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WINTER 2015-16 (DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY)

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Niagara Escarpment **Views**



Winter 2015–16

(December, January, February)

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Pretty River Valley Country Inn by Mike Davis

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Written by Gloria Hildebrandt
Photos by Mike Davis except where noted



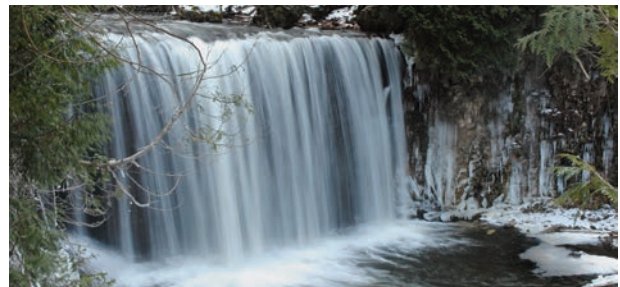
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Niagara Escarpment No Place for Animal Cruelty

I fervently hope that by the time you read this, this matter will have been resolved. If not, I'm sharing ideas for action you can take if you are moved to. In October, in the Niagara Escarpment town of Collingwood, which is at the foot of the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve along southern Georgian Bay, an O.P.P. officer was caught on cellphone video, deliberately and repeatedly using his vehicle to hit and actually drive over, three times, what at first was reported to be a coyote. Utterly obscene!

Then it was revealed that the animal had actually been a domestic dog who had wandered away from home. This dog was old. And deaf! After being run over with a car, she was allegedly shot dead by the officer. Nauseating and heart-breaking.

Whether coyote or dog, this action by a police officer is so cruel that it is alarming in someone called to keep the peace. There is no excuse for such behaviour, especially in a town close to a World Biosphere Reserve, which is supposed to be an example to the world, of co-existence between nature and development.

Coyote Watch Canada (CWC), an organization we featured in the Winter 2014-15



issue, had a swift yet measured response. They suggested that people should contact the O.P.P. and ask for officers to be trained in sensitivity and proper wildlife response. CWC has done this successfully in other communities.

The group Collingwood Animals Rights Advocate Group began an online petition calling for legal action to be taken against the officer, and to establish

a wildlife management and coexistence committee. If you want to sign this petition, there is a link to it from our website.

To contact the O.P.P., you can email them at oppa@oppa.ca or write them at Ontario Provincial Police Association, 119 Ferris Lane, Barrie ON L4M 2Y1. To comment on their Facebook page, search for Ontario Provincial Police Association. It should be important for them to know that citizens are watching.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt
P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

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**Niagara
Escarpment
Views**

SINCE JANUARY 2008

a division of
1826789 Ontario Inc.

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Niagara Escarpment Views

is published four times a year.

Subscriptions in Canada:

Annual: \$22; Two years: \$39.50
HST included. HST Number
80712 0464 RT0001.

Subscriptions to the U.S.:

Annual: \$35; Two years: \$65
Canadian funds.

PayPal available at www.NEViews.ca



Delivered by Canada Post
Publications Mail #41592022

The publishers of *Niagara Escarpment Views* are not responsible for any loss or damage caused by the contents of the magazine, whether in articles or advertisements. Views expressed might not be those of its publishers or editor. Please contact us concerning advertising, subscriptions, story ideas and photography. Your comments are welcome! Letters to the editor may be edited for space and published in the magazine, on the website or in print materials.

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ISSN 2293-2976

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Thank-you so much Gloria, and Mike, for putting me on the cover of Niagara Escarpment Views!...and even more than that....Thank-you for the wonderful article you wrote Gloria....So many people have told me, how extraordinary the article is, and how they are impressed by it. I have been sending copies of the magazine to the big art galleries of the planet!!!! Most recently I sent your magazine with a letter attached, to the Tate Modern in the UK!...I'll let you know if something extraordinary happens from all this! Meanwhile....it has made me very happy....and so many people on Manitoulin really happy too!

Ann Beam, M'Chigeeng

Your magazine has been a big hit at my shop. People are glad to take a copy. I was happy you included me in your last edition. I have been giving copies away. People are happy to receive them. I also took them to "Telling Tales" Festival in Rockton. Very family friendly. Many young people.

Sylvia Simpson, Hamilton

Editor's note: Ann Beam holds the Autumn issue with her image on the cover.



The magazine is great...
enjoy reading it very much.

Ursula Mcdermid, Milton



I had a request from the volunteers at the Mill... would it be possible for you to deliver any extra June/ July/August issues to the St. Catharines Museum so that I can take them to the mill for the mill volunteers to hand out, instead of recycling this issue. The volunteers really love the issue and have had a lot of requests from the public for them.

Carla Mackie, St. Catharines

Editor's note: We recycle very few copies of past issues because we have a constant demand for them from the public. People ask for back issues from years past. We were happy to give some extras to Morningstar Mill.



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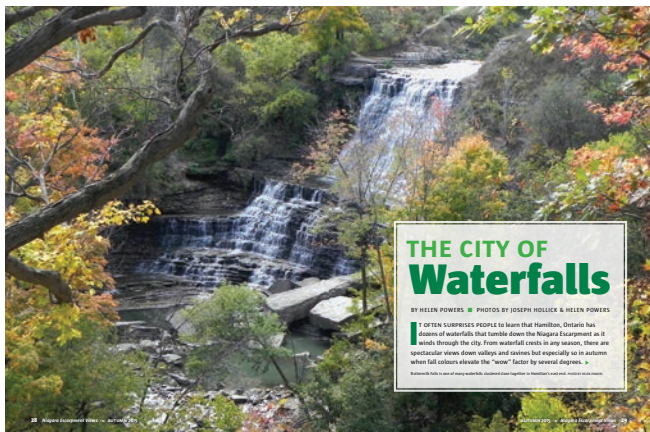
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CORRECTION:

This photo above was incorrectly identified as Buttermilk Falls. This is, in fact, the nearby Albion Falls. Joseph Hollick of Dundas, a photographer who has specialized in Hamilton's waterfalls, pointed out the error and sent this photo of Buttermilk Falls.

Damage in Four Mile Creek, Virgil

I read an article in Niagara Escarpment Views about strict standards intended to protect at-risk species and their habitats. Recently there was a disaster in the Four Mile Creek this August. [Someone] drained the creek and killed mounds of fish and worst of all Painted Turtles. The smell was excruciating with "death." The garbage that people put in the creek was also disgusting; there was a refrigerator in the bottom of the creek! I haven't heard much lately... I hope they cleaned the creek? If you could find out more that would be nice... My heart goes out to the amphibians!

Debbie Ivison, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Editor's note: We received this response from Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority [NPCA], which manages Four Mile Creek:

Solution Put in Place for Lower and Upper Virgil Dams

A permanent solution has been put in place for both the Lower and Upper Virgil Dams in Niagara-on-the-Lake correcting a problem that led to the draining of the Lower Dam earlier in the month [August]. The 15" diameter outlet in the Lower Virgil Dam was successfully sealed with a metal plate. To be proactive, the 15" diameter outlet on the Upper Virgil Dam was similarly sealed safeguarding against either dam being drained in the future.

"From problems come opportunities," said NPCA's supervisor of water resources, Steve Miller. "We were able to engineer and install a solution that will solve the initial problem and prevent it from happening in the future. It was a good team effort by everyone involved," he explained.

Water levels have returned to normal and the clean-up is complete.

Editor's note: Further discussion with Steve Miller clarified that the only fish that had died in the incident were invasive species carp and koi. Only one turtle was confirmed dead, species unknown. As for garbage, they didn't see much and their priority was to get water back into the drained reservoir as soon as possible. No one contacted them about the location of a refrigerator. They ask people to contact the NPCA at 905 788 3135 with concerns. They respond to these calls all the time.



Horse Mystery Solved!

My name is Roger Edwards and I am the artist responsible for the iron horses that Gloria is photographed next to.

Roger Edwards, Beaver Valley

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.



◀ Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy released Monarch butterflies at their annual Butterfly Festival at Bruce Peninsula National Park, Tobermory, Aug. 22 and 23. People helped with capturing, tagging and releasing Monarchs in order to track their migration to Mexico. PHOTO BY ANNA BARNETT.

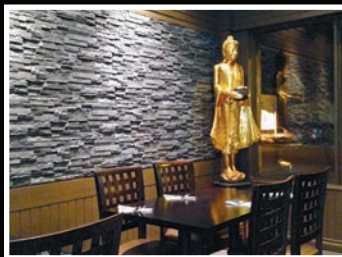


▲ A rainscape educational garden display at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) in late August, was designed by Sean James, sustainable gardening columnist for this magazine, and installed by Fern Ridge Landscaping & Eco-Consulting of Milton. The garden was visited throughout the entire duration of the CNE. PHOTO BY SEAN JAMES.



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▲ With Town Crier Andrew Welch, a creative cake, plenty of dignitaries and supporters, Credit Valley Conservation co-hosted the opening of the Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail in Orangeville on Aug. 28. A 10-year project to develop a 7.5 km trail around Island Lake was completed with a Close the Gap campaign. The trail is fully accessible and open for walking and cycling.

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

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



◀ Miguel Festin, who calls himself an urban farmer and gardener, runs Greengreens Hamilton and was selling his own organic produce in the Durand neighbourhood of downtown Hamilton on Aug. 28. He delivers and transports his fruits and vegetables by bicycle.



◀ Owen Sound's annual 10-day Salmon Spectacular derby opened on Aug. 28. At the weigh station with a salmon of around 14 pounds, are from left, Shane Ruther, Tim Henrich, Wally Cunningham, volunteers with Sydenham Sportsmen's Association. Photo by Paulette Peirol, Owen Sound Tourism.



▲ Georgetown hosted the first Head for the Hills Craft Beer Festival on Sept. 19. Proceeds went to Food4Kids, a charity providing schoolchildren in Hamilton and Halton, with food for the weekend.

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EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ On Sept. 20, a new headstone display pavilion was unveiled at the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery by, from left, Donna Atkinson, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Brenda Miller of the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee, Helen Miller, a descendant of early Black settlers, The Honourable Jean Augustine, former Fairness Commissioner of Ontario, Ontario's Lieutenant Governor The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell and Amber MacKinnon, daughter of the late Les MacKinnon who was instrumental in getting the site recognized in 1990. PHOTO BY KATE RUSSELL.



▲ On Sept. 23 in celebration of National Tree Day, members of Bruce and Grey Counties' Extraordinary Tree project presented nominations to the public at the Grey Roots Auditorium. A major exhibition in 2016 at Grey Roots Museum will highlight 12 selected trees. The Extraordinary Tree project is intended to heighten awareness of trees' value. PHOTO BY KRISTA MCKEE, GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION.

Exhibiting a Rain Garden

By Sean James

We get a lot of wonderful opportunities at Fern Ridge Landscaping. Over the last few years, more and more of our work has focused on what are becoming known as “rainscapes.” These are ornamental ways of handling rainfall. They can even be invisible in the case of underground infiltration trenches. There are many upsides to rainscapes, including helping to protect neighbourhoods from flooding. The number one source of insurance claims in Canada is now flood damage! Rainscapes protect our waterways, by slowing the flow of stormwater into creeks, cleaning it and cooling it as it infiltrates, improving biodiversity and adding to property value. Getting the word out about this great trend is important.

Every year we create an educational demonstration garden at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) and this year we chose to focus on showcasing different rain handling methods. Featuring the variety of different techniques is key. Showing that it doesn't have to be a sacrifice, but rather can be even more beautiful than traditional landscaping, is a good way to get people to buy in.

Water Features

We built a lovely gazebo and then used the roof and eavestroughs as water features, pumping water up to the top and allowing it to flow into a rain barrel, a rain garden and what is known as an evaporation pond. We backed this all up with signage and it was a pleasure to see people intently reading.



▲ Mike Prong and Sean James show the final product, a rainscape at the CNE designed to educate and show people that being eco-friendly doesn't have to be a sacrifice.

Rain barrels are pretty straightforward. There are some nicer ones coming on the market now which are bit more ornamental than the old style. It's important to empty them a couple of days before it rains, to be ready to capture the next rainfall. The easiest way is to connect it to a drip irrigation hose and let the water flow and soak into the landscape. Empty and disconnect the barrels before winter.

Rain gardens are our favourite way of handling stormwater since they're so ornamental and offer the chance to plant some beautiful, unusual plants. They're simple to build. Basically, create a bowl-shaped garden, depending on soil type between six inches to a foot deep and then direct the downspout(s) into it. Create a six- to nine-foot dry creek bed, lined with pond liner, sloping down, away from the house. It's always important to get water away from building foundations. The garden can be any size necessary, although most of ours are about 6' x 8' across. The water

should drain away within 24 to 48 hours, to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Plants for Rain Gardens

Some of the amazing plants that are perfect for rain gardens include Blue Flag Iris, Sneezeweed, Marsh Marigold, and certain ferns. Design for texture and interest all season long and it will be a stand-out feature in the garden. One can even have winter interest from the Sparkleberry and sedge grasses!

An evaporation pond is a bit more traditional, as it's just a regular, ornamental pond into which the downspout drains. You can even create a bog to receive the water before it drains into this pond. The bog will clean the water before releasing it into the pond. The pond holds the rainfall, evaporating away about an inch per day.

Our CNE garden also featured permeable pavers which have engineered gaps to allow water to flow through and into the ground. They look just like standard cast interlocking pavers. A good

permeable patio can add 12 per cent to the value of your home!

In place of our regular cast stone retaining wall, this year we used an incredible new product called Envirollok bags. They are engineered landscape fabric bags that get filled with soil. The bags get stacked and then planted with various types of plant material. At the CNE we used SedumMaster woven mats planted up with different types of Stonecrop. It was quite beautiful and attention grabbing!

Overall, it was quite heartening to see how the garden was received and the visitors' interest generated by the garden and educational signage. Just 15 years ago, no one would have even thought about initiatives like this and now it's really catching hold! It all makes us feel warm 'n' fuzzy about what we do.

Follow **Sean James** on Twitter @seanfernridge or by searching Fern Ridge Landscaping on Facebook. Check out the new mobile-friendly Fern Ridge Website at www.fernridgelandscaping.com.

Gordon Lightfoot a Highlight of

THE GREENBELT HARVEST PICNIC on Aug. 29 at Christie Lake Conservation Area in Dundas was a celebration of the 10th anniversary of Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation. Also intended to increase awareness of local farmers and the eat-local movement, the event offered workshops, art vendors, informative exhibits as well as about 20 musical acts performing on a large open-air stage.

Singer-songwriter Gordon Lightfoot was a strong favourite. Without fanfare, after sound checks and technical adjustments were made, he suddenly appeared at the microphone, saying “Hello, I’m Gordon Lightfoot and reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.” He proceeded to play and sing several numbers, including “Beautiful,” “If You Could Read My Mind,” “Carefree Highway,” “Did She Mention My Name,” “Ribbon of Darkness,” “Sundown,” “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald,” “Early Morning Rain” and as an encore, “Baby Step Back.”

His wife Kim was at the foot of the stage, taking photos and meeting people.

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Staffing the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation information tent were Susan Murray and Shelley Petrie with her son Colin Anderson.



▲ At left, Mike Davis, with other journalists, had a few precious minutes to photograph Gordon Lightfoot from the pit. PHOTO BY KIM LIGHTFOOT.



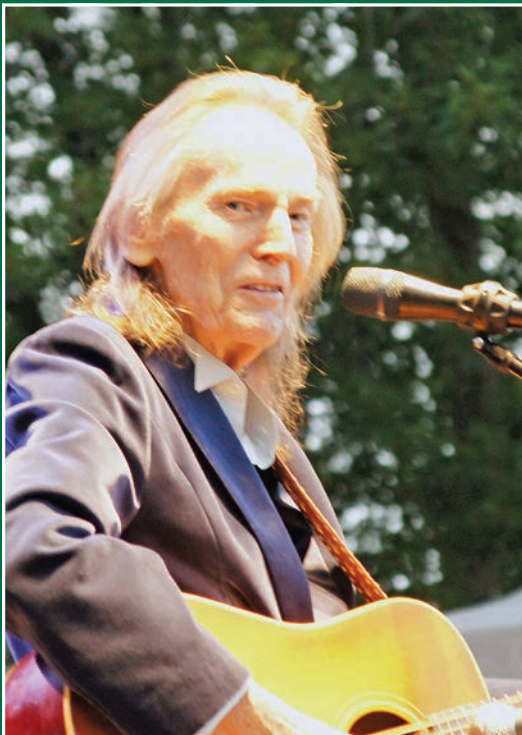
Greenbelt Harvest Picnic



▲ At the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy exhibit, Bob Barnett makes a point to Morgan Roblin with Travis Ramsay.



▲ The Flying Chestnut Kitchen of Eugenia Falls served up Indian tacos.



▲ Aware of his surroundings, the consummate professional Gordon Lightfoot gives a smile for photographers without missing a note in his performance.

◀ Canadian legend Gordon Lightfoot enthralled the audience with his range of popular songs.

► In the journalists' pit at the edge of the stage, Mike Davis met Lightfoot's wife Kim.



Collingwood IN WINTER

Gorgeous retreats, challenging weather

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

GEORGIAN BAY IS GORGEOUS in summer, with gentle waves rolling, sun shining brightly, cool breezes wafting down from the Niagara Escarpment. But in winter? When the waves freeze at the shore? When the snow is deep and thick? When it's cold?

Last December Mike and I spent a few days exploring some of the spots in the Collingwood area. The places that are a dream of a summer vacation are very different in winter, not worse, just a different experience. ►

Beautiful, tranquil Scandinave Spa is dramatic in winter. Important tip: of the two towels you are given, keep one dry in your locker for after your final shower.



Pretty River Valley Country Inn

We checked into Pretty River Valley Country Inn, a complex of buildings on an organic farm right in the Niagara Escarpment's Blue Mountains, south of Collingwood. Linda Proudfoot, who with husband Paul Bilewicz owns, lives at, and manages the inn, showed us to our suite, consisting of a lovely sitting room with wood-burning fireplace, a two-person Jacuzzi in a corner, separate bedroom and bathroom.

Mylar and Loreta's

For dinner we went to Mylar and Loreta's Restaurant in the hamlet of Singhampton.

There is history to the building, which first, in the mid 1800s, was a hotel. For almost 50 years it was a general store, and since 1983 it has been run as a restaurant by the current owners.

I had a sweet potato/chili vegetarian soup while Mike had a Greek salad. Mike's main course was the roasted pork house specialty. I had a perfectly cooked hot vegetable plate.

"Our vegetables from the grill have been popular a long time," said Spencer Ridding, son of owner Sandy Hamilton. "Vegetarians love it."

For dessert we had warmed strawberry/rhubarb crisp with

vanilla ice cream, delicious on a cold winter's night.

Back at the inn, I tried the Jacuzzi bath, which soothed muscles I didn't know were sore, that had been strained by clearing downed branches on my property at home.

A Full Day

Before breakfast the next morning, Mike went out to take photographs. Breakfast at the inn was an organic buffet of tea biscuits, bread, fresh fruit, yogurt, juice, coffee. We had freshly made omelettes of sun-dried tomato pesto, asiago cheese and asparagus and Mike added their home-raised sausage.

Well fuelled, we repeated Mike's earlier walk so he could show me his discoveries. We took an old farm laneway to the top of the Niagara Escarpment where, through the trees, there are some good views of the Pretty River Valley. We could hear the sound of the river from the top. Following a different trail back down, we came upon an intriguing metal graveyard. Rusty farm implements lie scattered and abandoned, some almost hidden by fallen leaves, another with a tree growing through it. They inspire artists to sketch and draw them. There is something mournful about the way they are gradually returning to the earth.

▼ The lobby entrance to Pretty River Valley Country Inn. The suite we stayed in is at ground level in the red building.



Breakfast was freshly made omelettes of sun-dried tomato pesto, asiago cheese, asparagus, and home-raised sausage.

► (Top Right) The sitting room with wood-burning fireplace, with bedroom beyond.

► (Bottom Right) The corner Jacuzzi bath is opposite the sitting-room fireplace.





◀ On a cold winter's evening, a woodstove adds heat and cheer to Mylar and Loreta's Restaurant.

▼ From the top of the Niagara Escarpment at Pretty River Valley Country Inn, there's a great view of the valley between the leafless trees. In summer these views will be much more difficult to see.



Continuing down to the inn, we passed paddocks for the Icelandic horses. Shaggy and short, they are cute, friendly and curious. Close to the inn is the paddock for the three reindeer. Their antlers are impressively huge, and grow new each year. A corner of the dining room is stacked high with a pile of dropped antlers from previous years.

Back at our suite, we discovered a stash of free hot chocolate, tea and homemade cookies in the hall. We took complete advantage of these treats during our stay.

Scandinave Spa

That afternoon was our appointment at ScandinaVe

Spa, a retreat looking onto the Niagara Escarpment. A series of buildings and beautiful outdoor spaces has been designed for the Scandinavian baths experience; for which you wear a bathing suit and move between the Finnish sauna, Norwegian steam bath, cold water plunges and hot water pools, as well as solariums and an outdoor fireplace.

We were advised to follow the sequence of warming the body, then taking a cold plunge or at least a cold shower to close the pores and raise the heart rate, followed by a rest to restore the body to a normal state, and to do this sequence a few times.



▲ The reindeer Gandolph, Elfen and their baby are kept in a paddock beside the Inn's buildings.

◀ One of the old implements in the metal graveyard.

▼ At the Spa, a wood fire adds warmth and scent.





◀ The Icelandic horse after inspecting Gloria, who is bundled against the cold.

▼ Steam rises from hot baths surrounded by snow at Scandinave Spa, which is open through the winter for bracing experiences.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY SCANDINAVE SPA.



The steam room smelled delightfully of eucalyptus and caused sweating almost at once. After a few minutes it was time to leave. I tried the cold plunge but was not able to get in past my thighs. I believe Mike dipped under once, but he also found it extremely cold. The temperature outside was minus five degrees Celsius and there was a wind.

We enjoyed the various hot baths and rooms, but found it cooling enough simply moving around outside in our wet bathing suits, with wet towels. We tried the Forest Hot

Bath after dark, with lights on around the pool. Steam rose from the water and the place seemed more intimate with darkness all around.

After a final shower in the change rooms, we met in the reception lounge for a light supper from the bistro area. Then we returned to the inn, done for the day.

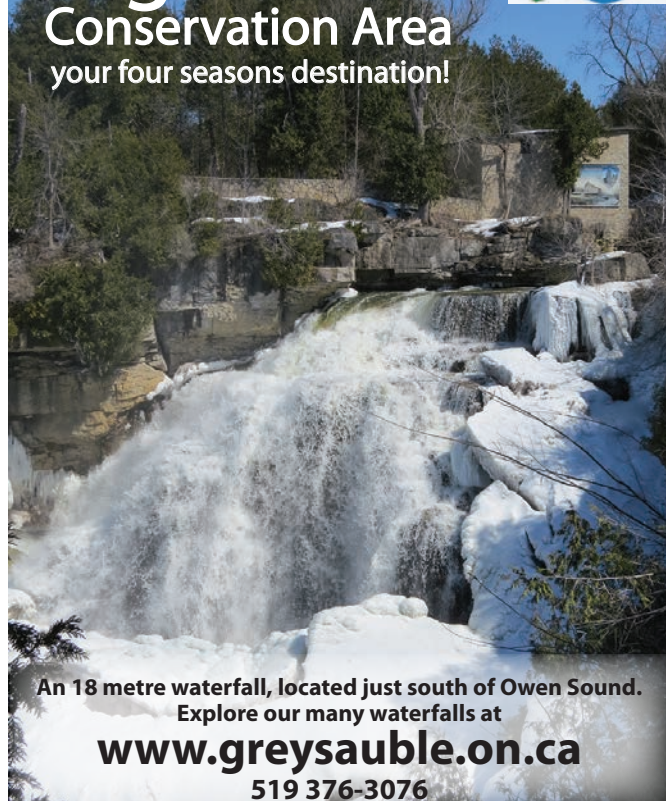
On the third and last day of our stay, we asked to photograph the reindeer, which involved a few people helping to catch the one called Elfen. They are used to pull Santa's sleigh in a Collingwood



▲ Linda Proudfoot and Paul Bilewicz, owners of Pretty River Valley Country Inn, with Elfen, one of their reindeer.

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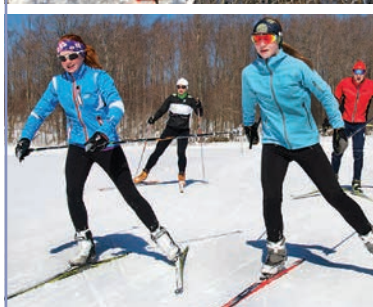
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◀ Mike at one end of Scenic Caves' suspension bridge, with snow clouds blocking the views.
PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

▼ On a clear winter's day, you can see for miles and miles, including Georgian Bay, from the suspension bridge at Scenic Caves. PHOTO PROVIDED.



Walking the bridge seemed
like being in the clouds.

Christmas parade each year, but don't seem to be handled much otherwise. After some closeups, Paul gave us a tour of the Croft Rooms in a separate building. These are luxurious suites that can sleep four or can be rented together for groups of 10. There is an exercise room on the main floor and a helipad nearby, convenient for year-round air tours of southern Georgian Bay.

Scenic Caves

In the afternoon we went to Scenic Caves to walk the suspension bridge, at 420 ft long, said to be Ontario's longest. With little snow on the ground, we didn't need snowshoes to walk the trail to the bridge. We went down part of the Escarpment, along a gentle waterfall and among dark, bare trees. Snow was falling gently.

We know that the view from the bridge is spectacular, extending for 10,000 sq km and including Georgian Bay, Wasaga Beach, and as far as Penetanguishene. This day, the snowfall hid our view. Walking the bridge seemed like being in the clouds.

The snow turned into a serious storm by the time we got back to the inn. We thought we should head for home before it got dark, but despite Paul having sanded the driveway and snowblowing with a big tractor, we couldn't get the car up the hill to the buildings. We left the car at the road, walked up the drive and carried our overnight bags back down. Unfortunately, ice was forming and we both fell hard. We made it to the car and safely home, but with new respect for the Collingwood winter.

When we let Linda know what had happened, she replied "Sorry to hear about the falls. Hope you noticed the large sign on the pole at the bottom of the Inn, indicating alternative parking. We are happy to shuttle guests and their belongings to their cars. As you have found out it can be a challenge with the weather." **NEV**



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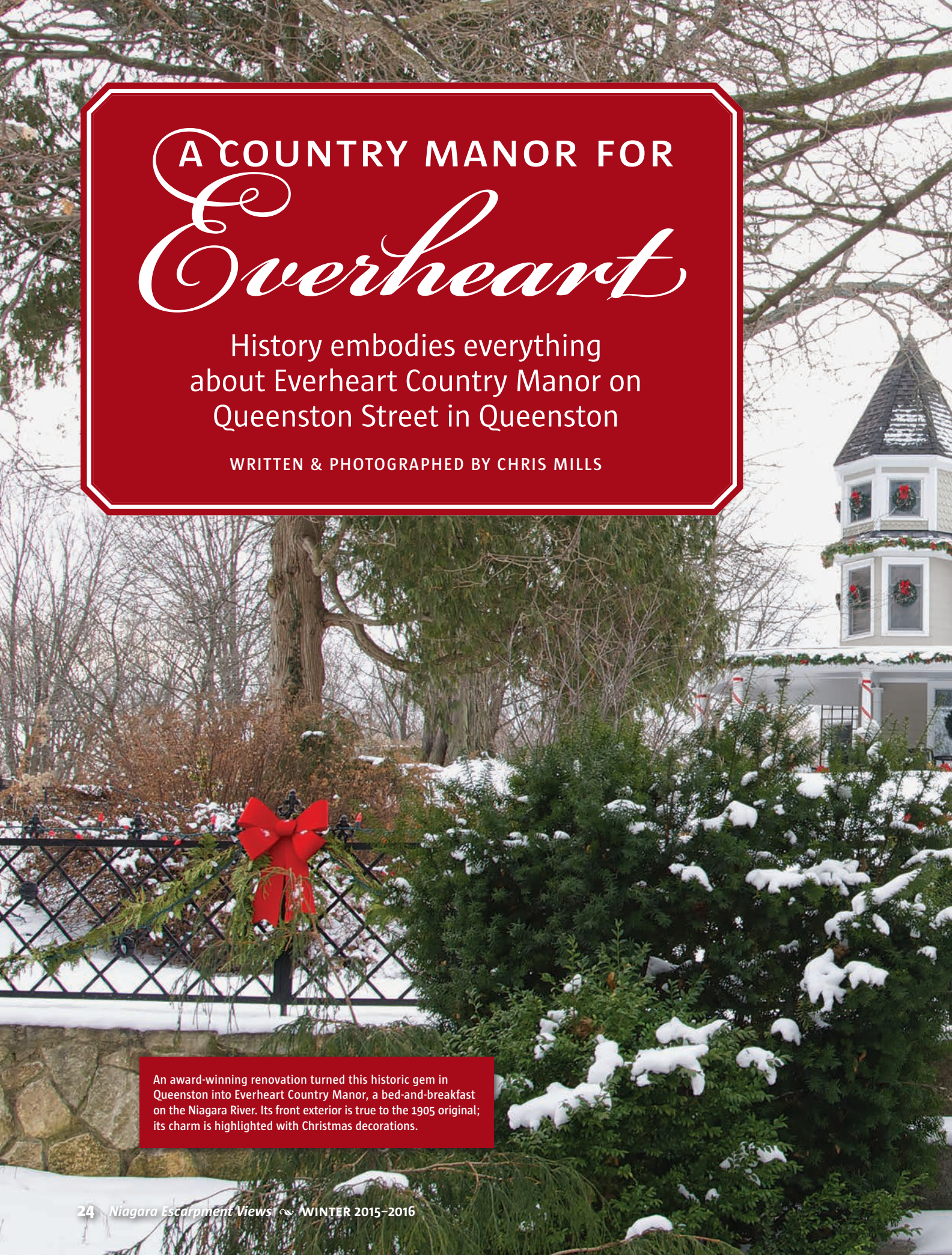
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A COUNTRY MANOR FOR *Everheart*

History embodies everything
about Everheart Country Manor on
Queenston Street in Queenston

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY CHRIS MILLS

An award-winning renovation turned this historic gem in Queenston into Everheart Country Manor, a bed-and-breakfast on the Niagara River. Its front exterior is true to the 1905 original; its charm is highlighted with Christmas decorations.



POISED ON A TWO-acre rise of land dotted by centuries-old trees almost in the shadow of the Niagara Escarpment, the construction of Everheart dates to the turn of the last century, but its history extends well before that.

Queenston dates back to about the same time as its close neighbour, Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL), which dates back to the 1776 American Revolution. That's when a group of guerrilla fighters called Butler's Rangers elected to remain loyal to British King George III and moved their families to Niagara. It later became the capital of Upper Canada before it

was burned to the ground when Americans withdrew just before the winter of 1814. This was described in the Summer 2014 issue of *Niagara Escarpment Views*.

Upper Canada and Queenston in particular were settled by people like The Honourable Robert Hamilton who operated the Queenston docks, which in the 19th century was the single most important land connection to every traded good that came into and out of Upper Canada (Ontario) and points west.

One of his four sons, Alexander, built himself a palatial example of Classical Revivalism and Picturesque combined. It's now called Willowbank Estates where

students learn to repair and maintain heritage homes in the materials and style they were originally constructed. It still stands on a magnificent crest of hill overlooking the town on the edge of the Niagara River.

According to records from the Toronto Archives, an old Presbyterian church was constructed on a portion of the property about 1857, which in turn was torn down for a house constructed in 1875 by Major James Sheppard.

In 1905, Sheppard built the Queen Anne Asymmetrical Victorian style home at 137 Queenston Street for his three spinster daughters. School pictures dating to this era show about seven Sheppard children, presumably not

the spinster daughters, in front of the original stone Laura Secord School.

They lived there until 1936. Rumours are they also had property in the southern U.S., from where they returned one year to find the home invaded by vandals and heartbreakingly damaged. They virtually abandoned it and never returned.

Thus opened the door for the family of Aubrey Dickson to purchase the home for one dollar (\$1) in 1950, putatively because he married into the Sheppard family. School pictures dating to this era show about seven Sheppard children and a half dozen Dicksons.

Continued on page 31. ►

▼ With its key position on the Niagara River, Queenston was a vital location for trade in the 19th century. Everheart is situated close to the river.



In 1905,
Sheppard built
the Queen Anne
Asymmetrical
Victorian style
home at 137
Queenston St.

► At twilight, Everheart
is welcoming with cheery
Christmas lights.

▼ The front entrance room has period
pieces and flooring combined with
modern spotlights and floor tile.



Milton's Rattlesnake Point in Winter

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS









◀ Continued from page 31

Another occupant held it from 1985 to 1988 at which point it was purchased by the Arnold Van Vliet family to home school their seven children. They undertook modifications for the home, including the addition of an enormous main floor classroom in the rear portion, plus an indoor swimming pool.

Perfectionist Renovation

But the house had become tired after more than 100 years. So in 2002 when Joyce and Doug King acquired it, they faced some serious renovations. However, they also knew exactly what they were going to do with it: a bed and breakfast called Everheart.

“For a home that’s ever in your heart,” says Joyce.

They hired a father/son team of German carpenters/contractors from Welland, who launched into every floor, every wall, and every moulding.

“Perfectionists,” says Doug with only a hint of exasperation. “They showed up here five days a week for two years.”

The inside of every exterior wall was removed in order to install insulation. Then the interior walls were removed in order to turn the multitude of tiny rooms into larger modern-sized versions.

On the second floor, for instance, five bedrooms, a storage area and single bathroom were torn out entirely to make room for just two large bedrooms and two bathrooms.

◀ (Top) A gas fireplace replaced the old wood-burning version in the main-level living area overlooking a lovely garden patio that is buried in snow over winter.

◀ (Bottom) The main-level living area also looks onto the rear in-ground pool and side patio.



▲ Willowbank Estates is down the road from Everheart, on a hill at the edge of Niagara River, overlooking Queenston.



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▲ Laura Secord School was attended by children of the man who built the nearby Queen Anne house that became Everheart.



▲ Signs of history enrich the village of Queenston, home of Laura Secord's original 1813 homestead and William Lyon Mackenzie's 1824 Printery.



▲ An original stone cottage with a plaque dating it to 1810, still stands down the street from Everheart.

“We didn’t want to put up anything that didn’t pay respect to the house.”

A large attic at the top of a narrow staircase became a third bedroom, bathroom and sitting area with a delightful little dining room in the home’s front turret. The rear main level classroom became Doug and Joyce’s master bedroom.

They made one concession to comfort by replacing all radiators with forced-air gas and central air conditioning.

Throughout the process, Doug, a stone mason who operated a successful gravestone business in Etobicoke, commuted to Toronto every week and stayed in a little apartment over his business. Joyce made more than her share of executive decisions in his stead; many of them ensured the house would stay true to its historic pedigree.

“We’re actually sitting on three lots here,” says Joyce, who monitored and executed every step of the way. “We had to buy the southern lot to save the two acres intact.”

The dilapidated stone wall across the front of the property had to be completely reconstructed, but the iron railing was replaced. Joyce says they contracted a company to replicate it exactly. Parts of the original rail can be found in the garden, pathway and trellis.

“We couldn’t replace the driveway gates because we had no picture record of it,” says Joyce. “We didn’t want to put up anything that didn’t pay respect to the house.”

Award-Winning

Since the renovation, they’ve filled the home with antiques and period furniture from their families, including a grandfather clock. They accede

that pretty well only the outer walls and floors remain original. Mind you, they also hired a Welland wood finisher to manufacture a rotary bit to match the 10-inch baseboards.

The Kings’ renovation won not just an Ontario 2005 Outstanding Contribution to Heritage Preservation Award, but also the Peter J. Stokes Heritage Commendation in Recognition of the Preservation of the site.

Situated on the same road as the original William Lyon Mackenzie Printery dating to around 1824, an original stone cottage dating to 1810, and Laura Secord’s original 1813 homestead means something.

Joyce says “In autumn 2012, they had a re-enactment of the battle of Queenston Heights.” This is where Lieutenant-General Sir Isaac Brock died in battle; the re-enactment included the ceremonial return of Brock’s funeral wagon to Fort George in NOTL. “I watched those soldiers in their uniforms, the ladies in their long dresses, and the wagons and horses, then they started playing. And the sight and sounds gave me goose humps, then tears. It was pretty amazing.”

History, especially the kind you have to work to protect, will do that. **NEV**

Chris Mills is a frequent contributor to Niagara Escarpment Views. His last feature was “Bouldering Totally Rocks,” Spring 2015. Reach him through chrismills.ca.

For a Queenston resident’s description of her village, see Jane Calver’s Aug. 14 essay and photos at NEViews.ca.

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AWARD-WINNING

RETREAT IN CLEARVIEW

BY DAN O'REILLY ■ PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS





For Toronto residents Derek and Diana Ham, finding a photo on the Internet was the first step in the design and construction of their country getaway house which ultimately received a Niagara Escarpment Commission's Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award.

The Hams' summer retreat in the depth of winter. Hidden from the road, the house is sited to take full advantage of the view of Niagara Escarpment lands.



The open-concept kitchen at the centre of the house is glamorous and tidy with marble countertops, large copper and silver bowls, and the cabinetry-enclosed refrigerator. Wooden barn beams crown the ceiling of the whole gathering room.

“On the first day I walked the property for several hours until I found what I believed was the right location, part way down a hill.”

“**W**E WANTED a summer and weekend retreat, but didn't want to make the three- to-four hour drive to the Muskokas,” says Derek of their 2008 purchase of a Creemore-area farm property and the adjacent farmhouse lot which originally had been part of the farm until it was severed off by a previous owner.

For design ideas Derek conducted Google searches and found a photo of a Texas house. “It had won an award,”

he says. “But I couldn't find out much about it. When I saw it I knew that's what I wanted and showed my wife and we went with it.” They printed the image and consulted with Jamie Douglas, an associate with Young + Wright, now part of IBI Group Architects. This specialty practice within the global firm specializes in designing houses on the Niagara Escarpment.

Transforming the Ham's dreams into reality required designing, situating and building a house which could capitalize on the setting while

having a minimal impact on the Escarpment and therefore obtain all the Niagara Escarpment Commission and municipal approvals, says Douglas. As the former farm is bisected by a series of hills and valleys, finding the right site location was not easy.

“If we put the house too high on a hill, it would have had an impact [on the Escarpment] and if placed too low in the valleys, the views would be lost,” says Douglas, who visited the property three times before commencing

detailed design. “On the first day I walked the property for several hours until I found what I believed was the right location, part way down a hill. On the second visit I erected stakes on the site and marked the location on the survey.”

On the third visit he was accompanied by the Hams and their builder John Gordon of J.W. Gordon Construction. Douglas credits the Collingwood-based contractor with providing valuable advice on how storm water could be redirected away from the house.



▲ The view from the kitchen to the dining table, living area with fireplace, and beyond to the separate sunroom/family room.



◀ (Top Left) Owner Derek Ham at the gas fireplace which marks the end of the formal entrance to the house, and welcomes guests to the gathering room beyond.

◀ (Top Right) A glamorous side cart on wheels, displaying beautiful silver items, brings urban sophistication to the spacious gathering room.

As the Hams knew exactly what type of house they wanted, the design only took six months. Site plan approval from the NEC only took two months after a building application had been submitted.

Several factors contributed to the short approval process, says Douglas, including the location: setback from a north-south road, the east-facing house cannot be seen by passing motorists and it was designed and constructed so it would blend in with the surrounding landscape.

Harmony with the Environment

A key component in the objective to harmonize the house with the environment was the careful selection of building materials, most of which came from the Niagara Escarpment. Quarried Owen Sound stone was used for the exterior walls and a coach house/garage which is attached to the house via a glass corridor. Two porches, one facing east and the second on the west elevation, are supported with Douglas Fir columns, and in the main floor open-concept entertainment room, reclaimed barn beams decorate the ceiling.

Also "evoking the palette of the Escarpment" is the charcoal-tone seam metal roof which the architect suggests is reminiscent of the outcropping farm dwellings which once dotted the area.

Although there are two floors, the house is technically a one-and-half storey house because the second level was pushed into the roof space, lowering the height and minimizing its visual

impact. Another benefit was that all four bedrooms have cathedral ceilings.

Construction started in November 2009 and was completed a year later. But midway during construction a hurdle arose, although it had nothing to do with the house and one which was eventually turned into an opportunity.

Soil testing uncovered an extremely wet section along the route of the new driveway. One idea was to extend the original farm driveway on the severed lot to the new house. As the couple had planned to eventually sell the lot, this would have led to complications including negotiating a right-of-way from prospective purchasers. Ultimately, it was decided the severed lot should be legally conveyed back to the larger property, returning it to its original 100-acre lot size, says Douglas.

"This (proposal) was endorsed by the NEC because it reduced the amount of driveways and less traffic coming out on to the road and less overall development in the area," he adds. Although the legal conveyance took about six months to complete, it did not impact the construction schedule, he says.

Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award

Factors such as the site development, the restoration of an existing barn, and the merging of the two separate parcels back to the original 100-acre lot size were the reasons the NEC awarded its 2012 Achievement Award to Douglas and the Hams, says NEC landscape architect Linda LaFlamme.

◀ The sunroom/family room has three walls of windows, giving views all around the house at the far end, including the poolhouse with bar and change rooms.

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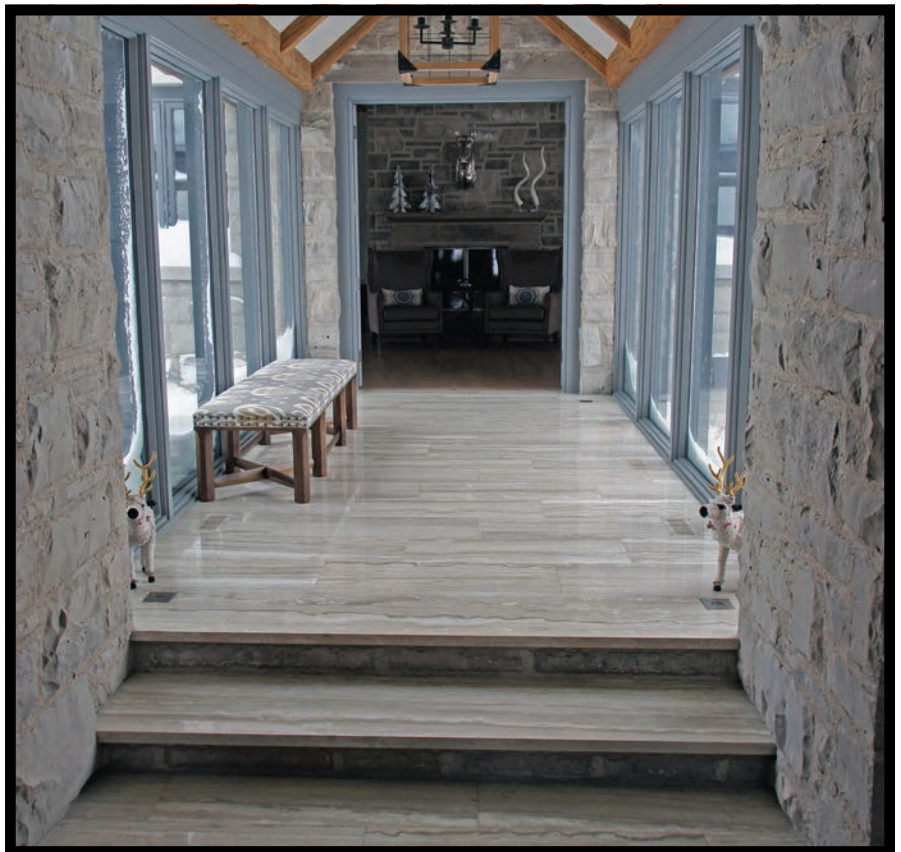
▲ The minimalist yet luxurious master bath is ensuite to the master bedroom.

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▲ A discrete outside entrance to the house opens up to this glass-enclosed breezeway leading to the main living areas.



▲ The high-ceilinged, spacious master bedroom has a subdued colour palette.

Established in 1987, the award program recognizes individuals and groups for outstanding initiatives undertaken in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.

"We believe the Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award program has helped to increase awareness of the need to protect the Niagara Escarpment's natural environment," she says. Nominations can be made by the public, NEC commissioners or by NEC staff, which was the case with the Ham development, she adds.

There have been a total of 115 award winners since the program's inception in 1987. Recipients have included architects, homeowners, community associations, schools, and volunteer organizations. In 2012, for example, Owen Sound's West Hill Secondary School won an award for its multi-year student-driven cleanup of the West

Rocks Conservation Area, says LaFlamme. The awards have typically been presented every two years, but there were no winners in 2014 as the NEC is reviewing the program to make it more broad-based, she says.

"Winning the award was nice, but I think it meant more to the architect and the builder. I'm just the guy who picked the photo," says Derek Ham. While declining to provide construction costs, he advises people who would like to live on the Escarpment "to buy rather than build because costs can escalate." Derek is a stockbroker currently on sabbatical and Diana is a stay-at-home mother. The couple and their two sons spend many of their weekends and most of their summers at the house. **NEV**

Dan O'Reilly's last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Restoring the Old Caledon Ski Club Cabin," Winter 2014-15.

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Touring Winter Falls Near Owen Sound

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY SANDRA J. HOWE

Except where noted

From the cliff above the waterfall, you gaze in wonder at the sculpted ice below. The thunder of falling water is audible from within the ice. Sun sparkles on the frosted trees and rocks. It is a beautiful day to explore the winter landscape.

Hoggs Falls
near Flesherton.



Just south of Owen Sound is iconic Inglis Falls, the favourite showpiece of Grey Sauble Conservation.

S NOW CRUNCHES under your boots or snowshoes. Photo opportunities are all around you.

You can breathe in the crisp air, and enjoy the sights of forest and river gorge below. Waterfalls are unique each season, ever changing.

Waterfalls abound near Owen Sound in Grey County as rivers and streams tumble over the exposed edge of the Niagara Escarpment. Inglis Falls is perhaps the most famous of these; the Sydenham River plunges 18 metres to the valley below, continuing to cascade down through Harrison Park and into Owen Sound. Jones, Weavers Creek, Walters, Eugenia, Hogg's and McGowan Falls are all

equally beautiful, and winter accessible. Visiting these lovely sights offers healthy exercise, fascinating scenery, and a chance to explore our natural and cultural heritage.

Jones Falls is located in Pottawatomi Conservation Area west of Owen Sound. Take Hwy 21 to Springmount and turn north on Hwy 6. Parking is on your right at the Tourist Information Centre. This 116-hectare area belonging to Grey Sauble Conservation features trails suitable for winter hikes or snowshoes. Snowshoe access is restricted across the bridge and along the cliff edges for public safety. The Bruce Trail crosses the Pottawatomi River just above Jones Falls, and continues north along the Escarpment

edge providing great vistas to Owen Sound and beyond.

Huge, old cedars stand sentinel along the river. Gnarly maples and delicate, white birch grow on the higher ground. On exposed rock faces, ferns and mosses add green to grey landscape. Porcupine, raccoon, and wild turkey are common here. Birds and wildlife are plentiful but elusive. Keep an eye open for tracks. Curious chickadees often chat to visitors. The winter forest has a stark beauty so different from other seasons. A thermos of tea or hot chocolate is a wonderful addition to any winter outing.

After exploring the falls and trails of Pottawatomi, head back into Owen Sound to Harrison Park. Weavers Creek is a small

watercourse cascading gently through a steep ravine. Access to Weavers Creek Falls is through the campground and behind the swimming pool. Hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are possible here. The falls itself is on private land but there is a lovely view of it from the terminus of a short boardwalk trail.

Falls of Grey County

For a full circuit of Grey County waterfalls, head south out of Owen Sound on Hwy 6/10 to Chatsworth. Follow Hwy 10 to Grey Rd. 40 going east to Walters Falls. Be sure to have a local map because this area is famously confusing to navigate. They say "All roads lead in and none lead out of Walters Falls."



▲ Jones Falls, west of Owen Sound, appears frozen but you can hear water running behind the ice.



▲ Walters Falls is on private property but there is a viewing platform in the village of Walters Falls. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISITGREY.CA.



The fresh air at Pottawatomi River above Jones Falls seems apparent in this photo.

◀ A Bruce Trail bridge over Pottawatomi River above Jones Falls. Grey Sauble Conservation restricts snowshoe access along the edge of the falls.

Walters Falls is a spectacular, 14-metre double plunge on a tributary of the Big Head River. The village and falls are named for John Walter who built the first sawmill on the creek in 1852. Walters Creek also powered grist and woolen mills, and today still powers one of the few remaining water-driven feedmills. Walters Falls is especially photogenic in winter with fine views of ice and gorge from the platform beside Walters Falls Inn.

From Walters Falls continue east on Grey Rd. 40, then south on Grey Rd. 7. This area is prone to wild winter weather so check road and weather conditions. You are now journeying along the west shoulder of Beaver Valley, and descending to the valley floor. Grey Rd. 7 junctions with Grey Rd. 13 and continues south. Park at the Eugenia Falls Emporium and stroll for 15 minutes to reach Grey County's highest waterfall at 30 metres.

The vista to the Cuckoo Valley far below is stunning. Eugenia Falls once supported five mills and Ontario's second hydro-electric plant. Snowshoe access to the Bruce Trail is possible here but terrain is rugged so use caution.

Hoggs Falls is tucked away on the Boyne River at the upper end of Beaver Valley. Four-wheel drive can be useful here. From Eugenia, continue south to Grey Rd. 4 and west toward Flesherton. Watch for Hoggs Falls sign to turn right on East Back Line North. Then turn right on Lower Valley Road, and watch for parking on left. Hoggs Falls is one of Grey County's hidden gems. A 10-minute walk or snowshoe along the river brings you to a breathtaking scene of ice, water and forest. Extensive trails meander through this area for exploration. It is also a wonderful setting for a winter picnic.

For the final leg of your winter waterfall tour, return to Grey Rd. 4 and head west to Flesherton and Durham. On Durham's outskirts watch for the McGowan Falls sign and turn right. Located on the Saugeen River, McGowan Falls is a natural, cascading waterfall with a dam directing above. The ice forms wonderful sculptures here, tumbling and pooling over the bedrock. Saugeen Valley Conservation owns a long stretch of property with trails suitable for snowshoes or cross-country skis. The cedar forests along the river are a snowy, winter wonderland. To return to Owen Sound, follow Grey Rd. 4 to Hwy 6 and head north, about a one-hour drive.

Caution!

The winter waterfalls of Grey County are truly beautiful as they change and shift throughout the season. Some cautions are in order though. Be sure you are warmly dressed,

have appropriate footwear and are equipped for weather conditions. Check your trail routes, and stay on the trails. While it may be tempting to wander on frozen rivers and climb on ice formations, it is never safe to do so. Grey Sauble Conservation says climbing on frozen waterfalls is never a permitted activity on their properties. They are concerned for public safety, and felt it was necessary to close trails at both Inglis and Indian Falls in late winter 2015 to keep people off the ice. The trails provide safe access and views for visitors to enjoy. **NEV**

Grey County Tourism has a brochure about their waterfalls available through visitgrey.ca.

Sandra J. Howe's last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Savouring the Apple Pie Trail," Autumn 2015.



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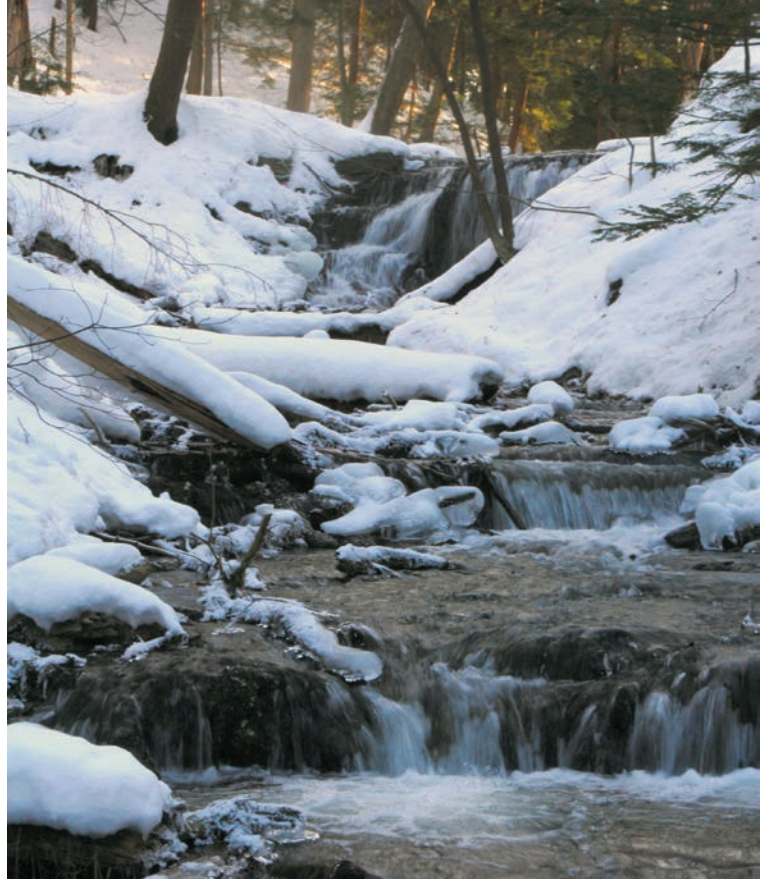
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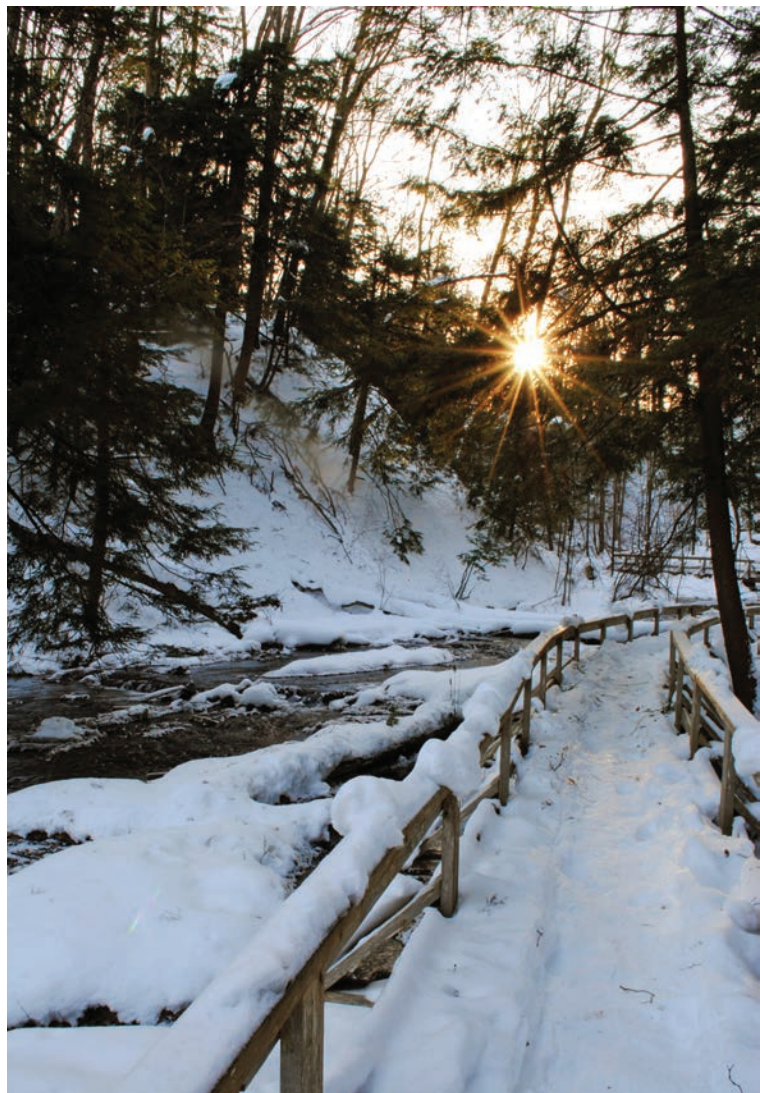
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▲ Weavers Creek Falls seen from Harrison Park, Owen Sound.

▼ Boardwalk along Weavers Creek toward the falls.



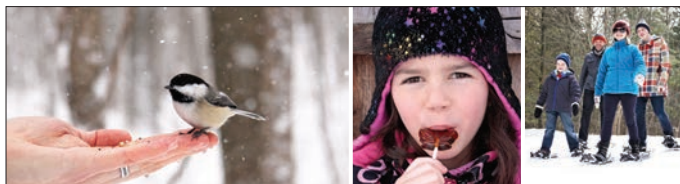


▲ McGowan Falls on Saugeen River at Durham, west of Niagara Escarpment. Water falls over bedrock beneath a dam. Water power was critical to early settlement in Grey County.

Inglis and Indian Falls in Winter

by Krista McKee of Grey Sauble Conservation

"Last years' extreme winter temperatures provided many frozen waterfalls experiences for thousands of ice seekers! In March, the social media world shouted out nature's artwork and it was shared very quickly as a 'must-see winter destination.' In the case of Grey Sauble's waterfalls it became a major safety issue at Inglis and Indian Falls. People were not staying on trails. They were walking on frozen rivers, not knowing what was underneath their feet. People of all ages were walking on the top of the waterfalls, to the edge and taking selfies. Staff closed the trails to keep people safe. Our statement was 'We remind everyone about the risks with unstable ice conditions and changes to our rivers with this warmer weather. Stay away and off waterfalls and rivers!' We do not promote Indian Falls for snowshoeing or as a winter destination because the trail floods and is unsafe for hiking."



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The Year of the Barn

By Gloria Hildebrandt

My father and I talked about what he would like done with his land after his death. He wanted it kept as a nature preserve and a managed forest. He liked bequeathing it to me because I wanted it kept the same way. My sister was to get the family house and surrounding land. I would get 14 acres. One thing my father and I didn't discuss was his Honey House, a large shed he had had built when he was seriously into beekeeping. In later years it was used to store tractors and equipment to maintain the property. The Honey House went with the residence.

We never discussed the fact that I would need something

similar. I had no storage shed. I didn't even have a garage. But thanks to Mike's enjoyment of machinery I soon had several large pieces that make forest management much easier, without a place to secure them.

This year, therefore, has been the year of a barn construction. It took several months of research, planning and consultations. For a while it looked like it might not get built this year. But suddenly in an August heat wave, the construction company was ready to build it the next week. And they did.

What turmoil! First I panicked because a pile of wood chips had to be moved off the lane to the barn site. This was not easy, as it meant shovelling them into the small tractor-wagon, driving

them to the path at the back of the property, dumping them and raking them out. The weather was brutally hot. I had to do this about 10 times. It was made easier when Mike used the Kubota's front shovel to load the wagon. I don't use the Kubota because I am intimidated by it. It was even better when Mike got his friend Steve to help. By Monday morning the lane could be used.

Escarpment Rocks

Then, the chosen site had to be cleared of rocks and trees. It felt bad to have so many healthy trees cut down in the name of forest management. There was more turmoil as Escarpment rocks the size of Victorian bathtubs were excavated. I asked the guy to pile them onto a pioneer rubble rock wall nearby but didn't realize they would form a long stretch almost as tall as I am.

Materials were being delivered faster than they were needed, because of unforeseen difficulty with the foundation footings. Unforeseen by the construction company; I warned that there would be plenty of rocks. I should have said boulders or bedrock. Rock prevented some footings from being as deep as intended. The town inspector required more digging to see if there was bedrock, which would be a secure base for a footing. Fortunately there was bedrock.

Meanwhile lumber was piled on my back yard. Metal siding and roofing was in another pile. A portable toilet needed to be placed somewhere. Roof trusses came soon, and after a day of concrete pouring for the footings, piles of gravel appeared for fill and flooring. I had no idea where it could all go.

My property is woodland, not a wide-open farmer's field. It was a real challenge to find space for all the materials, and the delivery men were not happy that there wasn't a clear, wide driveway to the barn site. There was a former laneway now covered by lawn. Soon heavy trucks churned the lawn into deep ruts and carved wheel tracks down the lane. I retreated into the house and let the professionals work it out.

Barn Raising

What could have been total chaos was actually well controlled. All materials were neatly piled around my garden beds, and for a couple of days a mountain of gravel filled half of my short driveway. Parking became the next challenge. Steadily we got past this bottleneck as the barn began to rise and materials were used.

The end result is a handsome, well-built structure that accommodates everything. Mike has installed a solar panel lighting system that makes the interior look a bit like a nightclub. After a horrific thunderstorm, toads moved in to make homes under some pallets holding lumber off the floor. A breeze caused a corner of the barn to moan as if it were haunted, so strangely that my dog barked at it and I looked for a wounded animal. I hope it wasn't the spirit of my father objecting to what I have done.

It's an odd feeling to have the power to alter a landscape as much as a building does. But it's needed. When you live in the country you need a place to store equipment. This barn lets me maintain the property much as my father did.

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



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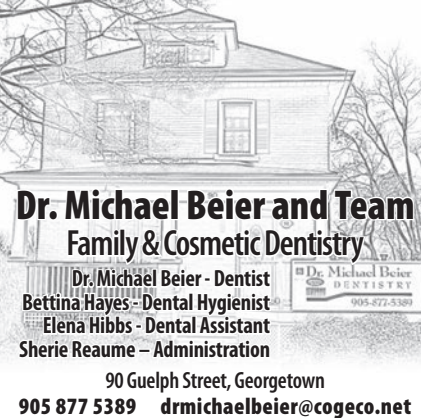
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Bruce Peninsula Reserves: From Everyday to Extraordinary

By Bob Barnett

Conservation, like life, is filled with quiet moments of delight and accomplishment and dramatic highpoints that inspire and linger. For me one of those highlights happened on the Escarpment Biosphere Reserve (EBC) Alvar Bay property on the Bruce Peninsula. The shrubby cinquefoil along the road was moving about in a most peculiar way, so I went for a closer look. Two Massasauga Rattlesnakes were smashing away at each other. Every 20 seconds or so they would rear up into the air, crash heads and coil their necks together. I watched for 20 minutes, taking photo after photo, until the loser slithered away. I suddenly realized that the female had been quietly enjoying the show in the shrubbery at my feet, which were thankfully clad in stout boots. Amazingly, that very day we'd taken our grandchildren out with Bruce Peninsula National Park naturalist Tony Abbot on a snake watch when he mentioned the dominance dance phenomenon and showed us pictures. He'd never seen it himself and our photos have created a buzz in the snake community.

Walking along the 1½ km gravel track to the Alvar Bay shoreline is again a study in the everyday and the extraordinary. Undulating pitted limestone formations, 400 million years old, stretch into Lake Huron but a closer look shows segments of a globally rare alvar. Boulders that are several billion-year-old glacial erratics from Sudbury and much farther north, are deposited on the shore. The limestone



▲ Two Massasauga rattlesnakes battling for dominance at Alvar Bay on Bruce Peninsula: very rarely seen, let alone photographed.

shore itself is augmented with skeletal deposits of an ancient tropical sea.

Cape Hurd is a jumping-off point for birds migrating across the Great Lakes and in the fall Monarch butterflies use the area as an important landing area. Five of our contiguous properties have created a 400-acre bulwark against development. You can continue south along our shore for over two km keeping an eye out for the Massasauga rattlers or for the Queen snake, thought to be extirpated until it was spotted a few years ago on our reserve. Fringed gentian, columbines, sticky tofieldia, harebells, and kalm's lobelia grow in abundance in the rock clefts while ancient cedars dot the landscape, twisted by the wind and ice over decades.

Further south on the Cape Hurd Road is our 300-acre Barney Lake Reserve which contains a sheltered inland lake for birds. A rocky trail allows you to access 50-acre Barney Lake. A close look will reveal that ordinary rocky ridges are in fact glacial striations, not scoured clean as they are on the shore of Alvar Bay, but filled with rock deposits and humus. This allows the growth

of lady's slippers, Indian paintbrush, trilliums, Canada lilies, cardinal flower and white camas lily. Each season creates a new carpet of colour. The lake itself comes into view after a brief hike: a mirror of tea-coloured water with the flat alvar formation clearly visible on the lake bottom.

Help Preserve

Our extraordinary dream is the preservation of the entire tip of Baptist Harbour. EBC already owns the Welch Hackney and Meyer reserve with exposed bedrock, wooded areas, fens and Dwarf Lake Iris and Lakeside Daisy, both provincially threatened species. But we are missing a vital link between this area and Barney Lake.

With the proposed acquisition of the 94-acre Hobson property we could preserve 1200 feet of Lake Huron shoreline within a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest with hill's thistle, dwarf lake iris, limestone oak fern, Massasauga and the eastern ribbonsnake. We have visions of a new five km-long hiking trail loop past Barney Lake, through the fens and alvar meadows to the

limestone formations at the shore of Baptist Harbour. And these are truly astounding: right-angled ridges that seem to be engineered, they are so perfect in their wind-sculpted geometry. At the moment the access is somewhat fraught: the wetlands of Barney Lake at one end and impenetrable thickets of balsam fir and spruce on the other.

We have applied to Nature Conservancy/Environment Canada and Mountain Equipment Co-op for funding and the owner is ready to make a very generous donation. EBC will attempt to cover the appraisal costs, stewardship funding, legal costs, etc. but this still leaves us with a shortfall of approximately \$15,000. Can you help? We have maps of the area, we have species lists, we will happily lead nature walks. Get in touch with us. Help us create a lasting legacy for our grandchildren as well as preserving a natural wonder that all of us can enjoy and explore.

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

Bountiful Baking

Candy Cane Brownies

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup (250 mL) Granulated Sugar
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) Unsalted Butter, softened
- 2 Large Eggs
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) Cocoa
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) Salt
- 1 cup (250 mL) Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1/2 tub (225 g) White Frosting
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) Candy Canes, crushed

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease an 8" square baking dish. Using an electric mixer (stand or hand-held) on medium, cream sugar and butter until light and fluffy, about 5 min. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until well combined, about 2 min.

2. In another bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa and salt. With mixer on low, add flour mixture to butter mixture and mix just until combined. Stir in chocolate chips. Spread batter in prepared baking dish and bake until a toothpick comes out with a few crumbs attached, about 20 min. Let cool completely then evenly spread frosting over brownies, sprinkle with candy canes.



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