

GTA West Corridor

At the Town of Caledon municipal candidates' meeting in Caledon East last fall, an audience member asked the prospective mayoral and council aspirants their views on the GTA West Corridor. To her chagrin, most either grudgingly spoke in favour or declined to criticize it. Included in that list was the person who is now the town's mayor. I share that lady's opposition and suggest it is time other Caledon residents woke up to this threat and started voicing their opposition as well.

This so-called corridor would be a 50-kilometre-long, four- to six-lane highway which will rip through the heart of Halton Hills and Caledon and, in the process, slash through farmlands, destroy or at least seriously degrade neighbourhoods, and uproot property owners—some of whom are fourth- or fifth-generation descendants of the original settlers.

Then there is the detrimental environmental impact on the small little headwater streams which feed into the West Humber, Etobicoke, and Credit Rivers. All those rivers flowing south are already compromised because of urbanization and tile drainage. The highway would further deprive those river systems of their lifeblood—cold, clean groundwater.

Although the specific route has not been determined, the highway would extend from Highway 401 near Milton in Halton Region to Highway 400 in Vaughan and does not seem to serve any urban growth centres. An east-west corridor which bypasses Toronto already exists in the form of Highway 407.

The GTA West Corridor typifies old-style technology and old-style transportation planning. The estimated \$4 billion it would cost to build it would be better served on regional rapid transit and other

investments in upgrading railway infrastructure so that more goods can be transported by rail.

It's ironic the provincial government is pushing ahead with this project at the same time it is conducting a review of the Greenbelt.

Recently, the Town of Caledon sent out letters to potentially impacted homeowners advising them, "it is committed to open and transparent communications and advocating for increased transparency from the MTO (Ministry of Transportation) during the planning processes."

Instead of open communications, the town should be working to stop the GTA West. So should Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, who frequently uses her newspaper columns to castigate the governing Liberals, but who has been strangely silent on this issue.

Stopping the GTA West corridor is not far-fetched or impossible. Almost 45 years ago, opposition by urban affairs activist Jane Jacobs and other prominent Torontonians led to the cancellation of the Spadina Expressway by Premier William Davis.

It would appear this region now needs its own Jane Jacobs.
Dan O'Reilly, Caledon

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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 Dewar Falls in St. Catharines are proud to share the story of their historical industrial site. 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 6636. Here is some history of the mill site.

During the Year of 1872, the original Morningstar Mill at Dewar Falls in St. Catharines, Ontario, was built by James M. Dewar and his wife, Elizabeth. The mill was built on the site of a sawmill and a blacksmith and carpentry shop. The mill was built on the site of a sawmill and a blacksmith and carpentry shop. The mill was built on the site of a sawmill and a blacksmith and carpentry shop.

I just received the latest *Niagara Escarpment Views* and the article and photos of Morningstar Mill look amazing. I'm really thrilled. You and your staff did a stellar job. Thank you so much. I was also wondering, if possible, would you be able to drop off an extra box of magazines at the St. Catharines Museum, so that we could distribute them at the mill?
Carla Mackie, Historical Services Co-ordinator, St. Catharines

PURCHASING PLEASURE

LOCAL & LUSCIOUS

DELICIOUS DELICATESSENCE

DELICIOUS DELICATESSENCE

While enjoying the newly published summer issue of NEV, I noticed an incorrect address on page 10 under "Local & Luscious." In the blurb for the Grand Oak Culinary Market, the address should read "Victoria Ave., Vineland," not "Vineland Ave., Vineland." This would be important for anyone visiting from beyond the Niagara region. Enjoy your magazine very much! Have a wonderful summer! Cheers!
Bobbie Dymant, Grimsby

We love your magazine and your love for our wonderful planet!
Christina Marsh-Semerjian, Burlington

Please find enclosed cheque for two years' subscription... Love the magazine, discovered it two years ago.
Cécile Dales, Collingwood

I've been wanting to go up to Manitoulin Island for awhile and reading *NE Views* increases my interest even more. I hope to make it up there one of these days, I haven't been since I went on a family trip in the early 60s.
David McDonald, Toronto



Just had to send a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed the Garden Tours of Dundas, Georgetown and Milton featured in your Spring issue. It definitely inspired me to start planning my own and, even though it won't be "public ready," I am anxious for it to be enjoyed by family and friends over the next couple of months!

Carla Allen, by email

DESIRABLE OPPORTUNITIES:

VOLUNTEERING AT
Westfield Heritage Village
PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

T 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.

Kathleen Gardner interpreting the innkeeper's wife

Favorite aspect: "The exciting or surprising history for visitors, cooking and baking historic recipes on period stoves and open hearths, and meeting adorable 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 year, the Christmas Table has been a special holiday event held on December 16th. It was so rewarding and such fun, and so worth the extra work and time involved. That was fun to be a part of. I can't say enough good things about it."

What I get: "When I first started volunteering, I found the idea of re-creating and presenting to live in a different time period. My family's open to history and eating historic food developed my interest and knowledge of history. Not long after my start at Westfield, my volunteer work in the museum program, allowed me to go to the University of Waterloo and study for my BA in History. I have become a high school teacher (and a volunteer) through Westfield. I can't say enough good things about the opportunity to learn and grow. Volunteering at Westfield is an experience that helped me with the career and, really, it probably led to my current position. Working in front of a classroom of students, my teaching experience, in fact, has helped to make me a better interpreter."

Patrick Sakon as a French Canadian seigneur of the Rockton Trading Company

Favorite aspect: "My favorite part of being a volunteer is being able to get away from modern living. We have fun interacting with guests while showing us historical events and activities like 'In the past'."

Most interesting experience: "The most interesting thing that has happened to me so far is the chance to participate in things that are a part of our history. I have been able to play the role of a seigneur, a French Canadian, and a French Canadian seigneur, participating in amazing events such as the C&W Mill Anniversary and an event in Rockton."

What I get: "The most interesting thing I've not just about the costumes and old-fashioned settings but being able to put myself in a different time and place. There's nothing more interesting about history so that when they get the chance to see the past, they can see the past. It's all because of me and my fellow volunteers."

PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

Thank you very much for highlighting the hard work and dedication of the Westfield Volunteers who give so much to our living history museum. The article is fabulous and the photos are amazing, thank you so much to all of you. Our volunteers are very pleased to be honoured in this way and we have also had interest from the general public who have seen the article. We love your magazine and we are so honoured that you featured us in this very important article about volunteers, especially during this week as National Volunteer Week.

Rondalyn Brown, Westfield Heritage Village, Rockton



Dear *Niagara Escarpment Views* Team:

I am including a cheque for \$39.50 to renew my subscription for two years. Thanks for a very informative & picturesque magazine. Really enjoyed the article & scenes from the Hamilton article, which is where I call home! "The Hammer!" Truly enjoyed Gloria's written words, regarding her parcel of land, she inherited from her father! Land, water & trees are so valuable to our existence. Thanks for all your work keeping all of us, abreast of this wonderful country we live in.

Jeannine & Walter Wells, Hamilton

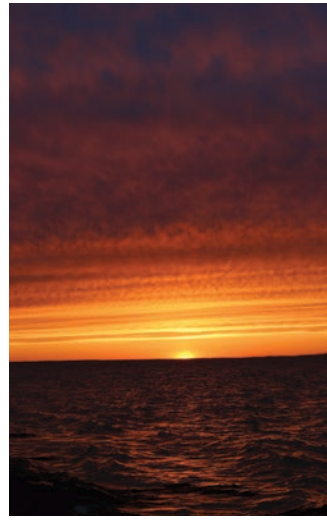
Very good design! I like the proportion of the elements, the colours and the photograph.

Brit Jennings, by Facebook

I'm writing to congratulate you on producing the most read magazine in our Guest House. The magazine has lasting value and is frequently on the top of our magazine racks. We have to frequently replace some issues as they gravitate to bags to travel home with our guests so they can digest the entire magazine at their leisure. For us transplants from the south it's a chance to keep up with what's happening back home.

For our visitors to the area and us locals it's great to learn more about our area. In this regard a popular article is the one on the Beaver River by Sandra J Howe (2014-summer issue) and Wiarthon's Spirit Rock (Summer 2015) by the same author. We keep a stock of these issues around. Keep up the good work.

Richard Bowering, The Bowering Guest House, Ravenna



▲ "The Night of the Dripping Blood," May sunset at North Channel, Manitoulin Island. PHOTO BY BOB BARNETT.



▲ Caron & Mark Mailloux of Erin on vacation in Venice, Italy.

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!

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