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SPRING 2015 (MARCH, APRIL, MAY)

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Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



Spring 2015
(March, April, May)

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Archie Braga
Financial Advisor
(519) 853-4694
315 Queen St. E., Unit #2
Acton, ON L7J 1R1
archie.braga@edwardjones.com

Allison Calder
Financial Advisor
(905) 573-8778
325 Winterberry Dr., Unit 205
Stoney Creek, ON L8J 2N5
allison.calder@edwardjones.com

George Paolucci
Financial Advisor
(519) 833-9069
132 Main Street, Unit 4
Erin, ON N0B 1T0
george.paolucci@edwardjones.com

Colin Brookes
Financial Advisor
(905) 873-7630
211 Guelph St., Unit 4
Georgetown, ON L7G 5B5
colin.brookes@edwardjones.com

Todd Neff, CFP®
Financial Advisor
(905) 331-1099
1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 6
Burlington, ON L7P 3P5
todd.neff@edwardjones.com

Paula Thompson
Financial Advisor
(905) 690-7190
331 Dundas St. E., Unit 4
Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0
paula.thompson@edwardjones.com

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PUBLISHERS

Mike Davis
Gloria Hildebrandt

EDITOR

Gloria Hildebrandt
editor@NEViews.ca
905 873 2834

ART DIRECTOR

Valentino Sanna
Ignition Design + Communications
www.ignitiondesign.ca

ADVERTISING/ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Mike Davis
ads@NEViews.ca
905 877 9665

Ads for Manitoulin Island:

Carmen Runnalls
Manitoulin@NEViews.ca
705 282 0465

WEBSITE DESIGN

Joan Donogh
In-Formation Design

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Niagara Escarpment Views
50 Ann St. Halton Hills,
(Georgetown) ON L7G 2V2
editor@NEViews.ca
www.NEViews.ca

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Who Should Have Rights?

The human race has begun working to send people on a mission to Mars. A documentary on robots shown on CBC-TV, had people discussing a need to give robots rights, to prevent their abuse. My response to both of these developments is to ask what about Earth's animals? Why aren't we exploring more of the complexities of Earth? How can we give rights to mechanical creations when we don't recognize animals' rights to existence?

Why don't we care more about understanding how animals communicate, the depth of their feelings, the extent of their intelligence? A program on TVO about "supersmart" animals showed tool use among orangutans, and Night Herons who use bread as bait for fish; a jay that can solve a test problem at the level of a seven-year-old human; dolphins displaying creativity; an octopus that solved a problem it hadn't seen before; a sea lion completing a test before I understood it; and a chimp with better visual perception and memory than any human. That's right, any human known to the researchers. Yet most people think animals are dumb creatures to be used as we like.

And why should we inhabit or exploit for their resources, other places in the universe when we haven't figured out how to live on this Earth in

a just, peaceful and sustainable way? There are still places where women and minority groups don't yet have full human rights.

It seems wrong to ignore these challenges and opportunities while committing time, energy and money on outlandish projects.

Rights for Robots Before Animals?

Many people are committed to rights for animals. Nonhuman Rights Project has a Facebook page with more than 22,000 Likes. A Google search shows many sites dedicated to animal rights. And the millions of photos shared around the world on Facebook, of clever pets, soulful horses, cows and goats, human-like apes and monkeys, trusting whales and dolphins, and even clever birds, are helping people see that there is much more to animal life than we think we know. This can only be a good thing, perhaps signalling a vital evolutionary step in our presence on this planet.

I hope that a human visit to Mars is a long way off. But I believe that before we give rights to robots, we should ensure that animals have rights to natural habitats, safety, humane treatment and most of all, continued existence.



PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

Seven Years Later

We published our first issue of this magazine in early 2008. A few copies of that issue are still available for sale. Now, seven years later, we're a valuable part of many people's lives. The time is right for a redesign of our magazine. A new version of our magazine cover logo and a revised layout of our pages were created by our new art director, Val Sanna. It's a fresh, bright look just in time for spring.

This is also the year that the Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment Plans come under review by the provincial government. Make sure your Member of Provincial Parliament knows your views on the Niagara Escarpment.

In This Issue

Our cover story by Chris Mills shows people tackling the very

rocks of the Escarpment itself, in the challenging sport of bouldering. They climb only the sides and undersides of boulders, to avoid disturbing the delicate growth that has found a niche on the tops of the rocks. And this rough activity does not attract men only. Women are prepared to risk their hands as well.

People who love getting their hands dirty will enjoy this annual special issue on gardening. We show the best of Mike Davis' photos from some garden tours from last year, as well as an in-depth peek inside a frankly gorgeous house and garden near Limehouse.

The famous conservationist John Muir loved the Niagara Escarpment before any of us were alive! Ken Haigh has written about Muir's time near Meaford along Georgian Bay in the 1860s, before he returned to the U.S. where he founded The Sierra Club and worked for the creation of national wilderness parks.

I invite you to take a break from your spring activities and draw inspiration from the newly designed pages of this issue. And as always, let us know what you think.

Alonia

P.S. As John Muir emphasized, all of us, especially wild animals, need wild spaces.

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If you are a subscriber to *Niagara Escarpment Views*, **you could win a pair of tickets to Canada Blooms!** Tickets are valued at \$20 each. Just email me at editor@NEViews.ca or call 905 873 2834 by March 6 and we will enter your name in our draw. Winners will be able to get their free tickets at the show. *See page 9 for show details.*



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



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



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

Walking in the Footsteps of Robert Bateman

There are incredible places along the Niagara Escarpment, with fantastic views that are thought provoking and rich in history. Niagara Falls, Rattlesnake Point and Ekarenniondi at Scenic Caves are three good examples. But how do you find out about these places? Plenty of readers tell us they get ideas through our publication. How is it that we find out about them?

I got inspiration from Robert Bateman, when I interviewed him in 2011, when he talked about a favourite walk of his near his home when he lived on the Escarpment in Burlington. Like millions of others, I have long admired his extraordinary ability to communicate in his art, so eloquently, his incredible knowledge and understanding of nature.

I wanted to experience his walk, so in the following

spring, off I went to his old neighbourhood. The route was on The Bruce Trail from Blind Line at Britannia Road down to Cedar Springs Creek. It was a nice spring day and I enjoyed the walk down to and along the river, where I saw a blue sign for River and Ruin Side Trail. I then came to a high metal bridge that crossed the creek, but I followed Bateman's directions and turned right, not going over the bridge. Soon I saw the remaining stone walls of a former majestic house.

Bateman had told me about a beautiful old abandoned large stone house that was in ruins, that he called the Macbeth House. Was this ruin his Macbeth House?

Bateman's interview got me out to this particular section of the Escarpment. I hope you become similarly inspired, perhaps through this magazine, to experience



▲ (Left) An entry to the trail at Britannia Road and the end of Blind Line in Burlington. (Right) Metal bridge where I turned right to get to the ruin.



more of what the Niagara Escarpment has to offer.

If you would like to read more of my interview with Robert Bateman, see our two features, in the Spring and Summer 2012 issues. Go to our

website and look under Back Issues or the exact page: www.neviews.ca/magazine-archives.

Please drop me a note about how you found out about your favourite part of the Niagara Escarpment.



◀ Ruin along the trail. Is this Bateman's Macbeth House?
PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

The Niagara Escarpment: The Ontario Greenbelt's Thriving Future

In one of the country's most idyllic, majestic terrains lies the Niagara Escarpment, a unique wonder in Ontario preserved for its important ecological features and natural areas. The Escarpment gives sanctuary to endangered species and their habitats, includes protected farmland, and provides clean air and water.

In 2005, the Niagara Escarpment became part of Ontario's Greenbelt, and with the Greenbelt's 10th Anniversary approaching this year, there are many accomplishments to celebrate that have advanced the province's economy and landscape. These accomplishments greatly benefit the Greenbelt and its inhabitants today and for years to come.



Recognizing and Celebrating Success

At approximately two million acres of protected land, Ontario's Greenbelt is the world's largest permanently protected Greenbelt—and there is a lot to show for it. It provides the province with \$9.1 billion in economic benefits, as well as 161,000 full-time equivalent jobs. Its habitats protect wildlife, including 78 species at risk, and its forested area can offset the equivalent of 27 million cars driven over one year. With these successes in mind, the Greenbelt proves to further increase its ecological and economic advantages beyond its 10 years.

At 480,000 acres, the Escarpment is fundamental to the Greenbelt. A unique landscape and ecosystem of forests, farmland, cliffs, and wetlands, it extends more than 1,100 kilometres and is home to 1,000 year-old cedars, which help reduce air pollution and provide animal habitat. Because of its benefits, more and more people are drawn to recreational opportunities such as hiking, swimming, and camping, and the Escarpment's 762 kilometre Bruce Trail. These activities add hundreds of millions of dollars to Ontario's economy annually, giving even more reason to continue protecting the Escarpment.

Protecting and Enriching Natural Landmarks

The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation recognizes and supports the benefits of the Escarpment. Ball's Falls Conservation Area is celebrated for its natural beauty and animal habitat. The Foundation celebrated the organizations involved in preserving

this site and contributed funding to help create their Visitor Centre. Exhibits at the Centre provide education and programming to help enrich the area's awareness of the impact of human activity on the ecosystem and how to help sustain it for future generations.

Mount Nemo, another magnificent feature in the Greenbelt, is preserved so the iconic and breathtaking site can be experienced by visitors for years to come. In October 2013, the Foundation installed an interpretive sign at Mount Nemo Conservation Area, recognizing it as a gem of the Escarpment that preserves rich agricultural landscape and provides natural habitat for species at risk, including the Turkey Vulture, Little Brown Bat, and the Jefferson Salamander. This wildlife would be lost without this essential protection.

"Conservation Halton believes strongly in the importance of people having the opportunity to get active outdoors at our conservation areas as part of a healthy lifestyle," said John Vice, Chair, Conservation Halton. "Mount Nemo Conservation Area features wonderful trails for people to hike and explore the Niagara Escarpment, an iconic natural feature in our region."

Investing in the Future

Conservation efforts in the Greenbelt are invaluable for the future of forests, watersheds, and habitat. These are vital to communities because they provide healthy food and clean

water—just some of the first-hand benefits that the Escarpment offers.



With the Greenbelt 10th Anniversary celebrations this year, there are many ways to get involved and show your support. The Birthday Celebration on February 28 will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Greenbelt, reminding us why its protection should continue. The Greenbelt Harvest Picnic with renowned musicians and local farmers on August 29 emphasizes the benefits of local, Greenbelt-grown food. The Great Waterfront Trail Adventure launching the Greenbelt Route that spans more than 480 kilometres is a celebration beginning August 16, highlighting the opportunities for cycle tourism.

These events, among others, will bring to Ontarians the opportunity to commemorate the Greenbelt's successes, enjoy delicious local food and tourism opportunities, and celebrate the Greenbelt's future.

Visit greenbelt.ca for more updates on celebrations and landmarks to be announced soon.



The Winter Views is gorgeous! We are on the Niagara Escarpment in Beaver Valley. The magazine is sitting in every home I visited over the holidays. Keep writing :)
Laura Artibello, via www.NEViews.ca

I finally managed to get a copy of your magazine, even though I had given up on finding one of this issue — snagged one at the Pancake Factory. I haven't finished it yet but it looks like a great publication, looking forward to reading it all.
Dave McDonald, Toronto, via Facebook

We sure enjoy reading your magazine with all your great photos & articles.
Brian & Judy Munro, Georgetown

The last issue was wonderful!
Susan Ramsay, Stoney Creek

We value your views!

Your notes, emails, calls & letters mean a great deal to us. We try to publish all of them, as we believe it's important to show your involvement with what appears in this magazine. Keep them coming!

Write to: Niagara Escarpment Views
 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2
 Email: editor@NEViews.ca
 Comment through: www.NEViews.ca



We have just received amazing feedback. It was a wonderful article. It looks beautiful. People are thrilled at that magazine, the copy. Somebody did a pdf and it travelled all through the States and we received great reviews. We've received a great deal of phone calls from community members that need support and assistance with illegal activities surrounding hound hunting and that kind of thing. It's been a real plus to expose folks to getting some educational outreach and support. We really appreciate NEViews for putting that information out there. It's very, very progressive. On behalf of Coyote Watch Canada, our board and advisory council, we do thank you so much for that opportunity.

Lesley Sampson, Coyote Watch Canada

Re: "Co-existing with Coyotes" by Chris Mills, Winter 2014-2015:
 Reading the title on the front cover of Niagara Escarpment Views sparked my interest in reading the article. I have found this subject material fascinating and am always delighted to see coyotes in my travels. After reading the article however, I was left with the opinion that the article was one sided and missed an opportunity to further the knowledge of this "new" creature by Ontarians. Certain key facts are not mentioned in this article. My understanding is that the greatest threat to Ontario coyotes is not a gun but the disease mange. In addition, I understand that government officials are indicating that this adaptable creature's numbers are not threatened by guns and their range and numbers are actually increasing.

When the author describes the elimination of wolves during pioneer times, we must keep these events in context. Ontario's pioneers had limited food sources and could not afford the destruction of the family milk cow or other livestock by wolves.

When the author mentions the aspects of Ontario farmers making money on coyote-killed livestock, my understanding is there are investigations into these claims. If the investigator determines that the kill was caused by coyotes, the farmer receives market compensation (within certain limits) for the animals. If the animal has breeding value beyond market value, there may be a loss for the farmer. In any event few farmers would view these claims as making money. I also understand that if a baby calf or lamb is killed by coyotes and there is no visible evidence, there is no compensation. Again, not a money maker for a farmer.

This article also fails to mention the death by a Canadian hiker/jogger in Cape Breton which officials indicate was caused by coyotes. In my own neighbourhood, the advance of these hybrid coyotes has pretty much eliminated any sightings of ground hogs. It also seems to me that these larger hybrid coyotes have expanded their prey and have become significant consumers of deer. Being extremely clever these hybrids have been known to prey on new-born fawns and have killed calves as they are being borne. A time when these creatures are particularly vulnerable. Currently my experience with coyotes has been that they have become habituated to human beings. In our local paper there was a warning recently about coyotes as a Lab puppy was taken from its backyard by a coyote and consumed.

I am not a coyote hunter and I try to have an open mind on this subject. I applaud the co-existence with coyotes but also appreciate a fair depiction of a subject that is controversial to some. Look forward to the next issue.

Dave Dorman, Erin

Continued on page 10 ►

Everybody's growing to...



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◀ Continued from page 8



Councillor Rick Craven, Burlington City Councillor, is a subscriber to the *Niagara Escarpment Views* magazine. He recently received a copy of the Winter 2014–2015 edition which features the article “Co-existing with Coyotes”. Councillor Craven has been receiving phone calls regarding coyote sightings in Aldershot. He feels that the article featured in N.E.Views is very positive and would like to share it with his constituents. Is the article available on the web or is there any way that we can share an electronic version with the residents in Aldershot?

Kathi Laufman,
Councillor's Assistant, Burlington

◀ **Editor's note:** After we received this message, we delivered a supply of Winter copies to Burlington City Hall.

I was born and grew up on the prairies so I know all about those beautiful animals, the coyotes. I also witnessed one of the most beautiful man made things on earth, the railway steam locomotive. Re the “Being in the right Place” article in your *Niagara Escarpment Views*, we can go one better. We have former CPR steam locomotive #136. She was built in 1883, before Canada was a nation.

Bob Young, South Simcoe Railway

So what happened to these trespassing idiots? Did the OPP charge them with trespassing or anything at all? A good thing to remember is “Any time is train time, stay OFF the tracks!”

Michael, via www.NEViews.ca

Why would any business jeopardize their livelihood thru tragic events on the whims of idiotic ideas from patrons. Limo drivers have the means of contacting their offices and the discretion of refusal, since they are at the controls. No business in their right mind would ever entertain such recklessness with possible endangerment. Sadly, in this case, the driver was no better than the limo's occupants. The driver and the business should be included in the charges for trespassing. This blatant and total disregard of signage warnings and associated dangers is all too common in our society.

Tom, via www.NEViews.ca

Mike's View:
Being in the Right Place, at the Right Time, With a Camera

1. A group of people standing on a railway track. 2. A person standing on a railway track. 3. A person standing on a railway track. 4. A person standing on a railway track. 5. A person standing on a railway track. 6. A person standing on a railway track.

7. A person standing on a railway track.



Enjoyed [Don Scallen's] article in the [Spring 2014 issue of] NEV on Jefferson Salamanders. I did not realize they mate so early in the spring.

Kurt Koster, Mount Nemo

Niagara Escarpment Views

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See page 53.

I had a subscription to your magazine which I do enjoy, but am not sure when it must be renewed. Please find enclosed a cheque for twenty-two dollars (\$22.00) to cover the cost of a subscription for one year. At age 92 I don't renew for two years.

Lois M. Filce, Beamsville

I agree with the comments attached [subscription order form quoting readers' comments]. I so much enjoy this interesting & informative magazine. I am finding out about places I never knew existed.

Sheila Massey, St. Catharines

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

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ The Town of Orangeville's Sustainability Action Team held a tree planting on Nov. 1 at the east entrance to town. The goal was to plant 275 trees of 11 different species, to beautify the east entrance, prevent soil erosion, and provide shade, a wind break, and animal habitat. PHOTO PROVIDED.



▲ From Jan. 29, Hamilton's Nathaniel Hughson Gallery displayed photographer Daniel Banko's project "A Movement in 8 Seconds." Featuring 18 portraits of musicians with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the exhibition continued to Feb. 28. PHOTOS BY DANIEL BANKO.



▲ The United Way of Halton Hills held its annual Holiday House Tour on Nov. 22. Six town and country houses were decorated inside and out for Christmas.

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

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

► On Dec. 9, Telling Tales Festival of Hamilton, a literacy festival for children, presented cheques for literacy funding to Rotary Summer Literacy Camp, Hamilton Literacy Council, and Early Literacy Hamilton's "Read to Your Baby" program. For more, see tellingtales.org.
PHOTO PROVIDED.

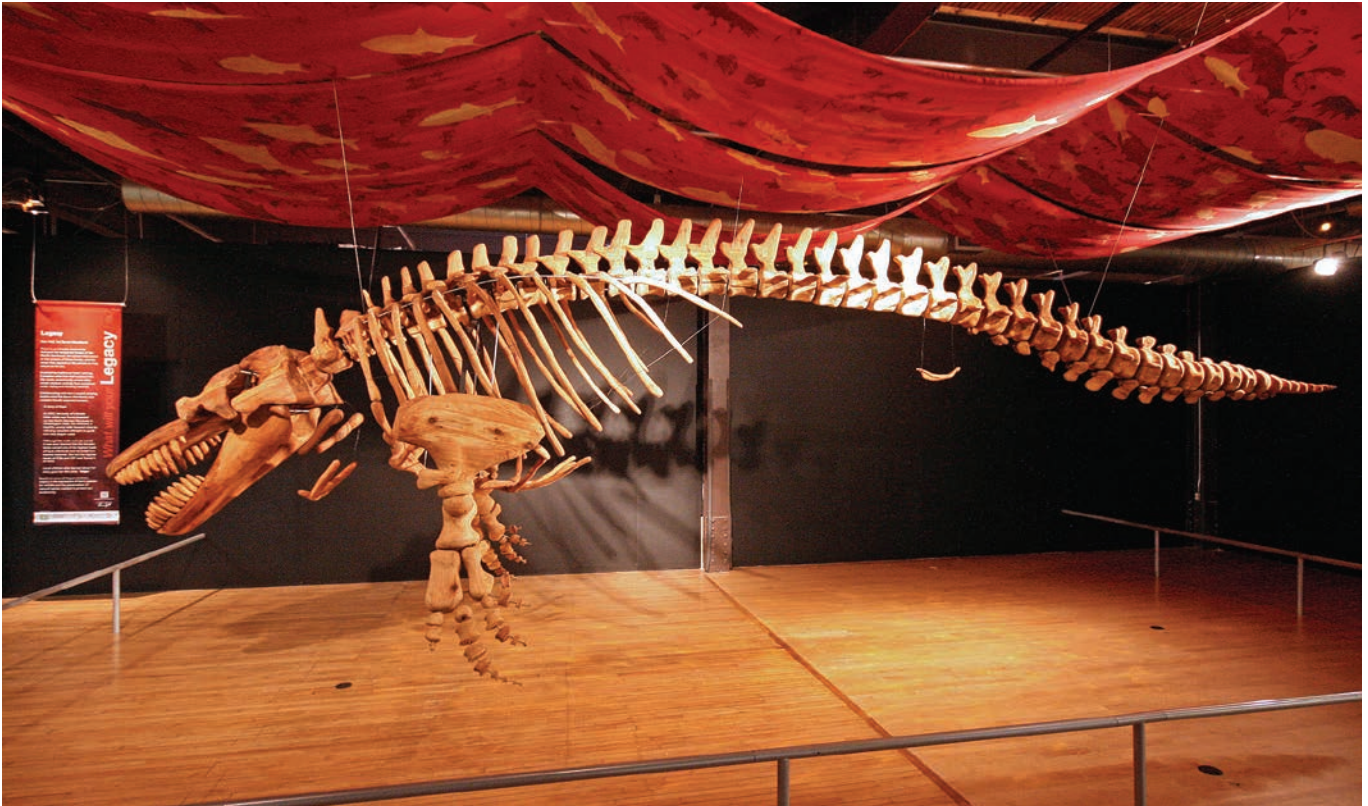


◄ Wastewise of Georgetown held a Christmas Open House on Dec. 13 that was well attended.

► Velodrome members & qualified cyclist members of the public enjoyed the track on Jan. 27 in Milton at the Mattamy National Cycling Centre, an official venue for the 2015 Pan American Games. During the event, it will be called the Cisco Milton Pan Am/Parapan Am Velodrome.



Death, Art, Ecology



“Legacy” is the name of Ken Hall’s artistic response to a female killer whale whose poisoned body was found on the shore of Washington State. Her body had one of the most toxic loads of chemicals, PCBs and DDT, ever found in a marine mammal. The sculpture is intended to provoke thought about our fragile ecosystems.

The life-sized whale skeleton was carved by Hall entirely out of reclaimed cedar from used siding and decking. “Legacy” will be displayed until March 16 at Alder Street Recreation Centre in Orangeville. It will then go on tour at museums and galleries across the country. PHOTO BY KEN HALL.



Conservation Authorities Steward Forests

Two conservation authorities near the Niagara Escarpment have received Forest Stewardship Council certification from Eastern Ontario Model Forest. Grey Sauble and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authorities were recognized for following world-class forest management practices. The certification program supports environmentally appropriate management of forests around the world. The Forest Certification Program extends across southern Ontario and includes private forest owners, community forests and urban forests, and totals more than 75,000 hectares. In the above provided photo, Grey Sauble Conservation celebrate certification.

International Forum on the Escarpment

By Graham Draper

Photos of Wisconsin's Niagara Escarpment by Eric Fowle

May 8–10, the 2015 Sources of Knowledge Forum, titled *"The Great Arc: Life on the (L)Edge,"* will take place in Tobermory. Its goal is to build bridges to other communities which, like the Bruce Peninsula, lie on the rim of the Michigan Basin.

The Niagara Escarpment, often referred to as the "Great Arc," is a prominent geologic feature that extends visibly from western New York State, through southern Ontario, Manitoulin Island and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, before descending southward through the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin and the Eastern Highlands just past the Horicon Marsh basin.

Communities situated on the Great Arc, while different in many ways, have in common this special underlying geological feature, sometimes submerged or buried, but very evident in areas such as the "mirror imaged" Door and Bruce Peninsulas. This year's forum intends to explore those commonalities and differences of these two prominent Great Lakes peninsulas.

For example, we all share a dolostone bedrock chemistry and where the Escarpment's rim is exposed, the soils are thin and rocky. The cliffs of the Escarpment, however, face west in the Door, and east in the Bruce. Thanks also to this common bedrock source, the soils support a similar biodiversity of flora and fauna, although it is fair to say that The Bruce is quite a bit more "wild" than the heavily worked farm fields or tourism-developed lands of the Door.

Both economies depend to some degree on tourism, they both have offshore islands and tour boat operations, are home to retirees and artists, and have stronger urban centres, Sturgeon Bay and Owen Sound, near their base for major supplies. Both contain rich archeological and cultural histories, have First Nation communities, struggle with groundwater contamination and wind turbine issues, as well as offering a vast array of hiking trails and parks. The notable John Muir, famous founder of the Sierra Club, lived for a time at the base of both peninsulas! [Ed. note: See our article on Muir's time at Meaford, in this issue.]

The Door Peninsula is more heavily populated and economically developed than the Bruce. In a sense, the Door may represent one version of a desired future for the Bruce, as this Canadian region seeks to address challenges in developing economically. Conversely, residents of the Door might envy the state of preservation that exists in the Bruce, and seek to learn from it.

The 2015 Forum will provide opportunities to examine these connections and future collaborative possibilities, such as the potential for seeking a UNESCO Geo-Park designation. Forum planners are working with Eric Fowle of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, co-founder of the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) and Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership board member, in preparing for this event, and we invite local elected officials, resource professionals, students and interested residents to make the trek as well.

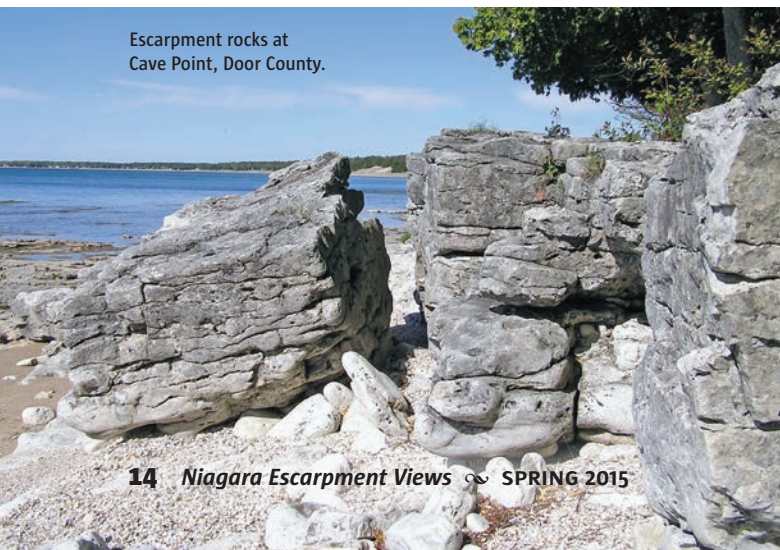
This year's Forum will include field trips along the Escarpment, a Friday evening film festival with Dr. Stephen Scharper, a renowned Canadian author, professor at the University of Toronto, and scholar of religion and the environment, and a Saturday evening social and a Saturday dinner with this year's keynote speaker Dr. Joanne Kluessendorf, Director of the Weis Earth Science Museum in Menasha, and also a NERN Steering Committee member.

For more information about the forum and registration see sourcesofknowledge.ca.

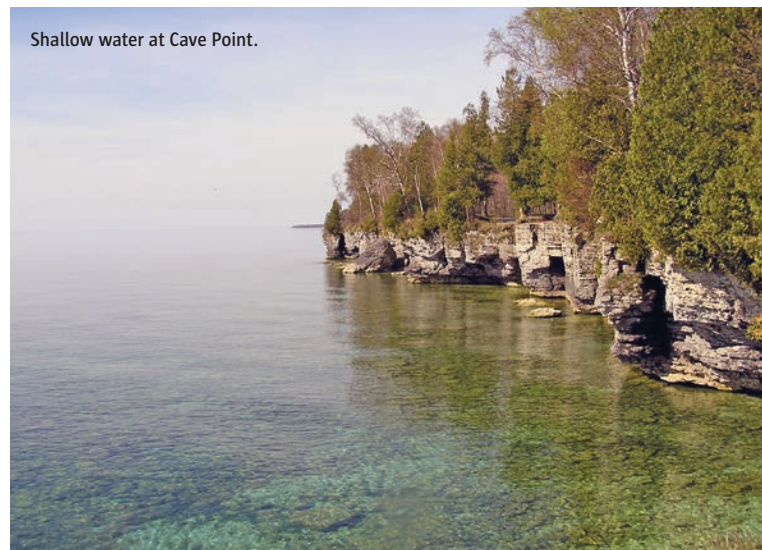
Eagle Bluff at Peninsula State Park.



Escarpment rocks at Cave Point, Door County.



Shallow water at Cave Point.





Mylar and Loreta's 30 Years

Mylar and Loreta's of Singhampton has been serving happy customers for more than 30 years. Occupying a charming old building with a history going back to the 1850s, the restaurant has an intriguing legend behind its name. The cuisine, however, is what people want today. Roasted pork is their house specialty, and prime rib is available Saturday and Sunday nights, but they know how to prepare an excellent vegetable plate, cooked to perfection, not underdone or overdone to mush. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



Author Thanks NEV Readers

Linda Thorn has a new cover to her book inspired by Margaret Marshall Saunders' *Beautiful Joe*. She writes "I was delighted to see *Niagara Escarpment Views* mention my new rhyming book of the endearing dog story in your last Spring issue. I am grateful to your readers for purchasing my book as I now can make another substantial donation to the dog's Society on their behalf." To order, go to beautifuljoepoembook.com.

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The Red Door Opens

Red Door Gallery is open at 127 Mill St. in Georgetown. Established by a Trillium grant to renovate a disused building that forms part of the downtown Royal Canadian Legion Branch, Red Door hosts juried exhibitions open to local artists, solo and group shows. The space is also available for hire for arts and social events, meetings, classes and performances.

"The Red Door is a gallery, a performance space and new downtown venue for art shows, classes, business meetings and social events," says Beatrice Sharkey, executive director of Halton Hills Cultural Round Table. "It's a vibrant new addition to downtown Georgetown, which is undergoing quite a renaissance."

Red Door's spring program features a juried show open to local artists, solo shows by two renowned local artists, as well as a group show and performance.

March 12 is the opening of "NATURAL WORLD," a show of 25 oil paintings by artist Shelley Newman. Newman's large oil-on-canvas paintings depict the landscapes of cottage country: lakes, treelines, and rocks of the Canadian shield. Newman

paints "*en plein air*" (making oil studies in the landscape itself) and her realistic style transports you to Doe Lake, the Madawaska River, Algonquin Park and British Columbia.

"I hope to evoke an emotional stirring of serenity and stillness in the viewer, as though they have been transported to my original vista," says Newman. "I use the forces of nature; light, shadow, and wind, are my palette. Rock, river, forest and field are my characters; they tell the story of journey and exploration in these places of tranquility and fulfillment." The show continues through March 29, and prices range from \$200 – \$5,500.

Born in Windsor in 1959, Shelley Newman studied commercial art at George Brown College and fine arts at studios and schools in Toronto, including OCAD. She worked professionally in advertising and design, and in recent years has focussed exclusively on oil painting. She paints and teaches in her Georgetown studio, and is a member of the Colour and Form Society. Her paintings are enjoyed in collections across Canada.

For more information, see reddoorgallery.ca and Facebook.

Paintings By Shelley Newman



The Sheltering Rock



Madawaska River



Garment of Snow

Leave the Wild in the Wild: Don't Dig It!

By Judy Larkin

At the back of our five-acre property, in a secluded clearing in the woods, is a stand of the most majestic showy lady slippers, queen of the wild orchid family. We used to take folks back to photograph and share our excitement when they were blooming. We stopped when the stand of “slippers” across the road from the greenhouse disappeared overnight.

Earthbound Touring Gardens and Greenhouses is our family business located in “downtown Red Bay on the Beautiful Bruce Peninsula.” We started up about 10 years ago as growers and retailers of herbs, perennials and lilies. Right from the start we were determined to run our business with respect for the environment. We had a healthy respect for the land and the creatures we share it with (ok — so we would like to train the deer to graze elsewhere!) Our goal

has always been to strive to maintain a balanced eco system on our land and keep our eco footprint as light as possible.

We are blessed to live on one of the most intriguing natural habitats in Canada. The Bruce Peninsula is best known to wild flower lovers for the numerous varieties of wild orchids found here.

“Our little piece of paradise is home to some 44 species of orchids, many of which are found only here and cannot survive in any other area,” says owner Brenda Sutherland. “Believe us when we say that if a certain species could be propagated and survive in the average garden, the industry would have them widely available by now!”

With the growing popularity of gardening with native plants (a GOOD thing), we’ve

noticed an alarming increase in “plant poaching” (a BAD thing!). We can’t tell how many times we’ve carried plants to a customer’s car only to find roadside “harvested” rare orchids and native species in the trunk. Not only does roadside robbery affect the

of birds, insects, butterflies and animals that rely on this area.

Our “DON’T DIG IT” awareness program is a response to the devastation of natural habitat we are witnessing on the Bruce Peninsula in particular — and throughout the province. With friends Tom Ashman and Dee Cherry at Rural Rootz Gardens, we have designed a logo and sticker to remind people to leave the wild in the wild and buy their native plants from reputable growers. We hope that these stickers will spread the message that digging wild flowers is NOT an environmentally sustainable practice and that preserving our natural habitats is crucial to the survival of many endangered species.

To learn more about our DON’T DIG IT program, contact us at earthboundgardens@gmail.com and see earthboundgardens.com for more information about the program and our garden centre. **NEV**



survival rate of the various species on the peninsula, it also impacts the natural habitat requirements for many species



▲ The orchid Rose Pogonia is one of several varieties that grow wild on the Bruce Peninsula. PHOTO PROVIDED.



▲ Showing astonishing variety, Nodding Ladies Tresses is another wild orchid found on the Bruce. PHOTO PROVIDED.

A photograph of a forest scene. In the background, a large, dark, craggy rock formation is visible. The foreground and middle ground are filled with dense foliage, including evergreen trees and deciduous trees with green and yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The sky is visible through the canopy of the trees.

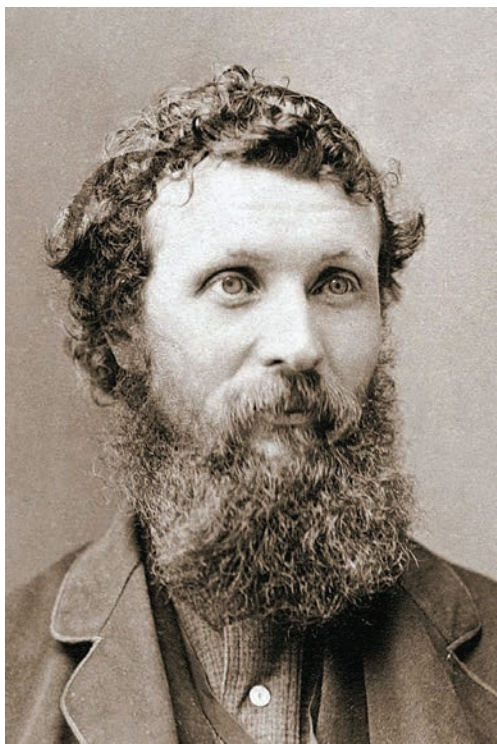
John Muir's
**Meaford
Connection**



By Ken Haigh ■ Photographed by Mike Davis except where noted

IN 1998, THE PUBLICATION OF FIVE LETTERS FOUND IN THE MEAFORD MUSEUM caused quite a stir. The letters were addressed to members of the Trout family, who had once owned a local sawmill. What made the letters exciting was that their author was the famed American conservationist, John Muir. People knew Muir had a Meaford connection, but beyond that, much was speculation. The rediscovery of the letters led to an outburst of Muir-centred activity and research, and to one lasting legacy: Trout Hollow Trail, a 15-km loop following the banks of the Bighead River, visiting the place where Muir lived and worked during his two-year sojourn in Canada. ►

▲ Walk Trout Hollow Trail from Beautiful Joe Park in Meaford along the north bank of Bighead River.



▲ Photo of John Muir by Carleton Watkins, circa 1875. University of the Pacific digital collections, courtesy Wikipedia.



▲ Trout Hollow Trail commemorates John Muir's time in Meaford.

Muir was only 26 when he left the United States for Canada on March 1, 1864. He had no idea what he was going to do with his life. Before his departure, he had been studying at the University of Wisconsin, but had run out of money before finishing his degree. Most biographers assume that Muir, a pacifist, left the States to avoid being drafted into the Union Army during the Civil War. Muir's younger brother, Dan, had already skipped over the border and urged Muir to follow his example. In a letter written to his friend Jeanne Carr, Muir speculated about his future: he might study medicine, he might return to his ancestral home in Scotland, he might "invent useful machinery" or he might study nature like his hero, the South American explorer Alexander von Humboldt. What he did not want to do was to return to the family farm in Wisconsin where his sternly religious father had worked him like a slave. Fame as an author and environmentalist,

as the founder of the Sierra Club, and as the father of the American national parks system all lay in the distant future.

Rare Calypso Orchid

Muir spent the first few months in Canada roaming on foot, collecting botanical specimens. He visited Niagara Falls, spent a sleepless night in a clearing north of Lake Erie surrounded by wolves, and was even mistaken for a deserter from the British Army and arrested. Somewhere in Holland Marsh, he discovered a rare Calypso orchid, and wrote to a former college professor about the experience. That letter, printed in the Boston Recorder, became his first published work.

Eventually, as spring passed into summer and winter drew on, Muir joined his brother in Meaford, where Dan had found a job working for William Trout and his partner Charles Jay in a saw mill producing broom and rake handles. The mill was located just upstream from

the town in Trout Hollow. The Muir brothers lived a bachelor existence in a small cabin close to the mill, which they shared with Trout, Jay, and William Trout's younger brother, Peter. William, at 30, was the oldest of the crew. Later, in a family history, William wrote that the little cabin became a university in the wilderness, where the elder Muir led far-reaching discussions on topics like philosophy, religion, and natural history. The boys were frequently joined by William Trout's sisters, Harriet and Mary. One of the recently discovered letters hinted at a romantic attachment between "Hattie" and Muir. In the spring of 1865, the partners offered Muir a contract to produce 12,000 rakes and 30,000 broom handles, giving him a free hand to re-organize the production process. Their confidence was not misplaced, for Muir, who had a talent for mechanical things, soon had the mill turning out rake and broom handles at twice the original rate.

What had Muir thought of Canada? Letters to his sister are lighthearted. "We all live happily together," he wrote, referring to his new circle as "our family." On his days off, he roamed the Niagara Escarpment seeking new botanical specimens. He wasn't always pleased with what he saw. The Civil War had raised the price for Canadian grain, and settlers were busy clearing land as fast as they could to cash in on the bonanza. "So many acres chopped is their motto," he wrote to Jeanne Carr, "so they grub away amid the magnificent forest trees, black as demons." The felled trees were not used, just burned. The activity was so intense that smoke blackened the sky above Meaford for a whole month in 1865.

The Civil War came to an end, and Dan returned home, but John lingered. His work at the mill was progressing well, and he was expecting a good return. But then on the night of February 21, 1866, disaster struck. The mill caught fire,

Muir spent the first few months in Canada roaming on foot, collecting botanical specimens. He visited Niagara Falls, spent a sleepless night in a clearing north of Lake Erie surrounded by wolves, and was even mistaken for a deserter from the British Army.

and all of his work, including the unsold tool handles, went up in smoke. Uninsured, the partners had no way to pay Muir for his work. Muir decided to return to the United States, accepting an IOU in lieu of payment. Years later, his fortunes restored, William Trout was able to repay his debt to Muir. The letters in the Meaford Museum show that Muir never bore a grudge towards Trout and

Jay, and relations remained quite cordial. In fact, it's safe to say that the time spent in Canada did the young Muir a lot of good. He escaped his father's tyranny, had an opportunity to socialize with a group of amiable people his own age—perhaps even fall in love—and was given the responsibility of running an industrial operation, which must have helped his self-confidence no end.



▲ A rare Calypso orchid, first noticed by John Muir. This was photographed in Bruce Peninsula National Park by Matt MacGillivray. Used with permission.

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Following John Muir's footsteps...

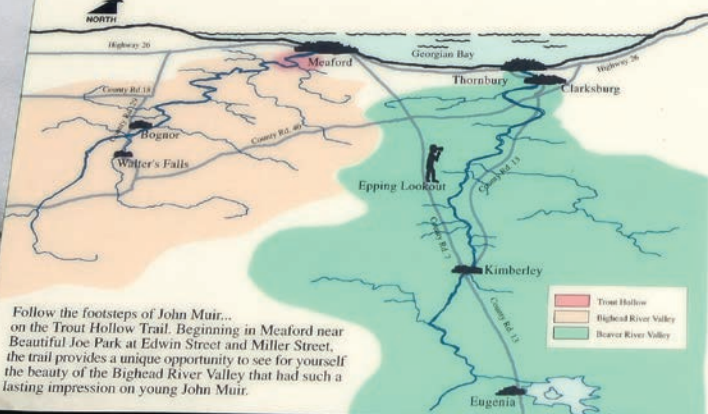


We live in a retired and romantic hollow. Our tall, tall, forest trees are now alive and the mingled ocean of blossom and leaves, wave and curl, and rise in rounded swells further and further away. Freshness and beauty are everywhere—flowers are born every hour—living sunlight is poured over all, and every thing and creature is glad—our world is indeed a beautiful one.
John Muir, 1865

John Muir wrote these words from Trout Hollow on May 23, 1865. At age 27, the founder of the worldwide conservation movement lived and worked with the Trout family at their sawmill on the Bighead River near Meaford Ontario. During his time in Trout Hollow, Muir also pursued his passion for "botanizing", wandering about the area, climbing around the escarpment, wading in bogs, collecting and cataloguing his plants. Although Muir left Trout Hollow after a fire destroyed the mill in February 1866, he continued to write to his friends in Meaford even after becoming a well known conservationist in later years.



Viewed from high up on the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, the ancient valleys of the Bighead and Beaver Rivers tilt toward Georgian Bay. In Muir's day, the shoulders of these valleys were covered with a blanket of magnificent forests, and the bottom lands were sprinkled with ferns and mosses. It was a botanical heaven for the young John Muir. Today, the patchwork of pioneer-cleared farms and settlements reflect the hand of man over the ensuing years. Yet, hidden in these valleys, along protected trails, there are glimpses of that once virgin land explored by Muir.



Follow the footsteps of John Muir... on the Trout Hollow Trail. Beginning in Meaford near Beautiful Joe Park at Edwin Street and Miller Street, the trail provides a unique opportunity to see for yourself the beauty of the Bighead River Valley that had such a lasting impression on young John Muir.

Calypso borealis orchid

Common names: Calypso, Northern Calypso, Fairy-slipper, Venus, Slipper and Haler of the North

Flower: a single flower with three sepals and three petals. All the sepals and two petals are narrow, pointed and twisted, pale purplish-pink in colour. The remaining petal forms into a large lower lip (labellum) that is characteristic of orchids, yellow to whitish, streaked and spotted with purple and covered with a tuft of golden hair. Flowers early May to June.



"I did find Calypso—but only once, far in the depths of the very wildest of the Canadian dark woods, near those high, cold, moss-covered swamps where most of the peninsular streams of Canada West take their rise... after descending a hillside covered with huge half-dead hemlocks, I crossed an ice cold stream, and espied two specimens of Calypso... I never saw a plant so full of life; so perfectly spiritual... I sat down beside them and wept for joy."

John Muir, 1866

Funding and information courtesy The Canadian Friends of John Muir, Meaford

◀ An interpretive sign at Epping Lookout, developed by The Canadian Friends of John Muir, provides highlights of Muir's explorations of the Niagara Escarpment.



▲ A plaque honours John Muir at the Epping Lookout onto Beaver Valley.

Trout Hollow Trail

Today, if you come to Meaford you will find that the town Muir knew has grown fivefold, but it still retains its small town charm. Trout Hollow has reverted back to the forest, but if you wish to retrace Muir's footsteps, park your car at Beautiful Joe Park and follow the Trout Hollow Trail along the north bank of the Bighead River. After a few km, you will reach Trout Hollow. The mill and cabin are gone, but you can still trace the path of the millrace through the undergrowth. Pause for a moment. Maybe the spirit of John Muir will whisper in your ear: "Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt." **NEV**

Ken Haigh author of *Under the Holy Lake: A Memoir of Eastern Bhutan*, previously wrote "Meaford's Beautiful Joe Park: A Place for Joe" for Winter 2013-14.



▲ The Epping-John Muir Lookout on County Rd. 7 in Grey County is a picnic area owned by Grey Sauble Conservation Authority with a vast view of Beaver Valley.



▲ John Muir's brief residence in the area has made him a "man of Meaford."

John Muir on Nature

Man must be made conscious of his origin as a child of Nature.

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.

None of Nature's landscapes are ugly so long as they are wild.

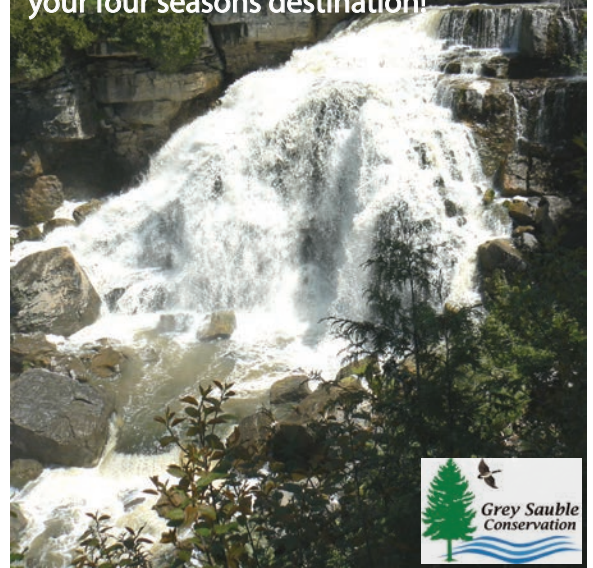
Only by going alone in silence, without baggage, can one truly get into the heart of the wilderness.

When one is alone at night in the depths of these woods, the stillness is at once awful and sublime. Every leaf seems to speak.

These quotations and many more by Muir, are at the Sierra Club's site sierraclub.org.

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Milton & District Horticultural Society's
2014 Garden Tour of 11 properties
included this beauty with extensive
gardens that continue behind the house.



TOWN GARDEN TOURS:

Best of the Best

By Gloria Hildebrandt ■ Photographed by Mike Davis except where noted

MANY COMMUNITIES HAVE THEM. They are a wonderful way to celebrate the warmer seasons. Last year we enjoyed some of the gardens of three towns, through Carnegie Garden Tour of Dundas, Georgetown Horticultural Society Garden Tour, and Milton & District Horticultural Society 2014 Garden Tour. ►

Gardeners know just how much work is needed to get a place ready to show. It is astonishing, therefore, to see the neatness, tidiness and beauty of all the gardens on these tours. Sometimes there's been a lack of rain or irrigation. Sometimes plants are not in the absolute best bloom, as they were last week or may be next week. Sometimes there has been a pruning mishap. Gardeners know. They understand. They accept. They have been there.

Yet not all of us have had our gardens be a stop on a public tour by paying visitors, who point to things, ask boring or difficult questions, or photograph good ideas to use in their own gardens, if only they had the time/

energy/money. Some of us can't imagine having our gardens under such scrutiny.

So those who do, are hard-working, talented and brave. It is their sweat and dedication that make these tours possible. Some tours support charities. Some support horticultural societies. All are signs of the gardeners' generosity. All are either inspirational or depressingly impossible. And garden lovers look forward to each tour.

These are some of our favourite photos from these tours. Examine them for flaws, plunder them for great ideas. Plan to go on a tour in your area. If your community is having a garden tour not mentioned here, please let us know!



▲ June is when peonies and clematis burst out in beauty. At the back of this Georgetown garden, this impressive pergola perfectly supports two lush clematis plants. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT



◀ The inviting white seating area adds glamour to this Georgetown back yard. The expanse of lawn is dramatically framed by a rich curving border of evergreens, colourful shrubs and flowers planted on a berm for better viewing.



(Top left) When is hardscaping a garden? When it's a sliver of a space in the shade beside a heritage worker's cottage in downtown Dundas. A mirror, a bench, a fountain, some ferns in hanging baskets, and this challenging space becomes a place to linger in.



(Top right) This property, nestled on a gentle slope of the Niagara Escarpment near Milton, has a great view of Lake Ontario. The back yard is inviting with sunny and shady outdoor living spaces by the pool.

(Middle right) The Niagara Escarpment rises verdantly beyond this downtown Dundas house. The no-mow garden in front is lovely with year-round interest from pockets of colourful shrubs.



(Bottom right) A rural Georgetown gardener makes the most of a large space that perfectly frames an old farmhouse. Charming birdhouses are everywhere in this garden.

(Bottom left) This is only the lily pond part of a large, beautiful and varied garden in rural Milton.

Continued on page 46 ►



A man in a green hoodie and blue jeans stands in a forest, looking up at a large, light-colored rock face on the right side of the frame. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees and fallen branches, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. The ground is covered in brown leaves and some green plants.

Bouldering Totally ROCKS

By Chris Mills ■ Photos by Dennis Barnes

THE GANG FROM THE ONTARIO ROCK CLIMBING ACCESS COALITION (OAC) descends the steel staircase that clings to the wall of ancient Escarpment rock in Niagara Glen.

As boulderers, they don't carry ropes, nor carabiners, nor hammers and studs to scar the rock walls or leave a trace of their passage.

Instead they carry climbing shoes with tough sticky rubber soles, climbing mats called crash pads to cushion a fall, a body trained by one of the many climbing gyms in Ontario, and a desire to test their mettle. ►



Aaron Brouwers climbs a boulder in the Niagara Glen as two spotters stand near crash pads on the ground to cushion any falls. The specific route he's taking up the boulder is called Seppuku. It has a difficulty rating of V10 on a scale of from V0 to V16.



▲ Intense concentration shows on the face of Evgenii Kremlev as he works on the boulder problem called Real Kung Fu Massacre, rated V10.

Bouldering has seen exponential growth annually says Ontario Access Coalition co-chair Tony Berlier. Its membership runs more than 800 members since its inception in 2008.

They turn left and follow the trail past climbing areas known as Bizzaro World and Old Country, then descend into Wonderland. If they go a little further west they can pick up the Riverwall to Romper Room or Land of Oz.

The challenging world of bouldering on the Niagara Escarpment finds its nexus here in Niagara Glen.

"Niagara Glen is often the first place they come when they come out of the climbing gyms," says climbing researcher Garrett Hutson, PhD, associate professor in recreation and leisure studies at Brock University, and OAC portfolio manager. "It's by far the biggest. The Niagara Glen is the premium bouldering area in Ontario, and all the more so because of its location within such a densely populated area as Niagara Falls, especially its proximity to the Greater Toronto Area."

Boulder Problems

Bouldering differs from sport climbing. Instead of a cliff face, it's often a piece of cliff that has broken from the rock face and rests on the ground. It's unique in that many times very few crevices, cracks or hand ledges exist to grasp.

Harnesses, ropes, carabiners and fixed anchors to hammer into crevices are also banned outright within Niagara Glen. But therein lies the challenge.

"It's unique in that in bouldering, the focus is on a few challenging, hard moves often close to the ground," says Hutson. "That way it's safer to try new and difficult moves without falling far, for instance, on a steep overhanging section of rock. Trying to solve and link a sequence of climbing moves is called a boulder problem."

Municipalities, parks commissions, and property owners, either private or

government, don't necessarily approve of anyone climbing their cliffs, often from a safety and litigious aspect.

Instead, the OAC has approached these property owners, like the Niagara Parks Commission (NPC), and negotiated access to climbing through responsible stewardship programs whereby they ensure climbers assume personal responsibility for themselves and for the rock faces.

Niagara Parks Stewardship coordinator Corey Burant agrees. "At one time we looked at banning climbing in the Glen because of the impact on the flora and fauna, and because we didn't really understand it. I wasn't around during the tense times, but now it's very positive. They approached us and now we issue permits, help build trails, and there's a display at the nature centre."

And it's made a difference.

Climbing access across Ontario along the Niagara Escarpment has leapt. In addition to bouldering at Halfway Log Dump on the Tobermory Peninsula, climbers have places like Kelso, Mt. Nemo, Rattlesnake Point, Metcalfe, and Devil's Glen. (See OAC website for Area Access Status.)

Bouldering has seen exponential growth annually says Ontario Access Coalition co-chair Tony Berlier. Its membership runs more than 800 members since its inception in 2008 when about 50 members got together.

"The popularity of climbing has exploded in recent years mostly due to increased access to people in cities at indoor climbing gyms. This translates to more people wanting

Continued on page 42 ►



▲ Not much to hang on to. Umberto Pelloni's fingers grip a ledge on Zozobra route, rated V10.



Rocks take their toll. Injured hands can be the price paid for bouldering.



Not for men only. Kaska Kowalska defies gravity as she powers up BBB, a problem rated V8.





Looking toward Lion's Head Provincial
Nature Reserve across Isthmus Bay, Lion's Head.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS



The rear deck at Kintyre gives a full view of the garden that slopes down to the stream.



KINTYRE

House & Garden

By Gloria Hildebrandt ■ Photos by Mike Davis

KINTYRE IS THE NAME THAT ISABEL AND JOHN CRUISE gave to their Sixth Line property near Limehouse in Halton Hills. The English country-style garden at the front of the house can stop traffic with its lush, year-round beauty. Behind the house the plantings are less formal, wilder and suited to the stream which flows through the property on its way to Silver Creek. ►

At the front of the house, a beautifully furnished sheltered porch gives intimate outdoor living space. At the back, an expansive deck connects to the sloping rear garden. Both spaces bring the indoors out. Inside, the rooms are exquisitely designed and decorated with a generous, confident hand.

It's all the work of Isabel, who owned and ran an interior design business for 20 years. When she and John bought the house and property in 1991, there were no gardens at all.

"We were real neophytes when we got here," Isabel says. "When we came here I got really interested in gardening.



▲ Lavish English country-style plantings screen the front of Kintyre with its corner porch.

The conservatory addition to the house was built in 2000, providing a vast open living space.





▲ Blue and white provides the colour scheme for the interior. Isabel's design brings the gardens indoors.

We toured a lot of gardens in England and I studied books and catalogues in winter. We did all the work ourselves up to 10 years ago." They had help initially designing the garden, and now have help once a week with cutting the grass and doing planting.

In 1999 they began an addition to the original small, two-storey house, building a large conservatory for the kitchen and family room space, with a high ceiling, large white fireplace and plenty of large windows.

Evolution of the Garden

"You couldn't see the stream at all in summer," remembers Isabel. "We wanted a bog garden. It's now contained within a retaining wall.

Now there are plants there that like their feet wet. We keep it natural."

As the house was worked on, the garden evolved. Arbours were added. Isabel settled on a favourite colour scheme for the garden, of pink, blue, yellow and white. She prefers to keep red for Christmas decorating.

"I love flowering shrubs," she adds. "You need to add evergreens for winter colour. We have something blooming right through to October. I love how lush everything is now. I have annuals in pots only — Dragon Wing begonias, with some impatiens at the front for a shot of colour."

Isabel has developed an almost contradictory philosophy from gardening: to

yield control, yet to be decisive.

"One thing I learned that I didn't know before, is that a garden is not static," she says. "It's changing all the time. You have to make it as beautiful as you can, but if something doesn't like it here I get rid of it. Wildlife are a challenge but they were here before we got here so we've all got to live together. We're stewards of the land."

Love What You Do

The rewards of gardening are worth all the effort.

"My attitude to the garden is that I love it," she continues. "By the end of the season, I get exhausted. But after a while I start to miss the green and the birds. I find the garden to be spiritual. It's so magical here.

When I want to reflect, I sit on the bench beside the creek. I give thanks that I'm here."

The winter of 2013–14, which hit Halton Hills particularly hard, did significant damage.

"I was in tears because of the ice storm," Isabel confides, "but the garden is resilient. Everything is so lush this year. The back is a fairyland."

She adds that she likes the garden to look good, and does something every day.

"In humidity I'm out early to water things. I'll deadhead things. If it's a beautiful day I'll be out all day."

If she has a secret for success with a garden, it is simply "to love what you're doing. I think the garden knows it and does well."

If she has a secret for success with a garden, it is simply “to love what you’re doing. I think the garden knows it and does well”





A crisp white arbour at the front of the house makes a formal statement.



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▲ Isabel Cruise designed and created the gardens beginning in 1991. Her 96-year-old father used to love to sit on this front porch.



▲ The blue and white scheme continues with this collection of china and a massive ceramic stove.

▼ From the rear deck, Isabel looks out over the rear gardens and stream.



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▲ Trompe-l'oeil birds on an interior wall are a year-round celebration of spring.



▲ A bench in the low part of the garden near the stream gives a place for quiet relaxation.

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With beautifully manicured nails, Kacey Wilson climbs Bon Fire Rodeo, a V6 route.



Keith McKay has complicated hand holds to tackle Contact, rated V6.

◀ Continued from page 31

to get out in nature and experience climbing on real rock as well. Our membership ranges from three years old to over 70. The majority are 16 to 35. Climbing is one of the few activities that can be done at any age.”

The OAC’s goals are to foster those relationships with landowners and in fact to acquire climbing land themselves, as they’re working toward at Old Baldy in partnership with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority near Kimberley southwest of Collingwood.

“When climbing, our goals are essentially to create a minimal impact on the environment,” says Hutson. “Between the park and the climbing communities,

we’ve agreed that there are just some boulders that should not be climbed on.”

Sensitive Plants

Working with the NPC’s botanist branch in 2010, they conducted a flora and fauna inventory by climbing the rocks, shooting specimens with digital cameras, then handing the information to the botanist below. Thus they established that certain crevices and boulder tops contain life that shouldn’t be disturbed.

“Ancient cedars and other sensitive species are a constant point of discussion in the Ontario climbing community,” says Hutson. “We’re in a constant state of discussing them and identifying them [for protection].”

▼ Easy for some: Kristine Hatfield does the easiest route possible, the V0-rated Warmup.



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The guide to climbing in places like Niagara Glen involves the sacrosanct “Seven Rules of Leave No Trace” (leavenotrace.ca), as well as NPC’s 19 bouldering rules regarding permits, sanctioned activities, maps, fires, safety precautions and a permit for climbing.

“In the past, there wasn’t much of a plan in place to manage people, but the Niagara Parks Commission is now going to the climbing community and marking trails to ensure climbers find where they’re allowed to climb and to steer them away from areas they shouldn’t,” says Hutson. “One of their trail blazes is a triangle, symbolizing a mountaintop.”

To appreciate just how significant Niagara Glen is to the international

climbing community, you can see articles that have appeared in the U.S. climbing magazines like *Rock and Ice*, and *Climbing*, and the Canadian magazine *Gripped*.

“We have a great relationship with the NPC who’ve been really amazing,” says Hutson. “They’ve adopted us as stewards so that instead of restrictions, we have shown them how to do it sustainably.” **NEV**

Chris Mills is a frequent contributor to Niagara Escarpment Views. His last feature was “Co-existing With Coyotes,” Winter 2014–15. Reach him through chrismills.ca.

Dennis Barnes is a landscape and rock climbing photographer based in Hamilton. For more of his work see dennisbarnes.com.



▲ Aaron Brouwers steps onto the Orient Express, a V8 route.

Dave Porter is close to the summit of V7-rated Riverwall.



Escarpment Bouldering

Rock climbing and bouldering opportunities abound on the Niagara Escarpment. These are just some of the exciting prospects gleaned from the Ontario Access Coalition website (niagaraaccesscoalition.com) and Escarpment Fund (escarpmentfund.ca).

Niagara Region

- Niagara Glen — Bouldering permitted with guidelines, like signed waiver and fee available either online or through the Nature Centre at the Glen or the Butterfly Conservatory. Bring photo ID.

Milton Area

- Fraggie Rock — climbing tolerated but don't touch those cedars and pay an entrance fee.
- Kelso — Open with Guidelines. Entrance fee.
- Mt. Nemo — Open with Guidelines. Top-rope ban and no slinging lines to trees, but you'll find traditional and sport climbing with more than 200 routes.
- Rattlesnake Point, Buffalo Crag and Bottle Glass Crag — Open with Guidelines, but this one has more than 235 routes and anywhere from beginner to experience climbing levels. Entrance fee. No slinging trees.

Beaver Valley

- Devil's Glen — Tolerated, but recommended that climbers park on Concession 10 and walk back to the trail that's marked with orange flagging.
- Metcalfe Rock — Open with a couple of commercial climbing operations on site to help out. No camping. Use the new parking lot.
- Old Baldy — Open with Guidelines. A 152-metre drop with lots of views. Permit required and experienced climbers only. Permit fees apply.
- The Swamp — Tolerated, which means climbing is not formally permitted, but informally accepted. Tread lightly.

Bruce Peninsula

- Cape Croker/Indian Ladder — Open with fee (private property).
- Halfway Log Dump — Open with Guidelines. Parking fee.
- Lion's Head — Tolerated as a non-conforming use of the park. Tread lightly. Don't annoy the cottagers.
- White Bluff — Tolerated. Highly sensitive area. Strive for minimum impact and low profile. Do NOT disturb cottagers.



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TOWN GARDEN TOURS:

Best of the Best

◀ Continued from page 27

◀ (Top) Red and pink roses in lush bloom and a pot of pansies love the sun at the front of this Georgetown house.

◀ (Bottom left) Art in the garden, garden as art, come together in the dramatic shady border at the back of this Dundas yard.

▼ (Bottom right) Our own gardening columnist Sean James, of Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco-consulting, created this lavish design for the front of this new Milton house.



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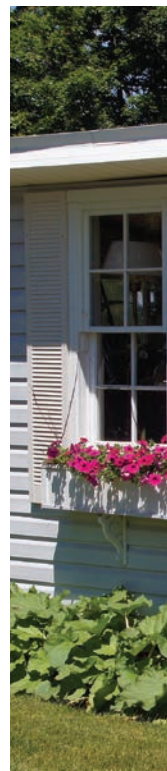
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Sheds We Love

Ah, the lowly garden shed. Not part of the house but a necessary addition to a yard, the place we fling tools and where squirrels nibble a hole and store nuts. Not glamorous, and so small that when anyone bothers to spruce it up even a bit, it can look cuter than anything else on the property. Here, from the tours, are charming sheds we like. **NEW**

► (Top left) This shed in a tiny garden in downtown Dundas has great presence due to the urns on elaborately carved pedestals. What catches the eye even more is the sign for seeds.

► (Top right) On a large rural property near Georgetown, this little shed with a window box and a tiny porch is a delight. Close examination suggests this is a “bunkie,” a separate accommodation for an overnight guest.



▲ At another Dundas town house, a luxurious verandah overlooking a lushly planted pond, a beautiful carriage house, but stealing the show is a sweet storage shed bedecked with window planters.



▲ Pool shed fronted by garden. What could be better than having a lovely shed for your tools and stuff close at hand for gardening, until you need to cool off with a dip in the pool? This Dundas property has it all.

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DESIRABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

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Westfield Heritage Village

PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

IT TAKES A LARGE CREW OF PEOPLE to get Westfield Heritage Village humming, especially during such special events as the annual maple syrup festival. Westfield is a collection of more than 35 historical buildings located in Rockton and managed by Hamilton Conservation Authority. Costumed guides interpret 19th-century rural life of Upper Canada, offering a “living history” experience. Most of these interpreters are trained, experienced volunteers who get as much out of their work as the many visitors. Here are some thoughts from three of the 400 volunteers who are dedicated to Westfield.

The 19th century comes alive at Westfield Heritage Village, where costumed interpreters guide your day and you can ride a wagon pulled by horses. Kathleen Gardiner steps out of the way of Dr. Richard Johnson driving Randy and Johnny.



Why I Volunteer...



Kathleen Gardiner interpreting the innkeeper's wife

Favourite aspect:

"Re-enacting or recreating history for visitors, cooking and baking historic recipes on period stoves and open hearths, and working alongside friends who share a love of history."

Most interesting experience:

"This is difficult to narrow down to just one thing. However, the best thing that happened recently was being a part of the Christmas Table. The last few years, the Christmas Table has been a dinner theatre loosely based on Downton Abbey. It was so rewarding and such fun, and so worth the extra work and time involved. I feel very fortunate to be asked to be a part of it. I can't say enough good things about it."

What I get:

"When I first started volunteering, I loved the idea of re-enacting and pretending to live in a different time period. My family's interest in history and visiting historic sites developed my interest and knowledge of history. Not long after my start at Westfield, my volunteer work in the school programming allowed me to get the experience I needed teaching children and youth, to apply to teachers' college. I have become a high school (usually science) supply teacher. When I was younger I was fairly shy about speaking publicly or even to small groups. Volunteering at Westfield as an interpreter has helped me with this a great deal, making it possible for me to feel comfortable speaking in front of a classroom of students. My teaching experience, in turn, has helped to make me a better interpreter."



Patrick Dolson as a French Canadian voyageur of the Northwest Trading Company

Favourite aspect:

"My favourite part of being a volunteer is being able to get away from modern things, like having fun interacting with guests while dressing up in historical outfits and acting like I'm from the past."

Most interesting experience:

"The most interesting thing that has happened to me so far is the chance to participate in things that I dreamed of doing as a child, like playing in the woods and dressing up in amazing costumes. Also participating in amazing events such as the Civil War re-enactments and ice cream festivals."

What I get:

"The reason I volunteer is not just about the costumes and old-fashioned settings but being able to put a smile on a child's face and make them excited and interested about history so that when they go home they will tell their families and their friends at school everything they have learned about history, all because of me and my fellow volunteers."

Why I Volunteer...



Mike Goodman at the evaporator

Favourite aspect:

"While I am working on the maintenance side, I have exposure to some very talented and dedicated trade and crafts folks who can teach me quite a bit about the construction processes of the times, and the tools and equipment utilized in the period. Then we have the opportunity to actually put that knowledge to work. As well, in dealing with the folks who visit and generally have questions, I can now share those processes and the application of those skills in a very real and tangible way."

Most interesting experience:

"I participated in the reconstruction of an 1800-period building literally from a pile of pieces. The original structure had been dismantled, catalogued, moved and stored for a period of time. When it was possible, it was rebuilt as close as was practical to its original structure, considering the age of the material and today's construction codes."

"It has been a very unique and special opportunity to bring, in a literal sense, something very old back to the point where you can participate in breathing new life, a new vitality into it, to be enjoyed by possibly generations yet to come!"

What I get:

"As a volunteer, even as I get older, I have the opportunity to learn and apply that learning in a very practical way, and share that with others."



Interpreting the past: Patrick Dolson shows how native North Americans, 500 years ago, may have heated rocks to boil off the water in maple sap to make syrup.



Dr. Richard Johnson with Johnny.

With his team of Clydesdale-Hackney horse crosses, Dr. Richard Johnson is not a volunteer at Westfield. For the past decade, he has been hired by Hamilton Conservation Authority to be at the maple syrup festival, the Ice Cream Festival and a Christmas festivity. He hires another team of horses for the busiest time of day so that each team has to work no more than four hours.

"It is interesting to bring part of the past to life in the village that most people never get to experience today," says Johnson, "to travel around the village in some semblance of the manner they would have experienced in the mid 1800s."

The big, gentle horses are enormously popular.

"I love the opportunity to interact with the passengers and answer questions about the village or the times they reflect and of course questions about the horses. The public are welcome to take pictures and pet the horses while we are loading and unloading passengers."



WESTFIELD HERITAGE VILLAGE

How Can I Volunteer?

Volunteers have a wide range of ages, cultural backgrounds, abilities, interests and skills. They work at historic interpretation, carpentry, maintenance, making period clothing, manage collections, fundraising, gardening, outreach, food services and more. Training, mentoring and professional development are provided.

For more information, contact Lisa Hunter, program co-ordinator: Lisa.Hunter@conservationhamilton.ca or 519.621.8851.

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Protecting Endangered Species

By Bob Barnett

Photos courtesy Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy except where noted

As spring arrives, the birds return and we begin to think again how fragile their habitat is here in southern Ontario. With 300 acres of land being developed every day and only 4.3 per cent protected as a park or a nature reserve, it is increasingly likely that they return to a parking lot, a cottage or a road, not their usual nesting place.

I've just finished reading Jane Goodall's *Hope for Animals and their World, How Endangered Species are being Rescued from the Brink* which recounts how

is to protect the habitat of these species before they become more rare. EBC has been opportunistic. We acquire parcels of land which become available with the greatest amount of habitat while watching for rare species to ensure we are also protecting the greatest number of tracked species for the lowest cost. Often we work with the landowner who becomes a land donor to secure 100 acres of habitat for only \$5,000 or only \$50 per acre.

Saving Species

Our latest figures show that, on the 11,000 acres EBC has conserved so far, we are protecting six **Endangered** species on 11 reserves

rare species as well. Overall there are 65 such notable species found on 110 of our reserves. Recently, I found there were 42 NHIC-tracked species recorded on the 15 properties we have in the process of acquisition during 2015. Sometimes these species are hard to find on a one-day visit. Sometimes the birds or snakes just don't appear that day. Our progress certainly shows that we are targeting the right areas. It helps that NHIC has an inventory of species found on each square km.

Minor Miracles

It takes a bit of luck to see them too. We found a Queensnake on our Alvar Bay Reserve. Fortunately an expert from the

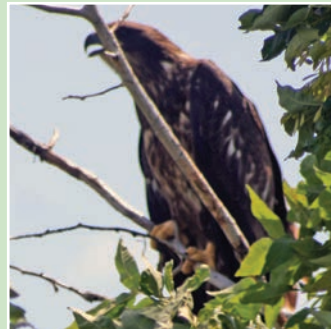
has a snail which was known only from fossils, but was found alive in the crevices of this alvar.

Will you join us as we work to conserve more habitat and more species? Visit our website to find our reserves and see a list of our rare species. Donating is easy. At only \$50 an acre, **or only five per cent of its value**, we accept land donations and offer you the best land protection bargain available. It costs us only about \$300 a year to steward a property including taxes, signage, mileage and a bit of fencing. We appreciate stewards helping us keep an eye out for species not yet on our list. You can help us understand our impact on the biodiversity of Ontario.

► (Left) From the Fedy property on Bruce Peninsula, the rare Dwarf Iris.

► (Centre) At Freer Point on Manitoulin Island, a fledgling Bald Eagle, a species of Special Concern.

► (Right) Blanding's Turtle, a Threatened Species, also at Freer Point. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS



31 species have been saved by the heroic work of biologists. They have used captive breeding in rescue centres to bring back the species from as few as half a dozen individuals to hundreds and sometimes thousands.

Here in Ontario, the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) in Peterborough tracks about 700 "rare" plants and about 75 "rare" birds including Endangered, Threatened, of Special Concern or "just" Rare. Southern Ontario is a hotbed of rare species. They occur right here, not just on Pacific Islands or in the Amazon.

Our effort at Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC)

including the Little Brown Bat, Queensnake, Gatteringer's Agilinis (a foxglove) and our increasingly rare Butternut tree. Ten **threatened** species are protected on 24 of our reserves. Some you may know are the Red-headed Woodpecker, Massasauga Rattlesnake, Lakeside Daisy, Hill's Thistle, Chimney Swift, Canada Warbler, Bobolink and Blanding's Turtle (which was seen and photographed by Gloria and Mike of *Niagara Escarpment Views*).

We have 18 species of **Special Concern** on 33 reserves, another 13 of provincial rarity (less than 100 occurrences), and 18 regionally

U.S. Nature Conservancy was with us that day who could positively identify it. Until we found one, everyone thought the Queensnake had been extirpated from the northern Bruce Peninsula. Despite creating safe habitat for them to nest, we never saw another on that reserve. However, the National Park staff have now found several more, proving it wasn't extirpated after all. A minor miracle, just like the discoveries Jane Goodall documents of a half dozen species that had been lost for decades or like the Coelacanth which was known only from a 65-million-year-old fossil. Our Bailey reserve on Manitoulin

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

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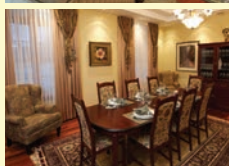


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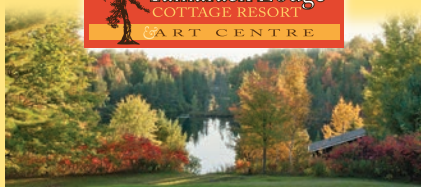
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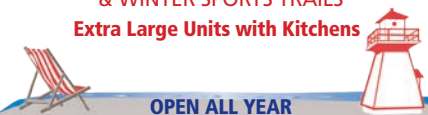
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COMING EVENTS

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The Pancake House,
Weekends, all year;
daily March 16–20;
8:30 am & 2:00 pm

Fluffy buttermilk pancakes, our secret recipe perfected in mom's kitchen &

certified delicious by the kids, is now hot on the griddle for your enjoyment in the Pancake House. Come hungry & cozy up in our country lodge for a belly-filling breakfast. White Meadows Farms, St. Catharines whitemeadowsfarms.com 1-844-42-MAPLE; 905.682.0642

FEB. 14 – MARCH 29



The Sugar Bush Adventure,
Weekends, daily
March 16 – 20;
9:30 am – 3:30 pm
From the first drip into the Natives' cooking bowl, to the modern sap lines, discover the fabulous

world of Canadian maple syrup. Re-enactors entertain all ages on this self-guided interactive walk through the sugar bush. White Meadows Farms, St. Catharines whitemeadowsfarms.com 1-844-42-MAPLE; 905.682.0642

FEB. 28, MARCH 1, 7, 8, 14 – 22, 28, 29,
APRIL 4, 5

Maple Syrup Time,
Mountsberg Conservation Area, Campbellville conservationhalton.ca 905.854.2276

MARCH 8, 15, 18, 19, 22, 29; APRIL 3 & 5
Maple Syrup Festival,
Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton westfieldheritage.ca

MARCH 22
Ecofilm: Watermark, (Water Source Protection),
Presented by Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER)
John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown. haltonhills.ca/theatre 905.877.3700



MARCH 28 & 29
Old-Tyme Maple Syrup Festival,
10 am – 4 pm
\$8/adult, \$3/child, preschoolers free.
Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area, 4 km north of Paisley

Saugeen Valley Conservation Foundation www.svca.on.ca



APRIL 4 – OCT. 12
Discover Maple Sugar Bush Tour,
Weekends, daily
July & August;
11:00 am & 2:00 pm

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APRIL 9
Ecofilm: Bottled Life—Nestlé's Business with Water, (Water Security)
Presented by Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER)
John Elliott Theatre, Georgetown. haltonhills.ca/theatre 905.877.3700

MAY 2 & 3
Halton EcoFestival,
Glen Abbey Community Centre, Oakville oakvillepeacecentre.org/haltonecofest

MAY 8 – 10
"The Great Arc: Life on the (L)Edge,"
Sources of Knowledge Forum sourcesofknowledge.ca

MAY 12
Ecofilm: A Sense of Wonder: Rachel Carson & Legacy (Pesticide)
Presented by Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER)
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JUNE 6 & 7
Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek,
June 6: 10 am – 10 pm;
June 7: 10 am – 4:30 pm
Battlefield Park, 77 King St. W., Stoney Creek battlefieldhouse.ca 905.662.8458

Our government's protection efforts have grown the Greenbelt to **nearly 2 million acres**, including the Oak Ridges Moraine and Niagara Escarpment



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Indira Naidoo-Harris, MPP
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We asked our Escarpment-area MPPs for their views on the proposed legislation called the Protection of Public Participation Act. This deals with strategic lawsuits against public participation, also known as SLAPP suits. Here are some statements, from MPPs of all three parties, in alphabetical order by last name:

As one of the earliest and most vehement supporters of the Protection of Public Participation Act, I am very pleased that the Ontario Government is proceeding with this legislative initiative. SLAPP suits have been used to discourage citizens from participating in the process of opposing projects and developments to which they object and this form of intimidation should not be available to those who wish to silence legitimate objectors.
— Hon. Jim Bradley MPP,
St. Catharines, Ontario Liberal Party

The proposed legislation Protection of Public Participation Act focuses on protecting citizens against strategic litigation. I am very supportive of this proposed act because, once passed, it will allow courts to quickly identify and deal with strategic lawsuits, minimizing the emotional and financial strain on defendants, as well as the waste of court resources. Our government's intention is to strike a balance to help ensure abusive litigation is stopped but legitimate actions can continue. What we're proposing is a "made in Ontario" approach to address the issue of strategic lawsuits. By protecting citizens against strategic litigation, our government

is protecting the right of Ontario residents to speak out on matters that are important to them.
— Hon. Kevin Flynn MPP, Oakville,
Ontario Liberal Party

As the Progressive Conservative critic for the Attorney General I participated in the debate of Bill 52, the Protection of Public Participation Act last fall. Anti-SLAPP (Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation) legislation is an important tool to protect people's ability to participate in public debate. People should have the freedom to speak on an issue that may affect their community without worrying that they may be prosecuted for it. Intimidation through frivolous lawsuits is not only an injustice to the individual who is being sued but also to the principle of free speech. I believe Bill 52 strikes the right balance between dealing with potential SLAPP lawsuits, and prosecuting legitimate libel cases in a timely way through an expedited court system. If passed, Bill 52 will create a fair system that will protect both a person's ability to comment on matters in the public interest while still allowing individuals to defend themselves against slanderous comments.
— Sylvia Jones MPP, Dufferin-Caledon,
Ontario Progressive Conservative Party

I will be supporting the passage of Bill 52, the Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014, and the Ontario NDP will be working to improve the effectiveness of the bill during committee proceedings. I wholeheartedly agree that SLAPPs silence public discussion and undermine public participation on issues that are important to the public interest. SLAPPs are used to intimidate local residents or activists engaged in a fight with a developer or corporation that can afford expensive lawyers. I share your concern with the impact of these lawsuits on freedom of expression and on the accountability vital to a robust democracy. The Ontario NDP has twice in recent years introduced anti-SLAPP legislation. Quebec has already adopted an anti-SLAPP law and about half of the US states have similar laws on the books. Ontario must follow suit to protect its public sphere. I will continue to advocate for legislation that protects against SLAPPs and secures the rights of individuals to engage in legal processes that seek to defend the public interest.
— Paul Miller MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek, Ontario New Democratic Party

POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Listed by riding

Do you have a question for our provincial or federal representatives?

Send them to Gloria,
editor@NEViews.ca or
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Landscape Maintenance

By Sean James

With proper care, a landscape can last for hundreds of years. The subtle pruning that helps a garden endure is the best start to keeping a landscape in good shape.

Shearing shrubs, with the exception of hedges and topiary, should generally be avoided since most shrubs cannot tolerate it. They will slowly die and need expensive replacement, reducing property value. When shearing hedges, make sure the bottom is wider than the top so that light can reach the whole side of the plant, keeping it thick at the bottom. Don't feel you need to let the hedge get bigger every year. Once it reaches the desired height and shape, keep it there.

To avoid expensive replanting, choose plants that will mature to the right size in the first place. Be patient. They'll grow into their natural size and form. Even so, every few years, plantings may need to be rejuvenated. The common practice of cutting shrubs back by half is not advisable since that will weaken them each time it's done. The better option takes a bit of courage.

Coppicing shrubs, cutting them all the way to the ground, as often as every three to five years will keep them fresh and hardy. Coppicing seems scary but works well. The list of shrubs that can be cut to the ground includes shrub roses, Spirea, Ninebark, Mock Orange, Blue Mist Spirea and Barberry. It's best done in early spring and the plants will begin to regrow in about six weeks. It can be carried out on most deciduous, multi-stem shrubs that are not variegated (with multiple colours, usually white and green). Fall pruning



▲ Instead of removing overgrown shrubs, or cutting them back by half, cutting multi-stem deciduous shrubs right to the ground will rejuvenate them beautifully. PHOTO BY SEAN JAMES

retards vigour and spring pruning promotes vigour.

The alternative to coppicing overgrown shrubs is to prune them up and over the landscape. Arch-pruning can create a magical area where visitors walk beneath flowering shrubs, almost being embraced by the garden. Excellent candidates include Forsythia, Black Lace Elder, Rose of Sharon and many Viburnums. Fighting a plant's nature is always difficult and eventually ends in deformation and death.

Dividing Perennials

Next steps to consider are perennial interaction and aging. Gardening is best thought of as refereeing — keeping the thugs from taking over the garden and making sure the little, delicate plants get their share of sunlight. If a perennial is overwhelming its neighbour, it can be lifted and divided with the extra plants being used elsewhere or given away. Perennials don't like to be moved but they DO like to be divided. Don't move them without dividing them. Sometimes plants will show

you they're ready for division. Signs that it's time include floppiness, dying out in the centre, unusual susceptibility to disease and reduced flowering. Some perennials, such as Peony and Gas Plant, will grow for centuries without needing division. Species such as Siberian Iris (and most others) benefit from division every five years or so.

Pruning and Mulching

Spending money on proper tree pruning keeps trees alive and healthy, letting light and wind through the canopy. This benefits the garden as well, letting rain and light through to the ground. Since proper pruning removes weak branches, it ensures that the tree will shelter the house safely for decades/centuries. The tree will continue to add value to the property, from \$5,000 to \$40,000.

As plants grow, live and fade, consider replacing them with native plants that attract birds, so that the birds will control pests. Another way to fend off pests and diseases is to keep plants healthy. Mulch

every year with composted pine mulch, or even just compost. Don't heap mulch against the trunks of trees! Slope it down to where the trunk meets the soil. This puts depleted nutrients back into the soil and improves soil structure. Mulching leaves into the garden is another way to recycle nutrients and far better and easier than bagging things up for the Town to take away. Let Mother Nature do what she does best.

Many folks think gardening is a lot of work. Remember, gardening is an escape from our crazy world, not a burden. The actual act of working the soil causes the release of happy hormones such as serotonin. Sitting in the corner of the garden, peacefully enjoying the fruits, both figuratively and literally, is one of the best ways to nurture the spirit. Think on this as your properly maintained garden lives and grows from day to day, year to year... generation to generation. **NEV**

Sean James can be reached through www.fernridgelandscaping.com.

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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!



AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

Manitoulin Streams Improvement Association and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) have each won a Minister's Award for Environmental Excellence for protecting the Great Lakes' environment. Manitoulin Streams **rehabilitates aquatic ecosystems that feed into Lake Huron.**

With the help of local companies, including Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco-consulting, CVC rebuilt a parking lot to **treat stormwater before it enters Lake Ontario.** Fern Ridge is owned by Sean James, who writes a regular column for this magazine.

OAKVILLE REDUCES AND RECYCLES

Oakville accomplished a Silver 3Rcertified status for **waste reduction and diversion** at its Town Hall. This is the first municipal building and one of only 16 buildings in Ontario to be honoured this way.

HALTON HILLS PRESERVES GIFT OF LAND

A donation of more than five acres of land by David Harding to the Town of Halton Hills, will be **protected as an extension of Hungry Hollow ravine.** The land borders Silver Creek and is environmentally significant.

Wild columbine on
the Bruce Peninsula.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

MAPLE MUSTARD

PLANKED SALMON

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp (30 mL) Maple Syrup
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) Fresh Lemon juice
- 1/4 tsp (2 mL) Salt; Pepper to taste
- 4 skin-on Salmon Fillets (5 oz./150 g each)
- 1 Cedar Plank, prepared according to package instructions

METHOD:

1. In a medium baking dish, stir together maple syrup, mustard, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Add fish; brush marinade over both sides of fish. Cover and refrigerate for 30 min.

2. Preheat lightly oiled barbecue to high. Turn off burner on 1 side (or turn single burner to lowest setting). Discard marinade. Place fish on plank, skin side down; place plank on unlit side of barbecue. Close lid & grill until fish is cooked through, about 15 min. Place plank on serving tray; garnish with lemon wedges and dill.



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