

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT *Views*

Autumn 2014 (September, October, November)

FEATURING THE WORK OF
Mike Davis
**Conservation
Halton Award
Winner!**

ANNUAL SPECIAL!

Artists Inspired by Nature: Floyd Elzinga & others

Haunted Niagara-on-the-Lake

Owen Sound's Salmon Eco-Tour

40TH Festival at Ball's Falls

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NIAGARA ESCARPMENT **Views**

Autumn 2014
(September, October, November)

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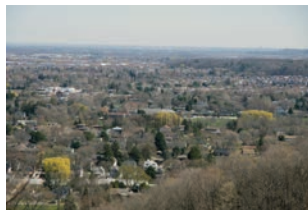


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View From the Editor's Desk: Angels of the Flat Tires



◀ At the 2014 Conservation Halton Awards ceremony with turkey vulture mascot Professor TV, portrayed by Robert Dallimore.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

This story begins some years ago when my father drove into Toronto with his little dog Thomas. On four-lane Burnhamthorpe Rd., he blew a tire. Thumping along to a service station, he didn't notice that Thomas jumped out of the car's open window. When he discovered that Thomas was missing, he retraced his path. At the side of the road, he saw two women holding Thomas by the leash. Not only had they saved Thomas from traffic, they offered my father the use of a CAA membership card for a tow. My father got their mailing address and sent them a cheque for \$50 but it was never cashed. I said they must have been angels.

In May when Mike and I were distributing the summer issue north of Barrie, the truck blew a rear tire on the highway between Midland and Parry Sound. After we tried vainly to get the tire off with flimsy tools, two town employees came to our rescue with serious equipment, rags and penetrating oil, crawling under the truck and changing the tire. One even escorted us to a garage to add air to

the spare tire. There he said "This gives me an opportunity to talk about the Lord." Oh no, I thought, how long will this lecture take? "Because I believe there IS a Lord." He then said "You're going to need a new tire," and tucked a folded hundred-dollar bill into Mike's hand. "I want you to give it to someone else who needs it." "You want us to pay it forward," I said. "Bless you, sir," I managed to add. After he drove away, I said to Mike "He's another angel."

In This Issue

While we might only hope to have angels among us, there are people who are convinced that we have disembodied spirits lingering at old buildings and historic sites. Autumn is the time we think of life after death, if only when tending our gardens for new growth in spring. Halloween is when the dimensions between life and death are said to "thin" enough to have spirits cross into our lives or at least our celebrations. In this issue we explore the haunted world of Niagara-on-the-Lake as Andrew Hind and Maria Da Silva share a few fascinating ghost stories.

A bit west of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ball's Falls Conservation Area is hosting its 40th Thanksgiving Festival. While you might spot the occasional witch, you're certain to be enchanted by the beauty, old-time fun and new items you can snap up here.

Owen Sound has an Escarpment treasure and an eco-tour for everyone to enjoy, whether by foot, bike, canoe or car. Each Autumn wild salmon are compelled to struggle up the Sydenham River as it flows over the Escarpment, and there is a brochure to a tour you can take to watch this miracle in action. Mike and I experienced this last year and share the journey with you. Life and death are here for all to see.

Since the Autumn issue is our annual focus on Escarpment artists, we also bring you some of the work of talented artists all along the Niagara Escarpment, from Niagara Region to Limehouse to Tobermory to Manitoulin Island. They welcome you to visit their studios and galleries in person, as this is also the best time of year to explore the back roads for gorgeous artistic residences, and treasures to take home.

Mike's Conservation Award

For a long time, people have been calling our magazine award winning, but now it really is. I am delighted to share the news that Mike Davis, my co-publisher, accounts manager and our main photographer, has been recognized as a "conservation hero" with an award from Conservation Halton in the media/blogger category. Mike's photography has helped raise awareness of the importance of conservation all along the Niagara Escarpment in Canada, and we have been gratified to see other businesses and levels of government recognize the value of the Escarpment. We appreciate this recognition by Conservation Halton and take it as encouragement to continue working to share the wonders of this area through this magazine.

Gloria

Gloria
editor@NEViews.ca

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

CORRECTION:

On page 40 of Summer 2014, an incorrect phone number was given for Eagle Adventures. The correct phone number is 705.888.2551.



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



Niagara Escarpment Views is on Facebook as:
www.facebook.com/N.E.Views



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

Here's the latest on our blog:

- ▶ Mike Davis Wins Conservation Halton Award
- ▶ No-Charge DIY Event Listings
- ▶ MPPs Elected Along the Escarpment in 2014
- ▶ Best Garden Street Contest
- ▶ Summer 2014 Issue is On Fire!
- ▶ Scouts & volunteers plant trees at Halton Waste Management Site
- ▶ Orangeville's Environmental Sustainability Awards

Mike's View: Diversity in the Marketplace



By Mike Davis, Publisher

What lessons from biodiversity can we apply to the marketplace?

In my travels up and down the Niagara Escarpment, I am fortunate to experience the power of the small business retailer. To see some workers come into a café in a tiny village, obviously thinking about ordering a typical large coffee retailer beverage, but leaving very satisfied with the

local product and the service they got. Large municipal centres have interesting wares with unique shops and sometimes colourful shopkeepers, well worth crossing the threshold for. There are countless examples up and down the Escarpment.

Brad is one of them. Brad ran a small business selling running shoes. He was honourable and ethical, knew his craft cold and served his customers very well. Brad watched you walk and could tell which type of shoe would work best for you. He did not seem to “push” you into a brand that made him the most money; he saw your needs as paramount. Brad sold shoes, but he hosted “social runs” where he opened early or closed later so joggers could run from his store. If you wanted to know who to run with he would introduce you to a group of your ability. Have an ache or pain, he would likely have a solution. He also ran “Learn to Run” clinics, and coached local youth teams. He

put a huge amount of sweat equity into his business which took away from his family and it paid off. Many times a sale would be done when he was not even there! He would come back from a social run to a customer standing at his till with a credit card in hand. This was Brad’s “Killer App;” many of his customers just ignored whatever was going on in the marketplace and bought only from him.

Challenges to Retailers

But Brad had no buyers’ group; he dealt with each supplier, one-on-one. I think he was very vulnerable as a little guy. Alas, the ice storm, the polar vortex, the larger retailers encroaching and direct internet sales from his suppliers took their toll. A trend seemed to be developing that people could buy shoes elsewhere for close to what Brad had to pay for his inventory. He was worried about how to get new customers and I think he felt his business was unsustainable.

He closed up this past summer and moved away.

Some say growth has advantages, and a larger population means a larger market potential. Entrepreneurs see and act on opportunities which can change the marketplace. Greater market potential, however, also attracts larger retailers that have the buying power to set their own price and their own service level.

Value of Diversity

In nature, biodiversity is very important. When an area has lots of different plants and animals doing many things they co-exist to make a robust community. Just as a forest may have a dominant species, say a Sugar Maple grove, there is a place for less common individuals with just as much importance, say a Wild Ginger or Leek. In the marketplace, big box stores do have a place and should be part of the fabric, but so should the little guy. More diversity may help a community be able to withstand more and greater stresses. In nature, an individual may be lost, but as long as the balance is maintained and helped by the robustness of diversity, the community as a whole should endure.

In the marketplace, diversity should be important too. Should self-serve to get the lowest price point, be superior to competent and enthusiastic sales help? Maybe yes, maybe no. Sometimes it is good to step a little out of your comfort zone and explore a bit of the unknown. If you give the “little-guy” small business retailer a shot, I think you will be very satisfied. What do you think?



◀ A “Learn to Run” clinic in action.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Niagara: The Land of Award-Winning Wine

At the foot of the picturesque Niagara Escarpment lies the Niagara Peninsula where more than 93% of Ontario's grapes are grown.

Known for its unique microclimate, Niagara, part of Ontario's Greenbelt, is home to some of the most fruitful soil and crop growing areas in the province, and is well known for its quality wines and spectacular vineyards.

The Birth of VQA

In order to compete with imported wines and promote Ontario's developing wine industry, in 1989 member wineries established their own standards, which have evolved over time and are now called VQA—Vintners Quality Alliance.

In the past five years, sales of VQA wines have increased by \$100 million making it a vital part of the provincial economy.

The Niagara Region in the Greenbelt's protected countryside has been the anchor of the VQA and Ontario wine industry. Currently there are 84 VQA wineries featuring 1,187 VQA-approved wines in the region, which account for

about 85% of the VQA's annual production. On average, these wineries produce 1,727,901 nine-litre cases of wine a year.

VQA has played an integral role in the growth of the wine sector in Ontario. In the past five years, sales of VQA wines have increased by \$100 million making it a vital part of the provincial economy.

Grape Growers of Ontario Celebrate Success

The Grape Growers of Ontario (GGO) was established in 1947 as a way of representing the needs and interests of grape growers. Over time, the organization has evolved alongside the growing success of the wine and grape industries, serving as the voice of its members and providing resources for growers, the general public, and media, on viticulture and the relevant grape and wine issues affecting the industry.

The successes of the GGO are celebrated with an annual Celebrity Luncheon—the official kick-off event to the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival. Since 2006 the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation have supported the sold-out luncheon, which has featured a variety of celebrity speakers including Dan

Aykroyd, Rex Murphy, and Don Cherry. Most recently, the Grape Growers of Ontario have been awarded \$20,000 over two years in support of the event.



“The Grape Growers of Ontario are appreciative of the support provided by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation in presenting our annual Celebrity Luncheon. The event focuses on a Greenbelt-grown menu and VQA wines in addition to a well-known Canadian speaker as we pay tribute to grape growers and those who protect Niagara's rich vineyards and wineries. The luncheon has allowed our growers to connect the land to the table with a salute to the Greenbelt,” says Debbie Zimmerman, CEO, Grape Growers of Ontario.

“Each year the celebrity luncheon draws the attention of

the agriculture industry, wine industry, and of course the public. Here we can all agree that Niagara is the epicentre for great, Ontario wine,” says Bukhard Mausberg, CEO, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. “Niagara holds the trifecta for grape growing—protected landscape as part of Ontario's Greenbelt, rich soil for planting, and a grape-growers dream climate.”

Tourism Opportunities

From bicycle tours to food truck parties and special events, the wineries in Niagara also provide a unique tourism experience. Most of the area wineries offer full tours and some provide on-site dining experiences featuring live music and entertainment. In 2013 an economic impact study of the wine and grape industry in Canada reported that Ontario wineries welcome more than 1,900,000 visitors generating \$644 million of tourism and tourism employment related economic impact.

To help plan your trip, the GGO have recently launched an Ontario wine route planner at wineONtour.ca. Visit greenbelt.ca to learn about other innovative and exciting projects supported by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.



Readers & Viewers



▲ Steve Baksa of Oakville, a faithful subscriber, saw this border collie enjoying a ride in a motorcycle sidecar going north on Trafalgar Road on May 11.

I happened to pick up your Niagara Escarpment News [sic] last week. The cover photo showed a Georgetown porch that was so cluttered as to be dangerous. Wild Animals must have fun on the furniture. Many of the various gardens shown are more like a Jungle!

Less is MORE! The Burlington Victory Garden is very nice.

What really caught my eye was the article on Conservation Authorities. At best, they are possibly a necessary Evil. Neighbours have encountered them wandering uninvited on their land and presuming to tell them what they should and shouldn't do. Big Mistake. Others have had a running battle over trying to replace an older single car garage with a double car one. The BS of a Flood Plane [sic] is the trump card. Even though no water was anywhere near it in over 100 years! Similarly a Farmer with a very long laneway was told he could not increase the height of the laneway over 1½". How completely ridiculous.



Another neighbour had to suck up just to build a Swimming Pool — which is NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS.

The mindset of these CA's seems to be make everything the way it was 200 years ago. Sorry. Progress takes president [sic]. For the most part, they should be disbanded or given only minimal powers. Their 'vision' is detrimental to the property owners and lacks logic and common sense. They would likely fit in well in the far North on Crown land.

Sorry about the spelling mistakes!

Gord Baker, Carlisle

They take over nice little areas beside lakes, mow the lawn and then start charging people to stop there as they have done freely for years. Numerous people have had properties devalued and been offended by the CA's nazi-like heavy handedness. A good friend was not allowed to pave her small business lot due to nearby Swamp!!!



Thank you for sending me a copy of your magazine and the wonderful inclusion of my book *War of 1812 Highlighting Native Nations*. This is the last year of the 200th commemoration of the War of 1812 with still many events for the public to see all over Ontario. The Battle of Chippawa is of course a very significant one involving the First Nations in particular the Six Nations. I've flipped through the *Niagara Escarpment Views*...wonderful magazine.

Zig Misiak, via Facebook

Thanks to your editor's page — found "Maple Hill Tree Service" to help with our tree damage! Thanks!

Valda May, Norval

WOW — is that descriptive enough? Excellence in every aspect. Many thanks.

June Sheldrake, via email

I enjoy the *NEViews*. I think it's a great magazine — the content is always of interest and the layout/visual aspect is appealing. I wish you and your team continued success.

Maureen Bailey, Georgetown

Let's go for another two years. I do enjoy the magazine but my eyes are not good. Guess that's to be expected when you reach 88 years.

John Browett, St. Thomas



First let me compliment you on producing a fine publication. It's interesting to see what is happening all along the Escarpment, particularly if you have lived and played along it for as long as I have.

I read the article by Sandra Howe (Beaver River Kayak Adventure, Summer 2014) with interest. Having guided and helped steward activities on the river for years as owner of Eagle Adventure Experiences, Inc. I want to add to Sandra's and your readers' knowledge as follows:

1. Eagle Adventures frequently clears the river of obstructions particularly early in the season and late as we open April 1 and close November 1. [...] We conduct our business in a way that minimizes the impact on fish habitat and the natural course of the river yet allows people to paddle without concern for natural hazards such as sweeps.
2. The river accesses are not well maintained by Grey Sauble Conservation and private individuals often intervene to make them work. The public parking area at Heathcote is an example. The overgrown bush at access #1 is another.
3. Shuttle services are provided from Eagle Headquarters, 5 minutes from the river with modern washroom facilities and van service to launch and pick up points. [...] We run a multi-passenger Nord canoe down the river which is great for families and groups.
4. The exit at Slabtown can be difficult and the run from Heathcote to Slabtown should be guided if you are a first timer to this section. The rapids are class one but technical in places. Care should be taken not to get caught in the current and go over the dam at the take out.
5. The river can be paddled from Slabtown to Thornbury in the spring. Check with us or local people before going

down to ensure there are no dangerous sweeps as the water moves swiftly in this section. This section is for experts.

6. There needs to be respect shown for wildlife. A case in point is the Eagles Nest. People must stay well away from this and Egret/Heron nesting areas or they will retreat to remote areas of the watershed.

Thank you, Sandra for showcasing one of the most cherished paddling treasures in our area to the readers.

Richard Bowering, Ravenna

Responses to Richard Bowering's letter:

Grey Sauble does promote the recreational sport of canoeing along the beautiful Beaver River and owns some property along or near the Beaver River. However, we do not own any of the access points. (The largest land holder of Beaver River lands is the Ministry of Natural Resources.)

- **Access #1**, (north of Kimberley) owned by Ministry of Natural Resources, signs erected by Grey County Tourism;
- **Access #2**, (Sideroad #19) parking is along the municipal road allowance, access to the river on the northeast corner of the intersection is owned by Ministry of Natural Resources;
- **Access #3**, in Heathcote, north of Free Spirit Canoe Rental, is private property.

Krista McKee, Community Relations Coordinator, Grey Sauble Conservation

Thanks so much for your positive feedback, your great stewardship on the Beaver River, and your services in helping paddlers explore this diverse and delightful watershed.

Sandra J. Howe, Owen Sound



I finally got some time...to read throughout the issue. It is most impressive as usual. Thank you for the article on Limehouse. What took my attention also was the article about the Whole Village project. Brenda and I have been long time teaching colleagues....we go back to the '70s :) — haven't seen her for ages as she is so totally committed to her project. What a coincidence to be in the same issue! Thanks for raising the profile of this very special space in Halton Hills. Do you have a spare box as I would like to do some more distribution?

Mary Shier, Limehouse



[This] is Audrey's daughter buying her [a] subscription. Is there any way to add the current edition and the one that had the original Beautiful Joe story on to the invoice? Might they still be available? The article prompted me to recommend the book to her and she has since shared with her book club. I think they are planning a trip to the garden over the summer so more info for them would be great. Thanks! Excellent magazine by the way.

Paula Coats via email

Events Along the Rock

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



◀ Artcast of Georgetown, a bronze foundry known for producing many significant sculptures installed around the world, held a 50th anniversary celebration on May 10 for friends, artists and colleagues.



◀ Spotted on the Chi-Cheemaun ferry on May 23: singer-songwriter Jane Siberry and her blue merle border collie Gwyllym.



▲ Runners on the Headwaters Trail section of the Sulphur Springs Trail Run at Dundas Valley Conservation Area, Ancaster on May 24-25. Put on by Burlington Runners, the run had distances of 10K to an astounding 161K, or 100 miles! Runners had 30 hours to complete the course, including through the night.



◀ Halton Environmental Network marked its 10th anniversary with a Gala Celebration including a silent auction, in Oakville on May 28. *Niagara Escarpment Views* was proud to be a sponsor.

Please see www.NEViews.ca
for more photos & listings!

► Private gardens in Dundas, Greenville and Westdale were on the Secret Gardens self-guided tour on June 1, in support of Carnegie Gallery of Dundas.



◀ Members of the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club, led by fellow member Sandy Gillians, explored the fields and forest of Scotsdale Farm north of Georgetown on June 10 for their last meeting before the summer. Photo taken on the Bruce Trail.

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Events Along the Rock

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▲ Halton Region Museum opened a new exhibit, "Flights of Folly... Learning from the Passenger Pigeon" on June 11. Celebrating the grand opening were from left, Halton Region chair Gary Carr, Milton mayor Gord Krantz, Oakville councillor Keith Bird and the Museum's John Summers. The exhibit continues to March 31, 2015. PHOTO BY HALTON REGION.



▲ Paparazzi, including publisher Mike Davis, swarmed round editor Gloria Hildebrandt as she was serenaded by Jim Marino of Four Warned at the Giant's Rib Summer Solstice Celebration in Dundas on June 20. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.



▲ Town of Orangeville councillor Sylvia Bradley proclaimed June 16-20 as Tourism Week in Orangeville. From left: Economic Development manager Ruth Phillips, Councillor Bradley and director of Economic Development, Planning and Innovation Nancy Tuckett, at the Orangeville Train Station. "Tourism has a positive impact on our local community," the proclamation states, noting that tourism operators need to compete, succeed and grow. Orangeville is a centre for tourism in the heart of the Hills of Headwaters. PHOTO BY SHEILA DUNCAN.

◀ Georgetown Horticultural Society's annual garden tour was held on June 22. This formal, well-tended garden on Ontario St. was one of the lovely locations.

Please see www.NEViews.ca
for more photos & listings!



◀ Mike Davis, co-publisher and principal photographer for *Niagara Escarpment Views*, won a Conservation Halton Award in the media category. Presenting the award on June 24 are Halton Hills councillors & Conservation Halton board members left, David Kentner and right, Bryan Lewis. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

▼ Delicious food prepared by students at Liaison College Hamilton was centre stage at a June 25 fundraiser for Chef Bill Sharpe, husband of Misty Ingraham, a long-time food columnist for *Niagara Escarpment Views*. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.



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Events Along the Rock

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



July 1 Canada Day celebrations all along the Escarpment included this gathering at Milton Fairgrounds.



► The start of the Prison Break Race held at the Mansfield Outdoor Centre on July 5. "Prisoners" had to get through 15 obstacles and evade "Police" over a five-km course.



▲ Hamilton's Artword Artbar was the July 15 performance venue for The Bicycle Opera Project, which brought selections from contemporary opera to communities across southern Ontario. The seven musicians travelled exclusively by bicycle, even towing their costumes, instruments and props.

▼ Milton & District Horticultural Society held its tour of Town & Country Gardens on July 6, with 11 gardens featured.





Please see www.NEViews.ca for more photos & listings!

◀ Menchie's Georgetown opened on July 26 with face painting, balloons and free frozen yogurt and toppings.

► The group "Chudley Cannons" struggles through the mud under the logs in the Canadian Cancer Society's Halton's Extreme Race and Obstacle Scramble (HEROS), a tough five-km course at Conservation Halton's Kelso Quarry Park on July 19.



Grey Bruce Adventure

YOUR FALL ADVENTURE. Your Choice.

 The advertisement features a large background image of a waterfall with two fish jumping out of the water. In the bottom left corner, there is a Polaroid-style photo of a person climbing a rock face. In the bottom right corner, there is a map of the Grey Bruce region showing locations like Tobermory, Owen Sound, Blue Mount, and Toronto. The website address greybruceadventure.com is prominently displayed in the center.



Photos provided



Birth of a Nature Artist

Carson Visser of Burlington seems to be following in the footsteps of Robert Bateman, previously also of Burlington. From the age of 3 he wanted to make his own drawings instead of using colouring books. At age 12 he began painting seriously. "Last year close to my 15th birthday I started my art as a business," he says. He paints wildlife, landscapes and old manmade structures, and sells his work, framed, for between \$250 and \$1,200.

Rare Fossil On Display

Giant's Rib Discovery Centre (GDRC) has acquired a rare fossil of a 417 million-year-old giant sea scorpion, *Eurypterus remipes*, held here by GRDC president Chris Hamilton. The creature lived in the ancient seas near where the Niagara Escarpment was forming. The only other place on Earth where this fossil is found is eastern Europe. The specimen is on permanent display at GRDC in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area's Trail Centre, Dundas.





Photo by Matthew Paget

Kids Get Chance to Play Soccer

Anita Bergsma of Georgetown has set up Chance to Play, an initiative to collect gently used soccer uniforms, balls, and cleats for children across Canada and developing countries, to help them play the universal sport of soccer. The first collection was donated to an orphanage in Tanzania. "Three years later," says Bergsma, "I have been successful in expanding the donations from other soccer clubs such as Burlington, Rockwood, and Woolwich that have been distributed to The Philippines, two locations in the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua. I hope to bring awareness of the soccer program so that other clubs can get involved. As well, your readers that travel overseas may wish to take soccer gear on their vacation or help with volunteer opportunities."

Hike, Bike or Snowshoe the Bruce Between B&Bs

Home to Home Bed & Breakfast Network lets you hike or snowshoe the Bruce Trail or bike the back roads of Bruce Peninsula, travelling from one B&B to another. Your luggage can be driven to the next home for each night or your car will be left for you at the end of each day's journey. Breakfast will be served and a lunch packed each day, leaving you free to enjoy the travel.



Photo by Barbara Wynd



Eco Adventure Tour

at Scenic Caves

Your three-hour guided tour includes

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Cup Before Bedtime

Foodstuffs of Georgetown is always looking for ways to help people enjoy their coffee or get a better night's sleep. Now they can help them do both at once, with Counting Sheep Swiss Water Process decaffeinated coffee, "customer-tested and two thumbs up." Two of the versions include some valerian root. Foodstuffs adds "Now you can join your guests for an after-dinner coffee without pacing the floor later, wondering why you did!"

Photo provided



Localicious Expands

Hamilton's Downtown Localicious Experience Culinary Festival, now in its seventh year will be a full three-week festival from Sept. 19 to Oct 12. The Launch Party on Tuesday, Sept. 16 has become so popular that it will now take place at a larger facility which will accommodate more displays and restaurants than ever before. The party will be cooking from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, 116 King St.W. Many downtown restaurants will participate and there will be locally made food products and businesses in the Hamilton area as exhibitors. Local sommelier and author Louise Wilson will be mistress of ceremony and provide her views on local wine and pairings, interview local chefs and give her recommendations on wines based on downtown restaurant Localicious menus. She is the author of *Wine Lovers Colouring Book*.

Doors Open in Glen Williams

Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre will participate in Doors Open Halton Region on Sept. 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Mill is a restored 19th-century industrial complex of three main buildings and annexes. The Williams Mill, a three-storey heavy timber mortise and tenon frame structure from 1870, and Georgetown Electric Light Company Power Plant, a two-and-a-half storey stone building from 1898, now houses the working studios of more than 30 artists including glass blowers, jewellery makers, painters, sculptors, carvers, a caning master, photographer, canoe builder and a clothing designer. The Williams Mill is one of 16 mid-to late-1800s sites that will be open in Glen Williams on the Credit River, including residences, churches, halls, businesses and industrial buildings.



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INVASIVE SPECIES

**Invasive non-native species are a threat to biodiversity everywhere.
They are impacting our Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve.**

Some Background

The United Nations General Assembly declared the 10 years between 2011-2020 to be the “Decade on Biodiversity”. In 2010, in Japan, governments from around the world agreed to a strategic plan, goals and targets, that have become known as the “Aichi Targets”. In 2011, Ontario released Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy: Protecting What Sustains Us.

What is Biodiversity anyway?

Biodiversity consists of genes, species, ecosystems, and the goods and services they provide.

What are the Threats to Biodiversity?

The main threats to biodiversity are:

- Habitat Loss
- Invasive Species
- Pollution
- Population Growth
- Overconsumption of Resources

The VectorIAS Collaborative

The VectorIAS collaborative is a coordinated effort to build community invasive species awareness and management capacity, through education, training, data sharing, mapping and removal in the Halton and Peel Regions

The Nitty Gritty on Biodiversity:



Genes: units of inherited material, which determine what an organism looks like, what it is, and how it behaves.



Species: a group of organisms capable of interbreeding and producing fertile offspring. Includes plants, animals and micro-organisms.



Ecosystem: a community of plants, animals and other species, interacting with one another and the physical environment around them.



Ecosystem Goods and Services: the benefits that people and the environment derive from ecosystems, including both physical goods and ecological services.

**Get Involved: participate in a Invasive Species Road Rally
along the Niagara Escarpment!**
www.mainstreambiodiversity.ca 905-873-1820

**Action Now For Life On Earth
Get Involved. Get Engaged.
Join – Learn – Enable – Act**



Halton-Peel BioDiversity Network (HPBDN) promotes awareness of biodiversity within Halton and Peel. We focus on three ways to achieve this: education, communication and facilitation.





FOLLOWING THE FISH: Owen Sound's Salmon Run

By Gloria Hildebrandt Photographed by Mike Davis except where noted

SALMON LIVE IN THE GREAT LAKES and the rivers of the Niagara Escarpment that drain into the lakes. They're as far south as Niagara Region where they can be seen in autumn swimming from Lake Ontario up to Ball's Falls in Jordan, and they're plentiful at Owen Sound on Georgian Bay.

The salmon are so easily seen near Owen Sound that there are eco-tours you can follow to observe this mysterious ritual of nature, closely, for yourself. There are four ways to tour the salmon run: you can drive it, hike it, bike it and paddle it. The tour starts at the Visitor Centre at Owen Sound harbour and follows the Sydenham River through town, through Harrison Park, and upstream to Inglis Falls Conservation Area where the spectacular waterfall is the end of the river for any fish that make it this far.

Continued ►



Eco-Tour

Every autumn, salmon journey upstream from Georgian Bay to spawning beds on the Sydenham River. Salmon may attempt to leap up the short but steep falls at the Mill Dam in Owen Sound, but the adjacent fish ladder makes it easier to get past this obstacle. PHOTO BY PAT BRYANT



▲ Thousands of salmon each year follow their instinct to return to the water where they were hatched to lay eggs before they die. These fish are in the Sydenham downstream from Owen Sound's fish ladder.



▲ The fish ladder on the left is covered by a grill to protect salmon using the steps.

Life of Salmon

The salmon at Owen Sound are Chinook, introduced by Sydenham Sportsmen's Association (SSA) in 1986, and so successfully that they are self sustaining with the support of a fish hatchery run by the association.

This is the life cycle of these salmon: the young swim down the Sydenham River into Georgian Bay, where they grow to maturity in three or four years. In autumn, these mature salmon instinctively return to the Sydenham and swim upstream to spawning areas where females release eggs into gravel beds, males fertilize the eggs, and both females and males die. In spring, the fish eggs hatch and begin to grow. The small fish, called fingerlings, grow to become "smolt" and reach Georgian Bay, where they mature until they too have the need to return to their spawning beds.

"The run is for about six weeks when the nights are cool," says Dennis Wiseman, fish advisory chairman for SSA. "The salmon out in the Bay want to get up to the water where they were hatched or released. The water is imprinted on them. They make the journey once and die."

SSA operates a salmon hatchery on a tributary of the Sydenham that has come to be known as Weaver's Creek, and release more than 80,000 hatchlings each year in Harrison Park, close to where the Creek meets the Sydenham. The hatchery, which is on private property owned by the Weaver family, is not on the public tour, but can be visited by request.

Tour Highlights

Although there is not enough fish for commercial salmon fishing, personal fishing is permitted in Owen Sound's

bay and off the harbour wall and river banks downstream of the Mill Dam, which is the first obstacle on the salmon run. Fishing is not allowed further upstream where the exhausted salmon spawn.

Long ago, the Sydenham was dammed for mills, all of which are now gone. Houses are now on the beautiful banks of the mill pond above the dam. Here in 1958, the Association built the first fish ladder in the province.

An interpretive sign includes this explanation from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority: "The fishway ladder has offset notches at the bottom of the plates so that fish can move from one level to the next without having to jump."

People can walk on both sides of the river here, to watch the salmon swim upstream, use the ladder or dramatically attempt to leap the falls over the dam.

Harrison Park is the next good place to view the salmon and some of the spawning beds, especially at the bridge near the licensed Harrison Park Inn. Canoeists and kayakers coming from downstream will have enjoyed seeing lovely riverside houses and perhaps resident wildlife on the Sydenham. Mallard ducks, cormorants, Canada geese, red-winged blackbirds and green herons are common.

City to Wilderness Experience

Continuing further upstream, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has some informative interpretive signs along the river near their administrative centre, with more prime viewing sites and a bridge from which to see the fish.

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▲ Salmon head toward the Mill Dam and fish ladder, except for the two close to shore, already dead.



Floyd Elzinga's pine cones in a monumental scale are popular all along the Escarpment. He presents them on their own but for some pieces adds the elements of fire or water. One version lets you add firewood in the centre for a spectacular burning display, as seen at Alton Mill's 2011 Fire & Ice Festival and photographed for this magazine. Another design features a shower of water.



Artistic Inspiration from Nature

By Gloria Hildebrandt Photographed by Mike Davis except where noted

WITH AUTUMN BEING SUCH A BEAUTIFUL TIME OF YEAR, with weather and roads usually in good condition, and artists eager to welcome visitors, people enjoy taking drives through the countryside on studio tours. For this reason our Autumn issue each year presents the work of some of the many artists located along the Niagara Escarpment.

This year we look at the creativity of artists in Beamsville in Niagara, Limehouse in Halton, Tobermory on the Bruce Peninsula and Kagawong on Manitoulin Island. If these talented creators have one thing in common, it is that they receive inspiration from the natural world. ►



▲ Doris Treleaven did the technical design, all the glass work and installation of this project for a Georgetown company which makes commercial displays and wants their building to stand out and showcase their innovative creativity. Treleaven designed a geometric pattern with a confetti of coloured stained glass. “Leaving the metal natural gives the facade an earthy look, yet with a modern edge,” she says. “The stained glass and metal look spectacular at all times of day with multi colours on the white stones behind. Our Canadian weather does not affect it. I’m still working on it, eventually creating the theme inside the foyer and offices.” PHOTO BY DORIS TRELEAVEN.

Floyd Elzinga

Floyd Elzinga has a studio in Beamsville on the top of the Escarpment, but his distinctive work can be seen almost all along the mighty ledge: in galleries in Hamilton, Dundas, Jordan, Alton, Blue Mountains, a Niagara Christmas house tour. His style is quickly recognizable. There’s something about his pine cones. Monumental. Out of thick steel. That has rusted. He makes gigantic maple keys as well. And logs, windblown trees with roots clutching rock, and garden flowers, and landscapes. All of metal.

“My intention is to give nature a mechanical aspect,” he says. “I love that it follows a system of rules. The will to survive is what drives a seed. It has this built-in defence mechanism that withstands

treacherous environmental extremes. It has everything in it to flourish. That is what I love about the pine cones.”

Elzinga plays with scale and irony. A majestic tree can grow from a tiny seed. Yet it is delicate and fragile, for who hasn’t crushed pine cones underfoot on a walk in the woods? Or perhaps not, for Elzinga’s mammoth cones are of indestructible iron. And seeds can survive, germinate, grow, reproduce, spread, even as invasive species that are difficult to control. His windblown trees that survive the harshest elements are sculpted in small format, the size of bonsai. His medium is manufactured steel, yet steel is made from earth’s elements. For humans are part of nature too. We can’t get away from it, despite all manner of artificial

environments. Humans are also prolific reproducers, perhaps the most invasive species on the planet.

These are the kind of complexities, dualities, spirals of thought that are prompted by Elzinga’s work, mirroring the spiral structure of those iconic pine cones.

Doris Treleaven

Another artist working with metal, Doris Treleaven of Limehouse also includes stained glass, wood and acrylics. She takes on large and small commissioned projects for corporations and individuals.

“I make mostly outdoor things that I would like in my garden,” she says, “like metal cats wandering through, or a metal chickadee hovering in the flowers. It’s like having little

surprises.” Her Escarpment studio has ready-made, unique items for sale. Her largest projects become main features when installed.

“Some of my work is more practical, like gates and railings, but usually they have a creative flair,” she adds. “They do need to be functional at times and be made to bylaw codes. I love it when they let me use my imagination to take an average project into something spectacular.”

Kent Wilkens

Landscape artist Kent Wilkens sees inspiration in the earth and water all around the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. Islands, lighthouses, ships, lake scenes, buildings and Escarpment features line

Continued on page 42 ►



► Acrylic artist Kent Wilkens in front of some of his landscapes in his own Golden Gallery, Tobermory.



▼ Sunlight dances on this scene by Richard Edwards, while translucent water in the foreground lets you see past the waves to the bottom of the lake.
PHOTO BY RICHARD EDWARDS.



A photograph of a formal dining room. In the center, a large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The walls are covered in dark, patterned wallpaper. A large window with a striped valance is in the background. A long dining table is covered with a white tablecloth and surrounded by dark wood chairs. A radiator is visible on the left side of the room.

Ghosts of **Niagara-on-the-**

-Lake

Colleen Cone, owner with Rick Jorgensen of Brockamour Manor, a B&B, has many stories to share about Sophia, who was secretly engaged to Isaac Brock until he was killed in battle. Some people see a translucent woman in the dining room, Cone says.

By Andrew Hind and Maria Da Silva Photographed by Mike Davis

IT'S A CHILLED AUTUMN NIGHT. A pale half-moon floats high in the black sky. The wind whispers through the trees, making branches quiver and bend. The town is hushed, strangely silent. It's the perfect evening for ghost hunting, and Niagara-on-the-Lake is the ideal setting.

The inventory of haunted locations in this historic community is unusually long for a town of its size, thanks to a lengthy and often troubled history. This article explores a handful of locations where the afterlife intrudes upon the mortal world. These buildings may seem welcoming during daylight hours, but once the sun dips below the horizon and shadows begin to stalk across the landscape...well, read for yourself. ►



▲ Brockamour Manor was built in 1809 and renovated in 1840. It is said to continue to be the home of Sophia, Sir Isaac Brock's fiancée.

The Old Courthouse

The Old Courthouse, a national historic site, is a treasured landmark in the heart of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Despite the fact its upper floors play host to live theatre that brings joy to so many people, it's a strangely intimidating place. And perhaps for good reason: many believe the building's stone walls entrap a number of lost souls.

Sound preposterous? Ask Ron Dale for his thoughts, bearing in mind that he is one of Canada's most respected experts on the War of 1812 and a former long-time employee of Parks Canada.

"For many years I had my office in this building, and I often felt otherworldly eyes

watching me. I liked it cold, but many times I'd find the room sweltering and would discover the thermostat had turned itself up really high," he explains. "My office used to be that of Judge Edward Clarke Campbell. He was always complaining of the cold in this big, stone building and said it would be the death of him. Ironically, he died of pneumonia in 1860." Dale is convinced Campbell is responsible for turning up the thermostat to a level more of his liking.

Campbell seems to be a benign entity, but there are others in the building who aren't nearly so kindly.

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▼ The Old Courthouse on Queen St. The two windows lower left are in the former office of Judge Campbell, said to play tricks with the thermostat.



► At the side of the building on Queen St., columns mark the entrance to Shaw Festival's Courthouse Theatre.

▼ One of the bastions protecting Fort George. The ghost of a soldier who froze to death while guarding the wall is sometimes seen pacing.



▼ This old mirror in Fort George's Junior Officers' Quarters is associated with plenty of unusual sightings. Reflected in the mirror is Evan Vatri portraying a batman of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, but is there a glimpse of another figure beside him?







Fallbrook, north of Georgetown.
Photograph by Mike Davis.

BALL'S FALLS THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL:

A 40-Year Niagara

Continued ➤



Tradition

By Gloria Hildebrandt Photographed by Mike Davis

BALL'S FALLS THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL in Jordan will celebrate its 40th anniversary from Oct. 10 to 14 this year. The hugely popular annual event on the historic grounds of Ball's Falls Conservation Area attracts on average, 20,000 visitors each year. With usually 125 vendors participating, there is always plenty to explore, but for this special anniversary, there may be 150 craftspeople, artists and food providers.

"It's so beautiful. You can smell apple fritters. It's one of the last chances to get out and enjoy the weather," said Margaret Cunningham of Toronto last year, who with Steven Kelvey had come to the Festival for the second time. The first time they went, they drove by, saw a sign and decided to check it out. This time they had their bikes on the back of their car and were going to have a ride after seeing the festival. ►

Thousands of people come each year to experience the incredible beauty of a 19th-century industrial hamlet in the majestic Niagara Escarpment of Niagara Region.



▲ The Centre for Conservation treats water carefully: cisterns store rainwater for dual-flush toilets, with excess rainwater feeding the natural pond surrounded by drought-resistant landscaping.

“We’ve never had such interest as we’ve had this year. We’ve been coming here for years and the interest this year has been phenomenal.” — JUDY GAUDIER, NIAGARA BRUCE TRAIL CLUB

“It has an old-time country feel,” added Kelvey. “What impressed me was the steam-powered exhibit. You just don’t see it anymore.”

The first Thanksgiving Festival was held at Ball’s Falls in 1975, organized by Jozina Goldring, wife of Francis Goldring, then chairman of Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA), which owns and operates Ball’s Falls. The intention was to raise money for programs that were not otherwise funded. This remains the purpose today; with an average of \$40,000 raised each year, funds go to NPCA programs and projects.

“From its humble beginnings as a one-day show, the event has become a

family and Niagara tradition,” says Mary Stack, NPCA’s supervisor of marketing and community relations. “Visitors come from far and wide each year to partake in the festivities and in addition to the many items available for purchase — and many actually do their Christmas shopping here — guests enjoy the incredible beauty of this 19th-century industrial hamlet, set amidst the majestic Niagara Escarpment and Twenty Valley.”

Centre for Conservation

While most of the action takes place down the hill among the heritage buildings of Ball’s Falls, the Centre for Conservation is worth exploring. Opened in 2008, it

is an award-winning example of sustainable architecture, and was built to LEED gold standards. Well insulated, it used building materials with high recycled content, has a ground-source heat pump, maximizes natural daylight, has a sophisticated water/wastewater system, and more. It’s also beautiful. Interactive exhibits highlight the history of the Niagara Escarpment. There’s also a popular gift shop.

Exhibitors

Vendors, artists and craftspeople populate the large grassy areas downhill and over the bridge. Paintings, pottery, textiles, toys, carvings and much more are on display. Interested artisans must apply for consideration

by a jury which determines the best fit for the festival.

Niagara Bruce Trail Club was also exhibiting last year as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations, and volunteer Judy Gaudier observed “We’ve never had such interest as we’ve had this year. We’ve been coming here for years and the interest this year has been phenomenal.”

Heritage Buildings

The heritage buildings come alive during the festival: the Ball family home, chapel, blacksmith shop and grist mill can be explored or toured. There is also a pioneer garden which at this time of year has fall flowers

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▲ Up to 150 vendors, selected by jury, are expected to exhibit their goods at the 40th festival.



▲ Jim Bucknall makes the steam traction engine produce dramatic whistles and clouds of steam, to the pain and delight of visitors.



▲ Paddlers on the Sydenham River at Harrison Park can follow the fish and watch for ducks, coromorants, green herons and other wildlife.



▲ The Niagara Escarpment cliff face can be seen from the river.

At this point, the urban centre has changed to a wooded, natural conservation area. The salmon are looking for small, smooth gravel for their nests and are approaching the end of their possible six-to-seven-km journey upstream from the Bay.

At Inglis Falls Conservation Area, the mighty 18-m-high cascade waterfalls prevents any fish from going further upstream. Some salmon do

make it as far as the base of the falls. Those at the end of their life have turned red in colour and may float back downstream.

Eco-Tour

Owen Sound Tourism has developed four ways to take the self-guided eco-tour, by car, bike, boat and on foot.

Continued on page 40 ►



▲ Members of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association gather salmon, eggs and milt for the hatchery program.

Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival

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▲ Upstream near Grey Sauble Conservation Authority offices, salmon push against the flow to find suitable shallow gravel beds to lay eggs.



▲ Some of the private properties backing onto the Sydenham.



"There aren't many places in North America where you can see a mass fish migration, and this one lasts a mere four to six weeks."

Continued from page 39 ►

A pamphlet from the Visitor Centre gives details of the routes, which use local roads, trails or the river itself to accompany the salmon on their voyage. Hiking covers 6.65 km; cycling goes for 8.5 km; paddling is possible for four km with one easy portage at the Mill Dam. All routes are of easy to moderate difficulty. Even if going by car, there is some walking required to get to the river bank to observe the fish. Harrison Park would be the easiest location for people with disabilities to enjoy the run.

"The salmon migration is a real draw for spectators," states Owen Sound Tourism material, "a limited-time event that attracts throngs of onlookers eager to catch a glimpse of the salmon and photograph them. There aren't many places in North America where you can

see a mass fish migration, and this one lasts a mere four to six weeks. The Owen Sound Salmon Tour is a natural wonder, a treasure to be seen and appreciated, especially since most of the world has lost the annual salmon runs that once were commonplace. The phenomenon of thousands of salmon making this arduous journey to spawn is truly a natural reflection on the cycle of life and our delicate and complex ecosystems."

More Details

The Salmon Run tends to be from mid September to Thanksgiving. For more information including the dates for this year, check www.greatsalmonontour.com or call 1.888.675.5555 or email vacation@owensound.ca.

*For more about SSA or to arrange a tour of the hatchery, contact Dennis Wiseman, 519.270.5295 or taxman2001@rogers.com. **NEV***

◀ Inglis Falls is the end of the river for migrating fish. Some salmon do manage to battle the approximately seven km upstream from Georgian Bay to the base of the falls. PHOTO BY KRISTA MCKEE, GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION.

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"If I get it right, the piece has a life of its own, the water moves, the wind blows through the trees, you can see the sun setting" — KENT WILKENS

the walls of his own Golden Gallery in Tobermory.

"The gallery is a little oasis of tranquility in a sea of busyness in the summer, unless we are overrun with customers," he notes. "The best view in the harbour, a lovely garden landscape, our own private stream, peaceful paintings, and tranquil music all create an atmosphere that our customers like to return to year after year."

He uses acrylics and works at creating a good composition for each painting, consciously using the techniques of

colour balance, perspective and detail for specific effect.

"If I get it right, the piece has a life of its own, the water moves, the wind blows through the trees, you can see the sun setting," he adds. "Once the work is finished it would be nice if the viewer has a sense of peace and relaxation, a place to daydream and forget about the cares of the world." Wilkens also works on scenes from the Holy Land with Biblical verses included, which are meant to provoke thought and practical action.

Wilkens used to paint on commission, selling most of his work before he began it. "Currently I will not take any commissions as I prefer to work on what I want to work on, when I want to work on it, without constraint of time," he says.

Edwards Art Studios

Richard and Barbara Edwards are artists with their own gallery in Kagawong on Manitoulin Island. Richard is a painter and print maker and Barbara works in glass.

Edwards Studios and Art Gallery exhibits a wide range of artists' original handmade work: paintings, serigraphs, stained glass, jewellery, woodwork, pottery, weaving and batik clothing.

Inspired by nature, Richard sketches *en plein air*, or outside on location, later using these small pieces for larger paintings, etchings or serigraphs that he creates in the studio.

Continued on page 44 ►

Artist Studio Tours & Festivals



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NOV. 1 & 2
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▼ Floyd Elzinga delights in demonstrating how his outdoor shower works from a pine cone shower head. The shower can be plumbed for hot and cold water, if desired.





▲ Barbara Edwards' fused glass plate shows a restrained colour palette with an abstract pattern. PHOTO BY RICHARD EDWARDS.

▼ Floyd Elzinga welds a windblown tree sculpture in his Beamsville studio.



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▲ Golden Gallery also carries the work of other artists in a variety of media.

"I hope to communicate a mood or moment in time and share my artistic vision with others." — RICHARD EDWARDS



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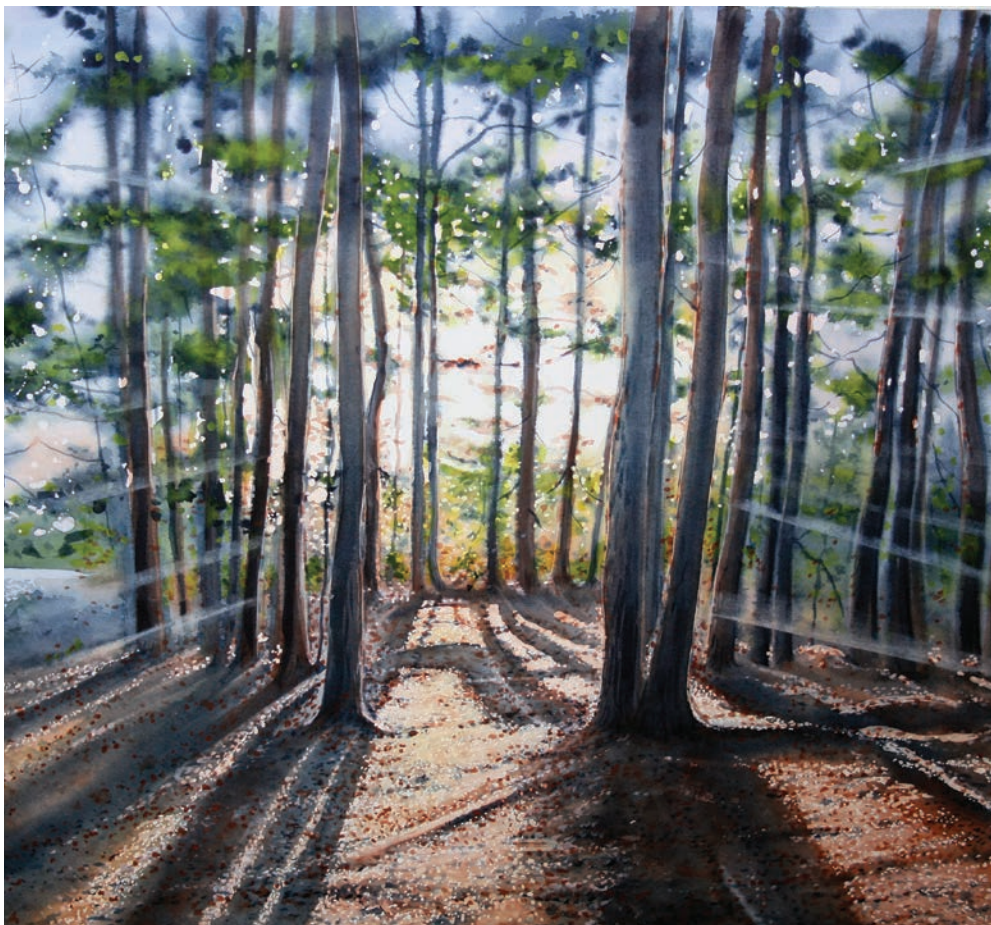
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 • 6-9PM
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▲ Richard Edwards' forest landscape celebrates streams of light. PHOTO BY RICHARD EDWARDS.

"I try to capture the essence of the subject," he explains. "Using painting techniques, colours and brush strokes, I hope to communicate a mood or moment in time and share my artistic vision with others." While he mostly paints from his own ideas, he says he enjoys the challenge of doing commissions.

Barbara Edwards has worked with glass for the past 20 years. Calling it a "versatile medium," she says she creates in stained glass, fused glass and handmade lamp work beads. She will also take commissions, and has created church windows and installations in private homes. **NEV**

Contact Details:

Floyd Elzinga
www.floydelzinga.com
905.563.5926

Doris Treleaven
www.metalscape.ca
519.853.9743

Kent Wilkens
www.wilkens-art.com
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519.596.2280

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www.edwardsartstudios.com
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▲ While Elzinga's seeds may be monumental, his tough, mighty trees are small and windblown yet solidly rooted.



ISLAND FOODLAND

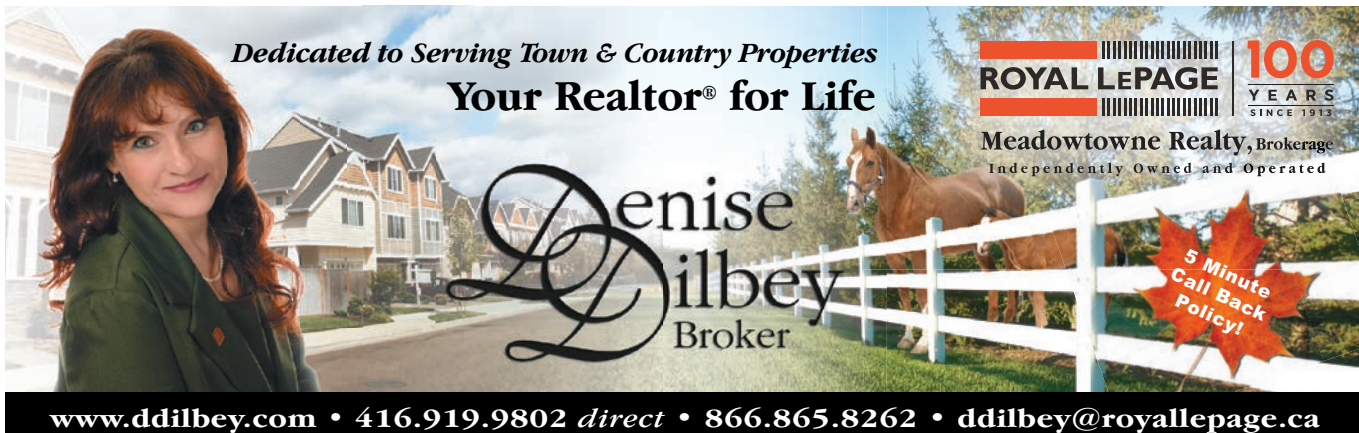
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Some, undoubtedly, are individuals whose lives were ruined, perhaps even ended, by verdicts handed down herein.

On the main floor a jail cell has been preserved in its 19th-century state. This tiny room, with its heavy door and thick bars, seems to be a vortex of negative energy. More than one person has seen a sinister face—shallow cheeks, unkempt beard, bloodshot eyes—peering out between the bars and raced from the building in abject terror.

Fort George

No visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake is complete without a tour of the War of 1812-era Fort George. It's a place where

history, often quite literally, comes alive in the form of unquiet spirits that lurk behind the earthen parapets and within the shadows of restored buildings. It seems that almost every one of its buildings has played host to a chilling tale or two.

The Officers' Quarters reveals the elegant lifestyle afforded to even junior officers in the British Army. It's been 150 years since soldiers have lived in Fort George, and yet not all have given up residence. A young officer, perhaps one who died in battle with the balance of life still ahead of him, remains behind and goes about the routines

of his previous life as if unaware that he is being watched by startled onlookers. Sometimes, the bizarre phenomenon experienced here can be quite chilling: voices whispered in the ear, spectral hands shoving from behind, candles mysteriously blown out and flashlights that simply die. It can be quite frightening, and even hardened ghost tour staff have been known to flee in terror.

One of the more tragic tales centres upon a soldier who froze to death while standing guard along the walls one frigid winter's night. It wasn't until the next morning that his body, dusted with newly fallen snow,

was discovered. This soldier remains vigilantly watching over Fort George to this day. He walks back and forth, though he has no legs—they disappear into the earth below. Interestingly, this detail adds credence to the eyewitness stories, as few people realize the earthen floor of the bastion is three feet higher than it would have been in 1812.

And then there's the playful young girl, the nightmarish spectral horse, the grisly blood-splattered apparition of the post surgeon...there's still a garrison at Fort George, just one made up of ethereal figures.

Continued on page 48 ►

▼ A jail cell from the 19th century has been preserved in the Old Courthouse. Heavy iron bolts and hardware fortify the door.



▼ Inside the jail, a stoutly barred cell secured the prisoner. There are reports of a face seen between the bars.





▲ Ron Dale's former office in the Old Courthouse often mysteriously became too hot. Judge Edward Clarke Campbell, who occupied the office before 1860, declared that the cold of the building would cause his death. Pneumonia took his life.

▼ The mark of a werewolf? Plenty of spirited performances happen in the Courthouse Theatre, but there are no reports of spiritual visitors. It's a different story a couple of floors below, in the Old Courthouse.



Haunted Halloween

Friday and Saturday,
October 24 and 25

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Something curious is happening in the village! Find out what, as you explore by lantern and moonlight. A fun night for all ages!

Pumpkin Sunday

October 26,

12:30 pm. – 4:00 p.m.

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◀ The owners of Brockamour Manor sometimes hear footsteps at night going upstairs.

all that they had dreamed of. When she learned her beloved had fallen in battle, Sophia went into a deep and inconsolable mourning. The shock of losing her future husband was an emotional blow that she would never recover from. Sophia died years later, still lonely.

Sophia's mourning is so deep that it extends beyond the grave. Her home had burned down during the war, but a replacement—the current Brockamour Manor—was built upon its foundations and the heartbroken spirit has taken shelter within. And why not? A refined setting with undeniable warmth that one feels on crossing the threshold, there are certainly worse places to spend an eternity.

Over the years, many guests have been awoken at night by the phantom sounds of a woman sobbing. On occasion, the woman, still beautiful after all these years, is spotted wandering the enchanting halls of the inn, crying in despair, still longing for the man she loves.

Continued from page 46 ►

Brockamour Manor

The war of 1812 left behind many scars. Some wounds are so grievous that time, even death, cannot heal

them. Such is the case with Sobbing Sophia, an eternal guest at Brockamour Manor.

When British hero General Isaac Brock was killed leading a desperate charge at the battle of Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812 he didn't just

create a legend for himself. He also created a ghostly legend for his fiancée, Sophia Shaw.

In peaceful times, Sophia and the young general had fallen deeply in love for one another, but then the war came and dashed



▲ Despite being turned off, lights have stayed on in Brockamour Manor's games room. Sophia seems to be a friendly ghost or spirit, said to like music. When unexpected things start happening, Cone says "Hello, Sophia, I don't have time for this."

Ghost Tours of Niagara-on-the-Lake

After dinner, step out into the crisp, autumn air for a guided ghost walk. You have two options, both promising a few good chills. On the one hand, you may opt for a walk through hushed streets as part of a Ghost Walks of Niagara-on-the-Lake tour. With shadows being kept at bay by the light cast from lanterns held aloft by your costumed guides, you'll hear creepy tales associated with a number of haunted sites.

"Our ghost walks are a unique way to experience places and buildings while enjoying only the darkest of history and spookiest of ghost stories," explains Daniel Cumerlato, who owns Ghost Walks of Niagara-on-the-Lake and is an expert in the area's paranormal history. He can't guarantee you'll see a ghost, but assures you that guests will be introduced to some!

Instead of strolling along empty streets, perhaps you'd rather step through the ominous walls of Fort George and experience its shadowy history more fully with Ghost Tours of Niagara. Tour owner Kyle Upton stresses that darkness takes on a whole new meaning at Fort George after dark, and that the ancient fortification takes on a whole new, eerie atmosphere under lantern light. Soon, you begin to imagine lurking monsters behind every corner or in every rustled leaf. Spectral horses, a door that appears at night but doesn't exist during the light of day, and various shadowy soldiers have all been reported. Watch for the ghostly girl, the fort's most frequently seen spirit; she's innocent, but likes to play pranks on tour members.

**Ghost Walks of
Niagara-on-the-Lake**
www.ghostwalks.com
1-855-844-6787

Ghost Tours of Niagara
www.niagaraghosts.com

Andrew Hind and Maria Da Silva are freelance writers specializing in history and travel. They are the authors of 17 books, including Ghosts of Niagara-on-the-Lake (Dundurn, 2009). **NEV**



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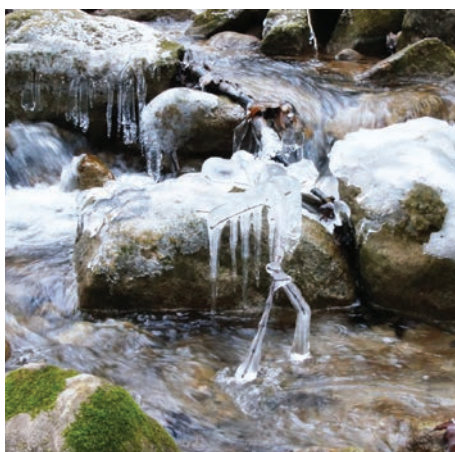
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▲ The pioneer demonstration garden is in its ripe stage at the festival, with “three sisters” plantings of corn, beans and squash among herbs and flowers.



▲ Inside the heritage barn, woodworkers demonstrate their skills along with weavers and chair caners while handmade items are for sale.

"We try to educate the public about the way it used to be. Life was simple then."

— RON BAER, NIAGARA ANTIQUE POWER ASSOCIATION

and produce ripening for harvest. Last year the heritage barn had demonstrations of woodworking, chair caning, weaving, and reproduction furniture and pioneer toys for sale. The grist mill was grinding flour for sale for \$6.00 a bag.

Old-time carnival music may draw you to the 1911 military band organ that can play 150 rolls of Wurlitzer-style music. Bought in 1956 by John Leonard of St. Catharines, it is now operated by his widow, Pauline Leonard. She points out the brass horns in the front, explaining that it can make the sounds of 123 instruments. She also declares that it was used in the 1983 film *The Natural*, starring Robert Redford. Claiming she goes everywhere with the

organ, she adds "It's my baby too. She's in perfect tune. If it wasn't, I wouldn't play it"

Antique Power

Men and boys of all ages flock to the large display of engines by the Niagara Antique Power Association. Strange machinery grinds and chugs and puffs and rattles amid smoke in a bewildering array of big and small toys.

"We like the old stuff," says Ron Baer, member of the association. "These engines will run on regular gas, kerosene, anything. We try to educate the public about the way it used to be. Life was simple then. We go to all the local fairs in the summer. This is the last local event."

Continued on page 52 ►

◀ Margaret Cunningham and Steven Kelvey of Toronto in front of Ball's Falls last year.



▲ The grist mill formerly used the water of Ball's Falls for power. Now there's not enough flow for that, so electricity powers the grindstone and other mechanics. The workings of the mill can be explored, and preservative-free, freshly ground flour can be bought.

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Continued from page 51 ►

The biggest attraction is the steam engine. Used for sawmill work, it has a locomotive-style boiler and mobile, powered saws to cut lumber. Jim Bucknall operated it last year, showing the firebox that could use coal, although he prefers wood, and demonstrating its two truly spectacular whistles, a loud one and an even bigger one, for different signals. When he yanks a cord, the ear-splitting sound is accompanied by clouds of steam that silence all observers,

impressing everyone with the power of this machine. **NEW**

40th Festival Facts

Dates: Oct. 10–14, 2014

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$6, children under 14 free if accompanied by adult. On Friday only, seniors \$5.

Location: Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation, 3292 Sixth Ave., Jordan, ON

Free parking.

◀ Drums, brass horns and pipes produce the music of 123 instruments in the 1911 military band organ lovingly cared for by John and Pauline Leonard.



▲ Ron Baer at the display of wonderful antique small engines.

◀ What would a harvest festival be without weird sisters? These flamboyantly costumed witches have added strange colour to the festival for years.

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View of Land Conservation:

Do you cut down the forest to live in your house?

By Bob Barnett

Living in a city, even in a town or village, one forgets that we are displacing our original forested land. When Governor Simcoe arrived in York, he laid out concessions which have become our main streets and the hundred-acre lots between them where we now live. My own street, Toronto's Major Street, was converted from forest to market gardens around 1850, then gradually filled with houses on 17-foot lots for the worker class. My own house was part of a row developed in 1885. Eventually, the last of the original allotment shacks was torn down in the 1930s and made into brick houses by Cadillac, the same people that made the Eaton Centre about 50 years later. I grew up in Leaside, now central Toronto, on a lot carved out of a farm in 1945 as the city expanded. The market gardens and farms all emerged from the forest or the migratory fields set out by our First Nation predecessors. Every house, apartment and condominium sits on land that was forest originally.

Nature Calculator

To explain this better, I've set up a nature calculator to describe how much forest we displace as we live our lives on a residential lot.

The easy part is including the area of your house together with outbuildings, garage and hard-surface driveways and walkways. Next we need to include the municipal road we use in front of our house. Others share our road, but essentially, it was built for us. Grassed areas, trees and

flower gardens around our house also push back the forest, but at least provide some ecological services like cooling, air cleaning and carbon sequestration. Maybe they provide 25 per cent of the benefit of a "real" forest. Sharing a house with family and friends cuts your footprint dramatically. City planners are wisely restricting lot size and encouraging higher buildings to slow down urban sprawl. According to Neptis Foundation, due to intensification in housing, for the first time in history, in the Golden Horseshoe there is less land per resident than a decade ago.

I've surveyed enough people to realize that we're pretty efficient at using land for living. House dwellers use maybe a tenth or a fifth of an acre while apartment dwellers may perch above the earth in as little as a hundredth of an acre.

Next comes our need to eat. Eating grain, fruit and vegetables is pretty efficient, while those of us who eat meat need large areas of former forest to graze those cows and fence those chickens. A vegetarian uses about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre while a "normal" meat eater requires about five acres. Those cows do eat a lot of grass.

Driving a car made of steel or using a phone requires mining sites while our clothes take farmland and our car probably uses oil from the tar sands. I haven't figured out how to calculate that area.

Forests Sequester Carbon Dioxide

The next challenge is to assess the area of forest required to soak up our carbon produced by burning carbon-based fuels.



▲ Cities, towns and villages have displaced original forested land. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Here we don't have to cut down the forest to live and eat, but use a portion of our limited forest lands to sequester our share of the carbon dioxide we create. Depending on our use of heating fuel, driving fuel and our time in the air it's not hard to ring up 30 tonnes a year. Part of that we share with the family for heating or by carpooling so we discount that. We're figuring on about five tonnes of carbon per acre of forest every year, so our carbon use may require a six-acre forest.

So far, the most efficient person has "used" only six acres of forest while the most profligate is running about 40 acres. Unfortunately there just aren't enough acres on Earth for us to each use six or 40 acres.

Just to put this into perspective, we calculate for you the ecological services lost to society because of this loss of forest. Even the most efficient "six-acre" person is removing six acres of forest which would bring \$16,650 worth of services if it was still forest. These are Ministry of Natural Resources figures based on air and water cleaning, reduction of flooding and a range of services including tourism and pollination. Other jurisdictions

have figured it out: Long Island decided to stop further development to protect their remaining ecoservices.

Our Conservancy is able to set land aside for those who wish to offset their own use of the forest. Purchasing six acres to protect it may cost only \$6,000 for your lifetime, while helping us receive donated land may only cost \$600.

I'd appreciate your comments on this. We'd like to find a way to connect those of us who live in the city with the consequences of our choices on our shared countryside. When you get a chance, thank rural landowners for looking after their woodlot and wetland. They pay taxes on their land to make our lives more livable here in the city and give us far more than a good view when we visit the country. **NEV**

**Take the test at
escarpment.ca or
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calculator. How many
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Bob Barnett of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy can be reached through www.escarpment.ca or rbarnett@escarpment.ca or 888.815.9575.

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▲ Horseshoe Falls from Skylon's
Revolving Dining Room
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

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Eating & Staying Along the Niagara Escarpment

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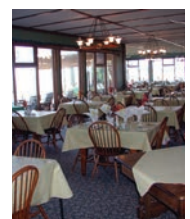


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View of Sustainability:

Positive impact of rain gardens

Written & photographed
by Sean James

It's wonderful when there are beautiful, simple solutions to tough problems. One such challenge is that we're building our world with more and more surfaces which shed water. We've gotten very good at getting water away from our buildings and into the storm sewers. This is necessary but it causes problems. There are ways to moderate the downsides.

So much water is leaving our properties and rushing into the streams and wetlands that it's causing erosion and reshaping of streams, clogging them with sediment. Runoff is often very warm as it's coming off hot surfaces, which is bad for fish eggs and more. The pollutants that come off our driveways, rooftops and vehicles also affect our waterways. In addition, less water is soaking into the soil, reducing 'base flow'; water that seeps sideways through

the ground, along seams of porous soil, slowly creeping to creeks and rivers. Base flow is what keeps the creeks flowing when it hasn't rained in a while. Creeks never used to dry up in the summer.

This affects our economy and quality of life: fishing and other types of tourism, reducing land values and causing expensive reshaping of infrastructure. It also leads to flooding, since, when there's a major rain event, so much water rushes into rivers and downstream, it causes hundreds of millions of dollars of damage.

How do we address it yet keep our properties beautiful? Rain gardens and French wells keep rain on our properties and can be ornamental additions. Rain gardens are the easiest. Basically, it's just a shallow, saucer-shaped garden, placed near a downspout so the water can be directed to it easily.

Building a rain garden is surprisingly simple. Where downspouts meet the ground, build up the soil a bit so it slopes away from the house. Carve a shallow channel, much like a miniature river. Line this dry creek with rubber pond liner and river rock to get it about three metres from the house. That's the safe distance. At the end of the dry creek, dig a shallow saucer about 30 cm deep. It can be as large or small as you want. Anything is better than nothing. It should be designed to drain away



▲ Without rain gardens, floods can form in yards or water can flow too rapidly into storm sewers.

through the soil in 24 to 48 hours. Most of the rain gardens we've designed are about two square metres but several are much smaller. Slope the sides with a very shallow grade. The soil excavated from the saucer can be used to build up along the downhill side.

Now, it's time for the exciting part — planting. Plants suited for a rain garden are unusual and interesting. They can stand spring flooding and summer drought. Included are such beauties as Blue Flag Iris, Sparkleberry, Potentilla, Switchgrass (for near the edges), Bowles Golden Sedge and Sneezeweed (which doesn't cause allergies — it was used to make snuff!). For bold texture, consider Marsh Marigold or Umbrella Plant. Be sure to plant Swamp Milkweed for the Monarchs and for late summer flowers. With these plants, you'll have flowers all season, berries in the winter and you're creating great habitat for interesting butterflies, pollinators and birds. Ironically, you may need to water it during dry spells for the first season to

help the plants establish but after that, it's clear sailing!

After planting, track down some hardwood mulch to cover the soil. Hardwood mulch doesn't float and will keep weeds down.

On a side but related note, regarding rain barrels, empty them a couple of days before a heavy rain or attach them to soaker hoses, spread through the garden, and open the valve a couple of days before it rains to empty them and then close it again to hold the rain. This way, you retain the rain and allow it to slowly seep in.

A rain garden is a small project with a HUGE positive impact and, when properly designed, by mixing textures and seasonal interest, makes an amazing addition to any property. Many folks don't see themselves as being interested in environmental solutions but this one is an easy sell. It might even inspire your neighbours. If you do a really good job, you'll even get envy...and isn't that the real purpose of a garden? **NEV**

If you have any questions or want a rain garden schematic that you can customize to your property, email Sean at sdjames@on.aibn.com and he'll send it.



◀ Rain gardens hold and infiltrate water in a beautiful way, helping to preserve our creeks. It's important that they drain in 24 to 48 hours.

Coming Events

SEPT. 5-7

Georgetown Fall Fair

Georgetown Fairgrounds, Georgetown,
georgetownfallfair.ca 905.873.6157

SEPT. 7

25th Anniversary Feast of Fields

Cold Creek Conservation Park, King Township,
feastoffields.org, 905.859.3609

SEPT. 7

Epic Tour Halton, Kelso Quarry Park, Milton,
epictour.ca, 416.525.7476

SEPT. 12 & 13

HandMade Market

13th Street Winery, St. Catharines, HandMadeMarket.ca

SEPT. 13

Festival at Fort Willow

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, nvca.on.ca
705.424.1479

SEPT. 15

Dennis Fallat on Bulbs — The Common & Unusual,

Milton & District Horticultural Society,
miltonhortsociety.com president@miltonhortsociety.com



SEPT. 16

**Downtown Hamilton Localicious Experience
Launch Party**

Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, downtownlocalicious.org,
905.523.1646

SEPT. 17-OCT. 13

'Rising', exhibition remembering the First World War,
Williams Mill Gallery, Glen Williams, www.williamsmill.com, 905.873.8203

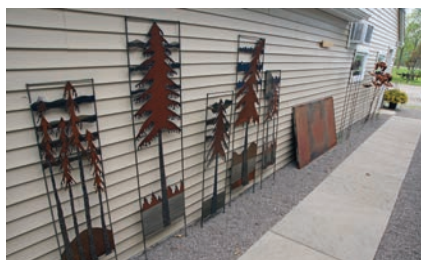
SEPT. 19-21

Acton Fall Fair
Prospect Park, Acton, actonfallfair.ca

SEPT. 19-OCT. 12

Downtown Hamilton Localicious Experience

Hamilton, downtownlocalicious.org, 905.523.1646



SEPT. 26

Floyd Elzinga's Night Garden Open Studio

Beamsville, floydelzinga.com



SEPT. 26-28

North of 89 Studio Tour

In the beautiful Mulmur hills,
For map and info:
www.northof89.ca
hillsofmlmurartists@gmail.com

SEPT. 27

Gallery Opening Reception for 'Rising'

exhibition remembering the First World War,
Williams Mill Gallery, Glen Williams,
www.williamsmill.com, 905.873.8203

SEPT. 27 & 28

Doors Open

Many locations including Burlington, Halton Region,
Wellington North doorsopenontario.ca

SEPT. 27 & 28

"Preparing the Troops" 100th Anniversary Event

Georgetown Fairgrounds, Georgetown,
globeproductions.ca 905.877.4323

OCT. 4

Pioneer Day

Jordan Historical Museum & Main St., Jordan Village,
museum@lincoln.ca 905-563-2799 x 290

OCT. 4 & 5

Fine Arts Society of Milton Studio Tour

Milton, fasm.ca, info@fasm.ca



OCT. 10-14

40th Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival

Ball's Falls Conservation Area, Jordan, ballsfalls.ca
905.562.5235

OCT. 20

Sue Lusted on Putting the Garden to Bed

Milton & District Horticultural Society,
miltonhortsociety.com president@miltonhortsociety.com

OCT. 24 & 25

Haunted Halloween

Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton,
Westfieldheritage.ca 519.621.8851

OCT. 26

Nature Walk with Owen Sound Field Naturalists

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, escarpment.org
888.815.9575

OCT. 26

Pumpkin Sunday

Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton,
Westfieldheritage.ca 519.621.8851

NOV. 7-9 & 12-15

Always a Bridesmaid

Georgetown Little Theatre, John Elliott Theatre,
Georgetown, georgetownlittletheatre.ca 905.877.3700

NOV. 13

**Christmas Workshop on Making Christmas
Arrangements with Mala Percy**

Milton & District Horticultural Society, miltonhortsociety.com president@miltonhortsociety.com

NOV. 14-16

Christmas Outdoor HandMade Market

Honsberger Estate, Jordan, HandMakeMarket.ca

NOV. 17

Annual Awards Night & Pot Luck Dinner

Milton & District Horticultural Society,
miltonhortsociety.com president@miltonhortsociety.com



NOV. 27-30

Christmas in the Country

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Sulphur Spring Conservation Area, south of Hanover,
Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation, svca.on.ca
publicinfo@svca.on.ca 519.367.3040

Views of Politicians

For a fun twist on our usual presentation of politicians' views on various topics, here is a look at some of the politicians in Niagara Escarpment ridings in action! Photos provided except where noted.



▲ Mike Wallace, MP for Burlington, with students from the "Get in Gear" program at the Centre for Skills Development & Training, Burlington.



▲ Bill Walker, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound was re-elected and sworn in.



▲ Ted Arnott, MPP for Wellington-Halton Hills, being sworn in after his re-election.



▲ Hon. Kevin Flynn, MPP for Oakville, held a free BBQ for the public outside his constituency office on July 24. Photo by Mike Davis.

Political Representatives

Listed by riding

Burlington ▼



Mike Wallace
MP Burlington

Questions about Federal issues? Please contact my office.

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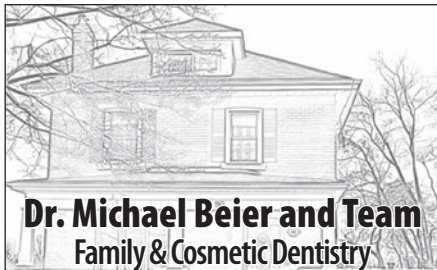
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FORESIGHT

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!

Wildwood Trail in Autumn, the only realized part of a longer possible rail trail that would have connected urban Georgetown with the Caledon Trailway, part of the Trans Canada Trail. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

SUSTAINABLE PLANT-BASED PLASTIC

The Ford and Heinz companies are researching the use of **tomato fibre in 100 per cent plant-based composite materials** for wiring brackets and small storage bins in Ford vehicles. Ford's other bio-based materials include coconut based composite, recycled cotton and soy.

HALTON'S SUCCESS IN WASTE DIVERSION

Thanks to the dedication of Halton Region's residents at waste diversion and recycling, the **landfill site which was estimated to need replacement in 2012, is now expected to be able to remain open until 2044.** A residential waste diversion rate of 60 per cent has avoided a landfill replacement expense of \$1 billion.

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The Holland family of Burlington has donated **37 acres of land near Cootes Paradise and Royal Botanical Gardens to the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System**, one of the most biologically significant areas of Canada. The property was named Eileen and John Holland Nature Sanctuary.

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