

# 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*

Gloria  
editor@NEViews.ca

*P.S. Keep wild spaces wild.*



Write us at [editor@NEViews.ca](mailto:editor@NEViews.ca) or Niagara Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2.



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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 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Localicious Experience
- ▶ Concerns for the Monarch Butterflies
- ▶ What to Do in a Car Crash

