

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT *Views*

Summer 2014 (June, July, August)

War of 1812
PEACE
of 1814

Lazing Down Beaver River

Whole Village, Whole Story

Lost in Time: Kilns of Limehouse

Plus: Rural Landscape Design

www.NEViews.ca

Publications Mail #41592022



Cedar Plank Nachos

Cedar Plank Nachos

Ingredients

1 untreated cedar plank, about 7" x 12", soaked in water for 30 minutes or up to 2 hours.
 3/4 of a bag (approx 8 cups/2 L) **Compliments Multigrain with Flax Tortilla Chips**
 3/4 cup (175 mL) **Compliments Sweet Bell Peppers**, diced, any mix of colours
 1/4 cup (60 mL) sliced green onion
 1/4 cup (60 mL) black olives, pitted and sliced
 1 cup (250 mL) **Sensations by Compliments Tex-Mex Shredded Cheese**



Prep Time: 10 min.
 Total Time: 30 min. Serves: 8

Directions

1. Lightly dry soaked plank with a kitchen towel and preheat grill to medium-high
2. Put down a layer of chips to cover the plank. Sprinkle with a third of the peppers, onions, olive and cheese. Repeat to create approx. 3 layers of chips and toppings.
3. Place the plank on the grill and close the lid. Cook for 5 - 7 minutes. Remove from grill carefully and serve nachos right from the plank.

Don't forget the salsa!
 The perfect dip for these tasty nachos.



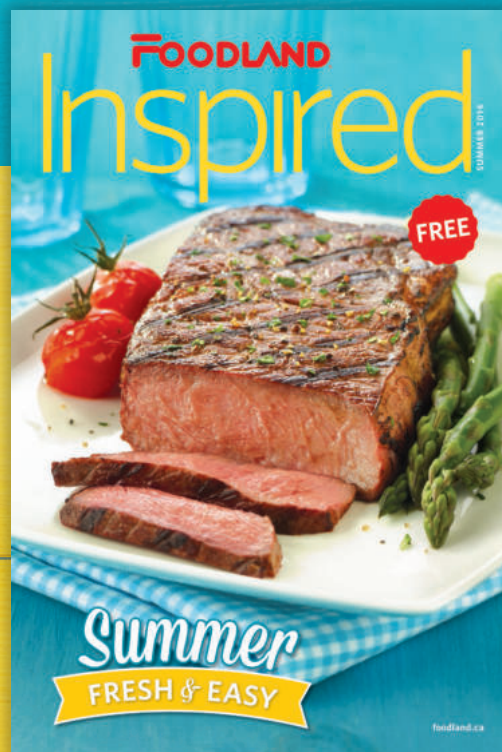
Summer

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NIAGARA ESCARPMENT **Views**

Summer 2014
(June, July, August)

On the cover: Re-enactment explosion
over Fort Erie, 2013. PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLS.

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Making Progress on Projects

It's spring as I write this, and like many people in the central part of the Niagara Escarpment area and beyond, I have been dealing with the massive tree damage from the ice storm. In addition, in my case, tackling the wood from several huge trees that had been dangerously close to houses. I hired one of our advertisers, Maple Hill Tree Services, to drop the trees safely in late winter before birds and animals began nesting. So the big yard around my little house was completely littered with twigs, branches and tree trunks. It seemed an impossible job to clean it up. Yet I started raking and piling and sorting firewood from brush, spending half an hour here, a full day there, morning, noon and night, going slowly and steadily, and...I'm making good progress. My garden beds are now clear so that the plants can grow unhindered. Large areas of lawn will be able to be mowed. I'm getting it done.

It's easy to be overwhelmed by a large task, to be frozen into helplessness, an inability to do anything. Yet I think a lot of people are realizing what the settlers and early farmers of these lands must have known: that steady persistence can achieve almost anything. The key is to start where you're standing, to use the rake to pull twigs into a heap near you. A project of any kind can be tackled in this modest, methodical way. Start somewhere, with something, and keep at it whenever you can. You may be surprised and satisfied by your progress.



PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

What to See This Summer

This issue looks at the progress one community group has made on its ambitious project: restoring and preserving the remains of old industrial activity on the Escarpment near Limehouse. The

Limehouse Kiln Society has restored one stone structure and stabilized another important one. Patti Post explores the once-bustling lime kiln industry and Credit Valley Conservation shared educational photos and images.

Sandra J. Howe takes us on a paddle down Beaver River in Grey County, giving useful tips for a summer excursion and showing us some of the wonderful wildlife that is drawn to the water.

Caledon's ecovillage Whole Village is a mystery no more, as Brenda Dolling and Jon Gagnon answer questions about living on this 191-acre community farm.

It's not every issue that can have a safe explosion on the cover, so when Chris Mills sent in his photos of re-enactments of the battles of 1814, I pounced on his capture of fire at Fort Erie. His feature on the most violent year of the War of 1812 wraps up our multi-year look at this war, and shares commemorations you can witness the rest of this year.

Gloria

Gloria
editor@NEViews.ca

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.



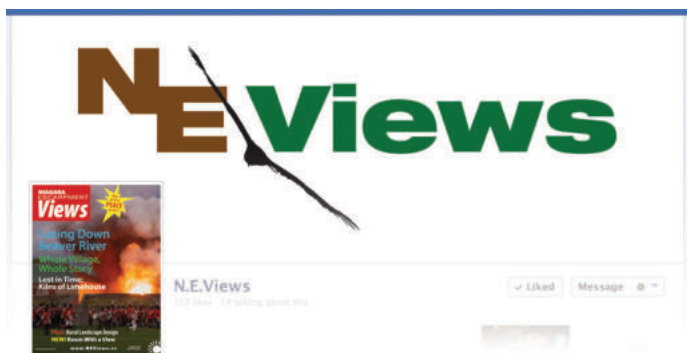
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in our print magazine.



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Here's the latest on our blog:

- ▶ Niagara's Fruit Tree Trail Planting
- ▶ The Only Thing an Ad With Us Can Do
- ▶ Halton Eco Festival Packed With Great Groups
- ▶ Highlights of 4th Annual Greater Niagara Region Home & Garden Show
- ▶ Halton Eco Festival April 5, 2014
- ▶ What's in Winter 2013-14 Now Online
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- ▶ Impassioned Plea From Reader to Save Dogs
- ▶ Giant's Rib Discovery Centre February Events



The Niagara Escarpment Plan

By Mike Davis, Publisher



It's been 41 years since Bill Davis' provincial government started the process for the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP). June marks 29 years that the NEP has been in force; Premier Davis (no relation) left politics earlier in 1985. The Plan has seen all three provincial political parties in majority and minority governments over its life so far. Many local municipal governments have come and gone, with some areas amalgamating and some town, villages, hamlets fading into history. Some politicians, like

Gord Krantz of the Escarpment's Town of Milton, have held office throughout the entire plan process. Others, like me, have served shorter periods. With the varied "stripes" and principles of the political representatives comes a very broad spectrum of views on how the Niagara Escarpment should be used and what its legacy should be.

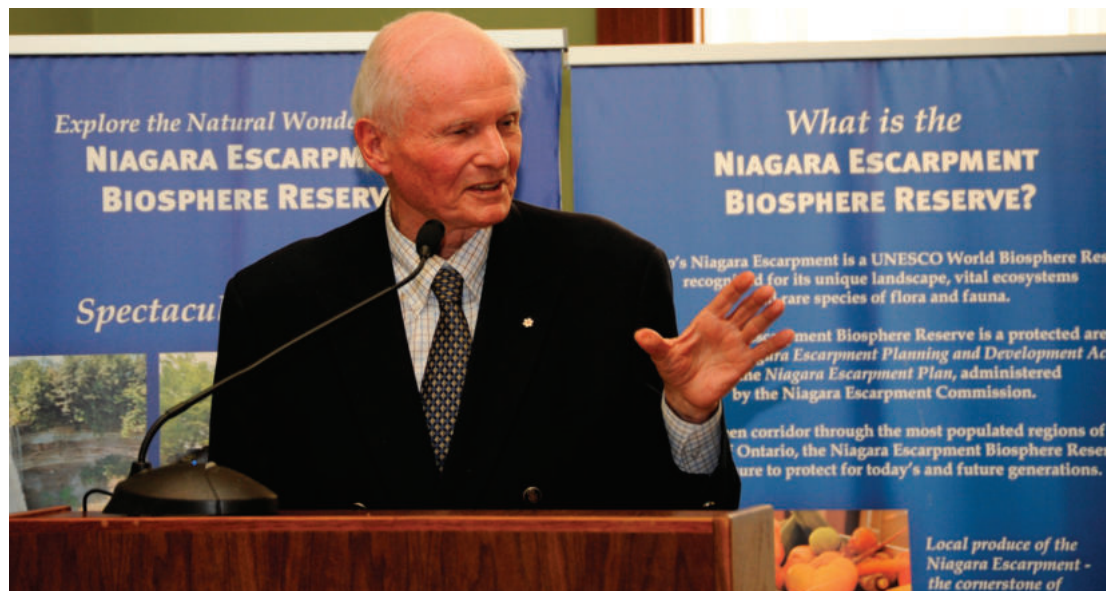
The NEP has a common set of rules over

Escarpment features in New York across the river from the cairn at the Queenston end of the Bruce Trail, but can only dream about a continuous natural area there. After the economic gains have been realized there, opportunities for a long trail become limited.

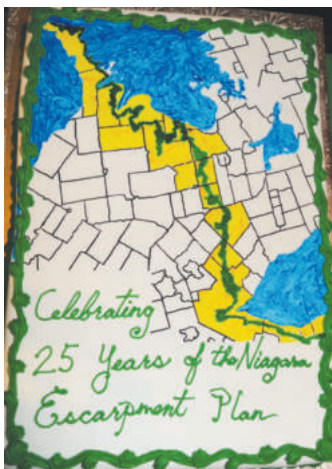
A Precious Treasure

I remember my interview with Robert Bateman in 2011, which led to two stories

political machine. Make sure your political representatives know of your wishes and concerns. The "ship of state" has a lot of momentum, but the course can be "nudged" with persistent and long-term pressure. Pressure will be from many directions, economic, environmental, development, rural life, nature, resource extraction. An absence of a voice from one side can steer the "ship" in another direction.



▲ Former premier Bill Davis speaking at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Niagara Escarpment Plan at Queen's Park in 2010. PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS



▲ The 2010 celebration cake shows the Niagara Escarpment as a green line going through yellow municipal boundaries.

its jurisdiction. Although there are different rules for different uses, the rules knit together the commonality of the Escarpment. A rural designation in Lion's Head is the same as in Hamilton. If planning were delegated to municipal government using a general Ontario planning act, the result would, no doubt, be highly variable. As time goes on, I feel the wisdom of the NEP becomes more cherished.

Pressures from economic gains will always be with us. Dealing with the "now" can cloud judgement on decisions of the future. Our American friends have Niagara

published in 2012. He said "I want my great-grandchildren to be able to drive across the future Ontario at the turn of the next century and know they are in the Escarpment and it is a precious treasure that has personality. That the natural and human heritage of the Escarpment is intact." I agree with him.

In 2015, the NEP as well as the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan will be reviewed. Although this is still the early stages, there is preliminary work being done now. An interested public has the interest of the

Speak Up

I enjoy the Niagara Escarpment. Being a publisher and principal photographer for this magazine has given me excellent opportunities to experience the people, places and the essence of what the Niagara Escarpment is. I walk the dogs on trails, learn about neat things at a local Naturalists' meeting, know because of the NEP there is less fragmentation of the land than what might have been, know that habitat and biodiversity is strong on the Escarpment.

What do you think? Please get your views and opinions to your representatives. **NEV**

The Niagara Escarpment – Gem of Ontario's Greenbelt

A zest for exploration and a sense of bewilderment can be seen on the faces of those who first lay eyes on the Niagara Escarpment—a dramatic backdrop from almost every vantage point. From hiking the trails to foraging in the depths of the forest, the Escarpment is a treasure trove for exploration and activity.

Looking Back

In 1973, Premier William G. Davis took the remarkable step of enacting the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. This led to the establishment of the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the creation of the Niagara Escarpment Plan. As Canada's first environmental land-use plan, it protects this unique 725 kilometre landform stretching from Niagara Falls to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. In 2005 the Niagara Escarpment became a permanent part of Ontario's Greenbelt.

From providing fresh air to ensuring Ontarians have clean water and a protected natural landscape, the Niagara Escarpment is an important piece of the Greenbelt puzzle.

"It is gratifying to know that the Niagara Escarpment is part of the much larger Greenbelt, which I hope continues to grow and

protect precious natural features and farmland," said Premier Davis at a plaque unveiling commemorating his contributions to the Act.

From providing fresh air to ensuring Ontarians have clean water and a protected natural landscape, the Niagara Escarpment is an important piece of the Greenbelt puzzle.

Iconic Natural Landscape

Crossing borders from New York State, into Ontario and back through the United States into Wisconsin and Michigan, the Niagara Escarpment is anything but tiny.

The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation takes a leadership role in ensuring our natural landscape and environment remains protected, appreciated, and valued. In doing so, the Foundation has installed a number of signs throughout the Greenbelt to bring awareness to the area. One of the most recently celebrated locations was Mount Nemo Conservation Area—a stunning part of the Niagara Escarpment landscape.

Located on the Bruce Trail, the sign tells the story of the Nemo Plateau; its rich agricultural landscapes, distinct natural features, rare cliff species, and ancient trees. This stretch of the Escarpment provides vital habitat for a variety of wildlife including the iconic Turkey Vulture, Little

Brown Bat, and the Jefferson Salamander.

"Beautiful nature, productive landscapes, places to explore—Mount Nemo exemplifies all of these great Greenbelt features, making it a natural fit for an interpretive sign," said Burkhard Mausberg, CEO, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. "This project informs the public and deepens their understanding of Mount Nemo's rich natural heritage, a legacy for future generations, and an essential part of Ontario's Greenbelt."

Ready, Set, Explore!

In addition to the beautiful sprawling landscape at Mount Nemo, the Greenbelt Foundation has designated several areas of the Escarpment as Greenbelt *Walks* trails. Helpful signs have been placed along trailheads where you can begin a walk or a hike along well-maintained trails.

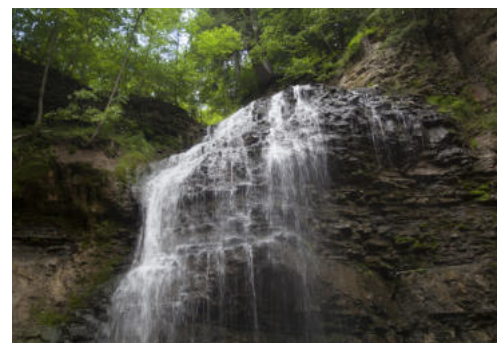
Thirteen out of seventeen Greenbelt *Walks* can be found in the Escarpment—all of which allow you to connect to nature and learn about the benefits of the Greenbelt.

Some great Greenbelt Walks locations:

Ball's Falls Conservation Area is home to some of the most beautiful ecological features in the Escarpment.

With two mesmerizing falls and hiking trails that wind through the Twenty Valley, the Conservation area is also home to several early 19th Century heritage buildings.

In a city of more than 100 waterfalls, *Hamilton's Tiffany Falls* is a standout beauty. The 21 metre high cascading waterfall allows you an up-close and intimate experience with nature.



Featuring bold-faced cliffs and hidden caves, *Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area* has something for everyone. Spanning approximately 100 square kilometres, the area is praised for its various activities including rock climbing, biking, and family camping.

As one of the most diverse areas of Ontario's Greenbelt, the Escarpment shines as a true gem today and for generations to come.

For more information on the Greenbelt and **Greenbelt Walks**, visit greenbelt.ca/walks



Readers & Viewers

Thank you for producing such a beautiful magazine. What a bright touch of spring on another windy winter day! I picked up a copy at Picone's today and also noticed the information about our upcoming Garden Tour. Once again, thank you for your help!

Sharon McCann via email



Glad to meet you at the Eco Festival in Oakville! Enjoyed the free copies, and thought we should subscribe. Best wishes.

Ross & Margaret Wark, Oakville

Editor's note: Response to Don Scallen on his feature "Endangered, Iconic Jefferson Salamander."



Heather Lynn sent me a copy of *Niagara Escarpment Views* that has your article. It is great, and I really am pleased that you were able to put together the science and the importance of the Escarpment for conserving this very interesting salamander. I always have a difficult time trying to explain the situation to a general audience and I hope your article will be read and appreciated by people who can make a difference.

Jim Bogart, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph

Thank you so much for your amazing magazine *Niagara Escarpment Views*! I would never have found out about Beautiful Joe and Meaford's Beautiful Joe Park. Your article, "A Place for Joe," tears were rolling down my face when I read it. I will contact the Beautiful Joe Heritage Society as well. Maybe in time when I can afford it, maybe it will be possible to place a plaque there to remember the helpless street dogs in Sochi who were slaughtered by a private "killing" company hired by the Sochi government to prepare for the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia. I will write a personal letter to President Putin as well to voice my outrage... I will quote the words of Margaret Marshall Saunders in honour and memory of Margaret and Beautiful Joe, her message being "Be 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." Tears again were rolling down my face when I read this Gloria... Thank you Gloria for spreading the word and bringing awareness to the Beautiful Joe Park in Meaford. I will pass this on to all I know. I can't wait to visit there and pay my respects, especially to Beautiful Joe and Margaret Marshall Saunders.

Brenda Townson, Burlington



edition on the Park and indeed, your sentiments regarding the book... from the Editor's Desk. I am charged with the odious task of writing the quarterly newsletter and I have a request. I wonder if you would consider allowing me to put your Editor's Desk article in our Winter Newsletter. It will be available on our website and will hopefully be well viewed. It's always a challenge, when you Volunteer, to apportion the necessary time and consideration to things like a Newsletter, but here at BJHS we never give up!

I am in the process of writing it and await your approval. Many, many thanks again for highlighting Beautiful Joe in such a "beautiful" way.

Viv Baker, Beautiful Joe Heritage Society

Editor's note: "A Place for Joe" was written by Ken Haigh.



[Editor's note: Letters continue to arrive re the photo in our Dundurn Castle Kitchen Garden feature from Spring 2013.]



Last August my wife and I were in Bruce County for the first time (although we are otherwise well-travelled) to attend the Summerfolk folk festival in Owen Sound and spend four days on Manitoulin Island. I picked up several issues of your magazine over the week and was quite impressed with your goals for it and with its content and appearance. Because I grew up in Oshawa and have spent most of my career in Ottawa, I have only a general familiarity with the Niagara Escarpment, and the issues I read effectively showed why the Escarpment is important (and the passion you and Mike Davis bring to it).

Doug Yonson, retired reporter and copy editor at the Ottawa Citizen, Nepean



The lady in the Kitchen Garden is now in the Mayor's Showcase here in Georgetown.

Diane Miller, Georgetown



Helen Powers' excellent photo of Dundurn Castle's kitchen garden, and Diane Miller's subsequent painting of it, do make a great starting point of how to see this magical place. But you need to acknowledge the gaze of the woman in the image. Her name is also Helen – Helen Sluis. She is not a model, nor is her gaze affected. Each year she works many hundreds of hours in that ghastly hot dress making the kitchen garden into a place where beautiful photographs can be taken. In a very real sense, the composition of the photo is as much hers as anybody's. And yes, she is indeed as beautiful and impressive as the image suggests.

Christopher Redford, Heritage Presentation Co-ordinator, Tourism & Culture Division, City of Hamilton

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT Views



When I took that last summer I didn't even see the bee until I looked back over the photo. Happy mistake!

Sherrie Louth, Georgetown

[Editor's note: Possibly a Brown-belted bumble bee?]



Events Along the Rock

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

The 2014 Tubbs Romp to Stomp on Feb. 8 at Scenic Caves Nature Adventures near Collingwood had 578 participants wearing pink and snowshoeing to raise funds for breast cancer research. Photo courtesy Scenic Caves Nordic Centre. ►



Mori Gardens of Niagara-on-the-Lake was one of the exhibitors at the 4th Annual Greater Niagara Region Home & Garden Show in Niagara Falls, March 21 to 23. ▼



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Events Along the Rock

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Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

The 2014 Canadian International AutoShow opened Feb. 14 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. More than 1,000 new vehicles were introduced. ►



◀ On March 22, Halton Hills Camera Club presented Ethan Meleg, noted landscape and wildlife photographer, giving his talk and slideshow "Confessions of a Crazy Photographer." Left, Ethan Meleg, with club president and *Niagara Escarpment Views* contributor Greg Coman.

Local business people and three PC MPPs discussed energy rate increases on March 27 in Shelburne. Front row from left, Alan Nezirevic, KTH Shelburne Mfg. Inc.; Sylvia Jones MPP Dufferin-Caledon; Lisa MacLeod MPP Nepean-Carleton & PC Energy Critic; Bill Walker MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound; Joe Jacobs, Vice President of Operations, Chapman's Ice Cream; Bill Gillam, Dealer/Owner Shelburne Home Hardware. Back row from left: Shane Hall, Asst. Vice President, Plant Manager, KTH Shelburne Mfg. Inc.; John Telfer, CAO Town of Shelburne; David Chapman, President/CEO Chapman's Ice Cream; Ryan L'Abbe, Vice President, Ice River Springs/Blue Mountain Plastics. PHOTO PROVIDED ►





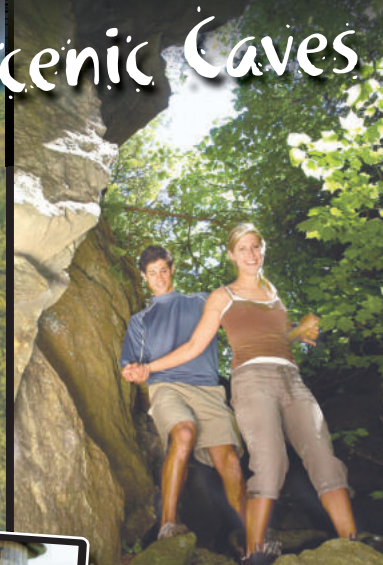
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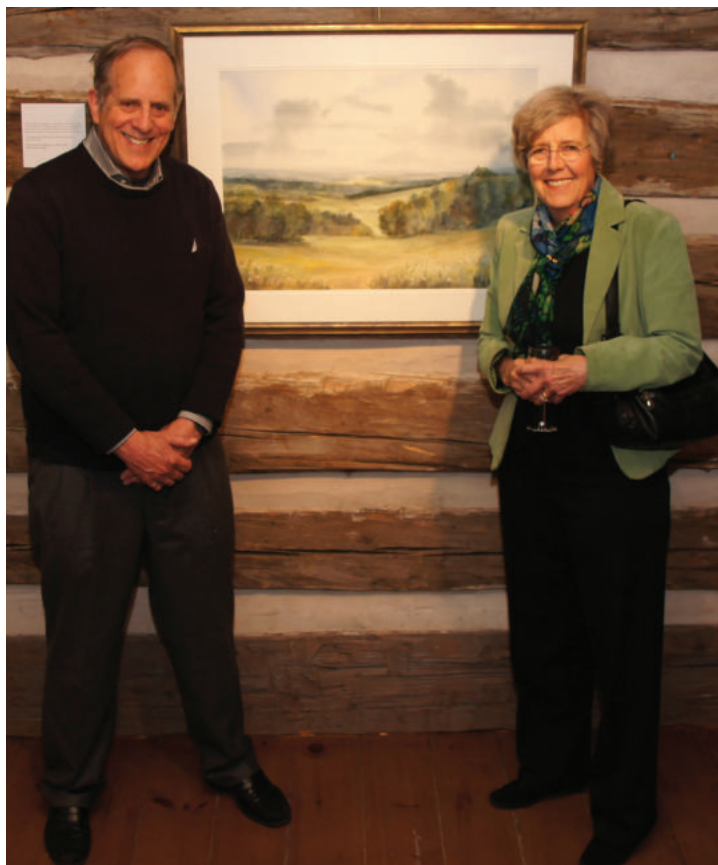
▲ On the weekend of March 28, Discovery Dream Homes had a large display at The Cottage Life Show in Mississauga, while the gang from Foodland served up samples of Sensations sparkling fruit juices. ▼





▲ On April 14, Mike Foley, left, president of the board of directors for Wastewise of Georgetown, presented a cheque to Doug Tripp, president of Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC), which is working for a full assessment of the Hidden Quarry application regarding land at Hwy. 7 between Acton and Rockwood. Some other members of CRC stand behind.

Will S. Hendrie & Liz Hendrie Forseth, son & daughter of Betty Hendrie, were guests of honour at the opening reception for The Life & Art of Betty Scale Hendrie on April 6 at the Dufferin County Museum & Archives. ▼



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Events Along the Rock

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Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

Only some of the exhibits at Halton Eco Festival in Oakville on April 5



▲ Trees Ontario

▼ Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn shakes hands at his colourful tent.



▲ Protect Our Water & Environmental Resources (POWER)



▲ Leslie Adams of POWER, left, chats with Brenda Dolling of Whole Village Ecovillage.



▼ Halton Region had a large team giving out recycling bins & other freebies.



Highlighting Native Nations

WAR OF 1812

ROUTE
1812By Zig Misiak
200th Anniversary Edition

Native View of Battle of Chippawa

Zig Misiak of Brantford, a historical re-enactor and self-described student of Native/First Nations history and culture, has written *Highlighting Native Nations:*

War of 1812, his perspective on how the war was experienced by First Nations. The Battle of Chippawa on July 5, 1814, seems to have been a turning point. Here, Native warriors fought each other on opposite sides of the war. From this book, Misiak created a limited edition print of his image "They Mourn," which shows three warriors reflecting on their losses.

"After this battle, with good reason," writes Misiak, "the majority of warriors went their separate ways and did not participate in any major engagements for the duration of the war."

For more about Misiak's work, see www.realpeopleshistory.com or call 519.757.0910. PHOTOS PROVIDED

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Views

Lincoln Alexander Gets His Day

Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, together with co-sponsors Paul Miller, MPP for Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, and Liberal MPP Bas Balkissoon, was successful in having a Private Members' Bill passed, proclaiming Lincoln Alexander Day in Ontario. Hamilton-based Alexander was Canada's first Black MP, first Black cabinet minister and first Black Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, among many other significant achievements. Representing all three political parties, the MPPs agreed to support the designation of every January 21 as Lincoln Alexander Day.

Arnott urged passage of the bill "as a tribute to this great Canadian, and as a statement that this House absolutely condemns racism, intolerance, prejudice and bigotry in all its forms, wherever it still exists."

In the photograph are from left, Bas Balkissoon, Marni Beal Alexander, widow of Lincoln Alexander, Rosemary Sadlier, Ontario Black History Society president, Ted Arnott and Paul Miller. PHOTO PROVIDED



Subaru's First Hybrid

Subaru introduced its first hybrid vehicle at the Canadian International AutoShow in Feb. The 2014 Subaru XV Crosstrek Hybrid, nicknamed "the nature lover," has a Manufacturers' Suggested Retail Price of \$29,995. Subaru says "The XV Crosstrek Hybrid uses the same gasoline Subaru boxer engine as the rest of the lineup, but integrates an exclusive Continuously Variable Transmission, attached to an electronic motor, within its symmetrical full-time AWD system. It has a gasoline engine with an electric motor-assisted driving, a brake-regenerative system, and an auto-stop/start system to reduce emissions and increase fuel efficiency. The battery is dependable, compact and lightweight so we didn't have to sacrifice interior space. We've also adjusted the chassis and suspension and added ultra-light aluminum alloy wheels."

Worth the Visit: Wastewise

Vital Statistics

MANAGEMENT: Registered non-profit charity run by a board of directors & managed by Debbie Smart.

OPENED: 1991

12 Armstrong Ave.

Georgetown

905.873.8122

www.wastewise.ca

HOW BEGUN: Concerned citizens fighting local proposals for incinerators & a landfill decided to demonstrate alternatives for waste. Their model was based on Urban Ore of California.

GOOD FOR: Recycling and reusing a wide variety of goods & materials. Finds solutions to garbage & recycling questions. Offers quality used goods. Helps Town of Halton Hills provide large blue metal recycling containers in local public places.

GOALS:

1. To promote reduction, re-use and recycling of waste in Halton Hills;
2. To divert resources from disposal through outlets for all re-usable & recyclable items;
3. To educate and encourage efficient methods of waste management;
4. To conduct research & education in waste management, encourage waste reduction & promote recycling.

THE EXTRA MILE:

Offers recycling & reuse under the same roof. Wastewise is self supporting, gives scholarships to high school students, helps with a composting demonstration in Willow Park Ecology Centre, Norval & donates to environmental programs.

WHY IT'S WORTH THE VISIT:

"It's fun! You never know what treasure you'll find to complete a collection, finish a room or find the last book in a series."



▲ Debbie Smart, manager of Wastewise

Everything including on occasion, the kitchen sink, is available in the reuse part of Wastewise. ►

Antiques & collectibles are sold by week-long silent auctions. ▼ PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS.



A person with red hair, wearing an orange life vest, is kayaking on a calm river. The river is surrounded by dense green trees and foliage. The water reflects the surrounding greenery. The kayaker is in the center of the frame, moving away from the viewer.

Jenn McDonald of Meaford paddles
an open part of Beaver River. ►

Beaver River Kayak



Adventure

Written & Photographed by Sandra J. Howe

Paddling quietly over a deep, dark river pool, I see a black torpedo flash past my kayak. It emerges into flight directly in front of me, spraying water from its wings and lifts into a dead elm. It settles there with the other cormorants, spreading slate grey wings to dry. Maybe it caught a small fish while diving.

Kayaking the scenic Beaver River offers incredible natural beauty and abundant wildlife. It is a wonderful paddle any time the river is ice-free but summer is the best season because of the wild young. Waterfowl, raptors, heron, egret, beaver, muskrat, raccoons, and deer inhabit the silver maple swamp. The young are often very curious, and easy to spot, though elusive to photograph. For a novice or family outing, the Beaver

Continued ►

NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views



▲ A cormorant that did not fly up as the kayakers passed.

River is a perfect first choice for paddling. It is very accessible but much of it feels like true wilderness, not unlike the scenery encountered by early settlers.

The Beaver River meanders through the heart of Grey County's spectacular Beaver Valley. Formed by a much larger pre-glacial river, Beaver Valley cuts into the Niagara Escarpment for a full 40 km from Thornbury to near Flesherton. The smaller Beaver River as it exists today has headwaters in Grey Highlands, near Feversham. Several sites along the river have been used for power through the decades. Lake Eugenia, high on the Escarpment, was formed in 1915 by a hydro-electric dam built on the Beaver River. This power plant still feeds into the Ontario Hydro grid. Eugenia, Kimberley, Heathcote, Slabtown, Clarksburg, and Thornbury all used waterpower from the Beaver River to drive enterprises such as flour and saw mills. Beaver Valley history and development are intimately linked to the river.

Grey Sauble Conservation Authority monitors the Beaver River. They provide some information, signage and access to assist paddlers. Grey-Bruce Tourism has an excellent paddling brochure. Free Spirit Tours, located on the river at Heathcote, are friendly, and helpful. They have outfitting and shuttle services, and do a major river cleanup each year to keep the waterway open for paddlers. This is essential as deadfall, and logjams create major

Continued on page 38 ►

◀ Green frogs abound on the banks near Epping Sideroad.

John Vanderburgh of Paisley looks up at cormorants perched in a standing dead tree. ►





1814:





Last, **Bloodiest** Year of the War

Written & photographed by Chris Mills

The year 1814 would prove to be the bloodiest of the War of 1812-14 between the United States and Britain over the land that would become Canada.

▲ Explosive finale of 2013 re-enactment of Siege of Fort Erie, which had lots of explosions and fierce fighting. The 200th anniversary this year is expected to attract the greatest number of participants.

By late 1813, the British forces were in Burlington having abandoned southwestern Ontario and the Niagara Peninsula to the Americans. News arrived that Montreal was under attack and they prepared to sail back to Kingston to help.

Continued ►

NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views

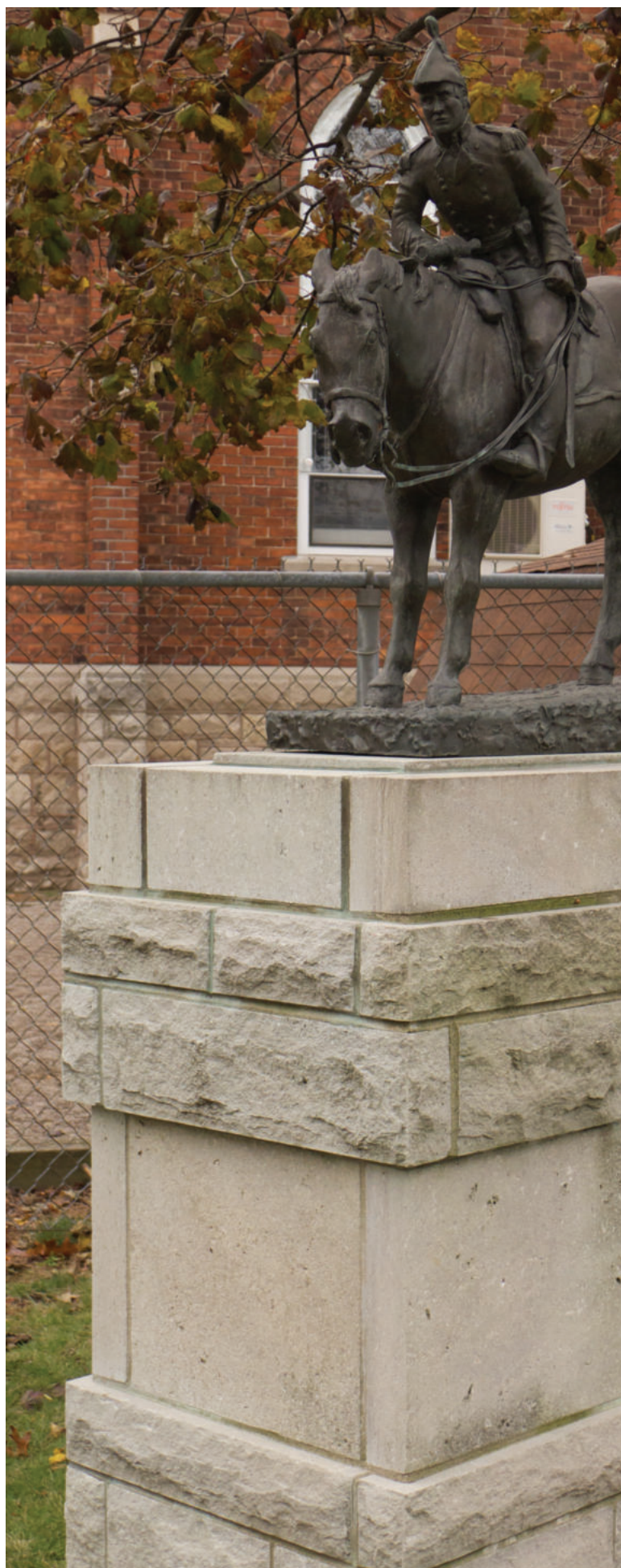
1814 ►

Commemorating the Final Year of War of 1812

"You can imagine some general describing (the American attack on Canada) as a win-win-win war," says Jim Hill, heritage director of Niagara Parks. "They could stop the emerging Underground Railroad, they could stop the British from selling guns to Native leaders out west, and they could kick out the British and gain some real estate."

- July 5 & 6: 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Chippawa. Hundreds of participants expected.
- July 25: Thousands are expected to march through Niagara Falls, Americans from the south, British from the north, to meet at Drummond Hill Cemetery. You are invited to join the walk. At Drummond Hill Cemetery you can also visit the Battle Ground Hotel, formerly a tavern, now a museum
- Niagara Falls History Museum will have an exhibit of the War of 1812 with an emphasis on the Battle of Lundy's Lane.
- Drummond Hill Cemetery has gravestones dating hundreds of years ago, a commemorative monument to the Battle of Lundy's Lane, a monument to Laura Secord, and a monument to unknown U.S. soldiers who died in the battle.
- Aug. 9 & 10: The 200th anniversary of the great Siege of Fort Erie. A thousand re-enactors will participate in storming the fort. This event is a spectacle and will be even more impressive for the bicentennial siege.
- October 18 & 19: Re-enactment of Battle of Cook's Mills
- Starting December: celebrations in communities along the Niagara River with themes aimed at the new peace.

For all these events, see www.discover1812.com.



Commemoration to Lieutenant-General
Sir Gordon Drummond at Drummond
Hill Cemetery, Niagara Falls. ►



▲ Re-enactors' camp in 2013 at Old Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Along with the Navy Yard and Butler's Barracks, the fort was destroyed by cannon fire from U.S. ships in 1813. Only the fort's stone magazine at the east wall survived intact. It's now considered the oldest surviving building from the war. All have been rebuilt.



▲ The memorial site for the Battle of Chippawa includes a dedication to Natives who fought alongside both British and U.S. soldiers. The re-enactment this July 5 will feature American and Canadian participants.

In December 1813, a young Lieutenant General Gordon Drummond, the new Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario), arrived in Burlington to take over command and, aware that the British had in fact defeated the Americans at Chateaugay and Chrysler's Farm, ordered an offensive force back to Niagara.

Like General Sir Isaac Brock, who'd died at Queenston Heights in October 1812, Drummond believed in taking the offensive and going bold.

The American leaders at Fort George heard of Drummond's approach and abandoned the fort in December 1813. They'd had enough for the year. Winter had arrived and the enlistment contract for most of their garrison ended in a few weeks. They'd suffered defeats in Lower Canada south of Montreal, and faced further difficulty replenishing supplies. So they retreated to Fort Niagara across the Niagara River in New York.

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NIAGARA
ESCAPMENT
Views

Industry to Forest: Kilns of Limehouse

by Patti Post Images courtesy Credit Valley Conservation except where noted

Hikers who explore the conservation trails in the pastoral village of Limehouse, situated off Hwy. 7, between Georgetown and Acton, wouldn't recognize the bustling industry that was in full swing at the turn of the 20th century. Like many communities nestled along the Niagara Escarpment, Limehouse carved its beginnings from what nature provided. Limestone kilns, whose remains still stand in the conservation area, provided raw material for many structures that still function locally and nationally.

The mortar that fortifies Toronto's Osgoode Hall, Old City Hall, as well as most Canadian universities and grand old hotels like the Royal York, are enduring reminders of the limestone industry that



operated in
Limehouse from
the 1840s to 1915,
with kilns running 24
hours a day.

Far from the forested park it is
now, this was an industrial area, with

▲ Trees have reclaimed the once-industrial area of Limehouse. Here, the ruined Draw Kiln, circa 1870, has been partially reconstructed. A new fence surrounds the site. More funds are needed to complete the specialized reconstruction.

Continued ►

NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views



▲ Mary Shier, president of The Limehouse Kiln Society, at the powder magazine, once used to store explosives safely away from the operating kilns. This was the first structure to be restored, done by local stone mason Gerry Inglis. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

a saw mill, grist mill, and a paint factory surrounding the limestone works. Three limestone companies that operated during this time were Bescoby & Worthington 1850-1857; Gowdy & Moore 1857-1885; and the Toronto Lime Company 1885-1915.

Restoration

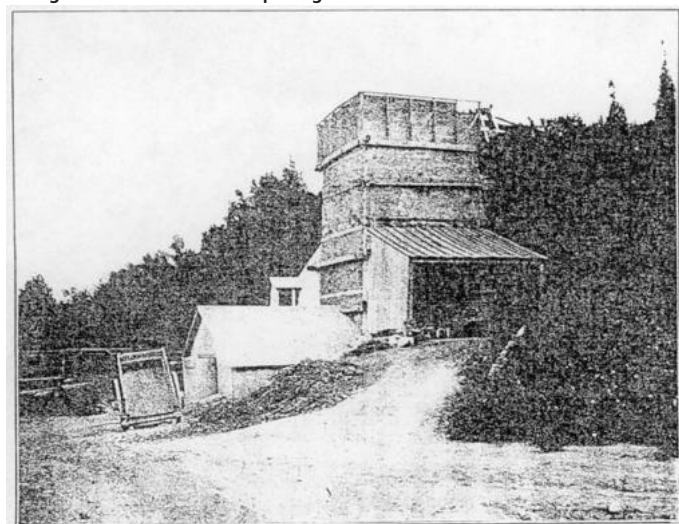
The remains of this once thriving industry now form unique monuments at the Limehouse section of the Bruce Trail, where the old kilns are slowly in the process of being restored.

The first structure to be rebuilt was the powder magazine: the arched enclosure near the entrance to the conservation area, where explosives were stored. Blasting was necessary for extracting limestone from bedrock.

This specialized restoration was a project for Gerry Inglis, a third generation stone mason whose family ran a local aggregate business.

Local author and historian, John McDonald, said "Limestone production was one of the

An old image of the Draw Kiln when operating. At the very top, a ramp from the top of the Escarpment let a horse back up a wagon load of rock to the opening of the kiln shaft. ▼



Lime kiln at Limehouse. Halton County.



▲ Looking like a temple found in a tropical jungle, this is the ruin of the Draw Kiln before research and restoration.



▲ The front face of the Draw Kiln after restoration and stabilization to date. The Society would like to restore the structure to the top wooden rail. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



◀ Limehouse used to be a thriving industrial area. The train track continues to be used. Also visible today, are the remains of the loading platform on the left side of the tracks in the centre of this photo. The long white roof sheltered a row of five to seven set kilns, which predate the Draw Kiln. Ruins of these set kilns can be seen today, almost completely overgrown.

more significant industries in its day. There's a lot written about saw mills and grist mills in establishing communities, but the lime industry was just as important along the Niagara Escarpment."

McDonald himself cherishes boyhood memories of exploring along the Limehouse trails in the early 1960s, when he could still see the roadways and tracks where limestone carts would shift material from the kilns to the railway loading docks nearby. His own grandfather

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NIAGARA
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Views



Bridal Veil Falls, Kagawong, Manitoulin Island.
Photograph by Mike Davis.

NIAGARA
ESCARPME
View



By Brenda Dolling & Jon Gagnon
Photos by Jon Gagnon except where noted

It's a model of living that
more of us may need
to embrace as changes
occur in the future.

Notes from Whole Village

Whole Village is an intentional community and ecovillage with a commitment to sustainability and land stewardship. The community members living on the Whole Village Farm attempt to live in harmony with each other and with the natural habitat.

Whole Village of Caledon is a 191-acre farm with a provincially significant wetland, hardwood forest, fertile fields, rolling hills and a spring-fed pond. Besides the large, century-old barn and farm sheds, there is a farmhouse typical of the late 1800s and an ecologically built residence called Greenhaven that houses 11 member households and a central common space for the community to share. Each private suite in Greenhaven is equipped with bathroom, kitchenette, bedroom(s) and living/dining space as well as a garden space outdoors.

◀ The beautiful landscape of the 191-acre farm at the Caledon ecovillage is a strong draw for some people.

Continued ▶

NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views



▲ The spring-fed pond is popular after a day spent helping out on a work bee. Jon Gagnon taking a dive. PHOTO SUBMITTED.

A spectacular celebration at the end of one of the popular permaculture courses. ▼



Location

Whole Village is situated on Shaws Creek Road in the rural northwest corner of the Town of Caledon between Orangeville and Erin on the Orangeville Moraine. The property is adjacent to Shaws Creek near the headwaters of four water systems.

Whole Village Philosophy

Whole Village was created to bring together like-minded people who wanted to reduce their ecological footprints and live in community with others who share the same vision. There is a strong urge to work toward self sufficiency, especially the production of food for ourselves and the nearby community, using ecological agricultural methods. Diversity, healthy living, mutual interdependence, outreach and education as well as personal growth are all important principles we strive for. Whole Village provides a safe, supportive



▲ Organic farming, self-sufficient food production and ecological land stewardship are important to Whole Village members.

environment in which to raise children and foster learning about sustainability. Shared decision making is facilitated by using the consensus model. Currently we are planning ways to become more resilient in preparation for an uncertain future.

Beginnings

The current Whole Village community began in 2000, buying land in 2002 and moving all members to the site in 2006. The original community began meeting and planning in the 1990s in King Township. Whole Village is organized as a Co-operative.

Why did you join?

Brenda: As many other members, I had been thinking for many years of ways to live more in line with my philosophy of shared ownership, self sufficiency, ecological farming and communal living. The Whole Village vision was exactly what I was looking for with the

beautiful landscape adding a bonus.

Who might like it?

Jon: Anyone who wants to be part of a working alternative to our current society may be interested in living in an intentional community. At its base, it's about living simply and in harmony with the natural world. Anyone who has tried to live a more resilient lifestyle and has found the work to be too physical and emotionally draining may find comfort and hope in sharing the workload and ideas with like-minded people.

Brenda: Someone who wants to live a more sustainable lifestyle, sharing delicious organic meals together five nights a week; enjoying nature and wishing to steward and restore the land; working together with like-minded people who share the responsibilities and joy of living in



Continued on page 50 ►

NIAGARA
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Views



▲ A juvenile bald eagle takes flight over the river.



▲ Passing an impressive, massive silver maple on the river's edge.

Raccoons and other wildlife inhabit the silver maple swamp and are easy to spot but difficult to photograph. ►

hazards for kayaks, canoes, and SUPs, short for “stand up paddle boards.”

Access Points

Between Kimberley and Slabtown, the Beaver River is navigable for most of the spring, summer and autumn. High rainfall or drought can affect water levels so be sure to check local conditions before paddling. Always use appropriate gear and safety equipment to avoid trouble. There are four public access points in the navigable section with a total distance of 18 km on the river. All access points are marked off Grey Road 13, and have good signage and parking. Access #1, just north of Kimberley, offers about five hours of leisurely, downstream paddling to Heathcote. Be sure

to dress for the weather; use sunscreen; carry bug repellant. Don't forget water, and a picnic lunch; good food is essential to great adventures!

All set for an amazing day on the river, meet your paddling friends in Heathcote and transfer gear to their vehicle. Leave a vehicle in Heathcote for shuttle service at day's end. Driving south up Beaver Valley, the dolostone walls of the Niagara Escarpment tower above you forming the valley walls. Old Baldy Lookout is a high cliff face above as you park at Access #1, and unload equipment. Settle into your kayaks and the river's tranquility as you float past ancient silver maples that provide cooling shade. It is so peaceful on the river.

Wildlife

This section from Access #1 to Access #2 at Epping Sideroad is wide, lazy, and winding. It is an easy three-hour paddle to cover the 10 km. This area is deep swamp with massive trees overhanging the river, and little dry land to be seen. Beaver, the river's namesake, are plentiful; watch for beaver-cut trees, dams, lodges, and curious kits watching you. Mature and juvenile bald eagles seem to live in this section.

In high water times, be attentive to follow the mainstream, and not get lost. When encountering fallen trees in the river, first look for a way to paddle around. Since there is seldom dry land for portaging, you may need to get out of your kayak on the fallen tree, and

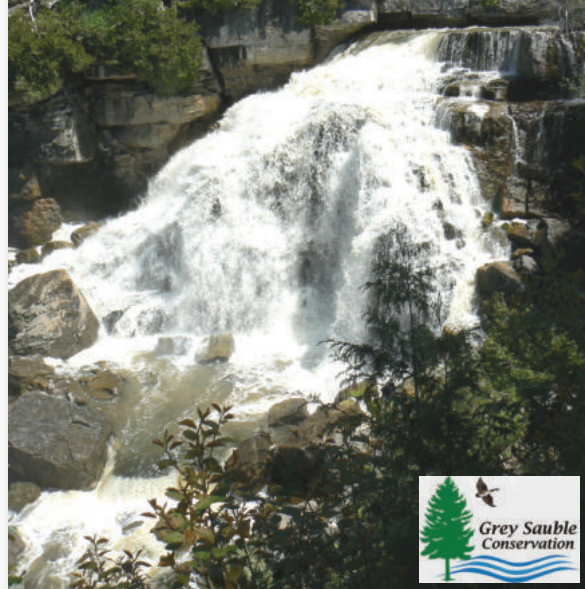
haul your boat over. This often involves someone falling in which is seldom dangerous and often hilarious. Expect to get wet and muddy!

Epping Sideroad, exit left bank, just after the bridge, is a great place to land, stretch, and have lunch. Be careful when walking because frogs are everywhere at this point. From here to Heathcote, Access #3, is another five km or two hours. The river and landscape change character here: the river narrows and flows quicker; banks are steeper with more cedar trees; farms are visible on the higher, drier land. You have left wilderness, and entered private property so please keep to the river. The river bottom here is

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Views



▲ Egrets are lovely but too shy to let paddlers come close.

more gravelly which means you may see fish, and you may want to get out to splash or swim. Watch for a small swimming hole where Mill Creek flows into the Beaver at about one hour downstream from Epping Sideroad. On a hot summer day, it feels wonderful to float in the cooling water.

After Mill Creek the river begins a series of tight bends all the way to Heathcote. There is a beautiful, old steel bridge hung with flower boxes at Sideroad 22. You are close to Grey Road 13 now, and begin to hear traffic noise. Just before Heathcote, the river bends in great “S” curves in a farm field of livestock. The

Waterfowl, raptors, heron, egret, beaver, muskrat, racoons and deer inhabit the silver maple swamp along Beaver River.

cattle and horses watch paddlers with interest. They won’t harm you, and be careful not to startle them. Exit in Heathcote, right bank, before the bridge, at Free Spirit Tours and your shuttle vehicle. Just down the street is Blackbird Pie, a great bakery with treats to celebrate your paddle adventure.

Each Beaver River journey is unique. Muskrats cruise by silently with long tails waving on the water surface; their mudbank homes line the river’s

edge. A family of young raccoon gathers clams along the shore. Heron and egret stand silent on stick legs in the shallows, fishing. Cormorants and kingfishers perch in dead trees, preparing to dive for fish. Watch for a glimpse of the majestic bald eagles who have settled here. Wildlife is abundant but you must be attentive to see it before it sees you.

The flora is less elusive: waterlilies, ferns, reeds, cattail, great trees, and the spectacular

cardinal flower. Exploring the Beaver River offers a gentle and fascinating adventure in nature’s beauty and bounty. **NEV**

Sandra J. Howe writes, photographs, plays and guides adventure tours in Grey-Bruce. Her last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was “Keeping the Light: Assisting at Cabot Head Lightstation” in Summer 2013. For more, see howesandraj.blogspot.com or Grey-Bruce Adventours on facebook.

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NIAGARA
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Views



▲ The gates to Drummond Hill Cemetery, the highest point in Niagara Falls, where the single bloodiest battle of the war took place over six hours on July 25, 1814.

Before they left, though, they burned the Town of Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) to the ground.

It was an unparalleled atrocity to burn civilian homes.

Thus when Drummond's troops and natives arrived, they promptly rowed across to New York under cover of darkness, and took Fort Niagara with only a handful of British lives lost. They killed or captured more than 400 Americans that December 19.

But in retaliation for Newark, they then marched up the east side of the Niagara River and

burned everything on the way.

Jim Hill, heritage director for the Niagara Parks Commission, calls it the beginning of the end for New York's exclusion from hostilities.

"After the torching of Newark, American soldiers and civilians knew that the British and native warriors would come back with a vengeance," says Hill. "The massacres expected by the Americans didn't happen. Instead the American civilians saw this coming and most fled."

Battle of Chippawa

The following summer, the Americans returned with a vengeance. In fact, says Hill, "In Niagara for the 1814 campaign, this was the best American army put into the field during the war."

On July 3, 1814, the Americans captured Fort Erie again and marched down river where they fought 2,100 British, Canadian and Native forces in a farmer's field beside the Niagara River, in what became known as the Battle of Chippawa.

The British had been used to defeating under-trained and easily frightened militia with

a few musket volleys, but this time the 2,200 U.S. soldiers had undergone serious training and discipline.

It proved to be one of the bloodiest engagements because both sides refused to back down. American commander Winfield Scott used his artillery to great effect firing canister blasts at almost point blank range.

The Americans killed, wounded or captured hundreds of British and Natives, almost doubling the number killed versus Americans. Hundreds were wounded on each side. The British withdrew. It was the first



▲ East entrance to Drummond Hill Cemetery, site of the Battle of Lundy's Lane.

time that the Americans stood toe to toe with the British and won.

"Even Napoleon's troops would have been envious," says Hill. "In any victory before Chippawa, the U.S. had overwhelming numbers. But the real significance for the Americans was that they realized they needed to build and equip a standing army to defend themselves and launch offensives."

Battle of Lundy's Lane

It also gave them confidence in their abilities because two weeks later, both sides would

meet again along Lundy's Lane among the tombstones of a small cemetery on the highest point in what is today the City of Niagara Falls.

British General Riall, who'd suffered so many losses at Chippawa, heard of 1,800 advancing Americans and began to fall back. Lieutenant General Drummond, however, turned him around and prepared for a fight.

The Americans arrived at 6 p.m., July 25, 1814, and attacked. In a battle that

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Grey County Summer Bucket List

- ☐ Paddle the Gentle Beaver River
- ☐ Cycle the Causeway on the Eugenia Lake Loop
- ☐ Picnic After a Hike at Inglis Falls
- ☒ Climb the Escarpment at Mefcalfe Rock
- ☐ Take a Segway Tour at Blue Mountain

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Views

1814 ►

Continued from page 43

involved thousands of men on each side facing each other so close that they could use bayonets, it became a desperate blood bath.

The screams and carnage has been described as the closest to Hell they'd ever encountered, lasting until past midnight so that the combatants saw each other only in the fog of cannon smoke and the flashes of musket fire.

The Americans reached the graveyard at the hilltop, drove the British back down the other side and captured British artillery. But in a case of misunderstanding orders, the American forces withdrew, abandoning not only the captured British cannon but their own artillery.

The tally for this single battlefield engagement was more than 1,800 dead, wounded and missing.

"This was the worst battle

in Canada in the War of 1812," says Hill. "There were more killed and wounded than in any other single battle. And it was terrifying by all accounts. Lots of bayonet to bayonet fighting, incidents of friendly fire shooting their own side, and some trickery on both sides to shield losses and to try to draw each other out."

But in total, the U.S. army was gutted, says Hill. They had only one general remaining who was unwounded.

War's End

What followed was the six-week-long Siege of Fort Erie fought in the rain and mud of late summer and early autumn of 1814. As Americans dug in with their backs to Lake Erie, the British vainly threw their troops at the fort. The brawl at Fort Erie cost almost 3,000 men killed and wounded until, exhausted and running out of supplies, General Drummond withdrew September 21.

The U.S. rebuilt their forces so that the largest contingent of American troops on the Niagara Peninsula were in Canada for the Battle of Cook's Mills in October where, as in the past, the British held their ground.

Hill concludes, "After the Cook's Mills battle, U.S. General Izard withdrew to Fort Erie and after blowing up the fort they left Canada. With their shipping bottled up, the treasury depleted, and a chunk of Maine in British hands, the Americans were exhausted and bankrupt."

The war shifted into the United States and included the burning of Washington, D.C. A peace treaty was signed Christmas Eve 1814, and finally signed and approved by both sides in February 1815. **NEV**

Chris Mills is a Niagara-based writer and photographer whose article and pictures about Laura Secord appeared in our Autumn 2013 issue. He can be reached at www.chrismills.ca.



▲ Fralick's Tavern, constructed in 1836 on the site of the Battle of Lundy's Lane, is now a museum.



▲ Memorial to the U.S., British, local and Native fighters who died in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, 1814.





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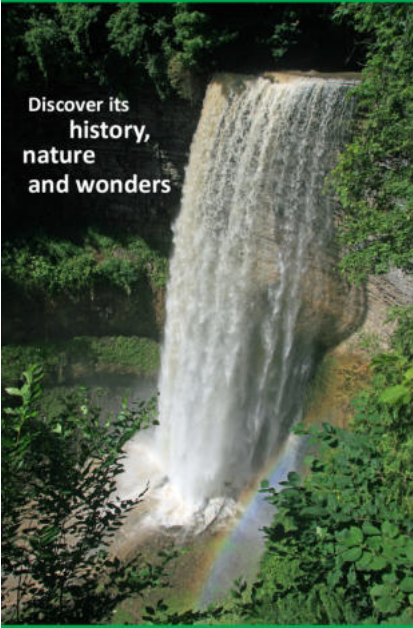
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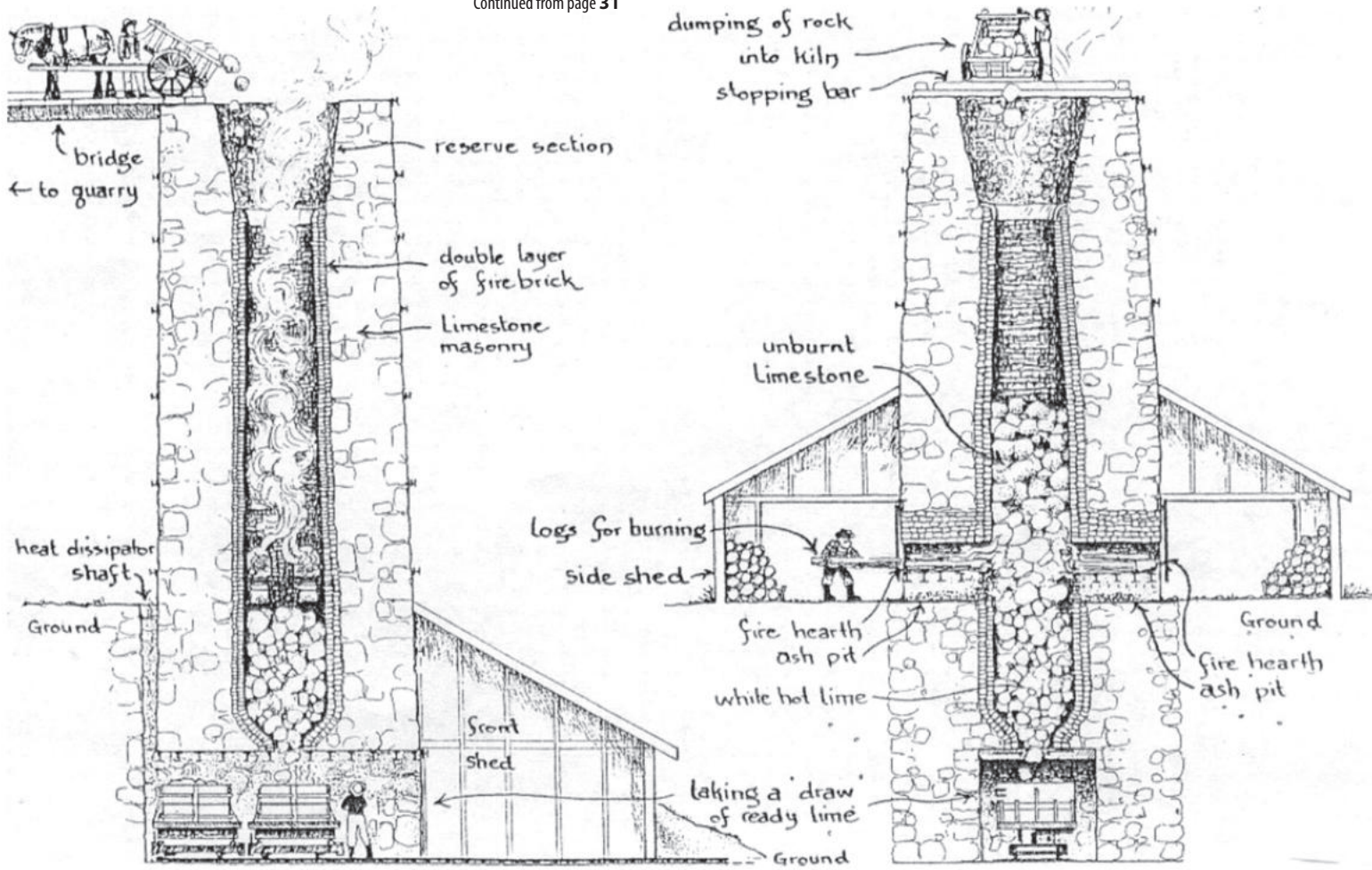







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NIAGARA
 ESCARPMENT
Views



◀ **Diagram of how a draw kiln works.**
Built against a cliff of the Niagara Escarpment, it was fed rocks from a horse-drawn wagon, top left. Heated by wood or charcoal, it burns limestone, separating out the lime needed for construction.

and great-grandfather worked on those kilns. "I've always been proud to come from Limehouse," he says.

In response to residents' concerns that local history was being lost with the deterioration of the kilns, The Limehouse Kiln Society was formed in 1999. Mary Shier, president of the society since that time, has, along with her husband and other dedicated volunteers, given a lot of effort and time to this restoration project, keeping this important part of local industrial history alive. The Society manages the kilns in co-operation with Credit Valley Conservation and the Town of Halton Hills.

Besides many historic buildings, limestone was vital to building railway bridges like the one that still stands over Black Creek. Lime was also widely used for agricultural fertilizer. "For an agricultural-based

Besides being used to make mortar, lime was also used in the following ways:

- ▶ The leather tanning industry to remove hair from hides
- ▶ In alkali paints such as Calcimine or Casein (white wash).
- ▶ The manufacture of iron, pulp and paper, soap, fertilizer, insecticides, sugar refining, and calcium carbide for the generation of acetylene, the purification of coal gas in the later part of the 19th century as well as a topical disinfectant, and sometimes in glass production.

◀ **A view inside one of the better preserved set kilns. One of several in a row near the train track, these wood-fired kilns were not as efficient as the larger, charcoal-fired Draw Kiln.** PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

country, that was very important. It was one of our great natural resources," adds McDonald.

Oldest Kilns

The smaller kilns still standing along the trails were the first ones used to cook the limestone, fueled by wood, which took three to four days to heat up, and the same length of time to cool down, between operations. Later, the much larger draw kiln (now in reconstruction) was quicker, and ran constantly.

Limestone rocks were deposited into the top of the kiln, while wood was constantly fed into the sides, partway down. Then, through an opening at the bottom, the lime powder was extracted.

In 1915, blasting started to encroach upon local homes, so all limestone operations were moved to the nearby village of Dolly Varden, where kilns were already in operation. They continued until 1931.

Lime production was crucial to the development of Georgetown and Acton, but gradually, as modern technologies emerged, the lime companies amalgamated and more products could be brought into the area, local manufacturing dwindled.

Historical restoration is a painstaking, costly endeavor. Funding has come from a Trillium grant, and from T.D. Friends of the Environment, but it will take a lot more. When asked what makes the society want to keep going on the project, Shier says, "Perseverance... Heritage preservation is a slow process."

It's also perseverance fuelled by a strong belief in the value of social history. As another author, Steve Berry, whose thriller novels always include a historical quest, says on his History Matters website, "A concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a vital link ... quit literally (to what makes) us who we are."

The Limehouse kiln site

Continued on page 48 ▶

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▲ Ruins of the two-storey Gowdy mill, powered by Black Creek, are steps from the Draw Kiln, although the mill was not part of the lime industry. Debate continues over whether the building was a saw mill or grist mill. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

◀ Treasures remain to be discovered. What looks like a three-foot diameter grindstone was found at the side of Black Creek, opposite and somewhat removed from the mill ruins. Mary Shier says there is more to uncover of the bustling industry of Limehouse. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

has been vandalized – an all too common occurrence in all Canadian parks. But as Berry says, “The greatest loss of history is through neglect.”

It’s a genuine pleasure to explore the Limehouse conservation pathways, and discover the fascinating rock formations and curious oven-like structures along the way, but it’s even more enjoyable to know why they’re there, and what a difference they made to how our great-grandparents and grandparents lived, and therefore to how we live today. **NEV**

Patti Post is a freelance journalist living in Halton Hills. She has a special interest in writing about community history, life stories, and travel.

The railway was crucial to the lime industry.

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**NIAGARA
ESCARPMENT
Views**



▲ Brenda Dolling giving a tour one April at Whole Village. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Greenhaven houses the residences and common spaces of Whole Village Ecovillage. ▼





▲ Stephen Wilson, property manager, in red shirt, leads the construction of the first sleeping cabin near the pond.



community; wishing to be creative and solve problems with others.

Non Residents

Brenda: You can try living in community by renting a B&B room or tenting by the pond. People can volunteer at work bees or for weeks at a time to learn about ecological farming and enjoy the outdoors. It is a place to train new farmers. The farm offers programs for students and other groups to learn about sustainability. It offers a way to offset your carbon production if you drive or fly by donating to the tree planting program – already over 16,000 trees planted. Whole Village is connected to the outside community by giving time, meeting spaces and experience to agricultural, educational, and environmental groups. It's a model of living that more of us may need to embrace as changes occur in the future. And the land is being protected and restored in order to hold more water, provide habitat, and create more local food for the surrounding community.

Jon: We are very interested in building resilience through improving our relationships with

Continued on page 52 ►

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT *Views*

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▲ Brenda, in red, leads an orientation session in Greenhaven's common living space. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Apples from the orchard are pressed on site with the Whole Village cider press. ▼





Some of the fresh bounty from the gardens. ▼



the external community. Whether you come as a volunteer, a visitor or simply want to ask us questions about living in an intentional community, we believe caring for our natural world and improving our inter-personal relationships goes well beyond our ecovillage and can be applied everywhere.

Rooms & Residences

There are suites available in the eco-house for purchase and rooms available in the farmhouse for rent. Rents vary according to the space: rooms from \$300 and suites from \$900. The price to buy a suite is negotiated with the suite owner. A typical two-bedroom suite starts around \$190,000 and up depending on the size and amenities. The price of a suite includes a membership share in the co-operative and an ownership share of the land.

Pets?

Cats and dogs and smaller pets are allowed to live in private suites but not in the common spaces.

Visiting

People are invited to come to our orientations held once a month to speak with a resident and tour the house and property. Another way to see the community in action is to attend a monthly work bee where a few hours of team work will earn a delicious organic lunch and good fellowship.

Even More

Whole Village hosts a Permaculture Design Course every summer, a two-week immersion that develops skills for designing environments that mimic nature and systems that are sustainable. We offers spaces for groups to rent for growing food, meetings, education, and recreation. There are also teachers of yoga in residence who often hold classes. **NEV**

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View of Sustainability:

Designing Rural Landscapes



Written & photographed
by Sean James

▲ A gazebo offers a destination in the landscape and if screened, can be a haven from mosquitoes. Have fragrant plants nearby so the scents waft over you.

Far from being daunting, creating gardens for a rural property is an artistic opportunity. The first steps are to relax and have fun, realizing how lucky you are. Next, make a list of assets and challenges. Do you have a pond or flowing water that can be made into a one-of-a-kind feature? Even existing swales where rain water flows through your property can be made to look like a stream.

What features would you love to have? Many gardeners want a vegetable plot or a collection of fruit trees and shrubs. Put them in a sunny area. A pool needs to be sited carefully for best light and proximity to the house. Keep in mind the location of underground features, such as a septic bed, where you'll have to avoid digging, large trees, structures and use of vehicles. Conversely, large trees near the south-west and south-east corners of the house are great for cooling in the summer.

Think about having a patio touching the house at the same

level as the inside floor to make it more inviting, and a second patio further off, to pull activity away from the house. Consider permeable interlocking stones to let rain flow into the soil. A patio can raise the value of a home by 12 per cent!

Frame the View

"Borrow" views from other properties, such as a picturesque barn or distant hill by framing them with large evergreens or structures or even a trick gate, which looks like a gate but doesn't actually open. This creates the illusion that your property extends farther.

Destinations are important in large properties. It's a common mistake to tuck things close to the house. Having somewhere to "go" in the garden makes it feel more welcoming. A bench surrounded by fragrant plants gives a great place to sit between mowing and weeding. Make sure that your rest zone is very low maintenance, with lots of

easy-to-care-for groundcovers. You don't want to be thinking about work when you relax.

Do large gardens have to be high maintenance? There are lots of tricks that keep things looking good throughout the year. Creating a wildflower meadow brings in butterflies and much more, and supports biodiversity while reducing mowing. Supporting birds and pollinators help keeps pests down. Surround a gazebo with drifts of low, native shrubs, such as grey-twig dogwood, with a path mowed though the meadow leading to it.

Think Big!

A wonderful thing to have in a large garden is a sculpture. It doesn't have to be expensive. It could be an antique farm implement or a fine piece by an important artist. Envelope it with bold landscaping such as a large drift of switchgrass. Make sure it's visible from a window so you can enjoy it even in winter.

Think BIG! Picture a grove of birch trees under-planted with groundcovers, not just one tree with a couple of perennials under it. Use large drifts of plants, numbered in the tens. Large drifts are necessary to get visual impact. They also make maintenance simpler. A long way from the house, the plantings should be large scale and simple with just a few types of plants, other than in the case of a meadow which should be diverse. Closer to the house, there can be a larger variety of plants with more detail.

Resist the temptation to use invasive plants to fill space quickly. Invasives are non-native varieties which spread aggressively at the expense of our natives. Such species as Crimson King Norway Maple, Periwinkle, Goutweed and English Ivy can overwhelm plants that you love in the countryside, such as Trilliums and Sugar Maples.

Work with what you have! Plant a dry hillside with drought-tolerant varieties like grasses and coneflowers. If you have a low, wet area, use species such as red-twig dogwood, sparkleberry, blue flag iris and cardinal flowers. Having wet areas as rain gardens is also important for recharging ground water and protecting our creeks.

Since we're in Canada and for six months of the year it's dark when we leave for and return from work, we don't get to enjoy our landscapes as much as we should. Low-voltage LED lighting is incredibly efficient and long-lasting. Properly placed, it can hide deficiencies in the garden and highlight strengths.

Don't get stressed about things. Critters nibble and weeds grow but a beautifully designed landscape, properly scaled to the property, adds value and enjoyment to life. **NEV**

Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping and Eco-Consulting, can be reached at 905.876.4852 or through www.fernridgelandscaping.com.



You can't see the forest for the desks in the way

By Bob Barnett

Roger Ulrich wrote, "In pushing other species to extinction, humanity is busy sawing off the limb on which it perches." Elizabeth Kolbert writes "The sixth extinction will continue to determine the course of life long after everything people have written and painted and built has been ground into dust and giant rats have – or have not – inherited the earth." Few of us realize we're in the middle of that extinction. We're so close to it we can't see it. Richard Leakey has warned that, "Homo sapiens might not only be the agent of the sixth extinction, but also risks being one of its victims."

I spend all my available hours travelling around to events like Toronto's Green Living Show, fall fairs in towns like Wiarton, the pumpkin festival in Port Elgin and woodlot conferences in Elmwood, to meet families who own land in this part of Ontario so blessed with rare and endangered species. Many of them invite me to see their forest or wetland. We spend sunny and rainy afternoons together turning over leaves, looking up at the endangered butternut tree with its black fungus at the base and finding little orchids just poking above the leaf litter. Afterwards we head back for a warm bowl of soup beside the woodstove and talk about protecting that land forever.

A recent visit took me back to my youth paddling the Mattawa River when I visited a couple who bought almost two square km of rocky woods on Boom Creek with a 65-foot waterfall, to see it protected during their lifetime. They live off the grid with a wood fire and a small solar generator. Every day they

walk the property getting to know as much as they can about the trees and animals in their domain.

City People & Nature

After soup, we draft up an agreement that prevents future owners from ever turning that land into a gravel pit or more urban sprawl. I head back to Toronto and over the four-hour drive, my friend and I get into a long discussion about the need to protect nature and how so few people from the city have a chance to get into a forest.

Roger Ulrich, quoted above, was one of the first recent researchers to document the health benefits that nature brings. Our children are losing that health to computer devices

protect her wetland with showy orchids. Just up the road lives a man who's bought 800 acres of land and planted 300,000 trees because he wants it to soak up our carbon dioxide. Each of these refuges is a potential nature reserve. Their owners know about the sixth extinction we're causing and want to do their part to protect part of our forest.

Failure to Protect

We have failed to protect much of this area. Southern Ontario has only four per cent protected in parks or nature reserves. That is far below the 17 per cent agreed by 146 countries, including Canada as well as Ontario. That protection is supposed to be focussed on areas like southern Ontario where

for appraisals and legal fees to turn the dreams of these families into permanent agreements and reserves to protect their land with its species. We debate instead the fine details of which lands can be exempted from property taxes. Our donors must pay municipal taxes on top of the appraisals and legal fees we pay to receive donated land. And we get grief from some municipalities because our nature is exempted from their property taxes. Biodiversity seems to be something that someone has to pay to look after.

Then, I head off to northern Toronto to talk to the federal government. They grant landowners generous income tax benefits if they donate land or agree to protect their land in perpetuity. But they argue for months about how a landowner should not remove enough wood to heat their house. A normal project takes six or eight months to approve. Right now I have 11 families waiting less than patiently to make their way through the federal eye of the needle. For me, it's not easy to explain the gap between the federal and provincial agreements to protect nature and the lack of funding and the months it takes to get a project approved.

So I go back to what I do best. Visiting the 40 square km of forests, cliff-top walks and shoreline solitude we've created so far, thinking about the ten square km waiting for various approvals and trying not to think about this sixth extinction we're causing today. **NEV**

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

We're causing the sixth extinction.

and the perceived need for safety and security. Nature is becoming a sideshow and we, like our conquering heroes from the Mayflower, feel compelled to cut down the enemy, our forest. We want to live in safe compounds, not so different from medieval walled towns. Sometimes we surround our personal compound with lots of grass and imported flowers. All of this pushes nature further back from our cities and erodes our forest with its quirky and sometimes rare species.

Another weekend I have soup with a family who wish to see their farm near Durham conserved. Nearby, I visit a woman who wants to donate her 75-acre wetland. Near her is a retired missionary who wants to

rare species are common. We've instead built most of our parks far away from where my family can visit. We're still nostalgic about walking the Bruce Trail when the kids were young, but that was a lot of driving. The nearest thing to nature is an hour away from my house, unless you count the few river valleys running through the city with cars in sight and certainly audible.

There is no provincial money to protect nature. There does seem to be money to study a rare species, but not to protect the land where it lives. I travel another road to Peterborough to discuss the possibility of more money to help these families protect their land. The vaults are closed when it comes to paying



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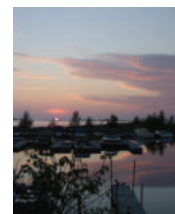


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Coming Events

For more events go to www.NEViews.ca

June 1 **27th Annual Becel Heart&Stroke Ride for Heart,**
Toronto, www.rideforheart.ca 416.486.7433



June 1
21st Annual Secret Gardens Tour,
The Carnegie Gallery, Dundas,
carnegiegallery.org
905.627.4265

June 5-8 **Orangeville Blues & Jazz Festival,**
Downtown Orangeville, orangevillebluesandjazz.ca 519.941.9041

June 7 **Downtown Milton Street Festival,**
Downtown Milton, downtownmiltonstreetfestival.ca

June 7 & every Saturday **Guided Interpretive Hikes,** Giant's Rib
Discovery Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, Dundas, giantsrib.ca



June 7
Niagara-on-the-Lake Shaw Guild Garden Tour,
Niagara-on-the-Lake.
1.800.511.7429

June 12 **Provincial Election**



June 20
Summer Solstice Celebration & Fundraiser: "Under the Ancient Seas,"
Giant's Rib Discovery Centre,
Dundas, giantsrib.ca

June 21 **Day of a Thousand Canoes,**
A Grand River Canoe Festival, Caledonia-York-Cayuga, 1000canoes.com



June 22
Through the Garden Gate Georgetown Annual Garden Tour,
Tickets at Foodstuffs.
905.877.6569

July 12 **Viva Pan Am Hamilton presents Light Up the Night,**
Bayfront Pier 8, Hamilton

July 13
Viva Pan Am Hamilton presents World Cup Festival Final Viewing,
Bayfront Pier 8, Hamilton

July 19 **60th Anniversary Celebrations,**
Halton County Radial Railway, Milton, hcr.org/specialEvents. 519. 856.9802

July 19 **Farm Crawl Hamilton 2014,**
Hamilton, farmcrawlhamilton.ca 905.627.9208

July 26&27 **Grand River Pow-Wow,** Chiefswood Tent & Trailer Park, Six Nations of the Grand River, Ohsweken, grpowwow.com 1.866.393.3001

July 27-Aug. 9 **Permaculture Design Course,**
Whole Village, Caledon, wholevillage.org 519.942.4010

Aug. 16&17 **Annual Traditional Pow-Wow,** Cape Croker Park,
Neyaashiinigiing, Bruce Peninsula, capecrokerpark.com 519.534.0571



Sept. 13 **Festival at Fort Willow,**
Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, nvca.on.ca 705.424.1479



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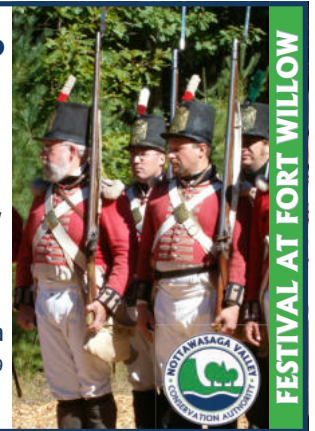
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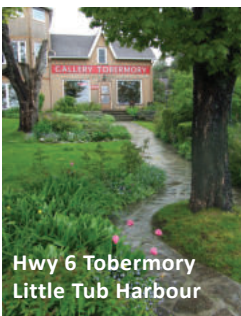
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The seeds of our future are taking root right now, for better or worse. This page shares better, forward-thinking ideas and celebrates significant environmental achievements that can help us lead the way in creating the Niagara Escarpment as a healthy,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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREY BRUCE RESTORE

Ontario Trillium Foundation has approved a grant of \$110,000 to open a ReStore in Bruce County to sell used building supplies and household items, to **divert them from landfill**.

FREE DUNDAS HIKE PROMOTED

Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GRDC) has received a grant from The Footprint Fund of Allegra of Hamilton, for marketing and print services to promote GRDC's **free guided hikes in Dundas Valley on the Niagara Escarpment**, Saturdays from June through Thanksgiving.

PASSION FOR GARDENING & THE OUTDOORS

Welland MP Malcolm Allen has introduced a Private Member's Bill to establish **National Garden Day** on the Friday before Father's Day. The day would be meant to promote environmental stewardship and the important benefits of gardens.

M'CHIGEENG POWER ON MANITOULIN

On Manitoulin Island, M'Chigeeng First Nation has successfully completed a year of the **Mother Earth Renewable Energy wind turbine project**, located entirely on their own First Nation lands. The power generation is expected to provide several hundred dollars every hour.

HELPING TURTLES SURVIVE

Hamilton Conservation Foundation raised more than \$900 in donations to install a silt fencing barrier to **keep breeding turtles off Cootes Drive** as they move to spring nesting beds along Spencer Creek and then return to Cootes Paradise.



Pileated Woodpecker, Manitoulin Island, August 2013. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS



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