

Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

SUMMER 2015 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)

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AWARD WINNER MIKE DAVIS

NEW COLUMN:
THE GIFT OF LAND

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Warton's Spirit Rock
Cataract on the Credit

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Turn up the heat on your next party with a little inspiration from south of the border. Try avocado on the grill for an outdoor twist on typical guacamole. Then layer in a little colour and spice and everything nice. Gather the crew, turn up the tunes, hang the piñata and let the good times roll.



Grilled Guacamole

Prep Time: 10 min. Total Time: 15 min.
Makes approximately 1¾ cups (425 mL)

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup Red Onions, finely diced (60 mL)
- 1/4 tsp. Salt (1 mL)
- 2 tbsp. Lime Juice (30 mL)
- 1 tsp. *Sensations by Compliments* Roasted Garlic Seasoning Paste (5 mL)
- 2 Avocados, ripe but firm, peeled, pitted and quartered
- 1/3 cup *Compliments* SUNSET Campari™ Tomatoes, finely diced (75 mL)
- 2 tbsps. *Compliments* Cilantro, fresh, finely chopped (30 mL)
- 1/2 tsp. Hot Sauce (2 mL)

Directions

1. Preheat barbecue to high. In a bowl, mix together onion, salt, lime juice and roasted garlic paste. Set aside.
2. Grill avocado 1 - 2 minutes per side. Remove from barbecue, roughly chop and add to red onion mixture. Mix in tomatoes, cilantro and hot sauce. Serve with tortilla chips.



Find these ingredients and more at any of these locations:

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Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



Summer 2015
(June, July, August)

ON THE COVER:
Black-Crowned Night Herons at Hamilton harbour by Mike Davis

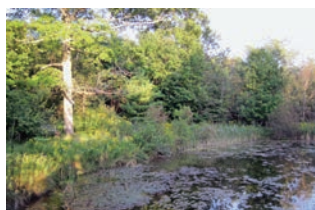
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Archie Braga
Financial Advisor
(519) 853-4694
315 Queen St. E., Unit #2
Acton, ON L7J 1R1
archie.braga@edwardjones.com

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

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

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

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

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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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June 20 Fords in the Park 400/500 cars
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July 17-19 All Colour Tractor Show

**August 15-16 Heavy Horse and
Olde Tyme Fair Show 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Constant Growth

These words are swimming around in my mind: If you're not moving forward, you're actually falling behind.

I'm increasingly aware of the need to keep physically active, especially doing the things that are difficult and hurt a bit. I was once climbing a long, steep stairway up the Escarpment at Queenston Heights when my left knee suddenly "gave way." It felt as if I had no knee when I put weight on it, and I fell to the ground. Other people helped me up, to my great embarrassment. Now I try to climb a hill on my daily walk, to get and keep my leg muscles strong.

Business strength can show forward movement or strength, in terms of growth, whether in revenue, customers, or service, which in our case includes editorial content. This issue's content has grown in a few ways. We have a new department, a new column and in order to improve our service, our first reader survey.

New Content

There are so many unique and interesting retail shops along the Niagara Escarpment, with so much to offer, that we've started a new department called Purchasing Pleasure, to highlight some of the special products available.

I've also launched a new column to share my challenges with managing a parcel of rural land near the Escarpment. I hope you'll find it interesting or amusing, and not the worst kind of vanity publishing. I would appreciate your advice for dealing with my various predicaments.

Reader Survey

Another new item this issue is our first Reader Survey. We think we have a good idea of

the kind of people who enjoy *Niagara Escarpment Views*, from our travels, conversations with people, and your cards, notes and messages, but we want to get some statistical facts about all of you. This is also your opportunity to let us know what you like and what we could improve. We will even make it worth your while to complete the survey! We'll mail a free copy of the next issue to a Canadian address, and if you're a subscriber, we'll extend your subscription by an issue. Or, you could give us the address of someone else in Canada you'd like to see get a free copy. Just give us the address and a copy will get in our next mailing.

This Issue

We have three large main feature articles this summer, touching on areas along the Niagara Escarpment in the north, centre and toward the south.

"Atop Spirit Rock" is Sandra J. Howe's recommendation for exploring a beautiful part of the Bruce Peninsula that is also rich in history and mystery.

"Cataract's Historical Falls" takes you to the gorgeous Forks of the Credit, where a ruin broods beside a little waterfall that once gave great power to the area. Writer Andrew Hind declares that it's one of the Escarpment's best secrets.

"Hamilton's Balancing Act: Nature vs. Industry" recounts the history of an industrial heavyweight and its delicate balance at the edge of the Escarpment, what locals call "the Mountain." Paul Weinberg has researched the city's development and speculates on its future.

Ethics, Excellence, Engagement

Some other words that popped into my head



PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

recently are ethics, excellence and engagement. It's been fashionable for a while for magazines and businesses to have three words that sum them up. After reading Mike's column for this issue, these words came to me as defining what we're about, or at least what we aspire to.

It wouldn't occur to us to be anything but completely ethical, and we've been amazed to learn of people who don't pay their bills, take money without doing what they promised, or otherwise act in unscrupulous ways. It gives other magazines a bad name. Excellence in magazine

journalism and customer service is what we strive for, and we believe we're achieving. Doing this well is one of our competitive advantages. This leads to engagement, in which you, our readers, remain loyal, tell us what you think, and talk to others about the magazine. For more on these concepts, turn the page to Mike's View.

As always, let us know what you think.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!



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

More Online!



Our website contains unique content not seen in the magazine, and gives you the chance to leave comments in response. See www.NEViews.ca



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

The Value of our Readers, a Matter of Trust

By Mike Davis

I'd like to share a little secret with you. We publish this magazine for a living! It is not a hobby, although we very much enjoy putting it together. Our business model primarily relies on advertising revenue, in addition to our often enthusiastic subscribers. We put a lot of effort into creating and distributing our publication. We maintain a high standard of journalism, which builds trust with our audience. We run our business ethically, but we get the impression from some advertisers that some magazines don't or can't follow through on their promises.

We occasionally run into cynicism if they had a bad experience with others. We, however, do what we say we will do. We say we print and distribute 25,000 copies of each issue. We do. We say we give copies to all of our advertisers who wish to distribute. We do. We are true to our word.

Although our advertisers pay us for space, in the end we are really funded by you, our audience. Our advertisers trust us to deliver their message to you, and to make sure our publication is something you, their market, want to experience. Our audience trusts us to continue publishing high-quality, interesting magazine journalism. You enjoy what we

do, some reading every word on every page, ads included. We see first hand, the glint in the eye of people picking up a copy of our magazine to read an interesting story. We call that "jumping down the rabbit hole," as Alice in Wonderland did, and we see it all the time. You are the ones who pick up the magazine from our advertisers, some making special trips just to get a copy, and if you support our advertisers, they see that their ad is working.

Small Entrepreneurs

I enjoy working with small independent entrepreneurs, like us, who comprise most of our advertisers. They see first hand what is going on. We find larger businesses seem to hire specialists to deal with marketing or get attracted to the latest trends. They seem to have computer models, counts per thousand and spreadsheets where they try to compare apples to oranges to get the best bang for the buck. It is prudent to be efficient, but how do you quantify quality? Can you quantify loyalty, where a reader phones the shop owner asking if the magazine has arrived? Yes, that happens with *Niagara Escarpment Views*!

We frequently get told that print editorial on a business or organization has a huge amount of value. They view an independent editorial piece about them as much more trusted by an audience, but at the same time seem to be much more reluctant to support the magazine through advertising. Yet print can't survive without support.

Making the final sale online seems to be more and more the

way to do business, but getting to that point, promoting a business online can be more difficult and can be expensive to do. Building the trust of a product/service and getting customers to the point where they will buy can be achieved through many different marketing channels including magazines such as ours. Some of our potential advertisers are getting advice to stay away from print, but are they served by other marketing channels?

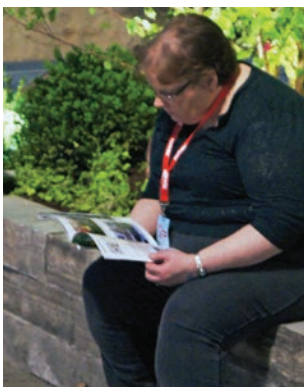
Invest in Quality

A high-quality magazine such as ours tends to be highly valued. It is kept and re-read, passed on to others. Many tell us it stays by the toilet, which we are very happy about! Our audience identifies that our advertisers are investing in quality when they support us, which implies that they, the advertisers, are interested in quality and are worth a visit by our audience.

You help the magazine thrive if you tell our advertisers that this magazine matters; hint: it is best to start at the top. Tell them their support of the magazine, by buying an ad, matters. Ideally spend some time to look over, with the intent to buy, the services/wares offered by our advertisers.

Also, please complete and send in our survey, so we can qualify what we already think we know about our audience.

Mike Davis is co-publisher of, principal photographer and accounts manager for Niagara Escarpment Views. Contact him about advertising at ads@NEViews.ca or 905.877.9665.



◀ Some of the people spotted disappearing "down the rabbit hole" of *Niagara Escarpment Views*. PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS.

Island Foodland

VITAL STATISTICS:

11 Yonge St., Mindemoya,
Manitoulin Island
705.377.6200 (Foodland)
705.377.5411 (Guardian)

Owners:

Mike Bondi, Steven Bondi,
Michelle Hart

Store manager:

Carol Patterson

Opened: 1999

Good for: full-service grocery store. LCBO Agency Store located within the Foodland. Rexall Guardian drugstore. Large Garden Centre during the months of April to Sept. Locally grown or produced products throughout the year. Large fresh meat counter with custom cutting available. Store-made sausage, fresh fish and sea food are just a few of the specialty items in the meat counter.

Philosophy:

Fresh Food and Friendly Neighbours

The Extra Mile:

One of a few large full-service grocery stores that is still family-owned in northern Ontario. Business is conducted with "Family and Home Town" values, supporting the community of Mindemoya and Manitoulin Island. New to Island Foodland will be the "Air Miles" program with the big kick off on March 27, 2015, so the more you shop the more you will save and the more Air Miles you will collect.

Why It's Worth the Visit:

Service is "second to none" with a commitment to fresh at competitive prices.



▲ Local products available year round.

▼ Manitoulin Island products and souvenirs are displayed in a special section in the drugstore.



◀ The one-stop grocery, liquor store and drugstore. PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS.

■ READERS & VIEWERS



I usually pick up my copy of the current edition of NEV in a store. Since I enjoy it so much, because of the interesting contents and very attractive layouts, I keep saying I must subscribe to have it mailed direct but I haven't up to now. I finally missed the fall edition. That was it. Although I was lucky to find the fall edition in a second location I might not be so lucky next time. I know the other two subscriptions will be enjoyed also. I do have one point to make. I, like another recent reader who turned up in your mailbox, would like to have each article printed in its entirety rather than having them continue later in the edition. Keep up the good work. You must be very proud of your product and its success.

**Catherine Ward,
Georgetown**

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



I do so enjoy your magazine and would hate to miss an issue! Keep up the good work — it is truly a treasure.
Helen Buckton, Georgetown

Thanks for many years of wonderful articles and notices about our precious escarpment. I look forward to every issue & read it from cover to cover, then pass it on to my Whole Village community. Kudos to Mike for his exceptional photography as well. Here's my subscription for 2 more years.

Brenda Dolling, Caledon

As you can see I copied rather than cut the page! We so enjoyed the Spring copy of Views that we have to ensure regular delivery. May we also have a copy of your 2008 magazine? Payment pending. In my seventies I was privileged to hike The Bruce Trail twice. We took 9 & 18 months respectively, taking our time, staying overnight, and enjoying local functions when available. It was a most significant part of my whole life.

Beryl Jones, Oakville

RE: Summer 2014

I was wondering how I could get a copy of Summer 2014 edition of NEV. Great Magazine!!! Love your Magazine. I was given a copy at the Friday, February 13, 2015 Heritage Day Workshop in Guelph last week and really enjoyed it.

Gary Luck, Guelph



Well we have just received our copy of the Spring magazine with our home featured. We are just thrilled with the article — gosh — it sounds like I know what I am doing!! Ha! You captured so much of our conversation — you are obviously a very good listener. I really enjoyed that summer morning you and Mike came to visit — it is always so lovely to share the garden with fellow gardeners. Please thank Mike for us also — the photos he takes are amazing and I didn't realize you would include interior shots but am so pleased you did and they are wonderful — thank you Mike!! We really enjoy your magazine — it is so beautifully illustrated with photos and content — congratulations to all involved! And many thanks again Gloria for wanting to include our home in your magazine!

Isabel and John Cruise, Limehouse



A few of us received copies of the bouldering publication and it looks great! Thank you so much for your hard work and for producing such a positive article. We think it's a great example of parks and people working together and I really appreciated the multiple voices present in the article. **We did notice an error for the Ontario Access Coalition contact information in the final section.**

The website for the OAC is www.ontarioaccesscoalition.com.

Garrett Hutson, St. Catharines



▲ Steve and Diane Baksa, Oakville, with the magazine on vacation in Cuba.



Re “Minimalist Contemporary in Jordan:” I was dismayed at the praise this house on ANSI land received. Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) are “areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features which the MNR has identified as having values important for natural heritage protection, scientific study, or education.” It is contrary to the Provincial Policy Statement to build on them. The “Van Vliet minimalist house from the road” photo shows a large swath of mowed grass that would bear no resemblance to the original natural state. The house, with its 14 foot ceilings and large expanses of glass is an environmentally poor design that allows hot air to escape and cold air to enter. The expanse of windows is a danger to flying birds. The house is not “planted in the landscape;” the ANSI land has been altered for ever to accommodate the egos of the architect and the owners. “Yet for Audrey it’s all about her wall of windows”. “We provided floor to ceiling windows that also wrap around the corners...” If architects demonstrated more responsibility to the environment there would be less need for “green energy.”

S. MacMahon, Owen Sound

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LOCAL PRODUCTS: Delicious local food products are easy to find in communities all along the Niagara Escarpment. This Isle Away honey is "from the fields and forests of Manitoulin Island." Island Foodland, Mindemoya 705 377 6200



LOCAL & LUSCIOUS

TANTALIZINGLY WRAPPED: a B.A.T. or bacon, avocado and tomato sandwich, with delicious local bread, toasted if you please. Just one of several daily sandwich and soup choices on the blackboard, to take out or eat in. Also available, fresh Ontario produce, frozen meals and made-from-scratch, in-store soups like borscht, plus Ontario sausage, local jams, pickles, canned fruit...and much more. The Market Shoppe, 7 Toronto St. South, Markdale 519 986 4144 themarketshoppe.com



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Telling the Story of the Niagara Escarpment

Once upon a time there was a ridge of ancient stone that travelled through New York State and into Ontario from Niagara to Tobermory. Very sneakily it dove underwater only to reappear on Manitoulin Island. This wily Escarpment took another dip and came up again for air in Wisconsin.

In the days of early human settlement in the region, it was thought to be the petrified rib of a giant, so it was known as “The Giant’s Rib.” Over the years it has had many other names: the Rock, the Ledge, the Great Arc... but we know it today as the Niagara Escarpment.

Today’s Escarpment is a magical place. Between the shale and sandstone at its base to the harder dolostone of its cap lies a magnificent fossil record of our planet’s earliest life, spanning roughly 30 million years! Along its length you will find alvars, tufas, wetlands, caves, two distinct forest zones, waterfalls, ravines, and an amazing array of wildlife. There are orchids which grow nowhere else in the world. There are Eastern White Cedars more than 1300 years old: the oldest living creatures in Eastern North America!

The cultural history of our province is also intrinsically entwined with this backbone of the land; its waterfalls having drawn the first settlers to build their mills and surrounding communities.

Real public awareness for protection of this natural gem began in earnest in the early 1960s with the establishment of The Bruce Trail: Canada’s oldest and longest marked footpath. In 1973, the Niagara Escarpment became partially protected by a provincial plan, and in 1990 the Niagara to Tobermory section was declared by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve. This designation recognized the efforts which had been made to manage human activities



GIANT’S RIB ESCARPMENT EDUCATION NETWORK

along this natural wonder, as well as our efforts to protect it.

It was this “Biosphere” designation which inspired local communities to create an education/visitor centre as an “Urban Gateway to the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve” known as The Giant’s Rib Discovery Centre. The project could not, however, overcome certain challenges, and was shelved. (That, my friends, is a whole other story. You can read that sad story on our website.)

The Phoenix

Yet, like the Phoenix, The Giant’s Rib Discovery Centre rose from the ashes thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers, educators and the Hamilton Conservation Authority. In 2006, a small space was allocated in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area’s trail centre, and volunteers began creating displays to “tell the story of the Niagara Escarpment.” Over the next few years, public education programs were developed to help draw people to the Centre: monthly featured artist and lecture series, newsletter, and a guided hiking program.

This is where the plotline takes a new twist! The organization looked at our mission of “Telling the Story” from a new perspective. Rather than putting all efforts into bringing people to one location to learn about the Escarpment, we thought we would take the story to them. What better way to teach people about the Escarpment than by telling that story while they are actually on it?

And to better connect the Escarpment to the name “Giant’s Rib” (folks thought we were a rib joint... fries with that?), we rebranded as the Giant’s Rib Escarpment Education Network (GREEN).

Today, we are proud to announce, in the Biosphere’s 25th year, the grand re-opening of the Discovery Centre in Dundas on Saturday June 6, 2015.

Improvements include: A new website, all new interpretive panels will line the walls, new digital display screen, and new display cases will allow visitors to see our fossil collections seven days a week.

Now visitors can take home a souvenir: Stoneware by Escarpment Pottery Studios in Acton is available. Fossil crafts for kids, waterfalls posters and a new line of GREEN clothing are also for sale.

Also new will be visiting fossil exhibits from the

Royal Ontario Museum! Working with the ROM, we are beginning to provide Ontario Grade 4 classrooms with fossil samples to accompany our Rocks and Minerals Teacher’s Unit!

Travelling Centre

In addition, we can also announce a new travelling display: a mini Discovery Centre meant to travel to different locations to reach even more people. We hope to establish more centres along the Rib, and we are beginning this year with improvements to Escarpment displays at the Cabot Head Lighthouse!

So, now, when it comes to story time, let us tell you the story of the Niagara Escarpment.

If you would like to support GREEN centres and programs, simply like us on Facebook, visit our website, sign up for our newsletter, or share our video. We gladly accept donations through Canada Helps links online, and we are always looking for volunteers. Better yet, come see us in person!

Chris Hamilton
President, GREEN
www.giantsrib.ca



▲ Trace fossil on loan from Royal Ontario Museum. PHOTO PROVIDED.

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ At the Canadian International Autoshow in February, Rosemary and Rob McLeese, founder of Cobble Beach Concours d'Elegance at Kemble, stand near a sleek 1959 Cadillac Cyclone.



▲ Actor Jonny Harris, who performs as Constable George Crabtree in *Murdoch Mysteries*, made an appearance at the Art and the Automobile exhibit at the Canadian Autoshow, near a pre-Model T 1903 Ford that was used in the television series.



▲ At the Autoshow, Toyota displayed the i-Road concept car, an electric three-wheeler meant for urban driving. For more on the Autoshow, see www.NEViews.ca.

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

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Brandon Randell, a chef at Epicurean Fine Dining in Niagara-on-the-Lake, competed as one of 10 semi-finalists at the S. Pellegrino Young Chef '15 world competition on Feb. 9 in Toronto. His dish was called Rabbit in an Autumn Field. Photo provided.



▲ Spotted taking an early March break in Cuba from CTV's *The Social* and *Foodieandthebeast.org*, were Jess Allen and Simon Gadke.

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■ EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



◀ On Feb. 21 Municipality of Grey Highlands received a Trillium grant for a new cultural cable channel. Presenting the cheque, far right, is MPP Bill Walker, to recipients from left, Colleen Boer, Jim Harrold, Wilda Allen and Kate Russell. PHOTO BY ERIC LUNDSTED.



▲ Concerned Residents Coalition drew a large crowd to a meeting on Feb. 26 in Eden Mills. The group opposes the proposed Hidden Quarry near Rockwood. PHOTO PROVIDED.



► During March break at Crawford Lake Conservation Area in Milton, daily sweet water demonstrations showed the way native people boiled off water from maple sap to make syrup.

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

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Niagara Escarpment Views was a sponsor of Canada Blooms in Toronto March 13 to 22, and presented the award for Most Imaginative Garden Design to Shawn Gallagher for the Otium Outdoor Exercise Garden. People enjoyed playing basketball and exploring the exercise circuit through the garden.

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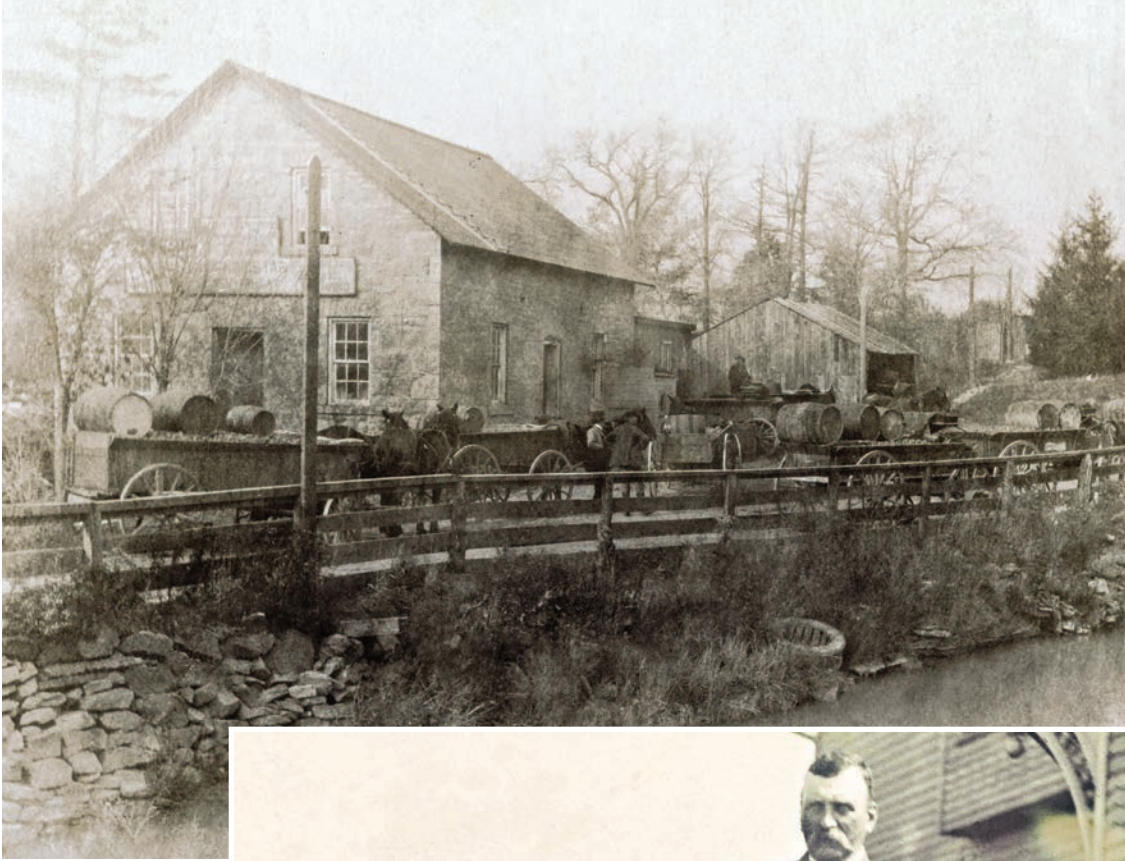
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Morningstar Mill Has Friends

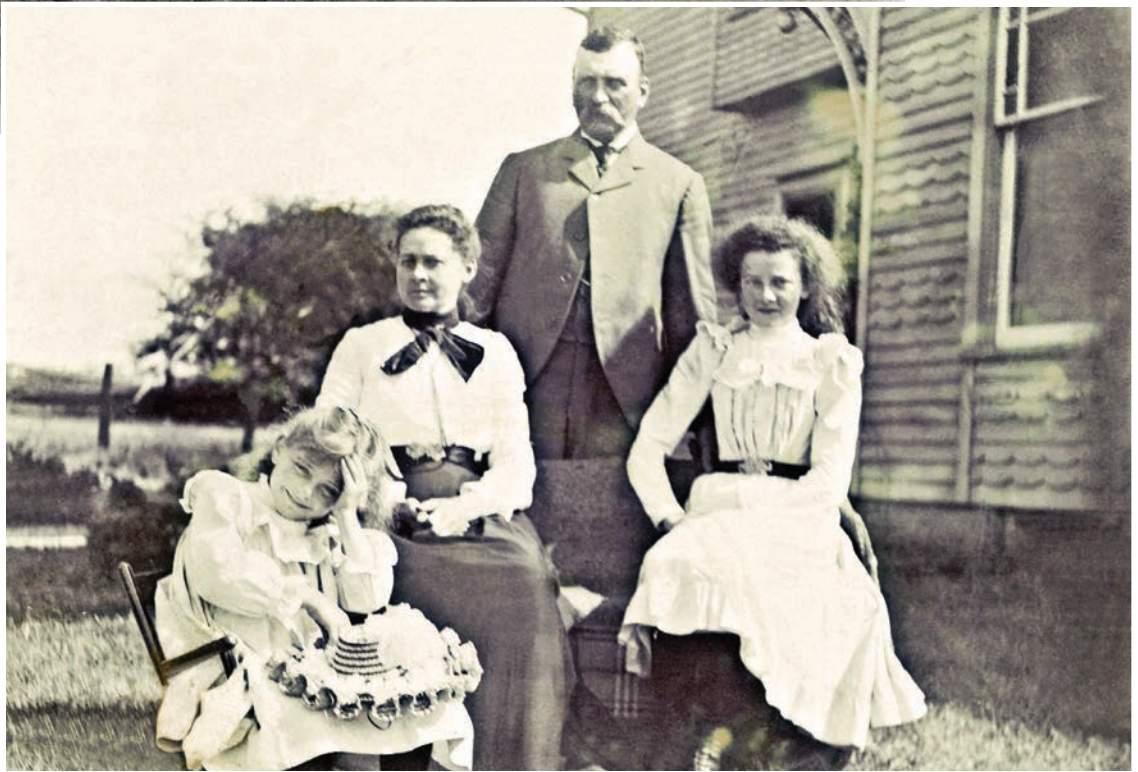
BY CARLA MACKIE ■ PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF ST. CATHARINES

[Editor's note] The Friends of Morningstar Mill at Decew Falls in St. Catharines are proud to share the story of their historical industrial site. It features a working grist mill built in 1872, a turbine shed, a sawmill, a blacksmith and carpentry shop and the home of the Morningstar family. The mill provides a glimpse back in time to when moving water was used to mechanically grind grain into flour. Today, the operation of the mill and the conservation of the buildings and property are thanks to the City of St. Catharines, the Friends and the community. On some days, you can visit the mill and see grain being milled. For information, call 905 688 6050. Here is some history of the mill site.





◀ Farmers waiting for their apples to be pressed into cider, c. 1905.
PHOTO FROM LORNA ROBSON COLLECTION



▶ Emma and Wilson Morningstar with their daughters, Jessie and Nora, c. 1900.
PHOTO FROM LORNA ROBSON COLLECTION

◀ Morningstar Mill is open to the public.

Decew Falls is just as beautiful today as it was over 150 years ago. Mary Kelsey, visiting from Michigan on July 16, 1866, writes that Decew Falls was “one of the most splendid places” she had ever seen, and that the Falls “enraptured” her sight.

Decew Falls is named after John DeCou, an early landowner who settled in the Townships of Thorold and Grantham in about 1788.

During the War of 1812, he served as a lieutenant in the Second Regiment of the Lincoln Militia, and it was to his home that Laura Secord brought news of an impending American attack in June 1813.

After the war, DeCou built a stone grist mill with an overshot waterwheel at Decew Falls. The mill and DeCou’s other businesses prospered and the area became known as Decew Town. The

construction of the first Welland Canal, however, left the mill without an adequate water supply and this prompted DeCou to sell his home and property in 1834. Over the next 30 years, the mill slowly fell into a state of disrepair.

By 1872, Robert Chappell had built a new grist mill at Decew Falls called Mountain Mills, using some of the remaining stone walls of DeCou’s mill. Unlike DeCou’s

mill which had been powered by a waterwheel, Chappell’s mill was powered by a turbine. The turbine is located at the bottom of a 40-foot pit which was blasted out of solid rock beside the falls. A stone dam constructed across Beaverdams Creek formed the mill pond, and an iron pipe directed water from the mill pond to the turbine. The spinning turbine sets the machinery inside the mill in motion.



▲ A pretty place for a summer picnic.

The Morningstars also had a carpentry shop, blacksmith shop and a “barn, where a team of horses, a cow, chickens and pigs were kept.”

Robert Chappell's mill was successful from the start; however, in 1875, the City of St. Catharines began work on their new waterworks and Beaverdams Creek was dammed just above Decew Falls. To prevent damage claims for loss of water supply, Mountain Mills was purchased by the St. Catharines Waterworks Commission. With the completion of the third Welland Canal, a consistent flow of water to the mill was restored, and Mountain Mills was sold to Wilson Morningstar, which accounts for the mill's alternate name today, Morningstar Mill.

Wilson Morningstar operated Mountain Mills from 1883 to 1933. The grist and flour mill is constructed

from locally quarried stone and features a gabled roof with wood shingles. Inside the mill, the wooden floors, beams, grain and flour elevators, and the roller milling equipment date from 1893. The mill features a two-break three-reduction Greey Roller Mill system for making white flour, a grain cleaner, a corn cob sheller, an oat roller, an attrition mill for chopping grain for animal feed, and a traditional millstone which was installed around 1911.

Morningstars' Home

Decew Falls was also home to the Morningstar family. Wilson's granddaughter, Lorna, recounts... “On the 3.6 acres of the property, there was more activity than just that at the

saw mill and grist mill... across the stream where the saw mill stood was an orchard of apples, cherries, pears and peaches, and a large vegetable garden.”

The Morningstars also had a carpentry shop, blacksmith shop and a “barn, where a team of horses, a cow, chickens and pigs were kept.” The simple late-Victorian era house, which features scalloped clapboard siding and ball and spindle gingerbread, was built about 1895.

By 1930, Wilson had gradually shut down his flour milling business. After Wilson died in 1933, Wilson's family continued to produce animal feed occasionally for local farmers until the turbine seized.

Wilson Morningstar and his wife, Emma, occupied

the house throughout their lifetimes. When Wilson died, Wilson's oldest daughter and her family moved back into the house, and her children, Wilson's grandchildren, lived in the house until 1991. Wilson's granddaughter bequeathed the contents of the mill and house to the City of St. Catharines in 1994.

The mill and house are open to the public by appointment or chance. For information on public demonstration milling days, watch the mill's website, stcatharines.ca/morningstarmill or the Morningstar Mill Facebook page. **NEV**

Carla Mackie is the historical services co-ordinator for the City of St. Catharines.

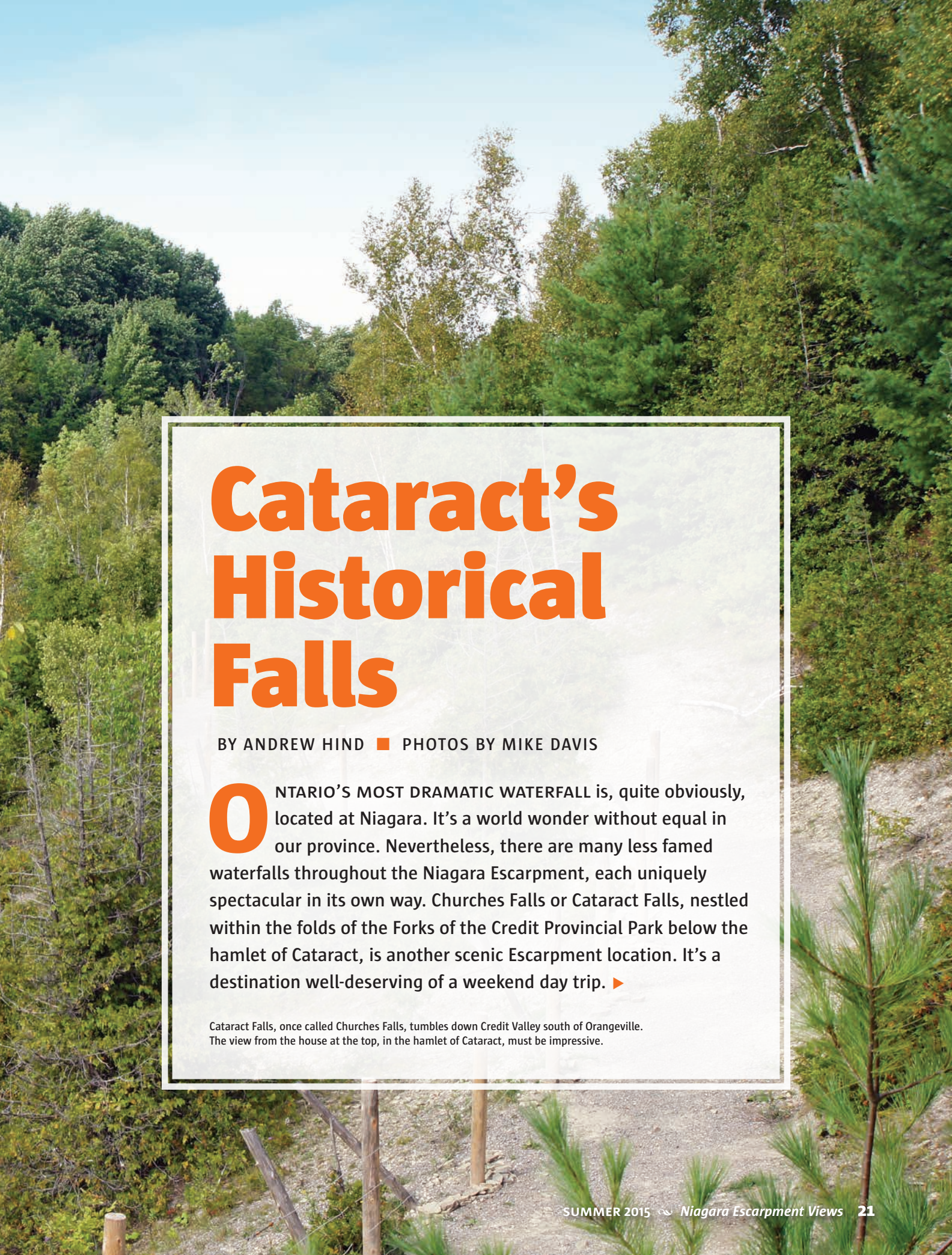


▲ Interior of Morningstar Mill showing choppers and the 1911 millstone. On certain days, grain is milled into flour that is available for purchase.

▼ Interior of Mill showing roller milling equipment and grain elevators, part of the 1893 industrial process.







Cataract's Historical Falls

BY ANDREW HIND ■ PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

ONTARIO'S MOST DRAMATIC WATERFALL is, quite obviously, located at Niagara. It's a world wonder without equal in our province. Nevertheless, there are many less famed waterfalls throughout the Niagara Escarpment, each uniquely spectacular in its own way. Churches Falls or Cataract Falls, nestled within the folds of the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park below the hamlet of Cataract, is another scenic Escarpment location. It's a destination well-deserving of a weekend day trip. ►

Cataract Falls, once called Churches Falls, tumbles down Credit Valley south of Orangeville. The view from the house at the top, in the hamlet of Cataract, must be impressive.





▲ Girls enjoying a summer's day, cross the bridge into the Forks of the Credit Provincial Park above Cataract Falls.

When first viewed by European settlers in the early 19th century, Churches Falls was looked upon with an eye towards profits as much as an appreciation for its natural beauty. In those days, salt was found in the ravine. This was an important find because it was an era when meat was preserved in salt, making it a valuable commodity. Extraction began in 1819 and the semblance of a village began to take shape. A sawmill was built at the lip of the falls, providing lumber to build cabins which housed workers, and farms took hold to supply the hamlet with food. After a few years, however, the salt was played out and as workers moved away the village was abandoned.

It remained abandoned, the lots grown over and cabins sagging with age, until 1858 when Richard Church purchased the entire site, including the falls, for the sum of \$100. He intended to harness the power of the falls to run a grist mill and saw mill, and was so sure of the success of these businesses that he laid out lots

for the town he was sure would develop in the shadows of his mills. Church named streets, which remain unchanged to this day, after his children. To his credit, Church was right. The mills proved profitable and more than a dozen families gravitated toward them, forming a community called Churches Falls.

The greatest boon to the village came in 1879 when the railway arrived and Churches Falls became an important railway junction town. Numerous changes followed. The railway brought jobs and prosperity. It was around this time that Churches Falls was renamed Cataract. Finally, and most important, the arrival of trains also meant that Cataract's greatest resource, sandstone deposits said to be the finest anywhere in the Niagara Escarpment, could for the first time be quarried and used as a building material in Toronto. Much prized for its unique maroon coloration, locally quarried sandstone was used in the construction of a number of prominent Toronto structures, including the Provincial

Parliament Buildings at Queen's Park and Old City Hall.

Church's mill burned in 1881, and the aging industrialist elected not to rebuild. Instead, he sold the property and rights to the Wheeler Bros., who used stone quarried from the foot of the falls to reconstruct the mill, bigger and better than before. Though it has been modified and rebuilt many times, it is the shell of the Wheeler Bros. mill that visitors to Churches Falls see today.

In 1885 a visionary inventor named John Deagle bought the mill and converted it into a hydroelectric generating plant, one of the earliest anywhere in Canada. By 1892 the Cataract Electrical Co. Ltd. was in operation and quickly became the principal supplier of electricity for Caledon and Orangeville. This plant endured until 1953 when Ontario Hydro, which had purchased the operation six years earlier, decided to shut it down. Though in a ruinous state, the shell remains, sitting precariously on the side of the falls, peering over the edge like a great grey gargoyle.

◀ (Above) The graffiti-covered remains of the 1950s-era hydro plant, perched at the side of the falls, can best be seen from the Credit Valley Explorer train that gives leisurely sightseeing trips.

◀ (Below) A large concrete retaining wall above the natural falls, secures the valley edge for the railway that runs above. A corner of the ruined plant is visible among the trees.





◀ View from the train: the bridge crossing Credit Valley where the water overflows the dam, above the natural falls and the former hydro plant.

Experience the Falls

This fascinating history is told through a dozen or so interpretive plaques spread around the location. Take the time to read them; your appreciation for the falls will only be enhanced. An almost eerie feeling comes over you upon learning that you're actually walking over the foundations of cabins erected to house salt miners 200 years ago. History suddenly feels real, almost tangible.

Depending on your mood and how much walking you wish to undertake, you have a choice of ways to access the park and view Churches Falls. The easiest and most popular way is to park at the entrance to Forks of the Credit located in Cataract itself. It's only a few minutes' walk from there, but be mindful of the many No Parking signs dotting the village. Another option is to enter from the gate on McLaren Sideroad, south of Charleston Sideroad. From there, walking on an old rail line that has been made into the Elora-Cataract Trailway, it's about a 15-minute walk. Finally, you can enter from the

entrance to the Forks of the Credit Park off McLaren Road. From here it's a 40-minute walk, though the varied terrain of gentle hills, open fields, mixed woods and tranquil ponds, make the effort worthwhile.

Regardless of the route, you'll be charmed by the pretty falls. The only thing detracting from what is a photographer's delight is a grim concrete retaining wall built along the bank of the river to protect the railway bed from falling into the ravine through erosion. Nevertheless, the power of the falls, the beauty of the ravine and the looming shape of the castle-like ruins make for an unforgettable view. You may be tempted to scramble down the ravine's slopes in order to get closer to the falls and achieve a more dramatic shot. Don't! People have died falling into the ravine trying to do just that.

Sightseeing Train

There's a fourth option for taking in the falls: from a seat aboard the Credit Valley Explorer sightseeing train.

Continued on page 34 ▶

▼ The railway makes a pleasing curve close past the ruin and the falls.







Atop Spirit Rock

BY SANDRA J. HOWE

THE INDIAN PRINCESS STOOD HIGH ON THE CLIFF EDGE overlooking beautiful Colpoy's Bay. Shunned by her own people for loving an enemy chief, she waited for nightfall and leapt to her death on the rocks far below. It is said that when the light is just right you see the profile of her face in the Escarpment edge. So goes the legend of Spirit Rock.

Spirit Rock Conservation Area is a fascinating 87-hectare property just north of Wiarton on the Bruce Peninsula. Noteworthy for its historic ruins, spectacular views, spiral staircase, and trail network, it is a wonderful place for people of all ages to explore. ►

▲ (Above) Ruined remains of The Corran mansion of MP Alexander McNeill are open for imaginative exploration.

◄ (Left) The spiral staircase is an impressive structure that gives easy access to the shore and the top of Spirit Rock.



▲ Above the parking area on Bayview St., Spirit Rock rises above you. From here, an Indian princess is said to have jumped to her death. In the rocks of the Escarpment cliff, her profile is said to be sometimes seen.

If you are fit and game for a little hiking, here is an adventure for you. From Hwy 6 heading north in Wiarton, turn right on William St. at the stoplight and immediately left onto Bayview St. Niagara Escarpment cliffs tower above you on the left and Colpoy's Bay is close on your right. Watch for the white trail blazes. You are now driving on The Bruce Trail, Canada's oldest and longest footpath. Park at the boat ramp and picnic area on the right just before Wiarton's Water Filtration Plant.

Directly above you is Spirit Rock. The crystal clear waters of Colpoy's Bay sparkle beside you. The water looks inviting

for a swim but is chilly even in summer: more likely it will be a quick, refreshing dip. Common mergansers, a lovely diving duck, are often visible on the water here. It is also a popular fishing and boating spot. Signs at the cliff base tell the Spirit Rock legend in detail and explains Niagara Escarpment geology.

This 6-km round-trip hike takes you along the rocky shoreline to the clifftops and ruins through several different ecosystems. Follow The Bruce Trail's white blazes north along the shore.

A wide array of wildflowers grows along the road and shore. The white cedars along the cliff edge are among

Canada's oldest trees. Stunted by the harsh conditions, they grow slowly and were left unharvested by generations of loggers who cleared much of southern Canada's wilderness.

The trail is rugged with talus rock which has tumbled from the Escarpment face over the ages. Several massive boulders lying at the water's edge provide great scrambling opportunities. Feel free to climb but be careful. The views of Colpoy's Bay with cliffs rising on both sides are truly awesome. Enjoy the fresh air and the breeze that moves along the bay. Soon you will see the double white blaze indicating a left turn to the cliff base and climb to the top.

A wide array of wildflowers grows along the road and shore. The white cedars along the cliff edge are among Canada's oldest trees.

Crystal clear waters of Colpoy's Bay
remain chilly even in summer.







▲ “Leaves of three, let them be,” is the saying to help avoid poison ivy, shown here.

◀ Huge boulders, long ago fallen from the Escarpment edge, provide challenging climbs.

Spiral Staircase

The rocks approaching the spiral staircase are often slippery with moisture. An abundance of ferns and mosses covers this area. Herb Robert and wild columbine grow on the cliff face. Insects and even frogs partake of the water which seeps from among the rocks. Climb this historic stairway to enjoy beautiful vistas of the bay and shoreline far below.

You have entered a new kind of forest: birch, maple, beech, and other hardwoods live atop the Escarpment. The forest is more open and drier. Follow the blue blazes straight away from the spiral staircase to reach The Corran ruins. The Bruce Trail turns right here continuing on to the village of Colpoy's Bay and north to Tobermory; it is a long and spectacular walk!

Poison ivy is common atop the Escarpment especially north from Wiarton. Closed shoes, long pants and walking in the centre of the trail all help protect you.

The Corran

This approach to The Corran is especially lovely. As you step out of the forest into the meadow the ruins tower above you. The scent of roses is often strong in the air. This was the grand home of Alexander and Hester McNeill.

Begun in 1881 the 17-room mansion was built of stone quarried on site. It featured a conservatory, luxurious furnishings, a magnificent spiral stairway, and the largest private library north of Toronto. The McNeills entertained lavishly with great garden parties.

Continued on page 38 ►





Niagara River flowing through
the Escarpment along Niagara Glen,
downstream from Niagara Falls.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS HAMILTON

Cataract's Historical Falls

◀ Continued from page 25



▲ From the park end of the bridge; the hard-to-see dam causes a cascading overflow.



▲ From the McLaren Road entrance to the park, a trail passes picturesque hills, fields and ponds, leading to Cataract Falls.



▲ The hamlet called Forks of the Credit, a good distance downstream from the falls, gets its name from two streams, the actual forks, that join here to form the bigger Credit River.



▲ The steep stairs in the park offer a good view across the valley to some of the houses in the hamlet of Cataract.

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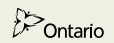
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▲ Sightseers at the end of the line in Orangeville. Credit Valley Conservation organized a Greenbelt update session at Caledon's Whole Village in 2014, followed by a ride for participants on the Credit Valley Explorer. This trip was punctuated by a wedding party that was taking photographs on the tracks.



▲ Several informational plaques near the falls enrich the experience of exploring the site.

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You don't get to see the tumbling falls up close, nor can you hear the water as it crashes onto the rocks below, but there's no more comfortable way to see the majestic beauty of the Credit Valley.

Departing from Orangeville, the train runs to Brampton, and then returns, which guarantees from each seat, a view of the waterfall and the haunting ruins. Each 74-km, three-hour trip includes a meal.

Churches Falls is a marvel to behold. Shimmering waters crashing over a natural bowl next to the haunting shell of the former hydro plant, surrounded by soulful forests, it's one of the Niagara Escarpment's best-kept secrets.

Andrew Hind is a freelance writer who, along with Maria Da Silva, has authored 17 books, including Niagara: Daredevils, Danger and Extraordinary Stories and Ghosts of Niagara-on-the-Lake. His last article for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Ghosts of Niagara-on-the-Lake," Autumn 2014.




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Credit Forks Rock n' Roll

Getting The Rock
 The first section of the Credit Valley Escarpment was located at the Credit Forks, where it had an average thickness of 5.5 metres. There were three main quarry operations: The "Big Red" Quarry near the Forks, the "Little Quarry" along the valley wall, and the "Crest" Quarry, which was the main quarry for the Credit Valley Escarpment and the Forks Escarpment, and their evidence to these quarry operations.

Building Ontario
 Through the history of Ontario, the most important building material in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries has been stone. The Credit Valley Escarpment was the source of this material. The Credit Valley Escarpment was the source of this material. The Credit Valley Escarpment was the source of this material.

Rolling the Rock
 At the first section of the Credit Valley Escarpment, the rock was quarried and then rolled down the valley. The Credit Valley Escarpment was the source of this material. The Credit Valley Escarpment was the source of this material. The Credit Valley Escarpment was the source of this material.



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turquoise waters are
clear below you.
Turkey vultures soar
at eye level from this
high vantage point.

Atop Spirit Rock

◀ Continued from page 31



▲ The Corran mansion in well-maintained times.



▲ These remains show where The Corran stables once stood.

◀ From Spirit Rock Lookout, the clear, beautiful water of Colpoy's Bay looking across to the village of Oxenden.

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▲ The noteworthy glacial pothole along Spirit Rock Sidetrail.

Alexander was an avid gardener and grew 500 species of roses including a black rose. It was the tradition to give each party guest a cut rose as they departed. Roses still bloom around the ruins.

In 1906 Hester died young before the mansion was fully completed. Alexander lived on to age 90. He served as federal Member of Parliament for North Bruce from 1881 to 1901. He was loyal to Great Britain and opposed Sir John A. MacDonald on several issues.

When Alexander died in 1932, The Corran passed to son Malcolm. Under Malcolm, the property and family fortune deteriorated. The housekeeper was willed the estate after Malcolm's death, and in 1960 she sold it to a Toronto resident. Without a full-time occupant, the mansion fell

prey to vandals. In 1976, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority acquired the property. A fire claimed the mansion soon after, and now only the ruins and the stories remain.

The Corran retains a feeling of its former grandeur. Remnants of the roses, gardens, orchards and stables stand as reminders of this significant bit of Canadian history. It is easy to imagine yourself as a guest at a luscious garden feast in this tranquil setting. Today it makes a wonderful stroll or picnic site. There are parking, picnic tables and toilets available, as well as an abundance of wild raspberries and currants for nibbling.

Lookout

To continue your hike to Spirit Rock Lookout, follow the blue blazes across the parking area

into the fern-strewn forest. The trail meanders among the trees, rocks and crevices to the Escarpment edge above your original car park. The beautiful, turquoise waters are clear below you. Turkey vultures soar at eye level from this high vantage point. Across Colpoy's Bay is the village of Oxenden, and Cafram's towers.

At the lookout, the Wiarton Sidetrail branches to the right and leads you out to Hwy 6, downhill into Wiarton and back along Bayview St. to your car. Better is the Spirit Rock Sidetrail to the left following the Escarpment edge back to the spiral staircase and along the shore once more.

Wildflowers and birdlife are plentiful in this section. There is also a prominent glacial pothole beside the trail. Again, be careful of the poison ivy.



Wildflowers and birdlife are plentiful in this section. There is also a prominent glacial pothole beside the trail.

After a good walk, Wiarton has lots of great treats to revive you, at many fine eateries.

For a less rigorous exploration of The Corran, drive north of Wiarton on Hwy 6 to Spirit Rock Conservation Area. You can park within sight of the ruins and walk the

grounds. Access to the spiral staircase descending the Escarpment is to the right of the ruins. Spend minutes or hours as you wish. **NEV**

Sandra J. Howe's last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Skiing the Kolapore Wilderness Trails," Winter 2014-15.

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HAMILTON'S BALANCING ACT: **NATURE vs INDUSTRY**

BY PAUL WEINBERG ■ PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

HAMILTON SOMETIMES GETS A BAD RAP for being smelly and industrial although that description has not properly fitted this place for some years. What gets missed is the natural beauty surrounding and splitting the largest urban centre on the Niagara Escarpment, including the sublime Cootes Paradise marshland, which greets drivers on Hwy 403 coming to the west of the city. ►



There has always been tension between human activity and nature in Hamilton. Seagulls and two Black-Crowned Night Herons perch at the north shore of Hamilton harbour, across from steel plants.





▲ The Niagara Escarpment curves south around Hamilton into Niagara Region. Lake Ontario parks and walkways are popular leisure destinations.



▲ Heavy industry at Hamilton Harbour. The QEW separates the city from Lake Ontario beaches and parks. The Niagara Escarpment is visible on the horizon.

The Escarpment itself was never seriously affected by polluting heavy steel industries that once dominated Hamilton's economy, because they were located further north near the harbour. It, however, still remains seriously contaminated.

Tension exists between human activity and nature in Hamilton, says Lynda Lukasik, the executive director of Environment Hamilton. Sometimes there's a clash in planning between the city and the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), both of which are responsible for respecting the provincial rules governing the Escarpment area.

Residents of the Stinson neighbourhood in the lower old part of the city just below the Escarpment are, for instance, challenging the city at the Ontario Municipal Board, for its approval for three multi-storey condominiums on Charlton St. E. on former industrial lands. The NEC is also opposed to the project.

"Visually, this is just a wonderful swath of green. And you then have this building rising up. So a lot of concerns were raised around the Escarpment viewscape," says Lukasik.

Environmental preservation is not new to Hamilton. People who hike and cycle the city's trails, including the old rail trail that snakes under the tree canopy along the Escarpment, may not be aware that all of this greenery including sensitive ecological lands like Cootes Paradise, under the stewardship of Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG), might not have happened, if not for Thomas McQuesten.

Champion of Green Space

McQuesten was elected to Hamilton city council in 1913, and was a master builder of green space, playgrounds, bridges, highways and restored 1812 forts in the Hamilton

and Niagara areas. Relying on landscape designers and architects, he was part of the civic beautification movement at that time, says Dr. Mary Anderson, a McMaster University historian and author of *Tragedy & Triumph, Ruby & Thomas B. Questen*.

"His whole idea was that morality of the people would improve by their relationship with beauty," she says.

McQuesten had a legacy to repair. What had once been a pristine wilderness at the end of Lake Ontario and other parts of Upper Canada was ravaged by European settlers. They arrived in the early 19th century and chopped down trees indiscriminately for firewood.

There were also small quarries on the Escarpment where local dolomite limestone was mined for use in constructing Hamilton's earliest buildings. Fortunately, the impact on the Escarpment geology was minimal, says St. Catharines-based historian John Bacher.

More serious were the lime kilns that "chewed up a lot of wood" in the heating process to turn limestone into mortar for brick buildings, he notes. By 1880, the Escarpment in Hamilton was denuded of trees.

Reverend R. Burnet, as head of an Ontario fruit farmers group, expressed his alarm around that time: "Hamilton, which might have enjoyed a scene of beauty for generations yet to come, has allowed the face of her fair mountain to be barbarously shorn of the leafy covering, to the great detriment of the city."

It was not until the 1920s that serious reforestation began in the Hamilton Escarpment under Thomas McQuesten, who by 1922 had joined the city parks' board.

"The Escarpment was reforested gradually and brought back to life between 1920 and 1980," says Bacher,



View of East End Section of Mountain Face Before Reforestation

▲ The Hamilton portion of the Escarpment was still denuded of trees as late as the early 1930s. This clipping, with "reforestation" misspelled, is from Hamilton Free Press, Feb. 6, 1930. The newspaper no longer exists. Courtesy of The Hamilton Public Library.



▲ The Niagara Escarpment looms magnificently over Hamilton's Locke Street, whose annual festival in September is tremendously popular.

► In winter, Hamilton Harbour sometimes freezes sufficiently for skating. Here at Cootes Paradise Sanctuary, Nick and Alex practise shooting goals with their father Dorian Lemak.



► Hamilton at night from on top of the Mountain.





▲ The Niagara Escarpment cradles the City of Hamilton, its largest urban centre. View from above Dundas.



▼ Black cormorants and herring gulls manage to thrive on a strip of land between the QEW and Hamilton's industrial harbour.



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author of *Two Billion Trees and Counting — the Legacy of Edmund Zavitz*.

McQuesten acted in concert with an Ontario-wide program of reforestation under the auspices of visionary forester Edmund Zavitz. What also impresses Bacher is that McQuesten ensured that trees originally native to the Escarpment in the Hamilton

area were replanted, including black walnut, white pine, red cedar, white oak and red oak.

21st Century

McQuesten might have had reservations about the controversial Red Hill Valley Parkway which opened in 2007 to allow traffic through what was a sensitive wildlife corridor in east Hamilton.



The road connects the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) along Lake Ontario to the Lincoln Alexander Parkway on the other side of the Escarpment.

Would this keen forester have supported Hamilton's cull of thousands of trees for the project?

"He would have pushed [the Red Hill Parkway] further east," suggests Anderson.



Yet McQuesten, as Ontario's minister of highways, was also responsible for the QEW, Canada's first superhighway, which was built in the 1930s between Toronto and Fort Erie. Anderson argues that McQuesten had the thoroughfare designed so that drivers could zip past parks, trees and farms to their destinations.

As a man of his time, he might not have understood the argument made by biologists today, that roads disrupt the migration of birds and animals like coyotes, squirrels and reptiles.

David Galbraith, head of science at RBG, says that the fragmentation of habitat for wildlife and indigenous plants remains an ongoing concern. His organization is working with private property owners and nine different agencies to better connect the sensitive bio-diverse lands in the Hamilton and Burlington areas, through the Cootes-to-Escarpment EcoPark System.

"We have a pattern of development in southern Ontario that slices up the landscape into smaller and smaller pieces. And when that happens, the chances of any species surviving over the long term are diminished," he explains. A wildlife crossing over Hwy 6 has been discussed but it is at a very early stage, Galbraith says.

Tension remains between humans and nature.

"A main goal of the Cootes-to-Escarpment EcoPark System is to facilitate the movement of animals and plants among isolated patches of remaining natural habitat through protection and stewardship of corridor areas," explains Galbraith. "However, this must be taken in context and with the realities of the actual land

◀ Hamilton in summer, seen from Ridge Road, the Escarpment in the distance.

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▲ Although not an endangered Jefferson salamander, this yellow spotted is in the family of creatures that is the reason a road in Burlington closes briefly each spring.

use and planning situation for the landscape as it is today."

One positive sign might be that part of King Road in Burlington is temporarily closed every spring to allow for

the movement of endangered Jefferson salamanders. **NEV**

Paul Weinberg is a freelance writer in Hamilton and can be reached at paulweinberg@bell.net.

Forbidden Fruit

Written & photographed
by Sean James

Remember those ladybugs that bite and cluster inside every autumn? They're called Asian Variable Coloured Ladybird Beetles. Entomologists said they didn't bite...then they got bitten! Those pests were brought in to battle Soy Aphids, another alien invader. The folks responsible obviously never heard the song "I know an old lady who swallowed a fly..."

Eco-issues are top of mind right now and it's incredible how quickly awareness of the environment and our effect on it is growing. It might be because some of the less-ornamental invaders including Common Reed (that pampas grass-like plant in our wetlands), Buckthorn and Dog-strangling Vine are becoming so obvious they just can't be ignored and are even making the news.

The issue of pollinator collapse is also front and centre, even making CNN prime time recently. Invasive plants deprive bees and other insects of food, making the problem even worse. Monarchs lay eggs on Dog-strangling Vine (closely related to milkweed) but it's toxic to them so the larvae die. Incidentally, to tie the invasive insect and invasive plant issue together, we've recently found out that Soy Aphid **MUST** overwinter on Buckthorn. All we needed to do was remove the non-native invasive Buckthorn in the first place to control the Soy Aphid, instead of releasing the invasive ladybug. (Oh what a tangled web...)

Choose Alternatives

Organizations such as the Ontario Invasive Plant Council work to educate us about better



▲ With beautiful natives such as Potentilla and Liatris (Gayfeather) that are perfect for clay soils, there's no need to plant invasive species.



▲ The amazing nativar Ruby Lace Honey Locust is an excellent alternative to Crimson King Maple.



▲ 'Grow Me Instead Ontario' is a useful resource for choosing great plants to grow instead of invasives. There is a version available online through ontarioinvasiveplants.ca.

alternatives to harmful alien plants. "Forbidden Fruit" is a concept that some of us are trying to avoid when it comes to invasive species. No one wants to be told what to plant and what not to plant. That doesn't mean we're not trying to guide people away from plants like Ornamental Pear and

Periwinkle and towards plants such as Pagoda Dogwood and Canada Wild Ginger.

Granted, there are native plants which try and take over such as Canada Anemone. For the purposes of clear definitions, we refer to those plants native plants as "aggressive." Plants not originally from here that take over, we refer to as "invasive." These invasive plants can spread like mad at the expense of our native species and reduce the food that our birds and butterflies need to survive. Some, such as Norway Maple, can completely take over our natural areas. Many invasives got here by accident but many were brought in as ornamentals.

Learning about alternatives to invasive plants is easy! Just Google "Grow Me Instead Ontario" to find out about plants to avoid, such as English Ivy and shrub honeysuckles and some of the great plants

to use instead. A great example would be replacing Crimson King Maple in designs with the fabulous Ruby Lace Honey Locust.

There are many invasive problems including insects such as Emerald Ash Borer and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (definitely a mouthful!). Fish like Asian Carp are making inroads. Scientists are working on biocontrols and other non-chemical solutions. At least we can do our best not to use invasive plants and there are so many great natives to choose from. Don't stress about it. Gardening should still be fun. Just learn a bit every day and move forward. **NEV**

Sean James is the owner of Fern Ridge Landscaping and Eco-consulting and the Chair of Landscape Ontario's Environmental Stewardship Committee. Follow his eco-gardening tweets through @seanfernr ridge.

Eating & Staying Directory

For most of us, summer means vacation time! Here are suggestions for places to stay on this summer or fall's time off, or even for next year if these places are full or you plan far ahead. The restaurants and cafés are ready to serve you, whether you're just passing through or celebrating a special occasion. To be safe, always call first.

We welcome your mini reviews, so share your favourite places, either anonymously or with your name. Please email editor@NEViews.ca.

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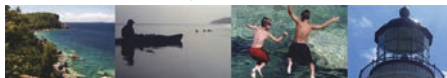
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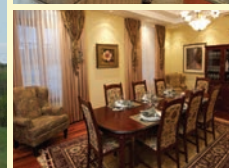
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Invest in Nature for Massive Returns Forever

By Bob Barnett

Who knew that nature brings \$84 billion dollars a year to our economy here in southern Ontario? Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has reported in *Estimating EcoSystem Services in Southern Ontario* that an acre of rural forest gives us back \$1,798 dollars a year. This includes \$982 for biodiversity, \$402 for air quality including carbon sequestration, \$208 for water cleaning, and \$213 for tourism and recreation. It may seem a bit alien to think of biodiversity as having a value, but people will pay to protect rare species and for nature that provides new medicine and products that improve our lives. Similar well-researched results have come from "Ontario's Wealth" by Friends of the Greenbelt.

We should be paying rural landowners to leave nature alone. Every time we lose an acre of rural forest, we lose \$1,798 dollars every year thereafter. Lost wetland costs us \$6,142 a year. We're losing 300 acres every day to development in southern Ontario. Most of that conversion to development is from farmland, while we increasingly import food from other countries, thus creating more carbon dioxide and exporting our jobs.

The Loss of the Commons

Most people think of nature as natural resources like trees, water, gravel and oil. Exploiting these resources makes some people money. How many of us own shares in oil and mining companies? An ounce of gold or a barrel of oil brings returns to the

shareholder. But all of us pay the cost when we lose trees and wetlands to housing projects, roads and mines. This is the old tragedy of the commons. We all pay so that those who exploit the commons can add value to their own portfolios.

Nature doesn't have a voice, unlike the sick who demand hospitals and the parents of our children who demand schools. Only 4.37 per cent of southern Ontario is protected as a park, conservation area or nature reserve. The worldwide average is more like 10 per cent. Governments around the world, including Canada and Ontario, have agreed it should be 17 per cent, concentrated in areas of high biodiversity. Yet pretty much the only group currently protecting nature is charitable land trusts.

Ontario is a leader in land use regulation, hoping to direct development away from rural areas and into cities and towns. Regulation is still only a partial solution as governments change and development like the government's GTA West Highway continues in regulated areas. Despite regulation slowly shifting development away from forests we're still losing 300 acres a day. Government must expand the tools to protect nature by re-introducing funding to acquire natural areas, reward landowners who protect their land from development and shield municipalities from property tax losses as land is protected.

One Solution

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) is offering investors the opportunity to add \$30 of nature's services to their returns for every dollar spent protecting nature.



▲ For every one dollar spent protecting nature, we all get \$30 worth of nature's services like clean water, air, biodiversity and recreational space. PHOTO BY BOB BARNETT

- EBC uses donated funds to accept donations of land (and pay for appraisals and legals).
- This reduces the cost of acquiring land to only about five per cent of the land's value or \$100 per acre.
- Such rural land protects \$1,798 per acre in services: society gets \$18 in services for every dollar spent.
- After the income tax receipt for your donation to EBC, your community gets \$30 for every dollar out of your pocket: that's a 3,000 per cent annual return.
- 3,000 per cent returns far outweigh the six, 12 or 20 per cent investors hope to gain in stocks or bonds.

But the benefits come to the whole community, not the individual investor. Right now an investor gets a tax receipt worth about 40 per cent of what they invest in nature. Maybe government's best investment in our economy is through nature. Enhancing those tax benefits would encourage

more altruistic investing.

Would you rather have increased your investments by \$30,000 at the end of the year or earn \$29,000 plus **\$30,000 of nature's services?** This could be \$300 vs \$290 earned and \$300 worth of services.

Most charitable donations last a year or the life of a building or even the lifetime of the person who is cured or educated. Investments in nature generate massive returns for not just seven generations, but forever. Those returns are in the improved health and education we all get from visiting nature and the cleaner air and water we need to survive here on earth. Where else can you "invest" \$1,000 and see \$1,500,000 as a return over 50 years?

If just a few investors allocated three per cent of their investment profits to nature we'd all be better off. **NEV**

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

Pond, Swamp and Woodland

By Gloria Hildebrandt

I've been given 14 acres of land near the Niagara Escarpment as part of my share of an inheritance from my father. He had discussed this with me, so it was no surprise, and I was — am — delighted to have the land. I've known it since I was eight years old, and, after moving to Toronto to go to university and work as a freelance writer, I moved back in 1992 to a house I had built on a corner of that land. So I've known this land well for most of my life, in all weather, through all seasons. I liked how my father kept it natural, but maintained trails and boardwalks to give access to all its parts and corners.

It's a relatively small piece of land except that it is immensely varied, with different habitats and ecosystems within it. There are moss-covered areas of Escarpment limestone outcroppings. There's a dense cedar forest on the edge of a swamp. There's a spring-fed pond big enough to swim in and even paddle a canoe for a few strokes. A bench in my father's memory now sits on the bank of the pond. There are seasonal streams that flow through the back of the property during spring run-off. There's hardwood forest. There's a hill with a view of the length of the property from the road almost to the back fenceline, where my mother used to enjoy sitting. Now there's a bench there with her name on it. I'm thinking about getting a bench made with my name on it, so that I can enjoy it while alive.

Maintenance

Not a lot of land, but a varied property with a lot of areas to explore, observe and maintain.

Trails have to be maintained by tractor mower. Tree



▲ The pond as it was when my father was alive. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

branches have to be clipped back. Bridges and boardwalk slats have to be kept safe. Dead trees have to be cleared out of the way of fences, paths, and kept from damaging other trees. Unwanted trees need to be cut down, and desirable trees need to have competing trees thinned out.

A lot of work, my father said.

I have a lot of help from my partner Mike. And for my last birthday, he gave me a battery-powered chainsaw, because I'm scared of regular chainsaws. They're hard to start, need fussy oil measurements, and are heavy because you're lifting the fuel when you use it. Phooey. But a battery-powered saw is manageable for the smaller trees and logs. I ask Mike to cut the really big wood with his regular chainsaw.

And for major jobs like cutting up & splitting trees for winter firewood, we host work parties. Or chainsaw and beer parties, as Mike likes to call them. We're lucky to have some friends who

enjoy a weekend afternoon outside, doing physical work and then retiring to the house for plenty of pizza or chili and snacks and beverages.

On weekends when I'm able to, I can spend whole days outside, clipping, pruning, clearing, stacking and creating more brush piles, until exhaustion forces a rest or aching muscles will do no more.

Walking the Paths

Mostly, I enjoy daily walks "around the back" as we call it, letting the dogs lead the way on the paths they know well, sniffing everywhere, sometimes racing off in pursuit of something unseen or rarely, seen or heard, as when a late-afternoon group of deer leap the fence, their hooves producing a harp-like twang that sounds along the top wire.

I like the benches for the different vantage points they provide. Unless the blackflies or mosquitoes are unbearable,

or the rain is too heavy, I like to sit for a while and listen to the silence or the wind or the birdcalls. I think of my parents, and how they saw their land evolve from the heavily-grazed scrubland that the original owner, a farmer, found suitable only for beef cattle, to the dense groups of forest that covered it before their deaths.

And I wish I had learnt more from my father, who knew trees so well that he hosted tree identification walks — in winter, to show people how to distinguish bark and branches and bud nodes. He knew every tree on his property, while I struggle to remember which ones are black maple. I know the big old sugar maples, because they have sweet sapsicles in winter and drip sticky liquid on you in spring, but I wish I had learned more from my father when I had the chance.

Gloria Hildebrandt is the co-founder, co-publisher and editor of Niagara Escarpment Views.



Help us improve *Niagara Escarpment Views* magazine!

To serve you better, we'd like to know a bit about you, our readers and viewers.

Fill in this survey and send it to us. You can:

Mail it to Niagara Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON, L7G 4S4

Or scan & email it to editor@NEViews.ca

Or complete it online at www.NEViews.ca.

As a thank you for completing this survey, include a name & Canada Post mailing address, and we will send you a free copy of the next issue. If you're a subscriber, we will extend your subscription by a free issue!

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1. How many people usually read your copy of the magazine? _____

2. What is the sex and age of each regular reader?

Number of Male readers: _____

Age Range (Mark all that apply)

☐ 0-17

☐ 18-35

☐ 36-50

☐ 51-65

☐ Over 65

Number of Female readers: _____

Age Range (Mark all that apply)

☐ 0-17

☐ 18-35

☐ 36-50

☐ 51-65

☐ Over 65

3. Annual household income:

☐ Up to \$50,000

☐ \$50,000-\$100,000

☐ More than \$100,000

4. Your disposable income level:

☐ High

☐ Medium

☐ Low

5. Your primary residence: ☐ Rent

☐ Own

☐ Own mortgage-free

6. Your neighbourhood: ☐ Rural

☐ Urban

☐ Suburban

7. Do you own a second home or cottage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. How many vehicles in your household? _____

► continued on page 58

Reader Survey (continued)

YOU AND THE MAGAZINE

9. How did you get your copy of the magazine?

- ☐ I subscribe ☐ I picked it up on my travels ☐ I got it from my favourite place
☐ Someone recommended that I get it from a specific place

More about how I got it: _____

10. How much time do you spend on each issue?

- ☐ I only glance at each issue ☐ I enjoy reading parts of it ☐ I read it cover to cover

11. How long do you keep each issue?

- ☐ I dispose of it immediately ☐ After reading, I pass on each issue to another household
☐ I keep each issue for a few months ☐ I keep each issue indefinitely

12. What do you like about the magazine? _____

13. How should we improve the magazine? _____

Additional Comments: _____

Thanks for your help! For a free issue, please fill out with a Canadian address only.
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For more events, go to www.NEViews.ca.

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Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival
Downtown orangevillebluesandjazz.ca

JUNE 5 & 6

Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival
Parks Canada Visitor Centre, Tobermory
orchidfest.ca

JUNE 6

**Collingwood Garden Club at
Collingwood Downtown Farmers Market**
Pine St. parking lot [gardenontario.org/
site.php/collingwood](http://gardenontario.org/site.php/collingwood) 705.444.8204

JUNE 6

Niagara-on-the-Lake Shaw Garden Tour
10 Queen's Parade shawfest.com/gardentour
1.800.511.7429

JUNE 6 & 7

Doors Open Owen Sound
20 sites owensound.ca/live/doors-open-owen-sound 519.371.0511



JUNE 6 & 7
**Re-enactment of the
Battle of Stoney Creek**
Battlefield Park,
Stoney Creek
battlefieldhouse.ca
905.662.8458

JUNE 13

Emerald Ash Borer Workshop
Lion's Head Arena greysauble.on.ca
519.376.3076

JUNE 17

**Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network
Summer Solstice Celebration**
Dundas Valley Golf and Country Club, Dundas
giantsrib.ca

JUNE 18

Niagara Integrated Film Festival
Niagara Region niagarafilmfest.com
1.800.656.0713

JUNE 20

1st Co-Ed Adult Soccer Fundraiser
Trafalgar Rd. Sports Field, Georgetown
chancetoplay.ca

JUNE 20

Fords in the Park 400/500 cars
Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com 905.878.8151

TO JUNE 30

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Extended Families of the Iroquois**
Crawford Lake Conservation Area, Milton
conservationhalton.ca 905.336.1158

JULY 1

**Canada Day Celebrations, including:
125th Anniversary of the
The Town of Gore Bay**
15 Water St. gorebay.ca 705.282.2420
Owen Sound
Kelso Beach Park owensound.ca
519.376.1440

JULY 17-19

All Colour Tractor Show
Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com 905.878.8151

JULY 30-AUG. 9

Belfountain Music Festival
Melville White Church 647.706.0544
BelfountainMusic.com

JULY 31

Emancipation Festival
Owen Sound emancipation.ca 519.371.9833

AUG. 1 & 2

Collingwood Arts & Music Festival
The Station bmfa.ca 705.445.3430

AUG. 2-4

Wikwemikong Annual Cultural Festival
Thunder Bird Park wikwemikongheritage.org
705.859.2385

AUG. 6-9

Manitoulin Country Fest
Little Current manitoulincountryfest.com
705.368.1419

AUG. 14-16

40th Cactus Festival
Downtown Dundas dundascactusfest.ca

AUG. 15 & 16

Heavy Horse & Olde Tyme Fair Show
Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com 905.878.8151

AUG. 22 & 23

**Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy's
Butterfly Festival**
Bruce Peninsula National Park Visitor Centre,
Tobermory escarpment.ca 1.888.815.9068

Our Community, Our Region, Our Home

Our government is reviewing four provincial land use plans that work together to manage growth, protect the natural environment and support economic development in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. These plans include:

- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe
- Niagara Escarpment Plan
- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
- Greenbelt Plan

We want to hear your ideas on how to make these plans stronger and work better together.

For more information please call 1-800-665-1120
or visit ontario.ca/landuseplanningreview.



Kevin Flynn
MPP, Oakville
905-827-5141

Eleanor McMahon
MPP, Burlington
905-639-7924

We asked our Niagara Escarpment-area MPPs this question: Because this is the year for the review of four provincial land use plans, particularly the Greenbelt Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan, how, if at all, would you like these plans changed?

As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Premier has given me a mandate to lead the co-ordinated review of the Growth Plan and the Greenbelt Plans, and to partner with municipalities to grow the Greenbelt and ensure there is a clear, simple process in place to address requests for further expansion. Each of the four land use plans serves an overlapping but unique purpose. Together, they provide an integrated regional framework. That framework encourages development of compact and vibrant urban and rural communities that make good use of our infrastructure and transit investments. The framework also protects agricultural lands, water, natural resources, the environment and natural features, such as the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine. Since the plans are closely related it makes sense to have a co-ordinated review that considers how they support one another. We have heard that the plans are generally working well. It is critical to hear opinions on how to make the plans even stronger and work better together, and what people think is working well now. The co-ordinated review that is currently underway is to get public input on how to make a good system better. We are looking at targeted, possibly significant, changes. During the review we will be exploring how the plans can better:

- Protect agricultural land, water and natural areas, including opportunities to grow the Greenbelt
- Keep people and goods moving, and build cost-effective infrastructure
- Foster healthy, livable and inclusive communities
- Build communities that attract workers and create jobs
- Address climate change and build resilient communities
- Improve implementation and alignment between the plans

Hon. Ted McMeekin, MPP, Ontario Liberal Party

The NDP supports strong protections for the Niagara Escarpment and the Greenbelt. We were shocked last year when a PC MPP introduced a bill to completely repeal the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act. It is hard to believe that something so obviously vital as the Niagara Escarpment still needs constant defence almost 40 years after that Act was first proclaimed. But as we saw with the Melancthon megaquarry, the Escarpment is still vulnerable. And even after hearing from citizens about how that megaquarry put farmland and the watershed at risk, the government has continued to approve giant aggregate quarries within the Escarpment. The province has also refused the NDP's request that it conduct a provincial Environmental Assessment of the Line 9

pipeline. Nor will it designate pipelines as a prescribed threat to drinking water under the Clean Water Act, or bind Enbridge to the pipeline provisions of the Credit Valley Toronto and Region Central Lake Ontario source protection plan (which the government has still not approved, almost three years after it was first submitted). We need to do better. We need stronger policies to protect prime farmland, drinking water and the natural environment of the Niagara Escarpment and the Greenbelt.

NDP response provided by Peter Tabuns, MPP Toronto-Danforth and the NDP critic for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

A review of the Greenbelt, Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe has begun. The review is an opportunity for individuals to share their comments about the four plans in the hope the government will improve the four plans. I believe that any expansion of boundaries must allow land owners and municipalities to comment, and that those recommendations be reflected in the final results. There also needs to be coordination between the four land use plans to ensure rules are consistently applied. I encourage you to participate in the review at www.ontario.ca/landuseplanningreview.
Sylvia Jones MPP, MPP Dufferin-Caledon, Ontario Progressive Conservative Party

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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!

North shore Manitoulin Island, Wikwemikong.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

SAVING BEES

The Government of Ontario plans to implement strategies to **improve the health and number of bees and other pollinators.**

The first step is to reduce the number of acres treated with neonicotinoid insecticide by 80 per cent by 2017. If approved, new rules will apply on July 1, 2015.

NEW BIRD SANCTUARY

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