



From the Ice Storm to Spring and Beyond

With the Ice Storm of 2013 behind us, many people still may be cleaning up from it through Spring and beyond. It seems that the central part of the Niagara Escarpment was hit the hardest. Owners of forest and woodlands likely have downed trees and broken branches to deal with, and perhaps even new trees to plant. Tree service companies are tremendously busy and have long waiting lists. I have my eye on some large cedar trees that broke off in the storm, whose trunks might make stout posts for a large split-rail arbour that I would really like to have built this year.

Some of the lessons that I've learned from this storm are: I can never have too many large bottles of water for emergencies, it's easy to go to bed early when the house is dark and chilly, a woodstove with cooktop space is a blessing,

and neighbours are happy to help each other. What did you learn from the storm or what damage have you been dealing with?

Luxuriating in Spring

One of the many pleasures of editing a magazine like ours is the need to think about the next season. In the depth of Winter, I'm focussing on Spring; thinking about Spring events, selecting Spring photographs. With the Spring issue always our annual special issue on gardens, I get to luxuriate in gorgeous scenes of design and plantings.

This year we report on two of last year's community garden tours, one in Georgetown and one in Dundas. Mike Davis took some lovely photographs of outdoor spaces to which people obviously dedicate themselves. Friends of mine who are great gardeners, say that they have put more money in the ground than pirates! The best thing is that you

can experience tours like these for yourself this year.

We also include vegetable gardens in this issue, specifically some of the countless public community gardens that have sprouted up along the Niagara Escarpment in recent years. Sue Horner got the dirt on a few of them for us.

Daniel K. Wilson surprised us with his views of the many "faces" he sees in Escarpment territory all year round. He may have you giving things a double take on your own walks.

Conservation

We also invited naturalist Don Scallen to muck about and teach us the ways of the iconic Jefferson salamander. This shy little creature has been known to stop dump trucks, at least indirectly, as its rare status protects its habitats from development.

Finally, we had our intern Amanda Grant look at the work of



the conservation authorities along the Niagara Escarpment: why they were strengthened, and the important role they play in our own World Biosphere Reserve.

Keep sending us your thoughts and special photos. Our Readers and Viewers section is becoming a vibrant part of the magazine, and we all enjoy reading and seeing what you find important.

Gloria

Gloria
editor@NEViews.ca

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.



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



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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:

- ▶ Dreaming of Gardens After the Ice Storm
- ▶ Exterior Christmas Decorating Ideas from United Way of Halton Hills' Tour
- ▶ Michael Chong's Reform Act
- ▶ Orangeville Celebrates 150 Years and First Night
- ▶ EcoFest Niagara's TED Talks
- ▶ Niagara Escarpment Mural Artist Robert Johannsen

