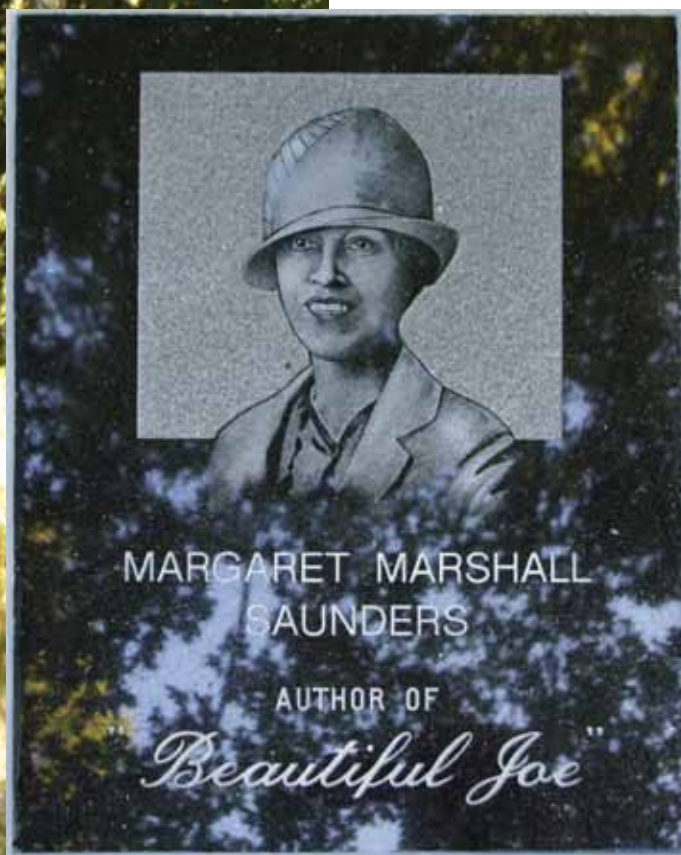




Meaford's Beautiful Joe Park: A Place for Joe

Written by Ken Haigh Photographed by Mike Davis

Pop quiz: Can you name the first Canadian novel to sell one million copies during the author's lifetime? No? I'll give you a few hints. It was published in 1894. The author was born in the Maritimes, and, at the time of her death, she was called "Canada's most revered author." If you guessed *Anne of Green Gables*, you would be wrong.



▲ Margaret Marshall Saunders' famous novel was inspired by true events that happened in Meaford.

◀ Beautiful Joe Park near downtown Meaford celebrates animal welfare and commemorates the heart-wrenching novel about an abused dog who becomes a hero.

Need another clue? How about this: the story is based on true events which took place in Meaford, Ontario. Give up?

The novel is *Beautiful Joe* by Margaret Marshall Saunders.





In the summer of 1892, Margaret Saunders, a school teacher from Halifax, Nova Scotia, was vacationing in Meaford, a small port on Georgian Bay. She was staying with the Moore family, who were soon to become *her* family, since her brother, Jack, was engaged to William

Moore's daughter, Louise. The Moores owned a gristmill on the Bighead River. Saunders didn't know it, but she was about to have an encounter that would shape her career.

Continued on page 42 ►

Sign outside the park in Meaford. ►



▲ Police dogs are honoured with a monument.



▲ Heart-breaking sensitivity has been crafted into the face of Beautiful Joe.

◀ A bronze statue depicting Beautiful Joe greets visitors to the park.





▲ Pavilion for personal memorials to beloved animals. "Our Best Friend," "Forever in My Heart," and "Herding Angels" are just some of the declarations on the individual plaques.

◀ The provincial plaque over the grave of the real Joe.



Steeltown's Other Side

Written & photographed by Paul Shaker
except where noted.

For a city whose image is so linked with gritty industrial landscapes, it may come as a surprise to many that Hamilton's biggest defining feature is actually a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

The UNESCO-designated Niagara Escarpment, or "mountain" as it's known locally, winds its way through the city offering locals and visitors alike, amazing views of the community. It is part of daily life for thousands of Hamiltonians as the morning commute involves walking, driving, or cycling up and down the Escarpment. It also provides the basis for incredible waterfalls that are within walking distance of most Hamiltonians. A short hike from many residential neighbourhoods will take you





▲ Tiffany Falls is a popular destination for ice climbers who can be watched from a viewing deck. PHOTO BY DEREK PURDY.



▲ Geotrail worked with Tourism Hamilton and Royal Botanical Gardens to map Hamilton-area trails and waterfall hikes.



▲ The Geotrail online map website can go with you on a mobile device.

NIAGARA
ESCAPMENT
Views





Steeltown's Other Side ►

▲ Special equipment lets climbers walk up the frozen Tiffany Falls. PHOTO BY DEREK PURDY.



▲ Dundas Peak gives a view of Cootes Paradise, Lake Ontario and downtown Hamilton.



to numerous waterfalls, some hidden and some spectacularly on display for all to see.

The Escarpment also shapes the terrain of the Royal

Botanical Gardens which, in addition to the famous garden areas, has 27 km of trails that weave in and around the Escarpment's waterfalls.

Interestingly, there is a historical link between the industrial heritage of the region and the Niagara Escarpment and the two intersect more than once

in the history of Hamilton's waterfalls.

Many of the more-than 100 waterfalls in the Hamilton area are easily accessible to





Webster's Falls can be viewed from the top or from a trail that goes to the bottom of the falls. Trails can be icy in winter. ▼

Spectacular year-round, Tew's Falls is the tallest waterfall in the Hamilton area. ►



the public and there are a few walks in particular that make for a great day's hike. Adventurers can grab a trail map or for the more tech-

savvy, the local tourism agency uses the web-tool Geotrail.ca to show visitors how to get outside and enjoy some of the best waterfalls hikes in the



area. Here are a few hikes that will take you to the best views in the region.

▲ The beautiful ribbon waterfall Sherman Falls was named after the founder of the Hamilton steel company DOFASCO.

Continued on page 46 ►

NIAGARA
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Views





Ice Man at Silver Creek

by Mike Davis

Photographed Christmas Day, 2012 along the Bruce Trail, Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

NIAGARA
ESCAPMENT
Views

28-29 Winter 2013-2014



Days and Nights in Ni

Written by Gloria Hildebrandt
Photographed by Mike Davis

Mike and I were invited to spend a couple of days in Niagara-on-the-Lake recently, and experience some bed-and-breakfast homes. The Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed and Breakfast Association is a group of around 130 homeowners. The range of accommodations is wide, from small residences to huge historic manors to houses or cottages that can be entirely rented.

Claimed by some to be "the prettiest town in Canada," Niagara-on-the-Lake is full of charm. Historic Queen St. is a busy, popular street year round for shopping, dining, strolling and sampling wine during festivals. ►

agara-on-the-Lake

There is much to do around Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL), a historically significant town on Lake Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara River. One of the earliest settlements in Ontario, it is home to wonderful old houses in the heritage district near the lake and has experienced action during the War of 1812. Two days and nights is not enough time to do everything on offer in the area, but it's a start.

Carbonnel

We arrived on a Sunday afternoon to check into Carbonnel B&B. Owned by Janet Jones and Guy Hatif, this home is just a few blocks from both the lake and the Welland Canal.

There are two bedrooms with king-sized beds and ensuite baths upstairs, and what they say is the only fully accessible, ground-floor suite in a NOTL B&B. Named the Alexandra Room, this suite has a king-sized bed, a private sitting room with a double-sized pull-out sofa bed and even a small dining area with table and chairs. In the garden is an outdoor spa/hot tub for guests to use.

Queenston

After checking in, we went for a drive to Queenston Heights Park, site of the 1812 battle and commemorative tower to Sir Isaac Brock, and the southern end of the Bruce Trail, which is marked by a stone cairn and plaque. Many

hands have touched this during trail end-to-end excursions.

We then drove through the old part of the historic village of Queenston, admiring the many old houses, including the famous Laura Secord homestead. Carrying on, we came upon a sign for the Willowbank Stone Festival.

This was the first year for this festival, which drew stone carvers and drystone wall builders (wallers) from the U.K. and U.S. to join Canadian experts in celebrating stone. The drystone wallers began creating what will become an enclosed building and the carvers created sculpture that



▲ Carbonnel B&B is one of more than 130 delightful residences to stay at in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



would be auctioned off. We joined in at the closing festival reception. Taking advantage of festivals and special events like this, discovered by accident, is one of the memorable pleasures of travelling, and Niagara Region has many of them through the year.

For supper, we tried Bistro Six-One on Queen St. in the heritage district of NOTL. We enjoyed wood-oven-baked pizza and a bottle of Peller Estate Baco Noir, served at ideal temperature to let the smooth richness of the wine fill the senses.

The next morning we had a delicious hot breakfast of Eggs Benedict and a good talk with the other guests at Carbonnel. From the Finger Lakes district

◀ Owned by Faith and David Bell, AquaBella B&B was named in honour of all the water that helps to make Niagara-on-the-Lake beautiful and interesting: Lake Ontario, Niagara River, Welland Canal.

of New York, they were staying a week to see several plays at the Shaw Festival and do some shopping. Meeting other people at breakfast is a distinct advantage of a B&B over a hotel.

Baroque House

We were off to tour a couple more B&Bs, Baroque House in nearby Virgil being the first. Manager Judy Hulley showed us around this new, yet Old-World house filled with hand-crafted elements, original art and antiques. The entire house is available for rent, with three private bedrooms upstairs, all with ensuite full bathrooms, TV and fireplaces. The first floor is a beautiful party space with open kitchen, dining and living areas, and large fireplace. Outside are gardens, a fire pit, hot tub and barbecue.

Brockamour Manor

Closer to the retail heart of Queen St. is the impressive old estate of Brockamour Manor. Built in 1809, it would have been new when it was the site of a romance that has come down through history. Sir Isaac Brock became engaged to Lady Sophia Shaw who lived here, just before the fateful battle at Queenston Heights that ended his life in 1812.

History buffs, lovers of old architecture, even fans of ghost stories will enjoy exploring this Georgian mansion and the many renovations that have been done over the years. Owner Colleen Cone knows well the history of her house and gives a fascinating tour.

There are six guest rooms with fireplaces and ensuite bathrooms, and large, elegant common rooms. The nearly one-acre surrounding property provides privacy and quiet.

AquaBella

A surprise awaited me when we checked into our next B&B, AquaBella. Owner David Bell greeted me with the words "You went to Trinity. So did I."



▲ One of the three bedrooms in luxurious, art- and antique-filled Baroque House in Virgil.

A king-sized sleigh bed is the heart of the Sir Isaac Brock Room in historic Brockamour Manor, built in 1809. ▼



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▲ The beautiful blues of the River Room speaks
to the theme of AquaBella B&B.

A closing reception for the first Willowbank Stone Festival celebrated
stone carving and the construction of a dry stone wall building. Many
special events are held throughout the year in Niagara Region. ▼





He had been one year ahead of me at the college which is part of University of Toronto. Soon after graduating, he married Faith, and a few years ago they created AquaBella B&B. Both having grown up in St. Catharines, they are knowledgeable about the whole Niagara Region.

Wining & Dining

That afternoon, Mike test drove an electric bike while I went for a walk and came upon the remains of a "Negro" churchyard and gravestones. Then we dropped in on Reimer Winery to get a free sample of their organic wine and discuss this year's harvest. Wine sampling and purchasing directly from the vineyards is offered by every Niagara winery. With time available before supper we went for a brief walk along the Niagara



Sue Reimer of Reimer Winery pours a sample of their award-winning signature organic wine, 2010 Peace & Harmony. The numerous wineries in Niagara Region welcome tastings, tours and purchases. ▼



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▲ The Bruce Trail's southern end point is at Queenston Heights, marked by this stone cairn and plaque.



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◀ While testing this Emmo bike from eSkoot, Mike stopped along the beautiful Niagara Parkway and caught a speedboat zipping downriver. The commemorative block reads "Browns Point/ Here Gen. Sir Isaac Brock/ called out on his way to/ Queenston Heights/ 13th Oct. 1812/ Push on/ York Volunteers"

River, where Mike took some photos.

We had rich Italian food for supper at Old Winery Restaurant on Niagara Stone Road. At the table near us were U.K. stone wallers and organizers of Willow-bank Stone Festival, proving again what a small world it is.

Next morning's breakfast with the other guests, also from parts of the U.S., was a treat of yogurt, granola and fresh berries, followed by David's light waffles with toppings of bacon, berries, maple syrup, whipped cream and a delectable hot peach sauce. Beyond serving as hosts, the Bells will give only as much help as you want in planning your stay.

"Our focus is to be as good an ambassador as possible," says Faith. They can provide wine-tasting coupons and arrange package experiences. They know what's worth seeing at the Shaw Festival, and the other events going on. They know that some guests don't want an agenda. "Just to walk is wonderful," Faith adds. "It's lovely to come in winter when it's not busy. Some have no intention of visiting a winery. Some like to go south to Port Colborne, the mouth of the Welland Canal. It's about the whole peninsula." **NEV**

◀ The distinguished Shaw Festival draws thousands of theatre-goers to Niagara-on-the-Lake annually. Plays by George Bernard Shaw, his contemporaries and about his era, are produced each year.

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Stone Edge Estate
Continued from page 19

▲ The Tobermory Room at the north end of the house has a queen-sized bed.

The Jacuzzi hot tub with wood burning in the fireplace can be a wonderful place to relax. ▼





strong unpleasant smell often associated with indoor pools. Walls of screened-in patio doors let in breezes in summer and give complete views of the surrounding fields in winter.



▲ Owner Douglas Rapien inside the useful elevator.

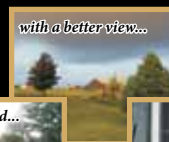
Guest Rooms

A B&B is, of course, more about the bedrooms. The ones at Stone Edge Estate do not disappoint. All have queen-sized beds except for one, which has a king. All have ensuite full bathrooms, with some having Jacuzzi tubs. All have a TV, bar fridge, coffee maker and hair dryer. Free WiFi is available throughout the house for casual use. Rooms to the rear have access to private balconies.

"All the rooms are named after parts of the Niagara Escarpment," explains Rapien. The room at the north end of the house is called the Tobermory. In the middle of the house is the Escarpment Suite, a two-bedroom, two-bathroom complex that can be kept separate if guests want to book only one room. This suite consists of a large room with the king-sized bed, large sitting area, and a Jacuzzi

Continued on page 40 ►

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Stone Edge Estate
Continued from page 39



▲ At the south end of the house,
the front-facing Queenston
Room offers luxury with its
two queen-sized beds.

Breakfast is served in the
formal dining room. ▼



NIAGARA ESCARPMENT *Views* Spring Issue

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tub, two sinks and separate shower in the bathroom, with a door leading to the adjoining room. This is called the Terra Cotta Room, which has a queen bed, the wheel-in shower stall and patio door to an outdoor balcony. At the south end of the house is the Queenston Room, which has two queen beds, a full conventional bathroom and walk-in closet.

"This is the most expensive B&B in the area," says Rapien. Yet people are drawn by these luxuries and amenities. Prices range from \$176 to \$192 for two people per night. Breakfast is of course included, and lunches can be arranged at an extra cost.

The Food

Ah, the food. Rapien recently hosted a meeting for the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce and everyone thought he had had the food catered. No, he is a skilled cook and baker. This is surprising in someone who is also a high-quality cabinet

maker. As he is also the one who decorated the whole house, there may be no end to his range of talent.

But back to breakfast.

"I email or give guests the menu the night before, to let them choose from the options," says Rapien. The choices are generous: a made-to-order omelette, waffles, quiche or breakfast sandwich, in addition to side orders of fresh-baked muffins, toast, roast potatoes, fresh fruit or a smoothie, as well as your choice of juices and coffee or tea. Rapien prepares the food himself each morning, serving them elegantly on fine china in the dining room. **NEV**

Bookings

The Estate is open year round. Reservations can be made online through their website www.StoneEdgeEstate.ca or by phone: 905.702.8418.

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▲ People with disabilities can enter into a large memorial to special service dogs, and get close to monuments in raised beds.

Saunders had dreams of becoming a writer. She had written one book already, an unsuccessful and rather conventional romance. Local legend has it that, while she was in Meaford, she went for long walks, hoping to find inspiration for a new writing project. Her companion on these walks was the Moores' little dog, Beautiful Joe. Joe was, in point of fact, not beautiful at all. He was a mutt, mostly terrier. Mr. Moore had rescued him from an abusive owner, who had beaten the little dog repeatedly and who, in a fit of drunken rage, had mutilated the dog by chopping off his

ears and tail. As with most abused animals, Joe was a timid creature, and he would hide on a nest of old flour sacks under Mr. Moores counter whenever a stranger entered the mill. But he seemed to have taken a shine to Miss Saunders, and he accompanied her everywhere. One might even say he became her muse.

When Saunders returned to Nova Scotia, she heard of a writing contest, sponsored by the American Humane Education Society. Contestants were asked to write a novel, modelled after Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*, which would encourage



kindness to animals. She decided to enter. Her novel won the contest and became an international bestseller. That novel, of course, was the story of Beautiful Joe.

Saunders lets Joe tell his own story, beginning with his cruel and unhappy early years and his subsequent rescue by Mr. Moore (called Mr. Morris in the novel). The setting is shifted to Fairport, Maine, because the contest rules stipulated that the story must have an American setting. Saunders later admitted that the family she wrote about was really her own. Over the course of the book, Joe is brought back to health,

and he rewards the Morris family's kindness by warning them of a burglar in the house. His action also saves their lives, since the burglar (who was his ex-master) intended to set the house ablaze to cover his crime.

Local interest in *Beautiful Joe* was revived in 1963 when Joe's grave marker was discovered near the banks of the Bighead River just below the old Moore house. The wooded property along the river, which had once belonged to the Moore family, became Beautiful Joe Park, and a provincial plaque

Continued on page 44 ►



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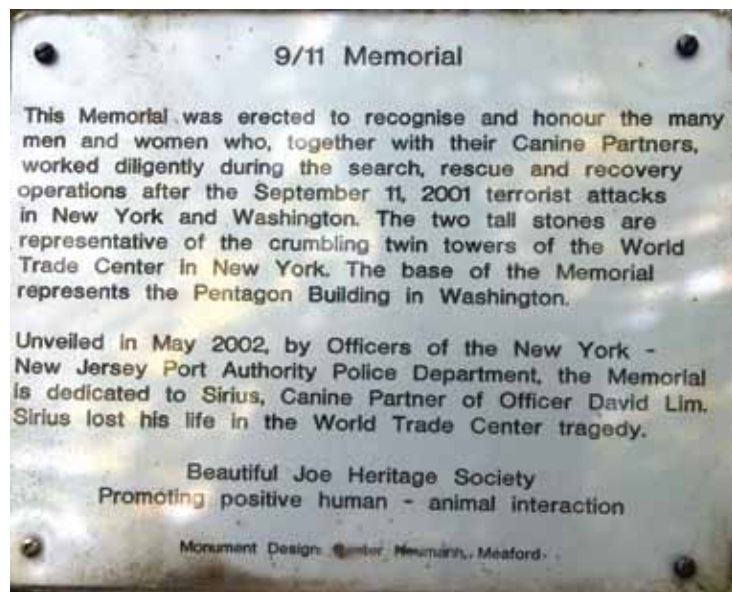
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▲ The story behind the police dogs monument.



▲ The story behind the 9/11 memorial.

For the love of animal companions

was erected over the grave to commemorate Margaret Saunders and Beautiful Joe.

Today, the park is cared for by a group of volunteers called the Beautiful Joe Heritage Society, (BJHS) which has transformed the

park into a symbol of the bond between humans and their canine companions. There is a bronze statue of Beautiful Joe at the entrance to the park, and scattered throughout the park are a number of monuments to

working dogs. There is a memorial to the search-and-rescue dogs that died when the Twin Towers collapsed in New York City on September 11, 2001. There are also monuments in the park to police dogs and to service

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dogs that assist people with disabilities. The BJHS has created a pavilion in the park where grieving pet owners can erect personal memorials to their own beloved animals.

Evelyn Dean, chair of the BJHS, spoke about the society's current projects. A new monument to Margaret Saunders, designed by Meaford artist Gunter Neumann, was unveiled in the park on October 3, and the society has also received approval from Meaford town council for an off-leash dog park. Future improvements to Beautiful Joe Park include a footbridge, marked trails, picnic tables and wheelchair-accessible washrooms. The project she is most excited about though is *Beautiful Joe: The Play*.

"We commissioned a play," says Dean, "from playwright Michael O'Brien, to be based on the novel. It premiered at SpringWorks in Stratford in May 2012 and was voted 'Best New Play' by the audience. We are staging a full production at the Meaford Opera House in the spring of 2014, and we are hoping to take it province-wide after that. We know people will love it. There wasn't a dry eye in the house at Stratford, and I mean that in a good way. It's a heartwarming story. We hope the play will lead to greater

The memorial to search and rescue dogs who worked at the 9/11 attack sites. The cross is made of iron from the Twin Towers. ►

things—an annual Beautiful Joe Festival, perhaps."

Margaret Saunders wrote 25 books in her career, most of them about animals, but she never repeated the success of *Beautiful Joe*. That book went on to sell millions of copies around the world, was translated into more than a dozen languages, earned her an honorary degree from Acadia University and a C.B.E. from King George V, and never went out of print. Saunders's message about animal welfare inspired millions of people. As *Beautiful Joe* says at the end of his own story, "[B]e kind to dumb animals not only because you will lose nothing by it, but because you ought to; for they were placed on earth by the same Kind Hand that made all living creatures." **NEV**

Ken Haigh, author of Under the Holy Lake: A Memoir of Eastern Bhutan, is a frequent contributor to this magazine. His last feature was "On the Trail of Tom Thomson," Spring 2013.

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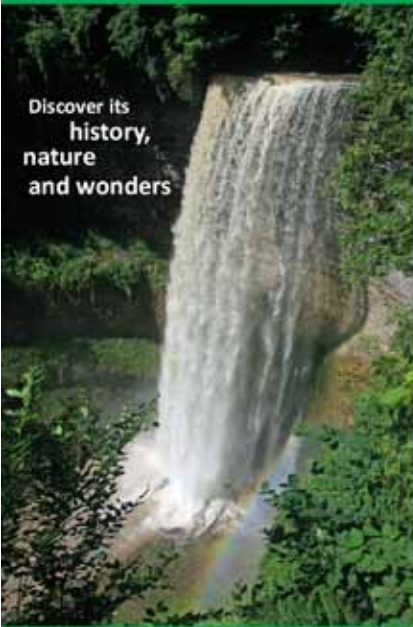
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Webster's Falls and Gorge Walk

This is a popular weekend waterfall outing. On this hike you will see three amazing waterfalls and one heck of a view from the Niagara Escarpment. Starting at Cascades Park in Dundas, this hike takes you up the Escarpment passing Sydenham Falls where you will eventually come to Dundas Peak, an outcropping with a view second to none. Catch your breath, take a break and a photograph.

Looking east you will see Cootes Paradise, the westernmost part of Lake Ontario and even further in the distance, the skyline of downtown Hamilton. Continuing along the trail, you will come to Tews Falls, the tallest waterfall in the Hamilton region with a drop of over 40 metres. With the spring runoff, this waterfall is in its prime, although it's impressive year-round.

Moving even further west, you come to one of the most famous falls in the region, Webster's Falls, named for the Webster family who purchased the surrounding lands in 1819. Take in the view, or for the more adventurous, hike down to the bottom of the falls. Webster's Falls is captured on countless postcards and has been the most frequently visited waterfall in Hamilton for more than a century and has even appeared in a few Hollywood movies.

In total, a round trip on this hike will take you about three hours and the walk back is considerably easier as you are mostly going downhill.

Ancaster Village Waterfall Walk

Another great adventure is on the south-facing part of the Niagara Escarpment. Starting at Tiffany Falls Conservation Area, the first stop is the immediate namesake of the area, Tiffany Falls. The trek to the falls is a winding path up a ravine, over bridges until

you eventually reach the falls which presents itself like a hidden geological treasure found in an Indiana Jones movie. There is a viewing deck for the falls and if you venture there in the winter, you might catch a group of ice climbers working their way to the top.

Further west, you find an equally enchanting site, Sherman Falls, named after the Sherman family, former landowner and 1912 founder of the Dominion Foundry and Steel Company (DOFASCO). Sherman Falls is a 17-metre ribbon waterfall that is visible year round. At this point you can head back, or loop around to the Ancaster Old Mill Inn and take a break to have some refreshment while enjoying the Mill Falls and Lower Mill Falls. In total, you are looking at about a two-hour outing.

These hikes offer just a glimpse of the beauty of the Niagara Escarpment in the Hamilton region. In order to promote Steeltown's other side, the Royal Botanical Gardens and Tourism Hamilton partnered with Geotrail, an Ontario-based outdoor mapping company, to bring the local trail networks and waterfalls hikes to the growing online map that showcases more-than 1,000 trails. With a few clicks of a mouse you can browse through a variety of trails in the Hamilton region, and take a closer look at 10 waterfall hikes with photos and additional information. Once you find a hike that interests you, you can print out a map or take the map with you on a smartphone or tablet. To start exploring more waterfall hikes in the Hamilton region, check out hamiltonwaterfalls.geotrail.ca

NEV

Paul Shaker is co-founder of Geotrail, a social enterprise that promotes hiking and outdoor education. For more, see Geotrail.ca.

A short version of this article first appeared on the Niagara Escarpment Views website NEViews.ca on July 22, 2013.

Walk With Us in Nature: Escarpment North

The Autumn 2013 issue describes eight of the 16 public walks protected by Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC). Here are the other eight, located on the Bruce Peninsula and Manitoulin Island.



▲ Sadler Creek, EBC's largest reserve, reaches Lake Huron from Hwy 6 and connects a major forest to Bruce Peninsula National Park.

On the Bruce

9. Sadler Creek is EBC's largest reserve at 1,113 acres, and extends from Hwy 6 to Zinkan Cove on Lake Huron. Follow the road opposite and south of Miller Lake Rd to the bridge over Sadler Creek, which eventually emerges in Zinkan Cove. Many of the trees here were saved from clear-cutting and now comprise a major forest connecting Bruce County Forest south of Lindsay Rd 20 with Bruce National Park north of Lindsay Rd 30.

10. Barney Lake This shallow lake is almost all within the EBC reserve created in 2002. Walk in from Cape Hurd Rd, about 300 m east of the big turn on the south side. Walk over bare alvar rocks and see plenty of wildflowers. Winter allows a chance to snowshoe right across the lake. This inland lake helps migrating wildfowl rest away from the winds and waves of Lake Huron.



▲ Barney Lake on the Bruce provides a tranquil resting place for migrating birds.

11. Alvar Bay at 681 Cape Hurd Rd is worth the km walk to the shore. At the shore, follow the north track over the alvar and glacial formations. From here, walk north to the point and beyond to Nature Conservancy's reserve or head south along the shore to the next major bay and nearby, a trail along the road allowance to Cape Hurd Rd. Explore three km of unspoiled shoreline and alvars. Home to our Butterfly Festival.

Alvar Bay at the end of Cape Hurd Road west of Tobermory has spectacular natural pavings and a unique ecosystem. ►

On Manitoulin Island

12. Cup and Saucer provides 12 km of cliff-top walks and an "adventure" trail with caves and ladders. Scenic views in all directions from Manitoulin's highest point. The "cup" is the higher feature, rising above the "saucer" to the north. Park at Bidwell Rd, just off Hwy 540, about 20 km west of Little Current. Bidwell Bog Trail lies a few hundred metres further east on Bidwell and has a five-km loop trail over the beaver dam and savannah.

Dramatic Cup and Saucer on Manitoulin is famous for its magnificent views and such Escarpment features as caves. ►



13. Fossil Hill has real fossils, but please leave them. They show that the only life 450 million years ago was marine plants and fish. This four-km hiking trail is at the NW corner of Hwy 6 and New England Rd.

Fossil Hill offers a short four-km trail on Manitoulin that passes through evidence of marine life and wave action. ►





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▲ Manitoulin's Ten Mile Point south of Sheguiandah has an impressive view and a steep trail right to the shore.

14. **Ten Mile Point** Stop for the view. Right on Hwy 6 south of Sheguiandah, this trail provides access down the slope right to the shore. Park at the lookout. Beware of the steep slope and poison ivy.



▲ Bingaman Trail west of Little Current, Manitoulin, gives a view of the North Channel before winding through Escarpment forest.

15. **Bingaman Trail** Stop at the Café in the Park sign on Hwy 540 14 km west of Little Current. Almost at the top of the hill, park on the plateau and join our Escarpment Trail. First enjoy the view over the North Channel, then take the trail following Escarpment crevices along the brow of the hill. Continue back to Green Bush Rd or further east to the end of our new reserves and loop south to the ATV trail and back north to Green Bush Rd in the savannah.



▲ Red Deer Village maintains a well-used trail near Manitoulin's Whitefish Falls that leads up to the LaCloche ridge.

16. **Red Deer Village** Climb the LaCloche. Follow Red Deer Village Rd past Whitefish Falls. A trailhead info gazebo is on the north side. The trail is well used and maintained by the community. Climb steadily to the La Cloche ridge. Bald white peaks and lone White Pine trees featured by the Group of Seven take you far away from southern Ontario. **NEV**

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
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Eating Along the Niagara Escarpment

Which restaurants do you
recommend that are near
the Niagara Escarpment?

Email editor@NEViews.ca and you can
remain anonymous or include your
name, like Philip Algar did for Heaven
on 7. Here are some suggestions:

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Continued on page 50 ►

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Continued from page 49 ►

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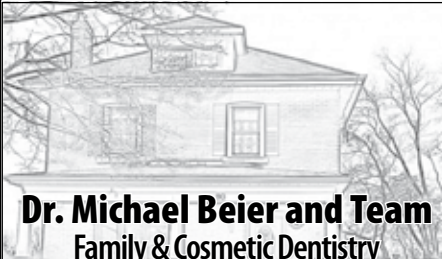
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Dec. 6 **Candlelight Stroll**, Niagara-on-the-Lake.
niagaraonthelake.com 905.468.1950



Dec. 6 **Holiday Magic on Main**,
Georgetown.
downtowngeorgetown.com

Dec. 6-7 **Niagara on Fire**, Niagara-on-the-Lake. niagaraonfire.com

Dec. 6-7 **Rotary House Tour**, Niagara-on-the-Lake. 905.351.3807

Dec. 7 **An Olde English Christmas**, Georgetown Choral Society,
Georgetown Christian Reformed Church. georgetownchoral.ca

Dec. 7 **The Night of the Phoenix**, Niagara Historical Society & Museum,
niarahistorical.museum 905.468.3912

Dec. 8 **Ducks, Gulls and Vultures on the Niagara River**,
Niagara Nature Tours. niagaranaturetours.ca 1.888.889.8296

Dec. 14 **Santa Claus Parade**, Niagara-on-the-Lake. 905.468.4261

Dec. 19 **Capture of Fort Niagara**, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

to Dec. 21 **Mistletoe Magic**, Oh Canada Eh? Niagara Falls.
ohcanadaeh.com 905.374.1995

Dec. 20-22 **A Manhattan Christmas**, Georgetown Bach Chorale.
georgetownbachchorale.com

Dec. 29-30 **Cabar-eh? Musical Revue**, Oh Canada Eh? Niagara Falls.
ohcanadaeh.com 905.374.1995

Dec. 31 **Orangeville's 150th Birthday and First Night Celebration**,
orangeville.ca

Jan. 10-26 **Niagara Icewine Festival**, icewinefestival.com

Jan. 11-12 **Twenty Valley Winter Winefest**,
Main St., Jordan Village. 20valley.ca

Jan. 25 **Progressive Dinner: A Taste of Niagara**.
atasteofniagara.ca 877.342.4374



Feb. TBA **Niagara Owl Prowl & Luncheon**,
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Feb. 1-3 **Warton Willie Festival** visitwarton.ca 519.534.4545

Feb. 2 **Piano and Poetry**, Georgetown Bach Chorale.
georgetownbachchorale.com



Feb. 8 **Romp to Stomp**, Scenic Caves Nordic Centre, Collingwood.
sceniccaves.com 705.446.0256 x 223

Feb. 13-March 29 **Crazy Little Thing Called Love**, Oh Canada Eh?
Niagara Falls. ohcanadaeh.com 905.374.1995

Feb. 14 **Valentine's Masquerade Gala**,
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Feb. 17 **Family Day Fun at the Tiffin Centre**, 8195 8th Line of Essa,
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Feb. 23 **Heavenly Spheres...a Choral Celebration**,
Georgetown Bach Chorale, Croatian Centre, Brampton.
georgetownbachchorale.com

Feb. 27 **2014 Spring Fabilicious**, Niagara-on-the-Lake.
signaturekitchensofniagaraonthelake.com 905.468.1950

This question was sent to some local politicians. Some responses follow.

Ontario's Endangered Species Act (ESA) was recently revised to allow exemptions for some industries from complying with strict protective standards. Critics say this weakens or eliminates protection of threatened plants and animals. What is your position?

Bill Walker, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound (Progressive Conservative)

believes the ESA is "out of control." In a statement released in September, he criticized the Ontario government for increasing the number of protected species from 19 in 2003 to 121 in 2013.

"When a farmer is unable to harvest hay because your supposition deems his farmland an endangered turtle habitat, then you're grinding our food production to a halt," he added. Walker wants the Act fixed through "a compulsory economic impacts analysis, publishing scientific analysis with the proposed rules, and making the ESA committee an advisory board to the Minister," who would make final decisions.

"Of course we need to have concern for our endangered species," he stated, "however, we also need to have as much concern for the farmer who is trying to feed his family and make a living."

Kevin Flynn, MPP for Oakville (Ontario Liberal) responds with "Why did the government modernize the Endangered Species Act?"

We wanted to streamline some of our approvals processes to make our business more efficient and sustainable and improve the implementation of the ESA. The regulation changes help avoid duplication and streamline a number of approvals with other planning processes already in place within MNR.

"I am proud of our government's goal of providing individuals and businesses with faster and more efficient service delivery while maintaining protection for and supporting the recovery of species of risk.

"For instance: the changes help existing or already-planned activities proceed without additional approvals under the ESA, subject to conditions, if new species or habitat protection comes into effect after an eligible approval has been obtained. Eligible projects do not require an ESA permit, provided the proponent registers with MNR, and follows rules that have been set out in regulation; the changes enable activities necessary for human health or safety. For example, repairing structural damage to a bridge or road that poses a safety risk does not require an ESA permit as long as the proponent registers the activity with MNR, and follows the rules set out in regulation. We remain committed to ensuring our native species continue to contribute to Ontario's rich biodiversity and that environmental protection and economic development go hand-in-hand.

"At the end of June 2013, the total number of species protected was brought to 215 with the addition of 65 new species. The ESA is the only North American legislation that provides automatic species protection based on the advice of an independent scientific panel, the Committee On the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario. Ontario is and will continue to be a North American leader in species at risk protection."

Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills (Progressive Conservative)

writes "We need to find the appropriate balance between the important priorities of protecting endangered species and strengthening our economy. I believe that these goals are not mutually exclusive: we can achieve both.

"The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Gord Miller, released his annual report on October 10. In it, he criticizes the current provincial government for 'gutting' the Ministry of Natural Resources such that the Ministry is 'walking away from many parts of its job to safeguard wildlife and natural resources.' Further, his news release states that 'protection for at-risk species have been gutted as major industrial activities can now proceed almost unchecked.'

"The provincial government has an obligation to respond to the Environmental Commissioner's report and recommendations. I would hope that the Government will review his report and respond publicly as soon as possible."

More news about the ESA is on page 9.

Do you have a question for our politicians? Send it to editor@NEViews.ca or mail it to Niagara Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown, ON L7G 2V2 by Dec. 30.

Political Representatives

Listed by riding

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound ▼

Welcome to

Bruce and Grey Counties. I hope you enjoy the many sites and attractions we have to offer.



Larry Miller, M.P.
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

1131 2nd Avenue East, Suite 208, Owen Sound, ON, N4K 2J1
T: (519) 371-1059; www.larrymiller.ca

Milton ▼



Problems with the Ontario government?

Call me.

Ted Chudleigh – MPP Halton
Constituency office

174 Mill Street, Milton L9T 1S2
905-878-1729 or ted.chudleigh@pc.ola.org

Oakville ▼

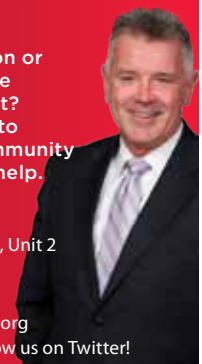


Kevin Flynn, MPP
Oakville

Do you have a question or concern relating to the provincial government? Please don't hesitate to contact me at my community office—we're here to help.

Community Office:
2318 Lakeshore Road West, Unit 2
Oakville, ON L6L 1H3
905.827.5141

kflynn.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Join us on Facebook! Follow us on Twitter!



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.

50 MILLION TREES FOR ONTARIO

Trees Ontario intends to plant 50 million trees by 2025 with **significant numbers planned or already planted in areas close to the Niagara Escarpment**. Roughly three million trees are being planted each year across the province.

LOCAL PRODUCE DONATED

BurlingtonGreen Community Garden donated more than 892 lbs. of **locally grown, chemical-free produce from their Central Park Community Garden**, to their local food banks.

CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE

Sustainable, locally grown food is being identified by Local Food Plus, which certifies farmers who use **sustainable practices including ecological preservation, pesticide avoidance and animal welfare**. Details are at localfoodplus.ca.

FRUIT TREE TRAIL IN NIAGARA

GREENing Niagara, formerly Climate Action Niagara, hopes to create Niagara's Fruit Tree Trail in public areas along 12 Mile Creek, St. Catharines. **Abandoned fruit trees will be revitalized** for free snacking, with excess produce harvested by The Garden of Eating Niagara and donated to community shelters. Funds and volunteer help are needed. See climateactionniagara.ca or call 289.434.0474.

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Edward Jones, Todd Neff

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Caledon Fireplace

Chesley
Robert's Farm Equipment Sales

Collingwood
Café Chartreuse
Grey Heron
Scandinave Spa
Scenic Caves Nature Adventures

Creemore
Foodland

Dundas
Dundas Valley Conservation Area,
Trail Centre

Erin
Edward Jones, George Paolucci

Flesherton
Highland Grounds
Village Greens Cafe

Georgetown
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United Lumber Home
Hardware Building Centre
Wastewise
Young's Pharmacy

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My Ol' Blues

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Coalition on the Niagara
Escarpment
Fennell & Gage Home Hardware
Westcliffe Home Hardware

Hillsburgh
Foodland

Jordan
Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation

Lion's Head
Foodland/Hellyer's Food Market

Little Current
Foodland

Markdale
Foodland

Meaford
Foodland
Grandma Lambe's
Municipality of Meaford
Pro-Power Canada

Milton
Ted Chudleigh, MPP
Milton Home Hardware

Mindemoya
Island Foodland

Mount Forest
Robert's Farm Equipment Sales

Niagara-on-the-Lake
Caroline Cellars (Virgil)
Hilton Garden Inn
Penner Building Centre (Virgil)
Picard's (Virgil)

Niagara Falls
Oh Canada Eh?
Stamford Home Hardware

Oakville
Kevin Flynn, MPP

Orangeville
Edward Jones, Ken Fast
Orangeville Home Hardware
Building Centre
Town of Orangeville

Owen Sound
Foodland
Larry Miller, MP
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Bowering Guest House
Ravenna Country Market

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Shelburne
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Niagara Escarpment Commission

Tobermory
Foodland

Toronto
Escarpment Biosphere
Conservancy

Utopia
Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

Vineland
Foodland
Grand Oak Culinary Market

Vineland Station
Bonnybank Bed and Breakfast

Wainfleet
Ben Berg Farm & Industrial
Equipment

Waterdown
Picard's

Locations on map are approximate only. Map is not intended to be a driving road map.
approximate location of Niagara Escarpment features

Georgian Bay

Lake Simcoe

Lake Ontario