

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