

Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY
BY MIKE DAVIS

AUTUMN 2015 (SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER)

ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT: **ARTISTIC POWER**

Ann Beam

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Sandra Krosse

Sylvia Simpson

Waterfalls of Hamilton Touring for Apple Delights

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Autumn 2015
(September, October, November)

ON THE COVER:
Ann Beam and her art
by Mike Davis

FEATURES



18 The Power of Artistic Expression
Written by Gloria Hildebrandt
Photos by Mike Davis except where noted



28 The City of Waterfalls
Written by Helen Powers
Photos by Joseph Hollick & Helen Powers



38 Savouring the Apple Pie Trail
Written by Sandra J. Howe



44 Welcome Home for Christmas Holidays
Written by Gloria Hildebrandt
Photos by Mike Davis

COLUMNS

51 View of Sustainability:
Living in Harmony on a Large Country Property
By Sean James

52 The Gift of Land:
When Is It the Right Time?
By Gloria Hildebrandt

56 View of Land Conservation:
It's Up to Each of Us
By Bob Barnett

DEPARTMENTS

5 View From the Editor's Desk:
Autumn the Best Time of Year?

6 Mike's View:
South Simcoe Railway



7 Readers & Viewers

10 Events Along the Rock

14 Dutch Royals Visit Niagara

15 Hamilton's New Nature Sanctuary
by Bruce Mackenzie

16 The Ruffed Grouse
by Charles Hildebrandt

17 Purchasing Pleasure

32 Featured View:
Fall colours, Forks of the Credit
by Mike Davis



48 Subscription Form

53 Eating & Staying Directory

57 Reader Survey

59 Community Market

60 Coming Events

61 Views of Politicians

62 Foresight

64 Map of Where to Get Copies of *Niagara Escarpment Views*

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Autumn the Best Time of Year?

Some people see autumn as the real “new year,” when students begin their next year of classes, complete with new supplies, books and clothing. I love this time of year because it’s usually cooler and calmer than summer, yet great weather remains, with fewer biting insects, or none, and there seems to be more time to relax and enjoy the world beyond your balcony, yard, garden or farm.

This issue seems to be all about tours you can take. It’s our annual focus on fine artists, and many communities have self-guided studio tours that lead you up close to fabulous work and their creators. You can explore the wet sides of the Escarpment by visiting the cascades of Hamilton. Helen Powers and photographer Joseph Hollick show us why the “Hammer” or Steel City is also known as the City of Waterfalls. Sandra Howe brings us the scents of autumn in Beaver Valley and southern Georgian Bay, in her description of The Apple Pie Trail. Finally, November causes some people to anticipate Christmas, so we share some of the best photographs of houses on recent community Christmas house tours. Festive, flirty and fun, these pages brim with beauty and motivation to spruce up your own “crib” this year.

Survey Says

We know that you’ll keep this issue and use it to plan your day trips. You tell us so, in survey after survey that we’ve received online and through the mail. We are delighted with what we’ve been reading. You love the magazine, you read it cover to cover, are learning of places you never knew of, you keep each issue indefinitely or pass it on to others. You love the photography. In

general, you’re telling us to keep doing what we’re doing, although some of you have made excellent suggestions that we’re considering.

Keep ‘Em Coming

We’re not finished with the survey yet. We’d love to hear from every reader, so if you haven’t yet sent us a survey, please do. The more who do, the bigger the sample of our readership, the more useful it will be for us.

We’ve reprinted the survey on page 57 and 58 of this issue, so you can mail it in by Canada Post. If you prefer to take it online, you can find it on the top of the right side at www.NEViews.ca. It’s a high point of our day when the surveys arrive!

As our thanks for sending the survey, we’re mailing a free copy of *Niagara Escarpment Views* to people who responded, or to someone else they designate. Some people have taken this opportunity to share the magazine with a friend or relative. Subscribers who respond are getting their subscriptions extended an issue.

The Season for Giving

Christmas, or whatever gift-giving season you may celebrate, is approaching and we’re taking a couple of suggestions from our survey respondents. One thought we should offer gift subscriptions more often, so we’re running our Christmas subscription form on page 48. It gives you price cuts if you order more than one subscription.

The other idea is to let people give a subscription to someone who can’t afford one. You could become an “Escarpment angel,” by paying for a subscription for someone you don’t know. It could be a student, a senior,



▲ I could not resist. In the Collingwood area, by the side of the road, there are some life-size, realistic iron sculptures of horses. I’d like to find out more about the artist. Fabulous! PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

or someone who just has to watch every penny, but who loves getting our magazine. We can acknowledge your gift in a future issue by publishing your name, or you can remain anonymous, a “true” Santa Claus. The form to do that is on page 52.

As always, send us your emails, cards and letters telling us what you think of what’s in

the magazine or what others are saying. Your views are just as important to us as the gorgeous Escarpment views that we share each issue!

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

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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

We try to post only a few posts a day that we think you’ll enjoy. Please Like us and be our Friends!

■ MIKE'S VIEW

South Simcoe Railway:

Vintage Passage through Nowhere

By Mike Davis

When she rolls into the station, she is wonderful to experience.

She is coal fired and uses water to create the steam to operate. The experience is the smell, the feel of her rolling in, her pleasant whistle, and the history. Sir John A. MacDonald was the Prime Minister, Queen Victoria was our head of state and the last spike on the Trans-Canada railway was still two years away when she was built.

She is a 132-year-old steam engine built for CPR and retired from active service in 1960. She is one of two steam locomotives still running in Ontario and

was purchased by one of the 180 volunteer members of the South Simcoe Railway.

Located in Tottenham near the Niagara Escarpment, here you will find living history in the form of operating vintage rail equipment. This is not a spit and polished tourist trap, but a working museum. It feels like a working rail yard from the past, which is interesting but not all that glamorous. The real charm comes from the volunteers with their knowledge and enthusiasm, and the iron beast in action. This is a federally regulated railway, that follows all the rules; the operating crews write the same tests as the main railways. There are 30 members involved in the operations.

On Sundays and holiday Mondays in the summer, locomotive 136 is scheduled to be pressed into service.

"We light the fire around noon on a Saturday," says Eric Smith, president and operations manager of the railway, "and bring it to pressure to test the safety valves and check for leaks, and then we flood the boiler to cool it down slightly until the next morning."

There are several more safety checks done prior to loading passengers. The locomotive uses 2.5 tons of coal and 4,000 gallons of water. Half way through the day, the volunteer fireman adds more water. The engineer runs the locomotive with the fireman. Those 2.5 tons of coal are all hand shovelled into the firebox, mostly by the fireman. The engineer intently watches the pressure gauge. Too much and the relief valve opens, draining valuable steam; too little and there is not enough steam for the excursion. The engineer orders more coal into the firebox to heat up, or injects more water into the boiler to cool down. It is more than operating a machine, it is a courtship, almost a relationship between the engineer and the machine.

Train excursions run on a five-mile remnant of a rail line that once connected the Great Lakes from Pt. Colborne in the Niagara Peninsula to Barrie/Collingwood. Engine 136 has seen the Escarpment lots of times in the past. A sign along the way reads "Nowhere," which the conductor pronounces as both "nowhere" and "now here." The population of the place is zero, except when a train passes through! I have been through Nowhere and back.

The excursion takes about an hour. The regular season runs from Victoria Day until mid-October. There are special excursions related to Easter, Halloween and Christmas. Autumn fall colour tours are the busiest and reservations are recommended. Other vintage locomotives may be used, such as the 1948 diesel-electric number 703. Call ahead for details of the equipment to be used that day.

Call South Simcoe Railway at 905.936.5815.

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.



▲ Eric Smith in his role as train engineer must pay close attention to the central steam pressure gauge.



▲ Locomotive 136 steams into Tottenham's station.



▲ The fireman stokes the firebox in Locomotive 136 with coal.

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



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



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 Dymont, 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



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.

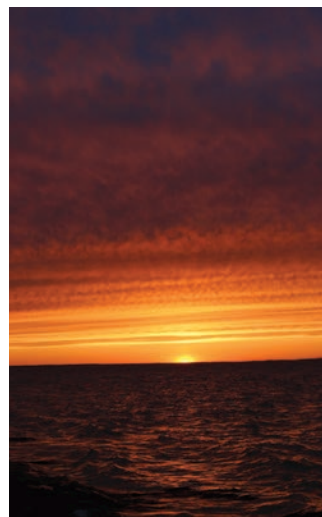
For our visitors to the area and us locals it's great to learn more about our area. In this regard a popular article is the one on the Beaver River by Sandra J Howe (2014-summer issue) and Warton's Spirit Rock (Summer 2015) by the same author. We keep a stock of these issues around. Keep up the good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

**Richard Bowering,
The Bowering Guest House,
Ravenna**



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



▲ "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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EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



◀ Bob Barnett of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy engaged with visitors to the Green Living Show, Toronto, on March 27.



▲ Tobermory hosted the 2015 Sources of Knowledge Forum "The Great Arc: Life on the (L)Edge" on May 8 to 10. Guest speakers from the Niagara Escarpment in Wisconsin, were from back left: Joanne Kluessendorf, Don Mikulic, Bob Bultman, John Skare, Carl Giessel, Steve DeBaker, and seated, Paul Regnier, Eric Fowle, Roger Kuhns.



▲ On May 21, Wastewise of Georgetown presented a cheque for \$500 to Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC) which opposes the Hidden Quarry proposal in Rockwood. Back row, left, is Debbie Smart, manager of Wastewise, with members and friends of CRC holding items for a fundraising garage sale that was held May 30 and 31. PHOTO BY JOHN CRIPTON.

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

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ An opening ceremony was held on May 11 to celebrate the work of Friends of Hibou who completed a 200-foot boardwalk over a wet stretch of trail in Hibou Conservation Area, part of Grey-Sable Conservation Authority. The boardwalk was finished last fall with a grant from TD Friends of the Environment. Photo by Don Sankey, Friends of Hibou.

► Carmen Runnalls, representative for Niagara Escarpment Views on Manitoulin Island, at Manitoulin Trade Fair in Little Current, May 29-31.



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EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

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► The PanAm Games torch relay wound through several Escarpment communities. Hayley Maskell and Charlie Fogerty were two of the runners to carry the torch through Caledon East on June 13.



◀ Some of the key people at Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network's annual summer solstice celebration, June 17 at Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club. With the Niagara Escarpment's impressive Dundas Peak in the background, are from left, Chris Hamilton, Stephen Landers, Ken Hall, Jennifer McPherson, John Raynor, Ernie Kuechmeister and David Rudkin, a curator with Royal Ontario Museum.



► Willow Park Ecology Centre in Norval hosted Riverfest on June 21.



▲ One of many visitors, this girl studied the Niagara Escarpment fossils on loan from the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) on June 6, the first weekend they were on display at the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre in Dundas. The Centre will feature more fossils from ROM on a rotating basis. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAMILTON.



▲ A competitor in the Caber Toss at the 40th annual Georgetown Highland Games, June 13.

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Dutch Royals Visit Niagara



On May 28, during a state visit to Canada, Their Majesties King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands took high tea at CosMic Plants of Beamsville.



▲ Neil Van Steekelenburg, co-owner of CosMic Plants, talks to the Queen while his brother Mike Van Steekelenburg makes a point with the King. PHOTO BY SHERYL THORNTON.



▲ High tea was prepared by Grand Oak Culinary Market of Vineland, and served by owners Jan-Willem Stulp and wife Jane, with their daughters. Here, Jan shows Their Majesties a bottle of Chardonnay labelled in honour of their visit. Jane and daughters look on. PHOTO BY SHERYL THORNTON.



▲ Fit for a king: wine in commemoration of the Dutch royal visit. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Hamilton's New Nature Sanctuary

By Bruce Mackenzie Photos by Mike Davis

On June 11, Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) celebrated the opening of Vinemount Meadows Sanctuary in Stoney Creek. The property is located in the midst of an important area for breeding birds on Stoney Creek Mountain, north of the Vinemount Quarry and between the Eramosa Escarpment and the Niagara Escarpment.

A lease agreement has been signed between HNC and Waterford Sand and Gravel Ltd., owners and operators of Vinemount Quarries. The lease agreement covers a 65-acre property for 24 years for a nominal annual sum. Waterford will supply \$20,000 in services and materials to assist the HNC with habitat improvements on the property. The leased property is to the north of the Dofasco 2000 Trail on the west side of 10th Road East. This farmland and surrounding meadow habitats were all originally part of the Vinemount Swamp Forest, the largest natural area on the Stoney Creek mountain and now traversed by the longest boardwalk in Ontario, a part of the Dofasco 2000 Trail.

These lands will become the seventh nature sanctuary owned or administrated by the HNC. It is the first sanctuary that the club is leasing. Other sanctuaries owned by the HNC are located throughout Hamilton and southern Ontario.

"The company is very pleased to find a partner like the HNC to take over the management of this property with a 24-year lease," says Bill Kester of Waterford. "Waterford is a family-owned business. The Cameron family recognizes the significant habitat in the area and the rare and threatened bird species that breed here and they are very pleased to start this new relationship with a prominent naturalist club in southern Ontario. The company and its employees are excited and looking forward to participating in transforming

these lands into an improved nature preserve with the HNC."

Michael Fischer, President of the HNC said, "The HNC Board and the members of the Club are thrilled at the opportunities that start with having a place like this in the community. HNC will start to work on a wildlife and habitat enhancement plan. The Club hopes to increase the public's knowledge of the natural environment of the southern Ontario meadow habitat and the birds found here."

The area around the sanctuary is well known for excellent birding opportunities. Rare nesting birds in this area include Upland Sandpiper (locally declining), Peregrine Falcon ("special concern" in Ontario), Bobolink ("threatened" in Ontario), Eastern Meadowlark ("threatened" in Ontario), Short-eared Owl ("special concern" in Ontario), Northern Harrier (rare local nester) and Common Raven

(rare to uncommon nester).

A Peregrine Falcon's nest site is now the third nest site for the Peregrine Falcon in Hamilton. In 2014, three young peregrines were fledged from the local nest. The raven's nest here, marks one of the most southern nesting locations in Canada. Both have nested in the quarry for the last two years.

The new nature preserve will also be an important sanctuary throughout the year. This area is very important to wintering hawks and owls as a feeding and roosting area. As well, the land under lease is primarily southern Ontario meadow

habitat. Southern Ontario meadow habitats are becoming better known for their important role in providing critical areas for butterflies, especially for adult Monarchs.

We are beginning to observe a growing critical mass of lands on this part of the Escarpment, whether they involve the HNC directly, the City of Hamilton, or one of the conservation authorities.

Bruce Mackenzie is a director of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club. A longer version of this article was first published March 2015 in The Wood Duck, the journal of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.



▲ The Vinemount nature reserve is bordered by the Dofasco 2000 Trail.



▲ Members and guests of Hamilton Naturalists' Club celebrate the June 11 opening of Vinemount Meadows Sanctuary.

The Ruffed Grouse

By Charles Hildebrandt

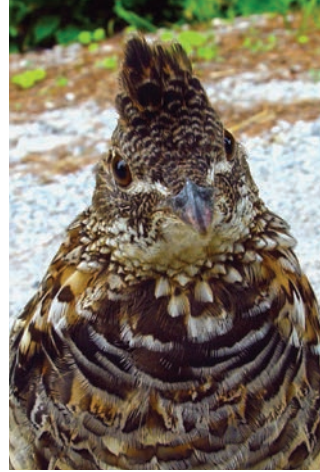
Whenever I go to the back of my property these cloudy November days to cut up fallen Elm trees for firewood (for I like the idea of self-sufficiency and I heat my wood with wood), I am joined by a Ruffed Grouse.

The Ruffed Grouse, to explain to the uninitiated, is a chicken-like bird, a little larger than a Crow, that has its habitat in open woods all over Canada. It is fairly common in this part of the country but rarely seen until it jumps from the ground with a startling rush as it beats the air with its wings. But when I am out there the Grouse

does not do this, because it is not frightened of me.

We are friends, the Grouse and I. Since I could never find the camouflaged bird in the undergrowth of the forest, it comes to me. It keeps me company as long as I am out there. It follows me around and I think it even wants to talk to me. But then I can't be sure whether the clucking sounds the Grouse produces without opening the beak are really meant for me. It is an enticing thought, though, because habitually these sounds are uttered only by female birds during the breeding season. My friend is a female, but the breeding season is long gone. I have tried to feed her. I put grains of millet, a delicacy for

all seed-eating birds, where she could clearly see them, but she runs over the food without touching it. The next day, to be sure, the millet is gone. Nature has many mysteries.



▲ Many people have experienced “tame” Ruffed Grouse, although they are likely to be males displaying territorial dominance. PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS.

Ruffed Grouse belong to the family of gallinaceous birds. Turkeys, Quails, Partridges and Pheasants are relatives. In the coniferous forests of northern Ontario one finds the Spruce Grouse, more colourful than the Ruffed and farther west, in the prairies, the Sharp-Tailed is at home. In the mountains of Alberta and British Columbia are abodes of the Blue Grouse and there is a Sage Grouse common in the sagebrush country of the western United States.

These closely related birds have one behaviour in common: during the mating season the males go through an elaborate courtship display, but each species does so in a different manner. The male of the Ruffed Grouse spreads his wings and standing on a firm piece of ground, beats the air until a sound not unlike the start of a motor engine is produced: “Bup...Bup...Bup...rrrr,” slowly at first, becoming faster and faster until the spring air is filled with the low-pitched throb of the Grouse’s wedding drum.

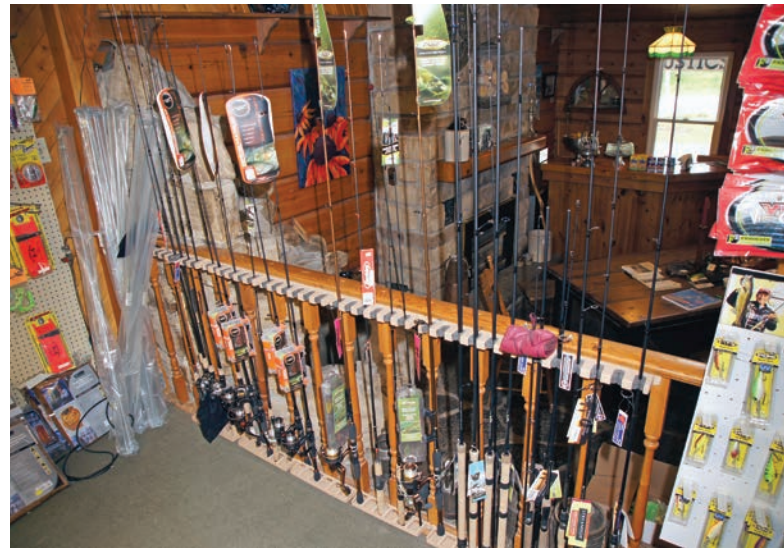
Grouse are non-migratory birds. Being seed eaters they find enough food even during the depth of winter. They seek out the shiny fruit of Poison Ivy and there is a theory that the toxicity, present in all parts of the plant, is used by the bird to combat internal parasites.

My own Grouse is forever pecking away at something to eat. But I don’t think she is hungry. She lives in freedom; she can go wherever the morsels are the juiciest. It seems that the place for this is right here in my back woods. It is quite clear that she likes it there. I think she will talk to me about it the next time that I will be out there.

The late Charles Hildebrandt of Georgetown has left an impressive body of written and photographic work, of which this is one, dated 1970.



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The Power of Artistic Expression

Our annual view of artists near the Niagara Escarpment

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT attracts artists almost as much as it does wildlife. Every year, it's our pleasure to meet a few artists and highlight their work and their galleries in our Autumn issue. This year we present some artists from Manitoulin Island, Glen Williams and Hamilton. ►

Ann Beam in front of her monumental work "In the Horse Washing Waterfall (after Hokusai)," 9 ft. x 12 ft., acrylic on panel with recycled corrugated paper, birch bark, cedar strips and photo transfer, 2011.







Truly multi-media, the work is made of strips of cardboard, birch bark, cedar. The choice of materials is exciting in the transformation of mundane things into the extraordinary.

◀ Seen from the side, the honest, simple elements of Ann Beam's "Horse Washing Waterfall" convey rugged energy.



◀ Photo transfer detail.

It's a powerful feeling to come upon an important work of art. Something about it resonates deeply. There may be a strong emotional response, sometimes awe, sometimes tears. It can be as if there's a sound coming from the work's silence. It calls out somehow, provokes a reaction. It can be from the exquisite beauty of something very small, very perfect. Sometimes size matters.

Ann Beam of M'Chigeeng on Manitoulin Island is fearless about scale. Some of her works are mighty. Her piece entitled "In the Horse Washing Waterfall (after Hokusai)" is jaw dropping. At 12 ft wide and nine ft high it dwarfs the viewer, transports you to its subject, that of a waterfall in full torrent. When you notice the figure washing a horse at the base of the falls, you sense the vastness portrayed.

Close examination of the materials used intensifies the experience. Truly multi-media, the work is made of strips of cardboard, birch bark, cedar. The choice of materials is exciting in the transformation of mundane things into the extraordinary. The three-dimensional quality of the materials convey great energy, more so than paint alone could.

Beam explains the evolution of this piece this way: "I had begun the big waterfall piece, but it was just seven ft wide by nine ft tall. I was in the art section of a bookstore in Ottawa, looking at Hokusai's work, researching his graphic portrayal of a fluid thing like water...which he did as a wood block print. He was good at it. I was comparing his expression of water with mine. I had analysed the patterns of falling water at Bridal Veil Falls myself. While I was doing all

this, I came across a work of Hokusai's titled 'At the Horse Washing Waterfall.' He had taken this famous Japanese story, of a general washing his horse in a waterfall, and he changed it into two peasants in loin cloths, washing a horse in a waterfall. As soon as I saw this work, I knew what I would do next! The excitement and buzz in me was huge. I would put my beautiful mare Mystery

and myself at the waterfall. I would be washing Mystery in 'At the Horse Washing Waterfall (after Hokusai)'. I expanded the seven ft by nine ft piece I had begun to a larger size, nine ft by 12 ft."

Neon Raven Art Gallery

Beam owns and operates Neon Raven Art Gallery at her residence, which is a compound consisting of a house, studio

and gallery, all made of adobe. Why of adobe, is linked to Bean's interesting life. Originally from the U.S., she moved to Canada because of her opposition to the Vietnam war. She was already creating art when she met and married Carl Beam, an innovative artist who became the first of Native ancestry to have his work bought by the National Gallery of Canada as contemporary art.



► Beam holds a huge bowl made in the ancient Anasazi tradition: coil-built, with no base or foot, an unglazed underside, with geometric borders.



▲ Although a realistic landscape painter, Richard Edwards seems to be exploring abstraction in his series of reeds in water.



◀ Barbara Edwards' stained glass pieces are abstract or representational, but always glowing with light.

► Morgan Edwards uses strong colours and shapes in his abstracts.

They moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where they learned the native ancient style of ceramics in the Anasazi tradition.

"It's so sophisticated," says Beam. "The art form just got us. The ceramic buzz would last for months. But one day Carl said to me Annie, our work is important for Canada. We returned to Canada, and when it came time for us to make our own home, we returned to Carl's grandfather's land on Manitoulin Island, in M'Chigeeng First Nation. We built our adobe house here, inspired by our stay in the southwest."

The gallery carries the work of Ann, Carl and their daughter Anong, as well as some other Manitoulin artists.

"Whoever resonates with me, I'll show in the gallery," Beam says, "but the core of it is about the art of my family."

Reach Ann Beam at 705 377 6088.

Edwards Art Studios

In Kagawong in the north central part of Manitoulin Island, Edwards Art Studios has occupied an old mill on the waterfront for 19 years. With room for custom framing and productive workspace, it carries only original hand-crafted art.

While it includes the pieces of many artists, including potters and wood workers, it specializes in the creations of the Edwards family: Richard, Barbara and son Morgan.

Richard is a watercolour artist interested in local landscapes and the play of light on earth and water, frequently working outside, directly from nature. Also a printmaker, he offers limited editions of hand-pulled serigraphs. His recent close-ups of reeds in water suggest abstract patterns.

Barbara divides her time between weaving and working with glass. Studio windows are filled with stained glass pieces whose bright colours glow with the light. She is drawn to abstract work as well as representational explorations of birds, trees and flowers. She also creates fused glass dishes and glass jewellery, first making fused glass pendants and lamp work beads for her coloured wire work. Her hand woven shawls and pieces are made from alpaca, wool, silk or cotton.

Morgan's recent paintings show a bold, confident use of colour and shape in abstract compositions. Once seen, his distinctive style is recognizable.

Contact the studios at 705 282 1919.



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Williams Mill

Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre in Glen Williams is a bit of a miracle. Previously the site of industrial buildings, the property was bought in 1985 by local residents Doug and Mary Lou Brock. The old buildings were restored and renovated and now form a complex dedicated to the arts and education. Approximately 30 artists have working studios here, that are open to the public on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Their work and that of others is for sale in the gallery shop or the glass-blowing building.

Sandra Krosse is a fibre artist who has been sewing professionally since she was 14 years old. While her ready-to-wear pieces range from size eight to 14, she does custom work for anyone.

"I bring the best out of what you are," she says. "Everybody has something beautiful about them." Custom work starts at \$1,000. While she does not do wedding dresses, she will do ball gowns, adding that "I assess the body and the lifestyle and the occasion."

Four years ago she created the "E-Scapelet," a variation of a shawl in many different

patterns and colours, that can dress up anything, and at \$225, has become a highly popular bestseller. Inspired by eastern and Asian fashions, it's a flattering form for any woman, Krosse believes.

"I'm all about flow and things that are easy to wear," she says.

Call Sandra Krosse at 905 877 5857.

Glass Blowing Collective

The Williams' complex includes a glass-blowing studio/shop where the public can come inside and watch the artists work at one of the two "glory holes" where materials

are carefully transformed into an endless variety of colourful, delicate, gorgeous objects, some purely decorative, others also functional. There is room for only a limited number of members in the glass-blowing collective, so serious glass artists tend to remain a long time.

Williams Mill is at 905 873 8203.

► Part of the Williams Mill complex, the glass studio has room only for a few members. The public is encouraged to enter and watch the artists work in the dramatic hot shop.



▲ SK Designs is just off the Williams Mill gallery shop and features "art to wear," couturier clothing created by Sandra Krosse. Pieces can also be custom made.



▲ Sandra Krosse models her "E-Scapelet," a uniquely structured piece that is part shawl, part cape, to transform anything from jeans to a simple cocktail dress into a flattering, dramatic ensemble.

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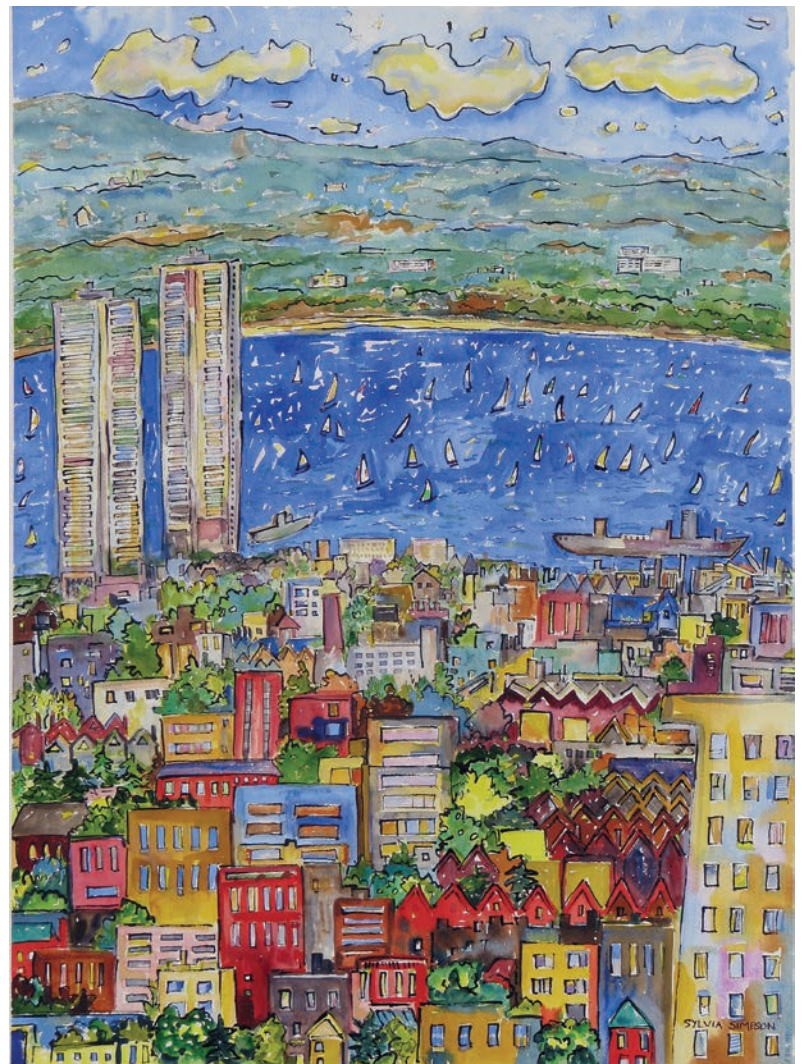
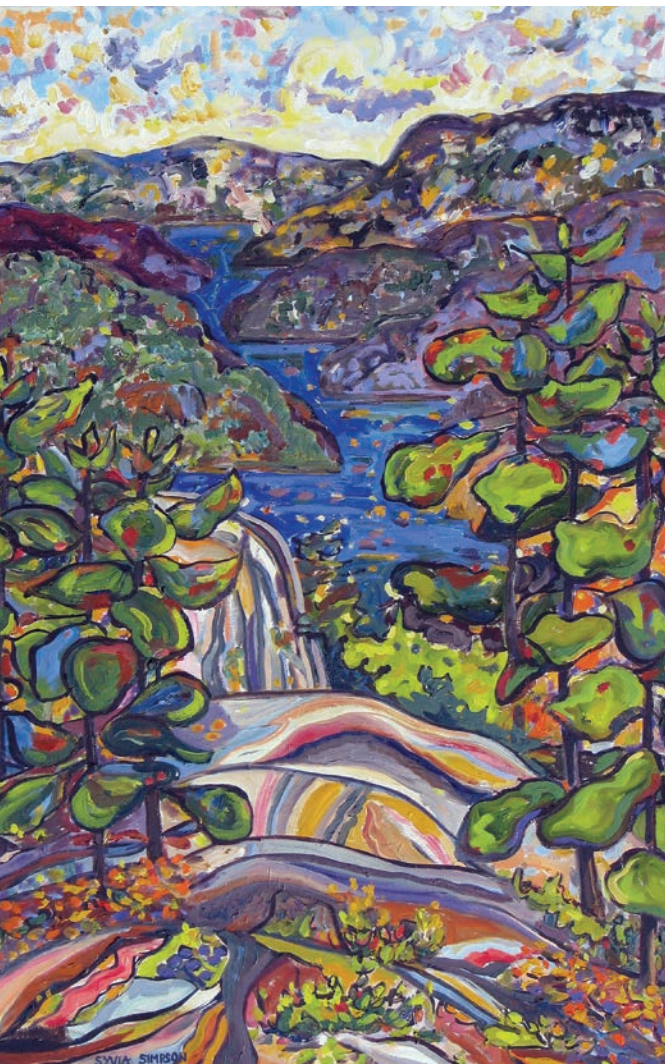
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◀ The married team of Virginia Wilson Toccalino and Tony Toccalino perform a perfectly timed glass-blowing technique in the hot shop at the Williams Mill Glass Art Collective.

▼ (Bottom left) Sylvia Simpson's "Morning Light on Willisville Mountain," oil on canvas, is one of her La Cloche works. It was exhibited in an art show "that succeeded in stopping Vale Mining Company from mining/destroying this spiritual and treasured mountain," she reveals. PHOTO PROVIDED.

▼ (Bottom right) "Hamilton Harbour View" by Sylvia Simpson is watercolour and ink. She used India ink and a bamboo pen to make a thin random line. The green hills across the bay are part of the Niagara Escarpment. PHOTO PROVIDED.





▲ Beautiful pieces by glass artists of Glen Williams Glass. The tall curly vases and tiny perfume bottles were made by Tara Marsh.

Creative Works

Sylvia Simpson has a charming studio-shop in Westdale, Hamilton. Her roots are deep in the Niagara Escarpment of the area, as she was born on “the mountain” as locals call it. She is also drawn to the northern edge of the Escarpment on Manitoulin Island, with its dramatic views of the La Cloche Mountains.

“The white mountains glowing against the bluest skies, and the dark water and endless green pines are spectacular,” she notes. “These unique mountains with their quartzite composition reflect the colours of pink, blue and gold in their white massive

shapes. From Hamilton’s Escarpment one can see for miles to Lake Ontario, the High Level Bridge, and the towers of Toronto. Daily drives in Hamilton wind up and down our Escarpment past cascading waterfalls in spring and frozen vertical rivers of ice in winter. Both locations, similar but so very different, give me a high viewpoint and a landscape stretching for miles.”

Simpson works in watercolour and oils and makes joyful use of colour and line. She will also take commissions to create portraits of houses.

Creative Works by Sylvia Simpson is at 905 517 7199. **NEW**



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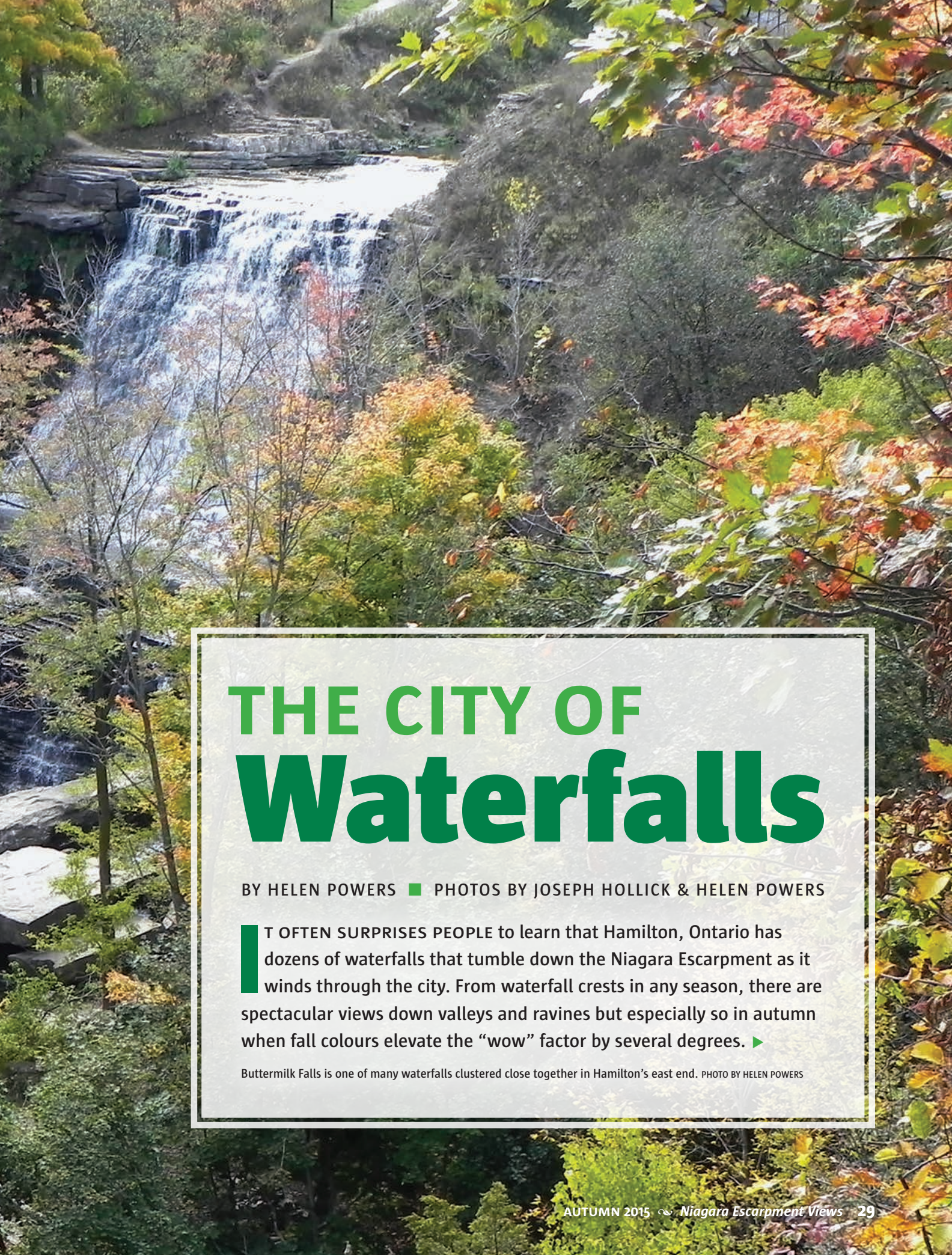
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THE CITY OF Waterfalls

BY HELEN POWERS ■ PHOTOS BY JOSEPH HOLLICK & HELEN POWERS

IT OFTEN SURPRISES PEOPLE to learn that Hamilton, Ontario has dozens of waterfalls that tumble down the Niagara Escarpment as it winds through the city. From waterfall crests in any season, there are spectacular views down valleys and ravines but especially so in autumn when fall colours elevate the “wow” factor by several degrees. ►

Buttermilk Falls is one of many waterfalls clustered close together in Hamilton's east end. PHOTO BY HELEN POWERS





▲ Great Falls near Waterdown features a viewing deck very close to the parking area and several trails for longer walks. PHOTO BY HELEN POWERS.

In Hamilton, the Niagara Escarpment is known as “the mountain” and it defines the context of many neighbourhoods. It is a monumental point of reference for driving directions and major streets are named with “Upper” portions to help people find their way around town. The Escarpment’s influence in shaping the city is obvious but its waterfalls have also played an important role.

As early as the 1700s, settlers located near the waterfalls to have power for early industries such as saw mills, flour mills, and paper mills which operated with the force of falling water. Providing necessities and employment, the falls often became hubs of economic activity and communities that in time became part of Hamilton.

In this way, waterfalls have been a significant factor in Hamilton’s history. As watershed officer Jaime Tellier of the Hamilton Conservation Authority says, “The waterfalls

shaped the city that was to come later.” Tellier was the manager of an extensive inventory project carried out in 2014 that found a new record of 145 waterfalls within the city.

To be included in the inventory, waterfalls had to meet a number of criteria such as a minimum vertical drop of three metres and a minimum crest width of one metre. While the tallest, Tew’s Falls, is just a few metres shorter than Niagara Falls, the average size of Hamilton’s waterfalls is 10 metres high by four metres wide.

The conservation authority is using the inventory to sustainably make the most of these amazing areas. “The inventory helps us to balance the tourism opportunities with the protection of these natural resources,” says Tellier. “Knowing what’s out there and what may need protecting is very important.” In some cases, this has meant re-directing trails in order to keep people

safe and environmentally sensitive areas healthy.

Over half of the waterfalls are accessible to the public and the website, Cascades and Waterfalls of Hamilton, at www.waterfalls.hamilton.ca, is full of detailed information to plan your trip. Directions, maps and amenities are listed for each waterfall. There are cycling and walking routes or, if you drive, you can find out how many parking spots there are and how long it takes to walk from your car to the falls.

Spectacular Colours

Depending on the time of year, there may be sizeable crowds enjoying the sights and sounds of Hamilton’s waterfalls. In the west end, Tew’s Falls and Webster’s Falls are very close neighbours and they have 90,000 to 100,000 visitors each year. An added attraction is nearby Dundas Peak, an incredible Escarpment outlook with panoramic views around the Dundas Valley and across the city.

◀ Sherman Falls on Ancaster Creek was named after the Sherman family which owned this property a century ago and founded Hamilton’s Dofasco Steel Company. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.



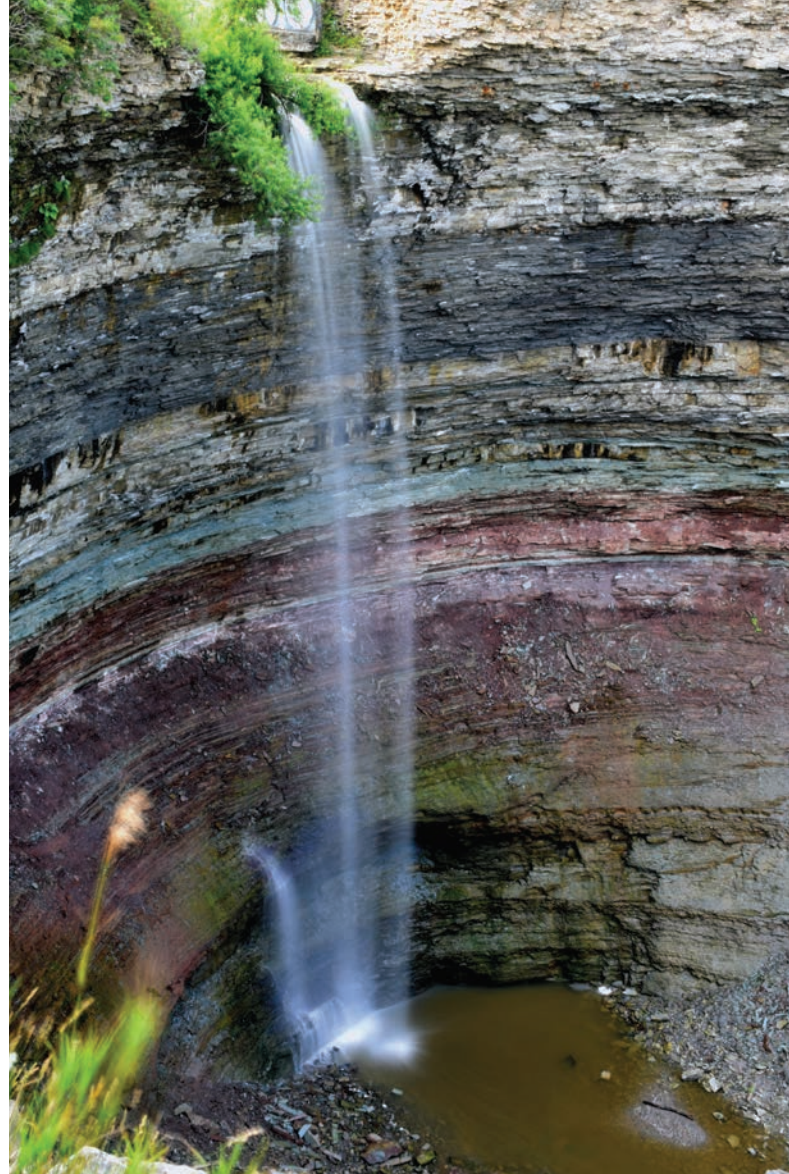
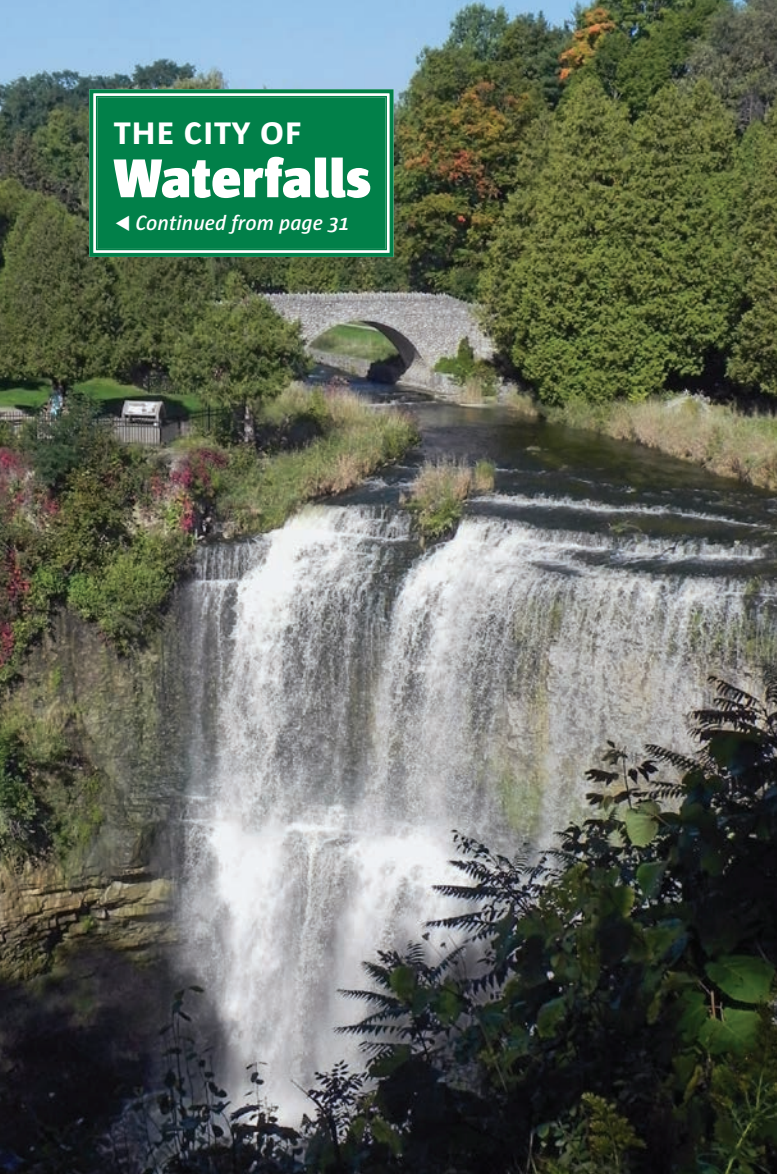
Fall colours, Forks of the Credit.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS.



THE CITY OF Waterfalls

◀ Continued from page 31



◀ (Top Left) Webster's Falls is well equipped for picnics, lawn games and leisurely strolls over the stone bridge. PHOTO BY HELEN POWERS.

◀ (Top Right) Devil's Punch Bowl on Stoney Creek shows the many layers of rock in this part of the Escarpment. Note also the small stream coming out of the rock face near the bottom of the waterfall. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.

Trip Advisor ranks the waterfalls as Hamilton's second most popular attraction

Tellier says that late winter and early spring are popular times because the water volume grows dramatically when snow and ice melt away. Autumn generally has lower water flow but the spectacular colours draw people out with their cameras at the ready. Thanksgiving weekend is a very popular time for families and friends to share the scenic views and trails as part of their holiday traditions. As winter transforms the waterfalls into frozen sculptures, ice climbers get enthused and while summer's heat can reduce the water volume, thunderstorms bring a loud rush of water that is thrilling to capture on video shortly after the storms have passed.

During all times of the year, you can enjoy colourful illuminations organized by Hamiltonian Chris Ecklund who describes the waterfalls as "the biggest piece of canvas an artist could work on." Seven years ago, he began promoting Hamilton all over North America as "The City of Waterfalls" and he is proud that awareness of the city's incredible natural assets has grown significantly. According to Ecklund, 70 per cent of his website users are from outside Hamilton and Trip Advisor ranks the waterfalls as Hamilton's second most popular attraction.

Rare Environment

The most popular waterfalls have viewing platforms and formal trails to help people of varying physical abilities. These features also protect the natural environment by directing foot traffic to specific areas. Staying on the trail is important as short cuts can become so well used that soil compaction and trampling of plants become a problem.

"There are rare ecosystems along the way that people might not notice because they're busy viewing and appreciating the waterfalls," Tellier explains. "As an internationally recognized biosphere reserve, the Escarpment is unique and we want to balance its protection with its popular recreation opportunities."

Spread throughout the city's urban and rural settings, there is a perfect waterfall to see whether you are the hiking type or not. For the ambitious, choose a neighbourhood with several waterfalls and fill your day with multiple beautiful scenes. Or pack a few meals and spend all day at one waterfall park equipped with picnic tables, barbeques and open lawns for activities.

When you plan your visit, be sure to check the top 18 locations listed on the Cascades and Waterfalls of Hamilton

◀ Visible from Hunter Road, Hunter Falls is located on a branch of Fairchild Creek in Troy, at the western boundary of Hamilton. Taken in November, this photo shows ice beginning to form. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.



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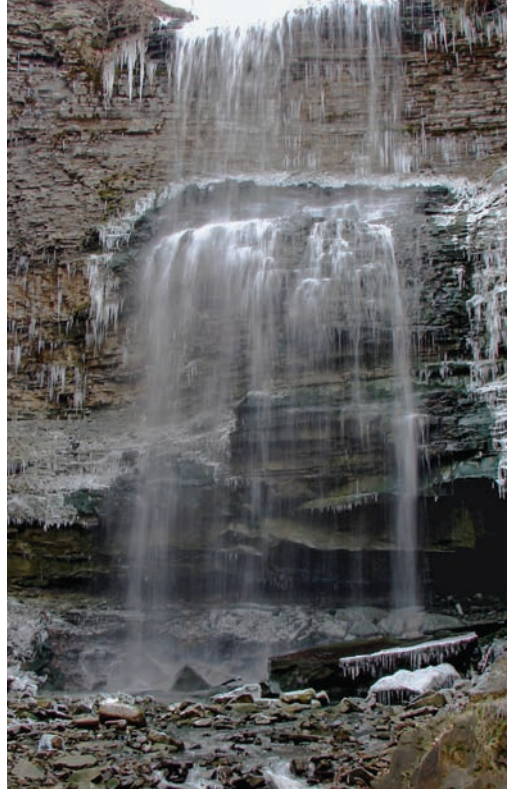
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▲ Not all waterfalls come from the surface. Clappison Falls is created by ground water flowing from karsts or fissures in the Escarpment on the west side of Hwy. 6 south of Clappison Corners. These falls dry up, making the best viewing after a long rain or during the spring melt. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.



▲ November ice is forming on Felker's Falls on Davis Creek in Stoney Creek. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.



▲ Tiffany Falls in early autumn. Located on Tiffany Creek in Ancaster. A terrible accident occurred here in May when a branch fell off a massive oak tree and killed a young woman from Hamilton. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.



▲ Market Street Falls on Spencer Creek in Dundas, is not on the official list of Hamilton's waterfalls because it is only two metres high, not the required minimum of three metres high. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.



▲ The Bruce Trail crosses Canterbury Falls on Canterbury Creek in Ancaster. PHOTO BY JOSEPH HOLLICK.

website. That's where you will also see this: "In Hamilton, it's been said that if the Escarpment is the city's crown, then its waterfalls are the sparkling jewels in that tiara."

The waterfalls may no longer power local mills as they did hundreds of years ago but experiencing their amazing sights and sounds can certainly rejuvenate the soul. Come see for yourself — and don't forget your camera. **NEV**

Helen Powers is a writer who moved to Hamilton nine years ago and is continually finding

great things to do and see in the City of Waterfalls. You can find her at livinginhamilton.wordpress.com or on Twitter @HelenEPowers. Her last article for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Stories From the Kitchen Garden at Dundurn Castle," Spring 2013.

Joseph Hollick of Dundas is an award-winning photographer. He has produced four posters of Hamilton's waterfalls and, until 2014 was part of a Hamilton waterfall group that works to document and promote the area's many falls.

Plan Your Trip

- The Cascades and Waterfalls of Hamilton website provides links to partner agencies such as Bruce Trail Conservancy and Hamilton Naturalists Club: www.waterfalls.hamilton.ca
- Giant's Rib Escarpment Education Network, based in Hamilton, provides public education programs about the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve: www.giantsrib.ca
- Tourism Hamilton's Interactive Waterfall Hikes Guides provide maps, photos and terrain elevations: www.tourismhamilton.com/hamilton-waterfalls
- Find dates and locations of illumination events at City of Waterfalls' Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cityofwaterfalls

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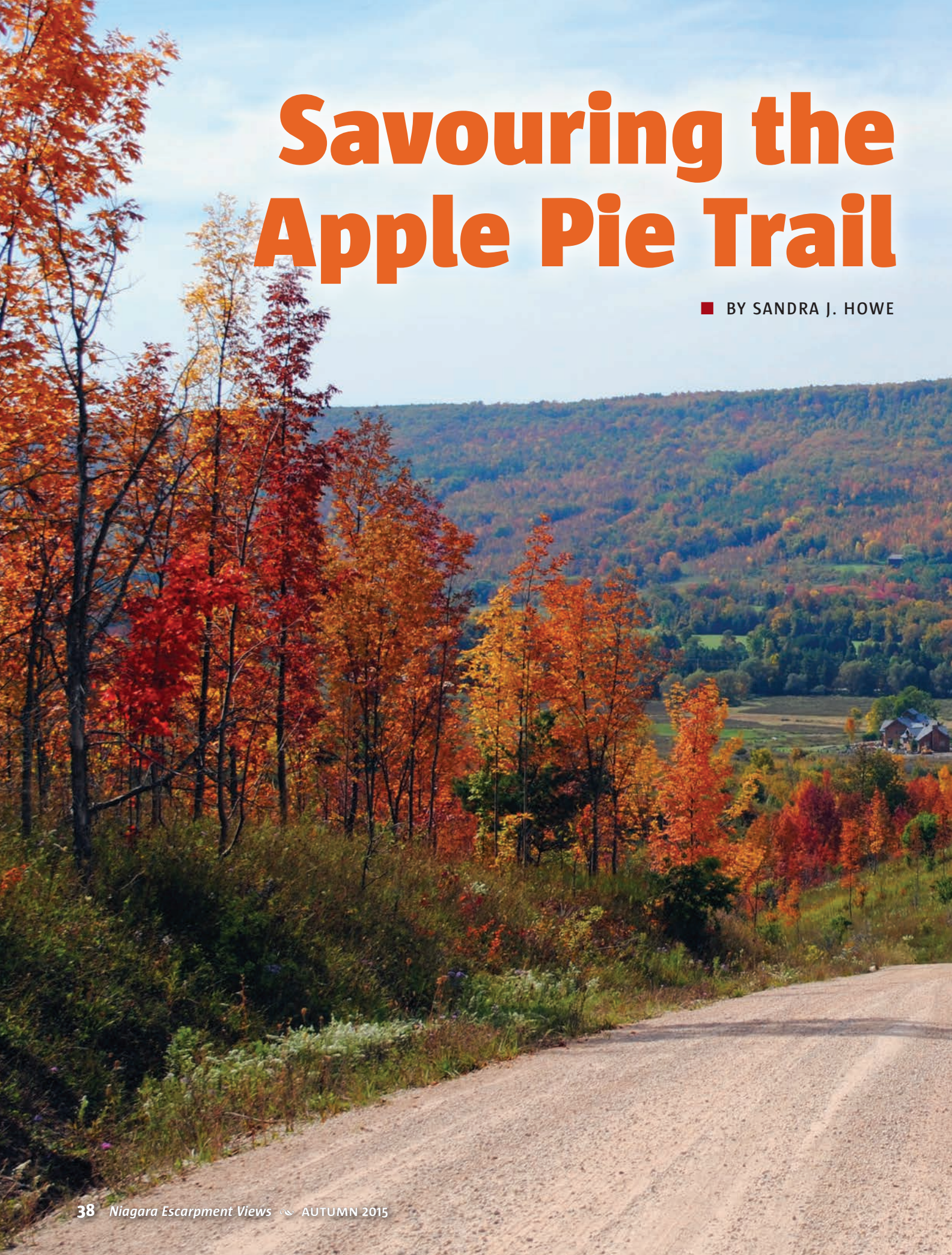
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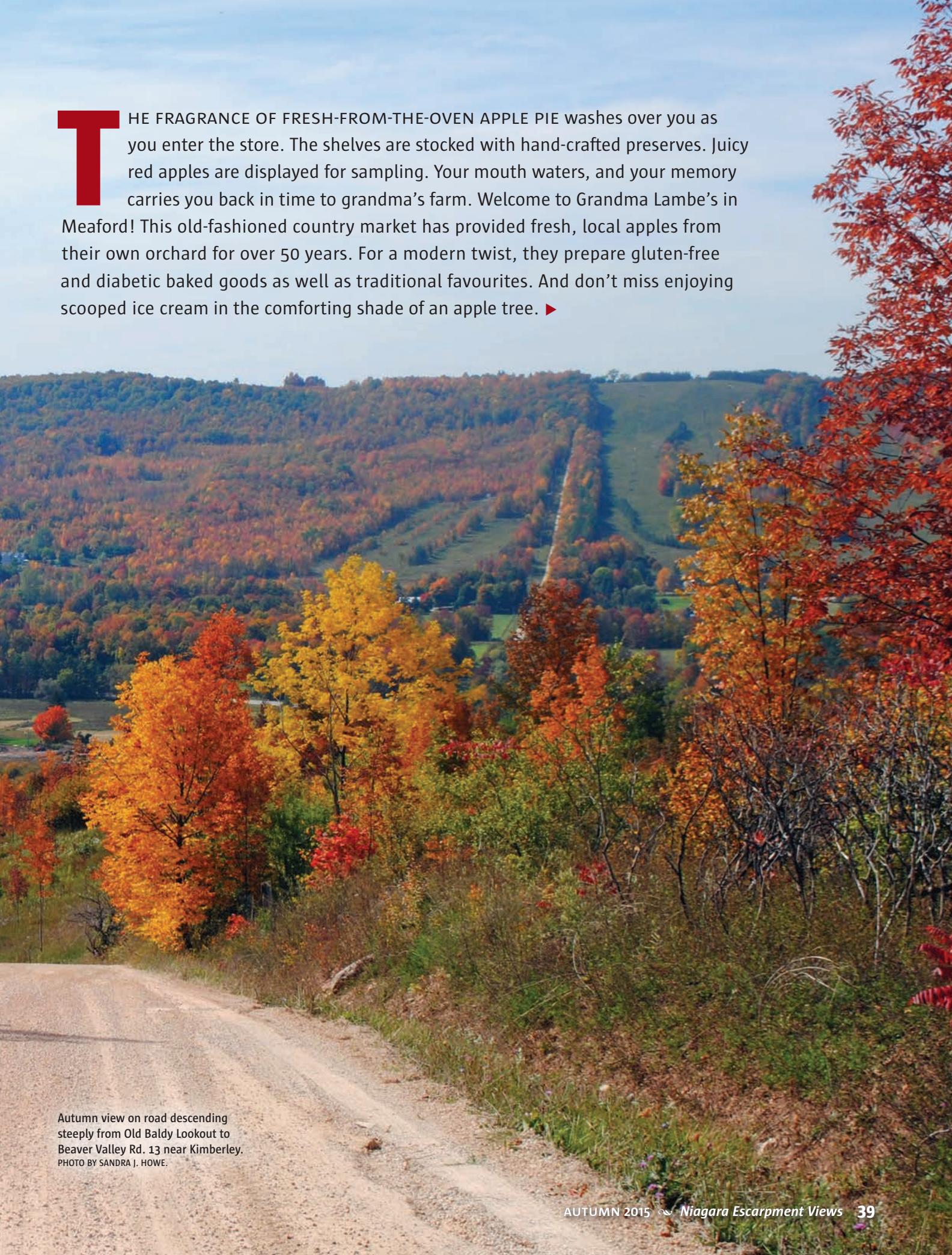
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■ BY SANDRA J. HOWE



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Autumn view on road descending steeply from Old Baldy Lookout to Beaver Valley Rd. 13 near Kimberley.
PHOTO BY SANDRA J. HOWE.



The moderating effects of Georgian Bay and the Niagara Escarpment create the perfect microclimates for producing delicious, abundant apples.

◀ Apples grow well here due to the moderating effects of the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay. Beaver Valley's Farmer's Pantry has luscious pick-your-own apples. PHOTO BY SANDRA J. HOWE.



◀ Grandma Lambe's grows a wide variety of apples. Spy and Cortland last well through winter. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



▲ Ravenna Country Market has delicious light meals and more. PHOTO BY DOUG EDWARDS.

Grandma Lambe's is one of the 37 delightful and delectable stops along the Blue Mountains Apple Pie Trail. Winner of the 2012 Ontario Tourism Culinary Experience Award, this unique culinary adventure helps you explore all things apple. Applewood art, baked goods, harvest celebrations, apple wines and ciders, cooking classes, delicious meals, apple-growing history, pick-your-own orchards; you can find it all as you drive these winding country roads. Along the way are great opportunities for hiking, biking, and paddling, too.

Grey County is Ontario's largest apple growing region. The moderating effects of Georgian Bay and the Niagara Escarpment create the perfect microclimates for producing

delicious, abundant apples. The Apple Pie Trail takes you meandering through Collingwood, the Blue Mountains, Meaford, and the beautiful Beaver Valley with stops for all tastes and interests along the way. While the trail provides year-round adventures, autumn is a great season to head out exploring Apple Country.

The ideal beginning for your tour is Scenic Caves Nature Adventures. Climb to the summit of the Niagara Escarpment for spectacular fall colour views and photos. The Georgian Bay shoreline and islands, the townsites of Collingwood, and the slopes and forests of the Blue Mountains are spread out below you. Exploring the caves, crevices, and cultural

history of this fascinating area will whet your appetite for further apple adventures. For a bird's-eye view, try the Thunderbird Twin Zip Line.

Within Collingwood are 11 trail stops full of interesting and tasty apple options. Grey Heron Yarn Shop, which was on the tour last year, featured apple-inspired hand-dyed sock yarn kits for crafty people. Karen Farmilo loves to share her passion for knitting, and a stop at her shop invites you into her enthusiasm. Karen sells beautiful yarns with apple names such as Red Prince, MacIntosh, and Golden Ginger, and hand-crafted applewood buttons made locally from pruned orchard wood.

From Collingwood, you can follow the Apple Pie Trail to Blue Mountain Village for

excellent shopping, dining, and outdoor adventure experiences. Ride the gondola to the summit, pedal boat on the pond, try mini-golf, or take a mountaintop segway tour; these tours and more are available through Activity Central at Blue Mountain Resort. Don't miss the old-fashioned caramel apples at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory!

Spectacular Scenery

For a wonderful, rural experience, head over the mountain on Grey Rd.19/119 to Ravenna. Ravenna Country Market features a superb curried apple, carrot and ginger soup. Their baking is also divine. Local artwork, preserves, skincare products, handicrafts, and frozen entrees

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▲ Part of the delight of visiting Grandma Lambe's is exploring the displays, fun signs and fixtures. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



▲ Grey Heron yarn the colours of apples. PHOTO BY DOUG EDWARDS.



▲ Jellies and jams from Grandma Lambe's. PHOTO BY SANDRA J. HOWE.



▲ Grandma Lambe's home-baked pies tempt you from the front door. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

make this a unique venue for sampling Beaver Valley's finest products. It is a popular cycling destination, and provides easy access to the Bruce Trail and the Kolapore Wilderness Trails. You can pick up a delicious lunch to go, or dine-in; a hearty meal at Ravenna can fuel the next leg of your adventure.

The Beaver Valley is renowned for its spectacular scenery, bountiful orchards and warm hospitality. With seven Apple Pie Trail stops, it is easy to while away a whole day exploring, chatting and sampling. Beaver Valley Orchard and Cider brews a delightful, dry apple cider from their own apples; visit their beautifully converted barn and see the cider-making process first-hand. If you choose to paddle the Beaver River during your adventures, you can indulge in fresh-baked apple pie at Blackbird Pie Company at your exit point in Heathcote.

Several orchards open their gates to visitors for pick-your-own and farm produce. It is so valuable as consumers to know about our local food systems; drop in for fun and learning. Farmer's Pantry is a particular favourite with families; on Thanksgiving weekend, they are likely to see 10,000 guests in the orchard.

Grapes As Well As Apples

Georgian Hills Vineyard is a wonderful stop for local wines and ciders. On weekends at 11 a.m. you can join them for a vineyard and winery tour including tasting. Relax on their patio for scenic Beaver Valley views, wines, and artisanal cheese pairings. They also offer off-site tours such as paddling the Beaver River or cruising the Collingwood Harbour, wines included. The Georgian Bay area has recently been designated as "an emerging wine region" by the Wine Council of Ontario. The same climate and geography conditions that support

apple-growing make it an ideal area for grape production.

Continuing down the Beaver Valley, visit the wonderful art galleries and eateries of Clarksburg and Thornbury. Meaford and Craigleith offer visitors a wide range of arts, dining, museums, and markets to explore. Each stop along the Apple Pie Trail provides a unique experience of the beauty and bounty of Apple Country.

The Trail began in 2009 and was created by Patti Kendall, the director of marketing and events for the Blue Mountain Village Association. Initially businesses were reluctant to get involved because they didn't believe it would create tourism. Today there is a waiting list of businesses wanting to join the Trail. Culinary tourism is a growing trend, both in Canada and internationally. Future plans are exploring ways to make the Trail more interactive.

No excursion to Apple Country is complete without a relaxing soak at Scandinavian Spa Blue Mountain. Featuring outdoor baths, luxurious steam room, wood-fired sauna, registered massage, getaway packages, and a tasty bistro, the Scandinave provides an excellent finish to your Apple Pie Trail adventure.

With so much to see, do, absorb and enjoy, you will want to visit often to savour the Apple Pie Trail and explore this fascinating area of the Niagara Escarpment. **NEV**

For more information see applepietrail.ca.

Sandra J. Howe's last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Atop Spirit Rock," Summer 2015. For more, see www.sandrajhowe.com.

Doug Edwards of Durham was originally from Hamilton. Now retired, he does nature photography full time. For more, see www.OneModelPlace.com.

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WELCOME HOME *for* *Christmas Holidays*

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT ✱ PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS. It's a time to display all your best pieces and cherished mementoes, or to go all out and create a fantasy to make your house sparkle from roof to old-fashioned rec room.

The months of November and December are when Niagara Escarpment communities share decorative beauty through holiday house tours that usually benefit local charities. Decorators, florists, stylists and homeowners collaborate to scheme up gorgeous tableaux to display. Here are some favourite scenes from past Christmas tours of houses in Escarpment towns.



▲ Touches of red in the décor play up the warmth at the front entrance to this Georgetown house.

► A blue Christmas can lift the spirit when the colour is used as enchantingly as it is here for this Georgetown heritage cottage. Open the door and come on in!



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Inside, the magic really begins. With traditional colour schemes or eye-opening creativity, decorating for Christmas can be lavish, reserved, fun, fancy... but always festive.



◀ (Top right) Traditional colours and elements emphasize the manorial elegance of this fine staircase in a Georgetown home.

◀ (Top left) All that glitters is not gold. Silver is the metallic colour of choice for this sleek Fonthill room, from the heavily-laden Christmas tree to the corner décor and repeated on sofa and hassock.

◀ (Bottom) Festive bows on the backs of chairs are popular touches, but adding sprigs of evergreens punches up the festive flair. Seen in a Fonthill house.



◀ A restrained use of colour makes a big impact in this sleek, masculine bedroom in a Fonthill home. Subtle Santas bring smiles.

▼ This living room on the Fonthill tour fearlessly celebrates the red of the season.





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Owls Everywhere

Last year was the year of owls. White, red, a mix of colours, in ceramic, metal or feathers, owls were peeping back with big eyes. Different decorators of different houses caught the vibe and saw the wise old bird as a new sign of cheer.



▲ Hoo's ready for a snack on the night before Christmas? Owl mugs, owls in bowls show the popularity of this way to mark the holidays. From a house on the Georgetown tour.



▲ A parliament of owls with sleds brings cuteness to this dining area on the Georgetown tour.



▲ Fire burning in the fireplace, a gently-decorated under-mantel, monochromatic candles, stars and owls bring eternal cheer to this Georgetown house.



▲ Tableau with a table. A perfectly styled small area in this Georgetown home catches the eye. Note the red owl.



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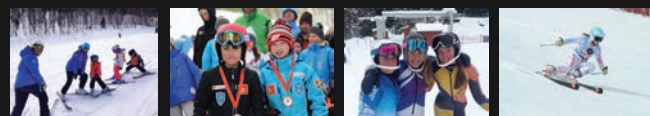
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Noteworthy Details



▲ Tradition in a Mason jar: cranberries, Spruce needles and a ribbon bring Christmas country cheer to this Georgetown house.



▲ No tub left undecorated! A tiny tree with unusual colours enlivens a Georgetown bathroom.



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◀ Don't forget the outdoors! Welcome visitors with bright colours and a cozy place to stop a moment.

Houses were photographed on the Homes for the Holidays Christmas House Tour for Fonthill United Church and United Way of Halton Hills Holiday House Tour. **NEW**

Mike Davis and Gloria Hildebrandt are co-publishers of Niagara Escarpment Views.



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Living in Harmony on a Large Country Property

Written & photographed by Sean James

I recently had the opportunity to design and build a landscape on a large country property and, even after all these years, the process offered a lot of lessons. Picture a man-made pond, created 150 years ago and naturalizing, untouched since then — a biodiversity jewel.

Now, in this case, we were a bit late on the scene and the customer had already had someone in to partially clear the land. Knowledge is key in all things and the plants and trees which were left were not necessarily the most ornamental, special (rare, flowering, good habitat etc.), or healthy. All of the woody understorey growth, the small trees and shrubs that need the shade of the larger trees, and in turn support them, to a degree, had been removed. At first it seemed pretty decent but we soon realized that some of the remaining trees had weak or damaged roots or were suffering from diseases. Many of the roots from the trees that were left were damaged. The biggest awakening came during a windstorm when we noticed the roots on several trees actually beginning to lift out of the ground! As you can imagine, this necessitated an emergency trip to the hardware store to purchase wires, clamps, hose and stakes to guy-wire the trees to save them until they can establish new, stronger roots.

Thin Trees Carefully

Knowing that some of the trees are under stress also guided us to transplant some younger specimens under and around some of the older stands to



▲ The pink lady slipper orchid in the foreground lost all its shade and the trees lost the support of their neighbours, causing some to fall over.

help shelter them from wind and replace them as they pass on. It's also important to remember that as trees grow, if they start with the support and shelter of neighbouring trees, they'll rely on that throughout their life. Removing too many trees will result in the specimens on the edge of the stand falling over, one at a time — good to be aware of!

Pruning the remaining trees and large shrubs to bring out their form will also help the landscape fit into our ideals of beauty. Think about what the best views are that will need to be enhanced with pruning. It's not always the best route to simply limb trees up to get the view. Thinning out a few of the lower branches can create a veil to look through while preserving the health and structural integrity of the trees. Limbing a tree up too far means that the trunk of the tree will not have the necessary energy provided by nearby leaves. Over a few years the tree will decline, rot,

become weak, meaning that eventually the tree will need to be removed: a waste...and an expensive proposition.

Our next big lesson was about how folks think. What makes us see a man-made landscape as beautiful and a natural landscape as weedy? The answer is in how we mass plants, as opposed to the way Mother Nature scrambles them together. Massing allows us to see the beauty of each species separately. The jumble has its beauty too, and of course it's more resilient and less prone to pest breakouts since there's a better predator/prey relationship, but we seem to need to see a bit of control. I think of landscaping, to a degree, as "refereeing," helping Ma Nature look her very best, as it were. Use the existing plants as a guide to what will succeed in what areas.

Rescue Plants

Take the time to walk a grid pattern, looking for special plants like orchids that might

need to be moved or worked around. If you must move something like an orchid, find another area where they're already doing well and mass them there. Perhaps try moving a couple first and see how they do over time. Generally, it's not advisable to move something like an orchid but compromises have to be made so we can live in harmony with nature but maintain the necessary usefulness and aesthetics.

Accordingly, with our project, we began by rescuing plants from some areas and massing them together in large drifts elsewhere. It will be a stylized version of nature — one with biodiversity, resilience, yet still with appeal to humans.

As always, when figuring out how to redesign, consider texture first. A balance of grassy, feathery and bold will make things look great. If you have the luxury, try to hold off from landscaping for a year so you can take the time to observe seasonal changes, fall colour, winter interest and even interactions with nature. This will allow you to design with more subtlety and success.

If you go slowly, with consideration, you'll have an enormous sense of accomplishment, a stunning property and years of enjoyment. You'll preserve the environment, keeping all the birds (remember, birds eat pests and weed seeds!) and the pollinator habitat necessary for the long-term success of our world.

Sean James of Fern Ridge Landscaping and Eco-consulting is the Chair of Landscape Ontario's Environmental Stewardship Committee. Follow him on Twitter @seanfernrIDGE

When is It the Right Time?

By Gloria Hildebrandt

I have a problem with Autumn. Well, I have a few problems, but one big one is knowing when the outdoor part of the year is over. Autumn has long been my favourite season. The bugs have greatly diminished. The worst of the heat and humidity is over. The hard work of planting and growing is over — oh but then there's the harvest.

What to do with all that ripe produce? What was the point of working so hard in spring and summer, to plant and grow it, if not to harvest it? But when exactly should you harvest stuff? When is a zucchini the right size? It seems you wait a day or three because you've already eaten

some, and when you come back, you discover dark green baseball bats among the leaves. And cucumbers. Do you take them when they're pickling size or can you wait until they look like the ones in grocery stores? But wait too long and the seeds are sour and the flesh is tough. What time is the right time?

Last year I had two Beefsteak tomato plants growing in pots. I had two or three big tomatoes growing well on them. Then we went to Manitoulin Island for a couple of days, and when I got back, the ripe tomatoes were on the ground, half eaten. Probably by raccoons. I spent spring and summer watering and weeding the tomato plants so the raccoons could have a midnight snack? When

should I have picked those unripe tomatoes? Before I left for Manitoulin, obviously.

Prolific Produce

I have the same problem with apples. When should they be picked? When are they perfectly ripe? When are they big enough, red enough? I don't like it when they fall to the ground, although they're probably perfect then. But if you're not there at the exact moment, wasps and ants can get at them. It's quite a drag when the rosy red upper side of an apple on the ground has been half eaten underneath. Yuck.

There's the problem of having too much. I once grew squash so successfully that I had a couple of bushel baskets full of them stored in the crawlspace, to eat all through winter. I make an excellent roasted squash soup. But I was so sick of squash by the time I had picked and stored it all, that I never ate any more of it. The squashes rotted away into dust.

Same thing with rhubarb. In spring, I clean, chop and store rhubarb in plastic bags in the freezer. Home-grown rhubarb crumble for Christmas Eve! Think of it! Only by the time next spring arrives and new rhubarb starts growing, I still have all the old rhubarb in the freezer. What is wrong with me?

When is Frost?

My biggest problem of all is not knowing when to call it a year. I do know when to bring my houseplants back inside, which have had a lovely summer vacation on my large verandah. When the forecast calls for possible frost, they get moved back inside for winter. But when should I put away the patio umbrella, the folding chairs? When do

I secure my outdoor garden ornaments? When to put away the tools and watering cans? When is it time for a last cleanout of the gutters? If I wait until every last leaf has fallen from the trees, I can get in trouble. We've had early winter storms that leave ice on the ground and make using a ladder unpleasant, not to say dangerous. Usually, my metal patio table and even the wheelbarrows get frozen in place until spring. I'm a mess; I admit it.

You can't go by the calendar. Thanksgiving weekend is a traditional time to wrap up a yard. But then we can have a gorgeous Indian Summer of long, warm, golden days when I have another chance to do the gardening work I didn't get to before, or more likely, just to be outside, reading, enjoying the sunshine, storing memories of good times for the winter.

Fortunately, the rest of my property doesn't need to be prepared for winter. The benches stay where they are for use through the winter, and there is nothing to protect or bring in. Except the winter firewood. This year, thanks to all the wood that had to be cleaned up from the 2013 ice storm, the woodpile is nicely stocked. We had so much wood that we didn't use all of it last winter. There are still piles of dead branches to cut up for future firewood, if they don't rot first. Other than making the pile neat and convenient to the side door, and covering it with tarps against rain and snow, we're good for firewood. Except when are those winter storms going to start?

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

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It's Up to Each of Us

By Bob Barnett

My revelation was hiking the Bruce Trail 30 years ago with my wife and six and eight-year-old kids. We watched porcupines and raccoons and looked up flower names in our guidebook. We shared adversity like rain, mud, dark and a stolen shuttle bicycle. Sitting on top of the cliffs eating lunch gave us a sense of nature's grandeur and put us into our human place. Nature became real and very, very important. It took determination to get there on Sundays for two and a half years, eventually reaching our goal: Tobermory. The farmland, the ice cream stops, the little towns, all became part of us. Today I follow that dream, trying to protect the nature that inspired me then.

We are carving up our land and developing it at the rate of 300 acres a day. More than a square km a day is being turned into houses, shopping centres, golf courses and dominated by looming wind towers. That pleasant country drive up the Gore Road is now suburbia, to be avoided by driving on expressways. The gravel pit beneath our majestic Cup and Saucer cliffs grows yearly and the slash and overburden is pushed up right beside the trail.

We used to get generous grants from the province to conserve the Escarpment. No longer. Now it seems the priorities have shifted but not toward the health and education, benefits that come from walking in nature. Hospitals and schools get funding, but not trees, cliffs and streams. Our government has become good at legislating greenbelts and stating provincial policies, but got off the land-protection train and shows no signs of getting back on board. Instead of feeling helpless, I try harder and harder to conserve



▲ View of 175-acre property near Chatsworth offered for conservation. Only \$5,000 is needed to cover fees. As little as \$10 helps to protect it. You can get a tax receipt.



▲ One of the waterfalls on the Chatsworth property. It feeds the Bighead River.

what's left; it's up to individuals to preserve the landscape.

Overall, we have protected only 4.37 per cent of southern Ontario as parks, nature reserves and conservation areas. A major part of that protection has come from private landowners who either donate land outright or place covenants on their own land to protect it from development. The goal of 180 countries is to protect 17 per cent of our land base, especially in areas of high biodiversity, like southern Ontario. Both Ontario and Canada have signed the "Biodiversity" Initiative.

Governments Talk But Don't Give

In southern Ontario the growth is painfully slow with our land trusts being the leaders. Private land and cash donations to charity far exceed government and conservation authority progress. Our Canadian governments say biodiversity is a good idea, but put their money into jobs and the economy. They forget that nature's ecosystem services protect clean air,

water and flood prevention worth \$84 billion in southern Ontario every year. Every acre of rural forest we lose costs us \$1,800 every year.

Here's one example and a challenge. A private landowner in Grey County near Chatsworth has offered our Escarpment Conservancy a donation of a conservation agreement on 175 acres. He's agreed to forgo gravel pits, additional houses and to protect his forest. This gift will be worth roughly \$200,000.

That land has an Escarpment waterfall on the Bighead River and protects rare Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Hart's Tongue Fern. It has mature forest and Escarpment outcrops. The owner has planted thousands of trees to add to the forest and its species' richness.

Need Donors

Our cost to receive that gift will be only \$5,000 to pay for an appraisal and legal fees. You might say "What a good deal, do it." But we can't afford each gift as it comes in. We rely on donors just like you

who care about the legacy we are leaving our children and their grandchildren.

Every dollar you donate protects 1525 sq ft (142 sq m) of land with an average of 24 trees. Every dollar out of your pocket will protect \$30 of eco services every year, forever. What investment could be better? Your 3,000 per cent annual return beats any mutual fund.

I had a life-changing experience with our young family 30 years ago. We are not just conserving land, habitat and species, but conserving opportunities to visit our own countryside. Now the government has left this field, it's up to each of us. Your grandchildren will thank you, but ask why you were such a forerunner. Why was government so far behind us?

Maybe you're interested in being way out front by protecting your own land from being developed. **NEV**

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



Help us improve *Niagara Escarpment Views* magazine!

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

Thank you to those of you who have sent your survey!

If you haven't already, please fill in this survey and send it to us. You can:

Mail it to Niagara Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON, L7G 2V2

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!

ABOUT OUR READERS

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.
We respect your privacy; this information will not be shared.

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Email: _____

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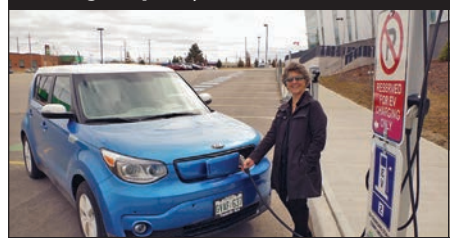
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COMING EVENTS

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SEPT. 4-7

Steam Era,

Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com
905.878.8151

Niagara Escarpment VIEWS

SEPT. 10-13

Eden Mills Writers' Festival,

Literary festival. Visit Niagara
Escarpment Views on
Publishers' Way on Sept. 13.
edenmillswritersfestival.ca

SEPT. 13

Motorcycle Swap and Show,

Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com
905.878.8151

MID SEPT. — THANKSGIVING

Owen Sound Salmon Tour,

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or paddle it. Owen Sound
greatsalmontour.com
519.371.9833

SEPT. 19

Rockwood Mushroom Fest,

St. John's Anglican Church,
Rockwood
rockwoodmushroomfest.ca
519.856.9266

SEPT. 19 & 20

Craft Show,

Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com
905.878.8151

SEPT. 19 & 20, 26 & 27

Hills of Erin Studio Tour,

hillsoferinstudiotor.com
519.833.9042



SEPT. 19-OCT. 4 The Headwaters Arts Festival,

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tours, book
readings,
workshops & other arts events
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Mill Art Centre, Caledon
headwatersarts.com

SEPT. 25-27

North of 89 Studio Tour,

northof89.ca 519.925.2737

OCT. 3

Pioneer Day,

Jordan Village
lincoln.ca 905.563.2799 x292

OCT. 3 & 4

Creemore Festival of the Arts,

phahs.ca

OCT. 3 & 4, 10-12

Fall Into Nature,

Enjoy spectacular Escarpment
views & brilliant fall colours. Kelso
has a chairlift ride to take you to
the top. Conservation Halton
fallintonature.ca

OCT. 3 & 4

Milton Area Studio Tour,

fasm.ca

OCT. 4

British Car Council

Annual Toy Drive,

Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com
905.878.8151

OCT. 6

Future of Food,

Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com
905.878.8151

OCT. 9-12

Ball's Falls

Thanksgiving Festival,

Celebrate the beauty of autumn
at Ball's Falls, with heritage
buildings to visit, art, crafts,
displays, demonstrations, food.
Ball's Falls Conservation Area,
Jordan npca.ca



OCT. 9-12

Queenston Art Show and Sale,

37th annual art show and

sale of work by area artists,
sponsored by Queenston
Residents' Association. 11 a.m.
to 5 p.m. Queenston Library,
32 Queenston St., Niagara-
on-the-Lake/Queenston
jcalver@cogeco.ca
905.262.4164

NOV. 6-8

Ski Swap,

Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com
905.878.8151

NOV. 7 & 8

Art in Action,

Burlington
artinaction.ca
905.510.5030

NOV. 14 & 15

Parade of Lights,

Country Heritage Park, Milton
countryheritagepark.com
905.878.8151

NOV. 26

Make & Take a Christmas Arrangement,

Collingwood Garden Club,
Trinity United Church,
Collingwood
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NOV. 27-29

Christmas in the Country,

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of lights and hundreds of
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Conservation Area, south
of Hanover, Saugeen Valley
Conservation Foundation,
svca.on.ca publicinfo@svca.on.ca
519.367.3040

NOV. 27-29

Walk to Bethlehem,

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Conservation
Halton

To prepare for the Oct. 19 federal election, we asked some politicians and parties the following question. These were the only responses we received. The Liberal Party of Canada and the Green Party of Canada did not respond to our invitation.

As I've said in the House of Commons, we are truly blessed to live so close to this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve, the amazing Bruce Trail and Dundas Valley. It has been an honour to help secure federal funding and support for the Dundas EcoPark and Royal Botanical Gardens — both part of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.

Our government has launched a number of initiatives to protect and enhance our treasured natural spaces—including the expansion of Canada's First National Urban Park in the Rouge Valley, the National Conservation Plan, the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund and the Habitat Stewardship Program.

David Sweet, MP for Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale (2006 to present); Conservative Candidate, Flamborough-Glanbrook

Protection of environmentally sensitive land is a priority for our Conservative Government. From the creation of the Rouge National Park in the GTA to the 4,000 km² of ecologically sensitive private lands, we have taken positive action to protect Canada's landscape. To highlight a few of our accomplishments, we extended the Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area reserve, established the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area, greatly expanded Nahanni National Park reserve and established three new National Wildlife Areas in Nunavut. The Conservative Government is committed to protecting our lands, water and wildlife for the benefit of all Canadians.

Mike Wallace, Conservative Candidate for Burlington

QUESTION: If we care about the protection of the Niagara Escarpment, which is a provincial matter despite its UNESCO designation as a World Biosphere Reserve, why should we vote for your party in the federal election?

New Democrats believe we have a duty to protect our environment for future generations. We must do more to care for unique natural spaces like the Niagara Escarpment. Unfortunately, Stephen Harper's Conservatives have systematically dismantled Canada's environmental protection laws and stripped protection from thousands of rivers, lakes, and streams under the Navigable Waters Protection Act — including throughout the Escarpment. An NDP government would restore legal protection for Canadian waterways to ensure that sensitive ecosystems are protected and that all industrial development proposals are subject to thorough and credible environmental assessments. Canadians can trust Thomas Mulcair to defend our natural heritage.

Federal New Democratic 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!

Niagara Escarpment across Hamilton Harbour.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

SECURE BIKES

Orangeville Sustainability Action Team provided a **free, covered and staffed lock-up tent for bicycles** at several community events this summer.

CREDIT VALLEY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

A new trail connecting Lake Ontario to the headwaters of Credit River

is being planned by Credit Valley Conservation and Credit Valley Heritage Society. The heritage tourism route along the river could be 113 km long and link urban and rural communities.

SOLAR POWER FROM GEORGETOWN ARENA

Halton Hills Community Energy Corporation

plans to install solar panels on the roof

of Mold-Masters Sportsplex, an arena in Georgetown. The building was designed to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and includes 14 electric vehicle charging stations. The energy produced by the panels is hoped to power 60 homes for a year.

ESCARPMENT ECOPARK GROWS

City of Burlington has bought

five acres of natural land on Snake Road, near Clappison Escarpment Woods Environmentally Sensitive Area.

This land has forested talus slopes and deep creek valleys that create unique microclimates for plants and animals. This protected area adds to the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.

PUMPKIN SOUP

WITH APPLE-WALNUT TOPPING

INGREDIENTS:

SOUP

- 1 tbsp. (15 mL) Canola oil
- 6 cups (1.5 L) Pumpkin, peeled, diced
- 1/2 Small Onion, diced
- 2 cloves Garlic, peeled and crushed
- 3 cups (750 mL) Chicken Broth - 35% Less Sodium
- 1 tbsp. (15 mL) Pure Maple Syrup
- 1/4 tsp. (1 mL) Ground Nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. (1 mL) Each Salt and Pepper

TOPPING

- 1 Granny Smith Apple, finely diced
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) Fresh Chives, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) Chopped Walnuts
- 1 tbsp. (15 mL) Lemon Juice
- 2 tbsps. (30 mL) Pure Maple Syrup, divided

METHOD:

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir in the pumpkin, onion and garlic. Cook until lightly browned, 5 to 6 min. Add the broth, 1 tbsp (15 mL) maple syrup, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer until the pumpkin is very tender, about 15 min.
2. Meanwhile, to make the topping, in a bowl combine apple, chives, walnuts, lemon juice and 1 tbsp (15 mL) of maple syrup. Set aside.
3. Purée the pumpkin mixture using a blender until smooth. Ladle the soup into 4 bowls and add topping. Drizzle each bowl with remaining maple syrup before serving.



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519-599-3000

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Georgetown Pharmacy
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Stoney Creek
Grimsby
Beamsville
Niagara-on-the-Lake
St. Catharines
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