

Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

SUMMER 2016 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)

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Niagara Escarpment ViEWS



Summer 2016

(June, July, August)

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PUBLISHERS

Mike Davis and Gloria Hildebrandt

EDITOR

Gloria Hildebrandt
editor@NEViews.ca

ART DIRECTOR

Valentino Sanna
Ignition Design + Communications
www.ignitiondesign.ca

ADVERTISING/ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Mike Davis
ads@NEViews.ca
905 877 9665

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Miller
Mark Ewer

WEBSITE DESIGN

Joan Donogh
In-Formation Design

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Niagara Escarpment Views
50 Ann St. Halton Hills,
(Georgetown) ON L7G 2V2
editor@NEViews.ca
www.NEViews.ca

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might consider us again, when their budgets allow them to pay what others pay. It hurts to think that we could have made more money, but we just can't start down that slippery slope of treating some people differently. Our rates and special offers are clearly stated on our rate sheet, and our word and ethics are gold.

In These Pages

There is a lot to explore in this issue, from experiences along beautiful southern Georgian Bay, up the Bruce Peninsula and onto Manitoulin Island, to a park nestled between Georgetown and Brampton. We look at summer attractions in cottage country, encourage you to turn down your lights so you can look up at the stars, and get your feet wet in an urban nature park.

Gardeners will like to study the ideas in Canada Blooms' garden that won the *Niagara Escarpment Views* Most Imaginative Garden award this year. Everyone will find something to love among the many award-winning photographs in the Halton Hills Camera Club's recent photo contest.

There's more: John Bacher has a clear opinion of "the Crombie Report" which evaluates the many plans that



Gloria among the spring blossoms at the April 29 opening of the David Braley & Nancy Gordon Rock Garden, Royal Botanical Gardens

protect and control the Niagara Escarpment and other areas. Bruce Mackenzie shares a trip to Lion's Head and a site that grows the beautiful Michigan Lily. Our regular columns on land conservation and a parcel of inherited forest also appear. There's much to peruse while planning your summer excursions or relaxing from outdoor exertions.

We hope you enjoy what we've put together in this issue, and hope it helps you

have a wonderful summer. We love hearing from you about anything, but this time, could you also let us know your answer to our burning question at the top of this page? As for turning away advertisers and their money, are we stupid?

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*,
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Keep in touch with Escarpment news between issues at our website. We have unique content not seen in the magazine, and you can leave comments in response. See www.NEViews.ca



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Michigan Lilies in Stoney Creek

Written and photographed by Bruce Mackenzie

We often think of wildflowers as adorning the forest in the spring. Spring wildflowers take advantage of the sunshine in the forest before the leaves come out on the trees that shade the forest floor. After the trees create their canopy of leaves overhead, wildflowers mostly disappear. The Michigan Lily is an exception. The Lily starts growing in April but because of its large size it is not ready to bloom until the end of June when it has exceptional orange blossoms.

The Michigan Lily is not commonly found in our area so it is a real treat to come across it. A few years ago, some of these lilies popped up along the Dofasco Trail in Stoney Creek. The trail parallels the Niagara Escarpment and Bruce Trail just south of Ridge Rd. Running from the 11th Rd., called Fifty Rd. below the Escarpment, it terminates at the Devil's Punch Bowl waterfalls near First Rd. It passes through many different habitats and there are always some surprises to please the trail walker.

If you find one Michigan Lily, you are likely to find a hundred or more. At the very east end of the Dofasco Trail there is a lovely woodlot that the trail cuts through just west of the 11th Line.

Here the Michigan Lilies grow along the trail. Most of them are just on the other side of the fence on private property, but all are easily viewed from the trail. They are pretty big plants so their beauty can be easily enjoyed.

One Metre Tall

Michigan Lilies are normally considered to be found in tall grass prairies in Ohio and Michigan and points west. Finding them growing in this woodlot is indeed a treat. They are perennial plants that sprout each year, growing from a corm. A corm acts like a bulb. The Lily's corm has the appearance of a funny clump of white rice when exposed in the soil and each spring new plants grow from the corms increasing the numbers in the group. They also spread by seeds released in the fall. They grow up to almost two metres in height and, depending upon their age, the number of blooms on each plant will increase. As many as 10 blooms on one plant have been found. Most of the plants in this woodlot are about a metre in height with two or three blooms. Canada Day always seems to be when the blooms are at their peak. The brilliant orange show usually lasts until mid July.

A couple of years ago there was a whole new stand of these Lilies next to the trail

with several hundred plants. But this new patch was not in the woodlot, just adjacent to it on the east side of the woods in a most beautiful meadow. Here the plants were growing in full sunshine and in full competition with the grasses, milkweeds and vetchs. Wow, what a sight but why that year? Lilies had not been seen growing here before. One difference that year was that cattle who normally graze in this field had not been put out to this pasture. Just maybe in the past the cows had taken a liking to nibbling on the flower heads of the Michigan Lilies. That year we thoroughly enjoyed the fact that the cows were somewhere

else. We will wait to see what happens in future years.

So keep your eyes out for the brilliant orange blooms of the Michigan Lily along the Dofasco Trail. If you miss the Michigan Lily don't be disappointed for there are many more flowering plants, including Yellow Jewelweed, that will be blooming along the trail throughout the summer and into October.

Bruce Mackenzie retired Director of Customer Service of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, is active in various naturalist organizations in the Hamilton area and is deeply involved with the Save the Wood Lot project in Grimsby.



▲ Sometimes mistaken for Turk's Cap Lilies, these are Michigans, without the green central star of the Turk's Cap.



▲ Although there can be as many as 10 blooms per plant, these Michigan Lilies have two or three flowers each.



▲ Michigan Lilies growing in a sunny meadow among purple vetch, milkweed and tall grass near the Dofasco Trail, Stoney Creek.

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I was given a copy of “Niagara Escarpment Views” (Spring 2016) while I participated in a tour with Niagara Nature Tours Owl Prowl yesterday. Your magazine is superb — in all ways. Yes, even as your survey stated, “right down to the quality of paper.” It should be required reading for those in your distribution area of Southern Ontario. So much to learn! So much to enjoy! Please begin my subscription with the edition after Spring 2016. I look forward to receiving that copy. Thank you.

E. Brook Wilson, Burlington

Hi Mike, Just wanted to thank you for the box of Views the other day! Your magazine is fabulous. One of our regular customers, a hiker, saw it in Owen Sound (I think) and wondered why we hadn't received it here at the Visitors Information Centre. She was delighted to hear it was delivered. You and Gloria certainly put a lot into it. Thank you so much!

**Susan Reynolds, Tourism
Officer, Orangeville Visitor
Information Centre**

WE VALUE YOUR VIEWS!

Write to:
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Really like your magazine but I'm also fond of wild places and preserving as much biodiversity as possible in Canada's countryside. Your photo article on ephemeral wild flowers contains an imposter! Common Coltsfoot is not native to North America and can become invasive, thus limiting diversity where it exists. Northern sweet coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus*) is native but not ephemeral. All the other plants mentioned are native in many Niagara escarpment areas. May I suggest Virginia bluebells, squirrel corn or Dutchman's breeches?

**Maureen Baker,
Campbellville**

I am reaching out to you on behalf of the Tourism London team to request brochures from your region. We would appreciate it if you could send us 50 copies of your brochure when they become available.

**Nelia Gubbels,
Tourism London**

I received my copies of the spring issue, thank you for helping us spread our story and adventure. I will be giving friends and family a copy or at least let them read it. Very well done magazine.

**Pura Vida, Rob Simmt,
Niagara Falls**



The Spring 2016 Issue arrived in our mailbox today here at Rural Rootz Natural Reserve. Great stuff including an article about the gardens here, Earthbound, Keppel Croft and a fantastic country garden near Campbellville... Thanks Gloria and Mike for a great job well done. Our pleasure seeing so much good news from "Along The Rock" especially stories about my old stomping grounds around Dundas. The Borer's falls picture is beyond words, I can almost smell the lilacs.

Tom and Dee Ashman, South Bruce Peninsula



Thank you for all the great photos and lavish words about Gordon. It made him smile. And I laughed at seeing my name in the photo credits. I am a published photographer thanks to you! I am still reading the magazines and enjoying the articles and photos. I see you are the award winner of the Conservation Halton Awards. I looked it up. That is an honor. It was fun to meet you, and see you at another event.

Kim Lightfoot, Toronto



Forgetting the Lessons of Planning History

By John Bacher

SINCE 1985 with the adoption of the Niagara Escarpment Plan and reforms achieved by the Greenbelt Plan of 2005, the Niagara Escarpment has enjoyed the Ontario's most effective land use

only area of the county where privately owned forests remain protected is the corridor protected by the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

The Niagara Escarpment Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Growth Plan are now all going

agricultural economies." He calls for unspecified changes that would "streamline the process and reduce the duplication of effort."

Allow Urban Expansion

Another disturbing aspect of Crombie's recommendations is an end to the freeze imposed by the Greenbelt Plan on urban expansions in the Escarpment Rural Area. This could lead to a wave of urbanization on scenic farmlands near such important Escarpment landscapes as the Devil's Punchbowl, Rock Chapel and Cherry Heights in Hamilton.

In addition to calling for a gutting of current Escarpment regulations, Crombie opposes two important reforms urged by the NEC to improve them. One is the NEC's call to expand the Escarpment

revisions be considered by "the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry as part of its advice during the review."

One of the most fiery polemics of the Crombie report is directed against the NEC's call to prohibit new pits. These are opposed on the basis for the need to maintain aggregate supplies "close to market," ignoring the possibility of importation of supplies from western New York state.

Rather than relying on Crombie it is hoped that in revising the four provincial plans the provincial government will look for advice to the NEC, which has been protecting the Escarpment wisely since its creation in 1973. These 33 years of experience should provide a good model for the protection of the Oak Ridges

The Crombie Report calls for a gutting of current Escarpment regulations.

planning system to enhance the protection of the natural environment. This is for good reason, with such wonders as old-growth but miniature bonsai-like cedar forests, vulnerable to human pressures.

The ancient relics on the Escarpment brow are supplemented by a variety of important ecosystems, such as wetlands which form the headwaters of native Brook Trout streams. The Niagara Escarpment supports 300 bird species, 53 mammals, 36 reptiles and amphibians, 90 fish and 100 varieties of special interest plant life, including 37 types of wild orchids.

While forest cover in most of southwestern Ontario fades from 25 per cent in 1970 to 18 per cent today, that of the Niagara Escarpment continues to grow. It is now at a level of 48 per cent. This is encouraged by development control, which encourages reforestation as a site condition for redevelopment.

Two years ago the importance of the Escarpment Plan and its complementary development control system was shown when Dufferin County repealed its forest protection bylaw. Now the

through a process of public review. Last year the provincial government appointed a six-person panel, headed by former Toronto mayor David Crombie, to review the plans. The recommendations released shortly before Christmas form a report called "Planning for Health, Prosperity and Growth." It has been popularly described in the press as the "Crombie Report."

Attack on Control

The essence of the Crombie report is a call to roll back reforms in provincial plans to protect the Niagara Escarpment and other rare landscapes. One of the most infamous is its attack on development control, administered by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC).

Without acknowledging how development control has encouraged the improvement of forest cover on the Escarpment, Crombie ridicules and attacks it. In his view the system contributes to "significant delays" and "duplication of review." Also alleged are, "lengthy and expensive hearing processes" and "impediments to rural and

Without acknowledging how development control has encouraged the improvement of forest cover on the Escarpment, Crombie ridicules and attacks it.

Plan area from its current size of 194,00 hectares, by an additional 45,600 hectares. The other is the NEC's recommendation that the plan be amended to prohibit new aggregate operations in the Escarpment Rural Area. This was made on the basis that extraction below the water table would require perpetual pumping having negative impacts on water supplies and ecosystem integrity.

Crombie declines to give any reasons for his lack of support to expand the Escarpment Plan area. He simply suggests that these

Moraine through a similar system of development control. The Greenbelt's freeze on urban boundary expansions should also be continued in important water sources as Niagara's Lake Gibson and the headwaters of the Rouge and Humber rivers and Carruthers Creek.

John Bacher is a director of Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment, representing Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society. He is the author of "Two Billion Trees and Counting: The Legacy of Edmund Zavit" and "Mel Swart: Champion of Eco-Justice."

■ EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

► Chefs from The Club at North Halton were busy preparing prime rib, pork belly and smoked salmon creations at Taste of the Hills on Feb. 2. Many other local companies offered food and drink samples. The event was organized by The Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.



▲ Reporters and photographers swarmed around new releases at the Canadian International AutoShow at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on Feb. 11. The 10-day show had the highest attendance in the show's 43-year history.



▲ Sandra Davey and merlin Cleo could be seen at Conservation Halton's exhibit at the Outdoor Adventure Show in the International Centre in Mississauga, Feb. 19-21.



▲ Jessica Finn, photo editor for Canadian Geographic, gave a slide show presentation about the magazine and the polar bears at Churchill, Manitoba, on Feb. 25 in Georgetown. The event was hosted by the Halton Hills Camera Club. On the left is club member Bill Petro, on the right is member Greg Coman.



▲ The Highway of Heroes tribute was acknowledged at Canada Blooms' industry reception on March 17 at Enercare Centre in Toronto. The project involves planting 117,000 trees along part of Highway 401 to honour each Canadian fallen hero since Confederation. Project partners include Forests Ontario, Maple Leaves Forever and Landscape Ontario.



▲ Ed Madronich, left, and Shawn Till opened Shawn & Ed Brewing Company, a craft brewery on March 31, with the production of two beers: LagerShed and BarrelShed. "Shed" is the joining of Shawn and Ed's names. The brewery occupies the old Dundas Valley Curling and Skating Rink at 65 Hatt St. in Dundas.

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EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

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▲ Scott Ewart of Elevation Aerial Design and Consulting, who creates tree houses, backyard ziplines, suspension bridges and climbing walls, showed his stuff at the Spring Cottage Life Show in Mississauga on April 1.



▲ Artist Duane Nickerson, second from left, at the opening of his exhibition "Slow Growth: A Tribute to Trees," at Hamilton's Gallery on the Bay. Nickerson paints the natural forms along the Niagara Escarpment, including waterfalls and trees. The exhibition ran from April 15 to May 15. PHOTO PROVIDED.



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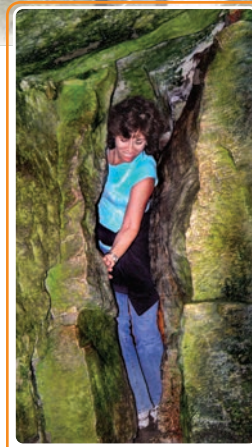
▲ People gathered around the Niagara Escarpment Views booth at Halton Eco Festival in Oakville on April 16. We gave out free copies and took subscription orders.



▲ On April 19, Downtown Hamilton BIA launched their new brand on the spacious newly renovated third floor of the historic Right House in Hamilton. Chair Lillian Cathcart addresses the crowd at the reception.

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Celebrating the Small Back Yard

Written by Gloria Hildebrandt. Photographed by Mike Davis.

GARDEN CELEBRATION is the name of the installation at this year's Canada Blooms that won the Most Imaginative Garden award, presented in the name of *Niagara Escarpment Views*. It was designed by Jacob's Gardenscape of Carlisle.

"I wanted to create a very peaceful garden in a typical back yard," says principal Neil Jacob Obach. "The goal was to create simplicity in the garden."

The result was a rectangular space bordered by fencing and panels, softened by trees and flowers, surrounding a sunken pea-gravel patio, defined by arbours at each end. There was a Zen-garden atmosphere because of the gravel stones, and a Japanese influence to the wall panels. Obach, who came to Canada in 1999 from the Philippines,

enjoys including an Asian influence to his gardens.

Obach exhibited many ideas for others to consider. His creative use of gabion baskets and panels showed that they are not just for big construction projects. Gabion baskets became a low retaining wall along both sides of the patio.

"You can plant in the baskets," says Obach, indicating the grape hyacinths in moss among the stones of the baskets. "I want to give the idea that it's something people can do. Alpine plants can grow in small amounts of soil. The idea is to make pockets of soil in fabric pouches and add plants." He also pointed out that bricks can go inside gabion baskets, forming a wall within a retaining wall.

Gabion panels were used to break up the monotony of the horizontal wood



▲ Neil Jacob Obach of Jacob's Gardenscape designed the Asian-influence Garden Celebration.



▲ Garden Celebration won the award for Most Imaginative Garden at Canada Blooms this year.



▲ Horizontal fencing, gabion panels, and a row of cedars bordered by Golden Calex held in place by gabion baskets, formed a focal point.



▲ Gabion baskets filled with rocks formed a retaining wall. Grape hyacinths were planted in soil pockets among the rocks.



The garden's structure emphasized straight lines, with horizontal fencing and arbours, creating a modern look as well as an Asian touch.

fence. Most of the panels were filled with the same pea gravel as the patio surface, but central sections were filled with glass shards or tiny white shells, turning the panels into works of art.

Plantings in the borders showed both repetition and variety, as well as symmetry. A central row of cedars formed a side focal point. At their feet were Golden Carex plants, providing a variegated colour contrast. On either side of this row was a collection of a crab apple with Daphne bushes at the base, all bordered by burgundy heuchera, also known as coral bells.

The four corners of the garden, edged in boxwood, offered deeper beds for plants. In one stood a Japanese maple with a small, hardy

Clumping Bamboo in front of it. An opposite corner featured a Weeping Hemlock and a pink rhododendron.

The garden's structure emphasized straight lines, with horizontal fencing and arbours, creating a modern look as well as an Asian touch.

Jacob's Gardenscape offers design and creation services to provide whatever the customer wants. Obach says he has to please the owners, but there might be a small Asian element in each of his gardens.

Neil Jacob Obach wishes to thank his garden donors and helpers:

- Clean Slate Lands Masonry
- Dennis V&D Deck Company
- July Salvador, 1st Choice Irrigation and Lighting

◀ One corner bed featured a Weeping Hemlock and a pink rhododendron. The gabion panel shows a central section filled with white glass shards.

▼ Bricks inside a gabion basket can form a retaining wall for small materials.





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Autumn 2016

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treated with pasture grazing, while the cattle are grain finished with non-genetically-modified grains, in lots with fewer animals than in standard farming practices, providing more room to move. Treating their animals well results in superior quality products.

Motivation:

When Baghai's wife developed cancer, her doctors advised her against eating beef, due to the added growth hormones that they said were not good for cancer patients. Because they like beef, they bought a farm to grow hormone-free cattle. It did not make sense to produce only for themselves with all this overhead, so they decided to market their own products from the cattle. Baghai is an advocate of local business and local food.

Specialized Breeds of Cattle:

2,000 head of Aberdeen Black Angus, Wagyu (Kobe), Scottish Highland, Italian Chianina, raised on several local farms.

How Else to Buy:

Paradise Farms products are also available in select Metro stores in the GTA and online through ParadiseFarms.ca. Some other restaurants offer these products on their menus.

The Extra Mile:

The Bistro at each location serves Paradise Farms products. The Erin and Caledon bistros have more casual fare featuring barbecue, grilled and smoked foods, while Toronto has a Cordon Bleu-trained chef with a larger selection. Boutiques are situated beside the Erin and Toronto bistros.

Food Experts:

Joe Marini makes all the deli meats onsite at the Erin location in an old-fashioned style. The products are slow smoke-roasted with natural hickory chips and have low sodium and no nitrates. Cameron Bellamy creates gourmet takeout foods. Both supply all locations from Erin.

Possible New Locations:

Oakville, Mississauga, Guelph, Orangeville, Oshawa, none further than 100 km from the Caledon farm.



▼ Erin's Prime Beef Bistro serves steaks, sausages, fish, burgers, poultry, sandwiches and more, plus the usual and specialized beverages, liquor, spirits, wine and beer.





◀ The big picture: Erin's Prime Beef Boutique is well stocked with gourmet selections and fresh produce as well as the house Paradise Farms products.



▲ Chef Cameron Bellamy, left, and manager/consultant butcher Joe Marini in Erin's Prime Beef Boutique, holding takeout homemade sautéed sweet sausages and Black Angus prime rib.

◀ The freshest, most appealing produce is lovingly displayed in creative, attractive fixtures at Prime Beef Boutique in Erin.



◀ In addition to fresh cuts of meat, smoked meat products and takeout meals are prepared at the Erin location.

THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY

FOR 36 YEARS, Halton Hills Camera Club (HHCC) has organized “PhotoArt,” a photography competition and exhibition. Open to all residents of Halton Hills or members of the club, the contest has categories for everyone, adults, youth and children. Images may be taken anywhere in the world. Winners are selected by accredited photography judges who are not affiliated with HHCC.

Here are the first, second and third prize-winning photographs in all categories except the children's. Digital versions of the children's images are not available.

CATEGORY: Scenery

A colour image representing natural, geographical or urban scenery in a broad view.

1st: Anne Fraser,
“County Galway
Ireland”

2nd: Ross Pezzack,
“Dead Vlei Tree
Skeleton”

3rd: James Welsh,
“Storm’s Arrival”



CATEGORY: Flowers & Foliage

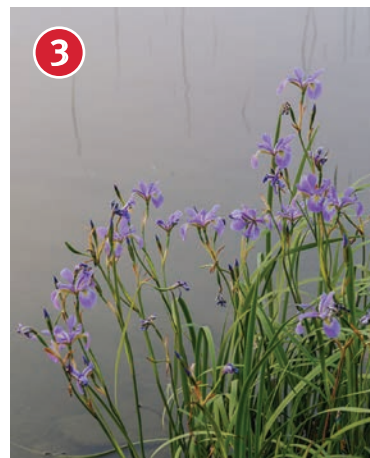
A colour image containing flower or plant species, leaves, trees or gardens.



1st: Bob Kelly,
"Translucency"

2nd: Doris Burfind,
"Fairy in the Glen"

3rd: Sheri Binsell,
"Along the Water's Edge"



CATEGORY: Creatures & Critters

A colour image whose main subject is an animal or insect.



1st: Aneta King,
"Refuge"

2nd: Lori Metcalfe,
"If Only She Could Speak"

3rd: Bob Kelly,
"Screech Owl"

CATEGORY: People

A colour image with the main subject as a person or group of people.

1st: Lucien Delean,
"Guitar Man"



2nd: Peter Allen,
"Canada Day BMX"



3rd: Brock Crawford,
"Sapphire Eyes"



CATEGORY: Architecture

A colour image of any man-made structure or building.



1st: James Welsh,
"Subterranean Passage"

2nd: Steve Williams,
"Paris Crypt Door"

3rd: Anne Fraser,
"Broken Glass"

CATEGORY: Open Monochrome

A black and white image.

PHOTOART WINNERS



1st: Dave Welfare,
"Catching Light"

2nd: Anne Fraser,
"Elora Mill"

3rd: Sheri Binsell,
"Converging on Brooklyn"

CATEGORY: Creative

An imaginative image achieved by altering the photograph for artistic purposes.



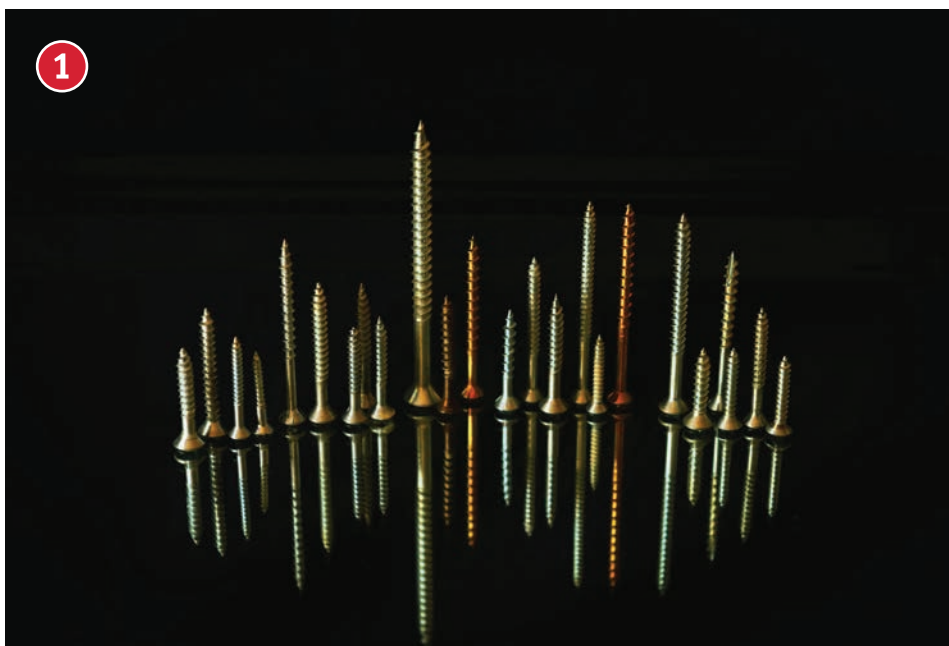
1st: Karin McDonald,
"Alien Encounter"

2nd: Andrew Gray,
"9th Line Barn"

3rd: Karin McDonald,
"Nature's Mosaic"

CATEGORY: Objects & Abstracts

A colour image depicting a specific recognizable material item, or one that captures forms or shapes that are independent of visual reference.



1st: Lori Metcalfe,
"Skyscraper City"

2nd: Ray Rasmussen,
"Perhaps a Story"

3rd: Chris Gillespie,
"Lemon Drop"



CATEGORY: Youth, age 13 to 16 years

Open to any creatively conceived photograph.



PHOTOART WINNERS



1st: Sydney Welsh,
"Staring back at me"

2nd: Sydney Welsh,
"Diamond in the Rough"

3rd: Ailish McDonald,
"Refraction"

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UNDER DARK SKIES

WRITTEN BY SANDRA J. HOWE

The night sky spreads out above you like a black velvet blanket studded with stars. Meteors flash random streaks of light, evoking whispers of “There!” and gasps of wonder. Heads swivel to catch views of shooting stars in all directions. Family and friends lounge in your backyard in a dark-sky-friendly community. It is mid-August and the Perseid meteor shower is on display. At its peak, 60 to 100 meteors per hour can be seen on a clear night. It is a spectacular event to share with loved ones annually.

Sparsely-populated Manitoulin Island provides for spectacular night starscapes. This was taken at Mississagi Lighthouse on the western tip of the island. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

STAR GAZING is also a viewing event that is at risk from modern, urban lifestyles. A recent study indicates that two-thirds of the world's population can no longer see the Milky Way. Light pollution impacts the health of humans, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems. Ineffective lighting wastes billions of dollars each year. Homes, businesses, and municipalities all have a role to play in preserving and enhancing dark skies. By taking action together, we can harvest extensive economic and quality of life benefits.

The Niagara Escarpment meanders through Canada's most heavily populated region. Many southern Ontario residents have limited or no views of the natural night sky, and may have health issues related to excess artificial light. Light pollution from neighbouring properties can be a source of conflict in communities too. But what can we do? Lots! Enter dark-sky-friendly lighting and public education.

In 2004, the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula declared itself a "Dark Sky Community" and committed to retrofit/replace all municipal lighting to enhance dark skies. This initiative brought together a range of individuals and interest groups working toward common goals. The Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association accessed funding to educate and assist homeowners to upgrade outdoor lighting, and developed a 52-page catalogue of dark-sky-approved lighting fixtures available locally. Their Bayside Astronomy Program provides thousands of summer visitors with wonderful night sky tours. Their schedule of events are at bpba.ca.

Dark Sky Preserves

In 2009, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada recognized Bruce



▲ Mike Warkentin of Stokes Bay is an amateur astronomer and a volunteer with Bayside Astronomy Program on Bruce Peninsula. Here he sets up his telescope on the beach for an evening program at Lion's Head. PHOTO BY SANDRA J. HOWE.

Peninsula National Park and Fathom Five National Marine Park jointly as a Dark Sky Preserve. In all of Canada, there are fewer than 20 such preserves. Others along the Niagara Escarpment include Gordon's Park on Manitoulin Island and Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre at Wiarton. Gordon's Park hosts Stargazing

Manitoulin and many other dark sky events annually. The Bluewater Centre is home to the ES Fox Observatory and the Bluewater Astronomical Society, offering public stargazing and amateur astronomy programs.

Beyond the joys of astronomy, dark skies are critical for environmental

health. Wildlife, especially nocturnal species, are negatively impacted as light pollution disrupts foraging and movement patterns. Birds often travel at night using the stars to navigate; artificial light disorients them. Over 100 million migrating birds die annually in North America due to excessive urban lighting.

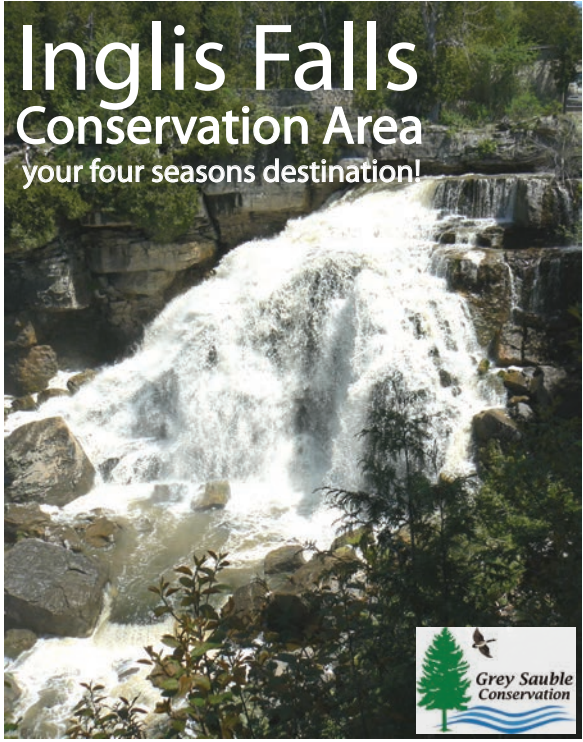


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▲ This sign hangs on Lion's Head Marina office. PHOTO BY SANDRA J. HOWE.

More municipalities along the Niagara Escarpment are reviewing dark-sky issues for conservation and cost-saving reasons.

Humans and many other species depend on natural light-dark cycles to regulate biological processes such as sleep and reproduction; minimizing night light aids health. Plants are also impacted by excess lighting.

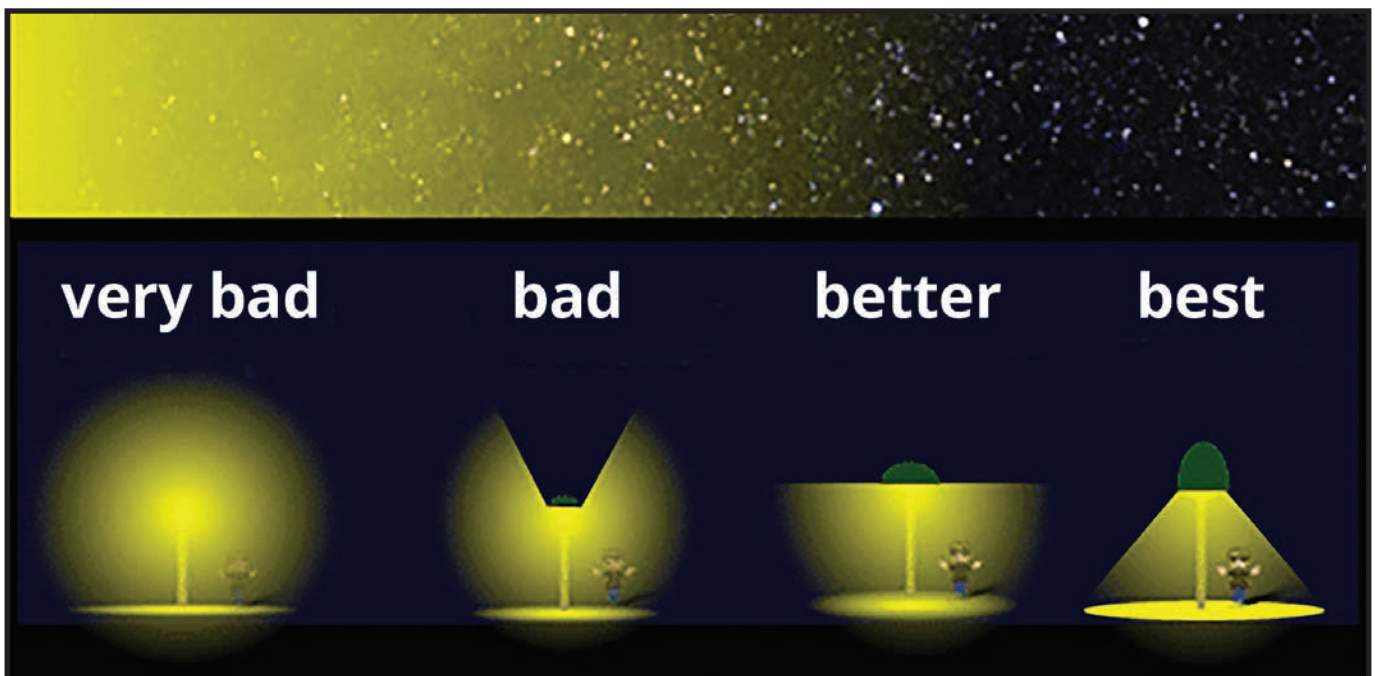
Small Steps

Economics is also a significant factor in dark sky conversations. While homeowners, businesses and municipalities may face a capital outlay in upgrading old-fashioned light fixtures and bulbs, maintenance and operating costs will be reduced. Outdoor lighting that shines directly upwards wastes an estimated \$1.74 billion per year across North America.

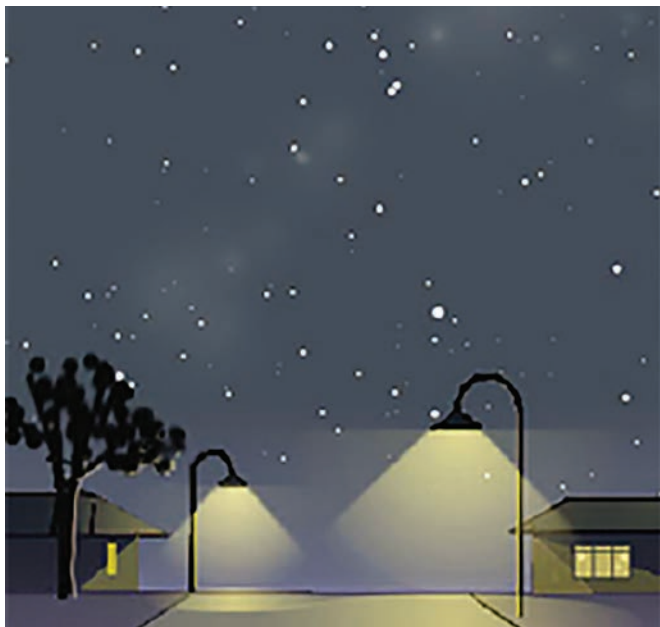
The International Dark Sky Association approves light fixtures suitable for protecting dark skies and conserving

energy. Good lights have full shielding which directs light downward where it is needed. Use LED and lower wattage bulbs, especially those with the warmer colours yellow, red or orange. Reduce unnecessary light fixtures and lower bulb wattage on your property. Timers and motion sensors can focus light when and where it is most helpful. Draw blinds and curtains at night to keep light and warmth inside your home. These small steps can make a difference.

More municipalities along the Niagara Escarpment are reviewing dark-sky issues for conservation and cost-saving reasons. South Bruce Peninsula, including Wiarton, Hepworth and Sauble, has improved its street lighting. Owen Sound and Meaford are in the process. In July, 2015, West Grey mayor Kevin



▲ Your choice of outdoor light fixtures can help provide dark skies while maintaining security. DIAGRAM PROVIDED.



▲ Preventing upward light spill from fixtures keeps illumination low and helps prevent light pollution. ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED.

Eccles promised his council would consider a community request for a dark-skies policy in that municipality.

West Grey plays host each year to StarFest, Canada's largest stargazing festival. Sponsored by the North York Astronomical Society, it is a camping weekend recognized as one of the world's top 10 star parties. Hundreds of people attend, bringing their tourist dollars to this rural area between Mount Forest and Ayton.

Living under star-filled dark skies is part of our natural and cultural heritage.

We bask in the beauty of summer nights, contemplate our place in the universe, and are enriched by sharing awe-inspiring skies. Dark skies support human and ecosystem health, protecting valuable resources. To preserve and enhance our night sky makes great sense both environmentally and economically. We can all play a role in reducing light pollution. **NEV**

Sandra J. Howe's last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Touring Winter Falls Near Owen Sound," Winter 2015-16.

How to Minimize Light Pollution

1. Minimize the lighting on your property, both in number of fixtures and their wattage.
2. Direct lighting only where it is needed.
3. Avoid up-lighting architectural features or trees.
4. Use timers or motion sensors to turn off lights when they are not needed.
5. Draw blinds and curtains at night.
6. Use bulbs with a warm colour (yellow, red or orange) to reduce the impact on the natural environment.

From "Dark Skies Over the Niagara Escarpment," a brochure of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.



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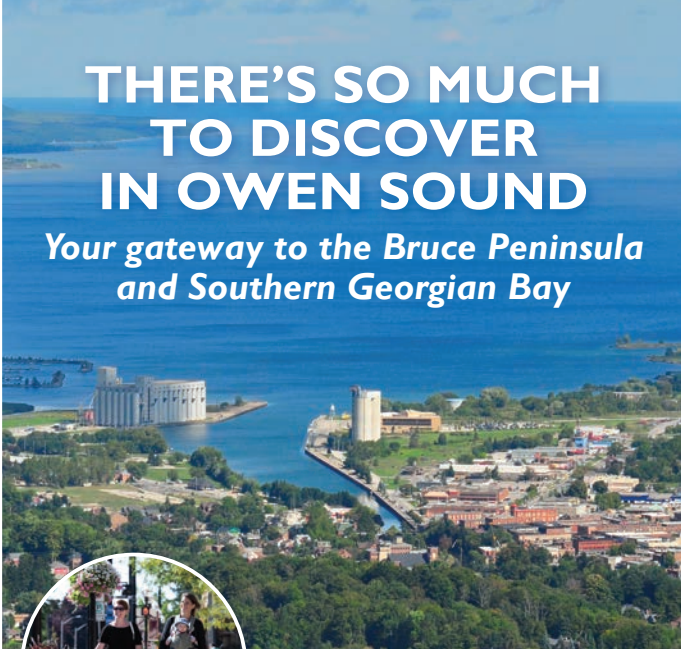
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Showing evidence of a wide, mighty waterfall that long ago carved a huge curve into the Escarpment, Devil's Punch Bowl in Stoney Creek is now a thin ribbon waterfall when it's flowing. Keen eyes might see someone rappelling down the gorge in this photograph. PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS.



THE SUMMER SIDE *of* COLLINGWOOD

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT ■ PHOTOGRAPHED BY MIKE DAVIS

The Collingwood area along southern Georgian Bay can be a piece of heaven on a summer's day. Last year the Georgian Triangle Tourist Association (GTTA) arranged a day of tours and experiences to show some of the area's special pleasures. A highlight was a tour of Collingwood harbour, given by Peter de Vries of Summerbound.



Peter de Vries of Summerbound tours people around Georgian Bay in this comfortable boat.

PETER DE VRIES is a wealth of knowledge on the history of the harbour at

Collingwood, yet he is equally capable of taking his boat close to and discussing the newest developments. The comfortable cruise boat also went to the bay side of the iconic Collingwood terminal buildings, and when coming back to port, provided beautiful views of the Niagara Escarpment that embraces Collingwood to the south.

Summerbound offers a variety of packages, tailored to different groups and

interests. Families can take a two-hour cruise with an off-boat swim near the Nottawasaga lighthouse. Adults can enjoy a 1 ½-hour romantic sunset cruise. There are “girls’ day out” tours for wine tasting. Longer, historic land tours to Midland and Penetanguishene are available.

Of particular interest to Escarpment lovers might be the “Walk Waterfall and Wine Tour” that includes visits to Eugenia Falls, Hogg’s Falls, the views from Old Baldy, and a stop at a local winery for sampling.

An impressive day trip is

the drive to Tobermory, a cruise to see shipwrecks and Flowerpot Island, lunch in Little Tub Harbour, a hike to the Grotto in Bruce Peninsula National Park, and taking in waterfalls and gorgeous views of Beaver Valley before returning to Collingwood.

Carving the Escarpment

Xtreme Hummer Adventures provided a land experience up, down, in and out of the Escarpment in a Hummer built like a cross between a jeep and a tank. Owner Mark Bourbonnais was at

the wheel for an intense, rollicking ride on roads to the top of the Niagara Escarpment and through forests on road allowances.

Casting aside all concerns over any harm done to the area’s fragile ecosystems, the drive was a thrill ride through large water-filled mud holes, down extremely steep rocky scree, while churning up deep wheel ruts and occasionally being in danger of tipping over onto the side. There were moments when the view out the side window was only of the fern-covered ground.



▲ The Bruce Trail follows the Escarpment which forms an impressive feature west of Collingwood. Here, the tour group heads for a hike of the Siegerman Side Trail.



▲ Mark Bourbonnais of Xtreme Hummer Adventures delivers stunning Escarpment views during madcap drives.

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Not for those made easily anxious, the Hummer does let all ages, people with disabilities, and seniors experience the rough, inaccessible parts of the Escarpment above Collingwood, while also providing breathtaking views

from the top down to Georgian Bay. Bourbonnais has more to entertain summer visitors.

“We offer off-road Hummer tours with or without guided hike and/or picnic lunch,” he says, “wakeboard and waterski lessons, water

tubing, boat cruises, sunset cruises and jet ski rentals.”

Siegerman Side Trail

The Bruce Trail is not far from the town of Collingwood. Our guide led us to the Siegerman Side Trail which is within the

Beaver Valley section. The trail passes through mature trees including cedars and apple trees. Gradually going down to a lower elevation, we came upon beautiful wildflower-filled meadows and a creek that feeds the Beaver River.



▲ The bottle of 40-year-old Glenfiddich which costs \$615 for a generous dram.



▲ Alex Yuen and Cheryl McMenemy conduct a guided tasting at Collingwood Olive Oil Company



◀ The Niagara Escarpment rises dramatically south and west of Collingwood. View from Georgian Bay.

Lunch in Thornbury

GTTA treated us to our choice of a hot lunch at The Dam Pub in Thornbury, famous for scotch whiskies. A staggering 736 different brands were available, many on display behind locked grills, with servers knowing a fair bit about them. The count has since been increased to more than 780!

"People ask me when I will stop adding to the collection; my answer is always 'when we run out of room!'" explains Stephanie Price, co-owner with her parents Sandy and Gordon Price. "Mainstream whiskies such as The Glenlivet, The Glenfiddich, Balvenie,

Macallan, Glenmorangie are always popular, however we find that when folks come into the pub they want to try something new because of our vast selection and our whisky expertise."

We were all impressed with the bottle of 40-year-old Glenfiddich, which costs an eye-popping \$615 for one dram, or "1 ½ ounces in our house," adds Price. All of us stuck to beer or soft drinks.

Oil & Vinegar Tasting

I had an embarrassing experience at the Collingwood Olive Oil Company where we were guided through a tasting.

▼ Humming through the mud puddles on a road allowance on top of the Escarpment.



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▲ Iron horses stop traffic in the country outside of Collingwood. It was later learned that Roger Edwards is the artist who created them.



▲ The famous Collingwood grain terminals from the little-seen bay side.



◀ The lucky few who were treated to a day of touring some of Collingwood's attractions.



▲ Collingwood's main shopping street ends at the bay.

After hearing about the health benefits of fresh-pressed, extra-virgin olive oil, we were given a tiny paper cup of Greek olive oil to swirl in our mouths just as if it were wine.

I immediately felt a peppery burning at the back of my throat and fell into a coughing/choking fit. It was such an extreme response that I couldn't breathe, and co-owner Alex Yuen brought me a paper cone of clear liquid to drink. I thought it would be water, but it tasted like lemonade. Instead, it turned out to be balsamic vinegar! I have never before drunk vinegar.

The delicious taste caused me to question the seemingly hateful action of the soldier at Christ's crucifixion who, at the cry for water, offered vinegar to drink. Could it have been an act of mercy instead of viciousness? My mind was spinning at the thought of harsh olive oil and drinkable vinegar.

While I avoided further oils, I taste tested several vinegars and went home with a bottle of mango-flavoured white balsamic vinegar that was superb. **NEV**

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

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WILLOW PARK ECOLOGY CENTRE

Success and Sustainability

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROSALEEN EGAN

WILLOW PARK ECOLOGY CENTRE (WPEC) is not your usual urban park. There are no sports fields, swings or slides. This natural park for plants, animals, fish, turtles, birds, insects and people includes a snake hibernaculum, wetland, butterfly garden, meadowland, river and woodland areas including a native tree trail.

Kids getting their feet wet in Silver Creek, Willow Park Ecology Centre, at the close of summer camp.





▲ Entrance to the park is by this boardwalk over Silver Creek, a tributary of the Credit.



◀ On right, Tunde Otto, programs director, and Carolyn Martin, board chair and park manager, offering crafts in the pavilion.

REGENERATED GROUNDS offer a great space for free play, exploration and contemplation in a varied natural environment where Silver Creek meets the Credit River in Norval, part of the town of Halton Hills.

Willow Park is a passive leisure space open to the public. It hosts school and summer programs, special events for all ages, and acts as a tourism attraction for the town. People come to relax, connect with nature, learn, walk, paint, take photos and participate in community events.

First-time visitor Laura Draga says, “My son and I were looking for something to do in the March break. I was pleased to learn about Willow Park which is moments from our house. We had a wonderful time learning about butterflies and making a bird feeder. The grounds are beautiful and we look forward to coming back.”

Visitors enter WPEC from Mary Street at Norval Park, and cross over Silver Creek on a wheelchair-accessible boardwalk. Boxes for butterflies, bats and birds are interspersed through the park. Newer features include a xeriscape garden, which needs little water, a roadside pollinator patch, and a large Native medicine wheel or Sacred Hoop. The park has an interpretive centre, pavilions and a demonstration area.

Natural Education

It all grew from an idea in 1996, after a roundtable on green communities hosted by the Town Environmental Advisory Committee (TEAC), to restore what was a grassy trailer park, subject to flooding, into a natural environment for “the engagement and education of citizens.”

► Fearlessly observing nature: a harmless Brown Snake crosses a path.

Former Halton Hills resident and visionary, Ruth Kuchinad, was the first coordinator of the centre, setting the groundwork for what is now a successful regeneration that continues to evolve.

“We’ve been on a journey,” says the current WPEC programs director Tunde Otto, of the tension between controlling that evolution and letting nature takes its course.

With the butterfly and pollinator garden for instance, she says, “We said ‘manage it, manage it’ and then once established, we let it do its own thing.” It is a little overgrown, and the pathways are cleared a few times of year because as Otto says, “It is fun to go in there and discover things.”

Just as the natural space evolves, so too does the use of that space, the programs it offers and its funding.

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The Centre occupies 2.1 hectares of regenerated land on the West Branch of the Credit River. The Credit flows through the Niagara Escarpment near Orangeville south to Lake Ontario. In Halton Hills, the Escarpment runs through the north and west. The property is owned by Credit Valley Conservation and is leased to the Town of Halton Hills.

The park is operated by a non-profit organization, its volunteer board of directors and paid programming staff. The Town helps with the large

physical maintenance of the park. Other maintenance and enhancements rely on WPEC, its volunteers and community partners.

"We rely heavily on volunteers," says Otto.

Fifteen-year-old Christian Jander says, "I volunteer because I want to help out with nature and restore it to how it was before people ruined it."

High school students help in a variety of ways including data entry and preparing materials for younger students and summer camp days. One

solved the question of how to construct the medicine wheel.

Summer Camps

"Plant a Kids' Garden," "Dragonflies and How they Protect Us," "River Otters, Beavers and Muskrat" are among the themes for summer camp days on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the centre. They offer an opportunity for children four to 12 years of age to explore and to take ownership of the natural world.

Willow Park offers "curriculum-linked educational

opportunities" for students from K-Grade 6 in school, schoolyards, and at the Centre. According to the WPEC website, "programming follows the teaching model of Forest School Canada to foster rich learning experiences, ecological literacy, and healthy living by connecting children to nature."

These programs are supported by boards of education in the area, and require a nominal fee per student. As programming expands, more staff is



▲ From the viewing platform at the wetland you can discover frogs, turtles, birds, insects and more.

needed, and therefore more monies need to be raised.

To help with funding, WPEC is introducing a membership opportunity, Friends of Willow Park, for “park users and anyone else who wants to see the park continue as a unique nature centre.” The park is free for the public to enjoy and discover from dawn to dusk on most days and says Otto, “It’s a bit tricky transitioning to fees for special events. The fees are giving us at least the base money to run the programs. Almost cost-

recovery. Funding from grants for programming is difficult as it is not tangible, and it makes it hard to sustain and expand.”

To further enhance and promote events, WPEC is implementing a new model of corporate donation. In the past, community and corporate sponsors have contributed to specific events. In the new model, they will be asked to donate money toward overall event programming, and also to donate people power. Otto suggests corporate sponsors come for a day and provide a

Halton Parks



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▲ Safe among the water lilies: a turtle is half out of the water in the wetland.

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▲ The compost demonstration area was built by volunteers.

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▲ Created and maintained by a volunteer for years as a tended butterfly garden, this large area has been allowed to become more natural butterfly habitat. Seeds and stems of native plants are left for over-wintering birds and animals as food and protection.



▲ Seeds of large vegetables planted in the spring through the WPEC school program will be harvested in the fall by another class.



▲ Picking beans from one of the children's gardens.

monetary donation to allow WPEC to facilitate their visit.

From the concept in the 1990s to the present physical park, its outreach to the schools and the community at large, WPEC has faced challenges of funding, flooding, invasive plants and the tension between a natural area and control of its direction.

It is an evolving entity that offers much to be discovered in a quiet setting. As frequent visitor Allan Giles says, "It's a beautiful

place hidden in Norval, surrounded by urban living."

After reaching success in regeneration and programming, WPEC is entering a new phase of sustainability. It welcomes visitors and support. For more see willowparkecology.ca. **NEW**

Rosaleen Egan is an independent writer, editor and photographer who lives on a farm north of Alliston, where she enjoys the landscape, birds and animals. Her website is rosiewrites.com.



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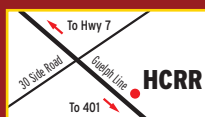


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A Lion's Roar

Written and photographed by Bruce Mackenzie

Lion's Head is an amazingly beautiful feature of the Niagara Escarpment on the east shore of the Bruce Peninsula on the west coast of Georgian Bay. The Escarpment dips its toe into the Bay here. The awesome scene is clearly visible from the community of Lion's Head but to fully involve yourself in the sheer dynamics of the shoreline you need to paddle along the wild untamed shores of the talus slope.

The waters run deep, clear, green and cold at Lion's Head. As abruptly as the land rises from the water's surface, the rock bottom of Georgian Bay goes down. The deepest part of the Bay is just north of here at around 200 metres a short distance from shore.

Some summers ago my wife Laurie and I had been kayaking along the shore of Lion's Head when we got caught in a dangerous thunder and lightning storm.

We were never far from shore but the black clouds of that storm blew over the Bruce from Lake Huron to the lee shores of Georgian Bay in what seemed like a panic, catching us off guard. The torrential rain was warm and we still remember the huge raindrops bouncing off the green waters like millions of emeralds as we paddled in desperation for safety at the Town's beach and our vehicle. In that fantasy of beauty was the reality of thunder and lightning strikes along the Escarpment along the shore beside us.

Echoes of Thunder

The echoes of thunder off the Escarpment face still live with us.

More recently, Laurie suggested we explore Lion's Head again in calmer waters. Our goal was to paddle the same route of a few years ago but this time get to the end of



▲ The Bruce Trail runs through the wilderness along the top of the Niagara Escarpment at Lion's Head. In this photograph, the jutting "face of the lion" is clearly visible at the top of the cliff. The huge tree-covered rock beneath it fell off the Escarpment an unknown time ago. The lion now guards it.

the cliff formation and around the point towards MacKay's Harbour, about an eight-km round trip. The skies were clear and waters inviting.

We did not go far when we came across a small fishing boat close to shore, with occupants looking up at the cliffs and rock climbers. We had thought it was dangerous to be here in a lightning storm. Watching these climbers changed my perspective. Our ancestors had a natural fear of heights and that is one of the reasons why our bloodlines exist today.

On we went along the shore below the cliff, enjoying all the fascinations that nature has left for us to explore. We stopped right under the Lion's Head precipice and Laurie noticed another climber. This one was not taking the easy route. He was right at the bottom of the huge overhang, the Lion's throat. We did not want to watch. We wanted to



▲ Laurie Mackenzie on the shore with the Bruce Trail behind her. The Escarpment is evident on the horizon to the south.

paddle away fast but morbid fear for the man made us look. He made it out to the sunny vertical cliff face to the right of him, where he tried to go from climbing almost upside down to go straight up again.

Heart-Stopping Cry

I turned away for a moment, then we heard a sound I never wanted to hear, surely the sound that a man makes in his last seconds.

At the terrified cry of the man we turned to see him swinging like a pendulum about 15 m below from where he ascended to. It took a while for the twisting and swinging of the man, like a pendulum, to stop. He had been attached to a safety rope. When the climber stopped moving, an unseen partner started to lower him to the ground through the trees. We never saw the partner and once the man was lowered below tree tops we did not see or hear anything more.

This was an example of blind trust in a piton hammered into limestone and a harness that consisted simply of a safety belt attached to a loop around the top of each leg, with nothing around the chest or shoulders. Just what were the forces on his lower trunk and hips when he came to that incredibly sudden stop?

Even though our hearts stopped a moment, the scenery stayed alive, the waters flowed and we kept along our way. The weather stayed fine and a km or so later we were safely



▲ A place of beauty: looking out from inside a cavern on the shore at Lion's Head.

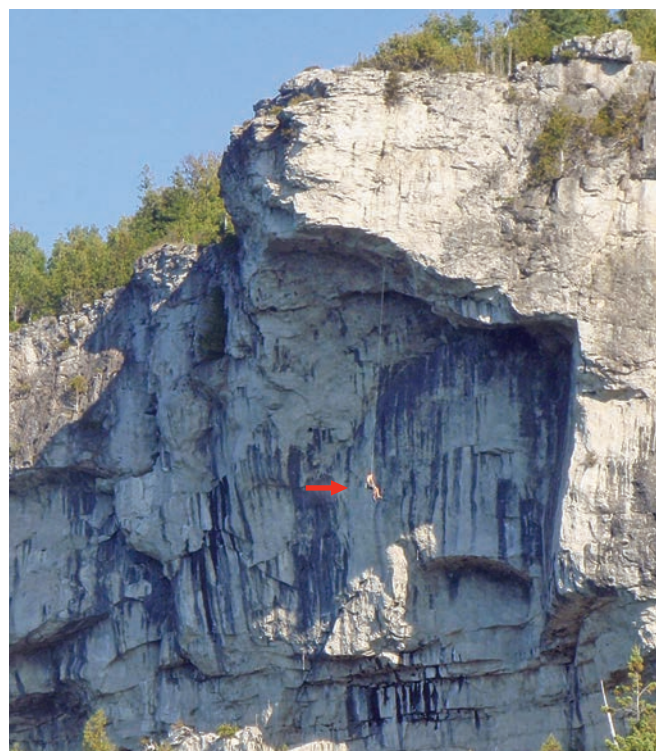
back to our beach. It might be a while before we kayak Lion's Head again. We have heard the Lion roar twice now.

Bruce Mackenzie, retired director of customer service of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, is active in various

naturalist organizations in the Hamilton area and is deeply involved with the Save the Wood Lot project in Grimsby.



◀ A rock climber (see arrow) defying gravity under the "chin of the lion."



After the fall: the climber hanging below the "chin" after suddenly dropping 15 m. ▶

What Else I've Inherited

By Gloria Hildebrandt

It's a Saturday morning in July and it's going to be a stinkin' hot weekend according to the weather forecast. First thing this morning, I closed all the windows in the house to keep the interior its pleasant 20 degrees C. Last night, however, I had to light a fire in the woodstove because it had been chilly inside thanks to a day of rain and damp. I was so cold I had to wear my winter indoor booties. Crazy weather.

Right after breakfast, which I figured would be the coolest time of the day, I got geared up in my usual long work pants, socks, boots, T-shirt covered by an unbuttoned long-sleeved shirt, bug shirt with hood, and gloves. I had a wagon load of wood chips that I wanted to spread on a path.

Even with ear muffs on to protect against the tractor engine noise, I heard the

mosquitoes whining. I saw them swarming around my netting-covered face. I quickly spread the chips nicely on the path and felt pleased with myself.

Now along with the land that I inherited from my father, it appears I have inherited some character traits. One is the inability to quit while things are pleasant. Like my father, I have a tendency to push things a little. Just a little more, just a little longer.

Burning Brush

Here's one dramatic example of my father's way of working. Many years ago, when my mother was still alive, I went to my mailbox and noticed smoke billowing from my parents' front yard next door. "That's not right," I thought, and walked down the road to have a look. My father was using a shovel to beat flames from a grass fire. I went to help, grabbing a rake, and

then I noticed that he had two fires going, burning brush. He explained that because one fire was going so well, he decided to start another fire, in order to burn the brush faster. But the fires got out of hand. We spent the next hour frantically staying ahead of the grass fire that was racing through the natural section beside the mowed front yard. When the fire came to a path of cut grass, it mercifully stopped spreading and we were able to put it out. Had it jumped the path, I don't know what would have happened. This was just one instance of when my father wanted to save time on a chore but ended up spending much more time on it.

Clipping Burdock

This mornng, after spreading the wood chips on the path, I remembered that I had seen two tall burdock plants ripening in a stand of natural growth. I thought I'd

snip them off with my long clippers before they scattered and formed a million more plants. Still geared up against the mosquitoes that would be in the tall growth, I hacked away until I was able to cut the burdocks and drag them clear. Then I saw about six more burdock plants rising above the bee balm, goldenrod and raspberry plants. Swinging my clippers, stamping down plants, I inched to each burdock, bent way down, felt for the stems with my clippers and wrestled them out.

Soon I was gasping for air through the wet bug veil. My hair was soaked and covered my eyes. My glasses were completely fogged up. It was 100 per cent humidity and 100 per cent mosquitoes. I was exhausted. I was in a foul mood. When my dog Kelly tried to push into the cool house ahead of me, I yelled at her. I was just like my father. Pushing things to the limit, until tempers flare.

But I got 'er done. There's now a pile of burdock on the grass near my burn pile. If the burdock seeds start to grow in the grass, I can keep them in check by mowing. That's why I never stack burdock where I can't mow. I'll let them dry out near the firepit, which will remain the sole firepit I use at one time, however.

I realized something about myself today. I share my father's impatience and tendency to bad temper when frustrated or tired, but maybe I also have his self-discipline and high expectations of himself, and his ability to get just a little more done. I just don't know if that's good, bad or even necessary.

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



▲ Wood chips spread neatly on a path. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

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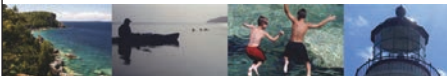
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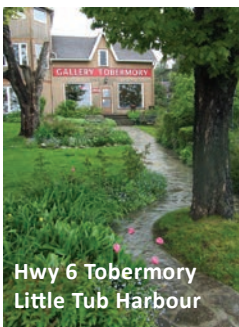
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The How-To of Conservation Agreements

By Bob Barnett

I hear lots of people say they don't like gravel pits. Other people complain that our farmland should be protected from creeping suburban tract housing. When I meet people who own farmland or woodlots and who don't like development, I ask how big their property is. My next question is, "Well how would you like an income tax receipt for \$150,000 for never having a gravel pit and ensuring your farmland is kept for farming." They usually ask, "How could you do that?"

A conservation agreement, under provincial legislation, allows a landowner to restrict all future users from land uses they don't want by placing covenants on title. Since 1997, Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) has been coordinating the applicable provincial and federal government programs to help families protect their own legacy, the land they care for, and also benefit from substantial income tax savings. Our charitable land trust has helped landowners place "conservation agreements" with such covenants on 45 properties covering almost 4,000 acres. One landowner, Gunter Springer, from Chatsworth has protected 10 properties with 900 acres. Now he is the vice-chair of our charity's board.

Tax Incentives

Environment Canada has designed an "EcoGift" program to provide income tax incentives to help protect Canada's special places. Restricting future uses will reduce your land value today, reduce capital gain taxes and make it easier to pass your land to your children.



▲ Protected! Gunter Springer's Hamilton Creek property near Holland Centre. PHOTO BY BOB BARNETT.

EBC protects a new property about once a month. Our reserves range from Caledon to Manitoulin and from Goderich to Mattawa. Our conservation agreements cover properties usually sized from 25 to 403

acres and include farmland, woodlots, plantations and wetlands. The \$150,000 example, above, was based on a 100-acre farm in Grey County, but our receipts have ranged up to \$600,000 for a 32-acre property.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for a preliminary discussion.

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

How to Keep Your Woodlot or Farmland the Way It Is

1. Check out escarpment.ca for information about our land trust and examples, but give me a call at 888-815-9575 to discuss your project. I can give you a broad outline over the phone.
2. Invite us to visit your property. At that meeting we can discuss the ecological features of your property and how restrictions might be placed on some "zones" you choose to establish like protection on farmland, but not on others, like the residential zone surrounding your house, road and barn which usually remain virtually unencumbered. We'd also discuss the steps, timing, and probable receipt value.
3. You discuss the project with family and your advisors. We often attend such meetings to answer technical questions.
4. Together, we draft up the wording of the restrictions you wish to place on title. You choose from a potential menu of 24 items and we modify the wording to suit you and your family. Some people choose to specify organic farming, prohibit hunting or include a "dark sky" clause, but every agreement is different. Every agreement allows EBC to check that the current owner is following the rules.
5. We ask for a valuation of the restrictions from a professional appraiser who will meet the needs of Environment Canada. If you are satisfied with that value, we proceed and finalize the appraisal.
6. We submit your project to Environment Canada for their review of the ecological features and valuation.
7. With those approvals in hand, you ask your lawyer to work with EBC's lawyer to prepare documents for registration of the agreement.
8. You sign the documents and the lawyers register the agreement. EBC issues you an income tax receipt for the appraised and approved value.
9. You can use your income tax receipt over as many as 10 years until it's used up. It reduces your taxes by 40 to 46 per cent of the donation value and you will be exempt from capital gain tax on the donation.
10. You will know that EBC will monitor the property from time to time at good times for you or the future owner to ensure the agreement is being honoured. If owners disobey your agreement, EBC has the power under provincial legislation to restore the property. — Bob Barnett

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JUNE 3 & 4
Bruce Peninsula Orchid Festival
Parks Canada Visitor Centre,
Tobermory orchidfest.ca

JUNE 4
Shaw Guild Garden Tour
Niagara-on-the-Lake
shawfest.com/gardentour

JUNE 4 & 5
Doors Open Owen Sound
owensound.ca/live/
doors-open-owen-sound

JUNE 4 & 5
Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek
Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek
battlefieldhouse.ca
905.662.8458

JUNE 5
Riverfest
Willow Park Ecology Centre,
Norval riverfest-norval.ca
905.877.2579

JUNE 11
Highland Games
Georgetown Fairgrounds,
Georgetown
GeorgetownHighlandGames.com

JUNE 12
Carnegie Gallery 23rd Annual Garden Tour
Dundas
carnegie@carnegiegallery.org
905.627.4265

JUNE 18
Dundas Eco-Fair
Hamilton Air Force Association
Building, Dundas
905.336.1158 x 2285

JUNE 18
2016 Grand Durand Garden Tour
Durand neighbourhood,
Hamilton durandna.com

JUNE 19
Classics Against Cancer
Cedarvale Park, Georgetown
ClassicsAgainstCancer.com
647.558.8143

JUNE 24
Summertime Blues Concert
Kelso Beach, Owen Sound
summertime-blues.com

JUNE 25
Bike It to the Market
Downtown, Georgetown
downtowngeorgetown.com
905.873.4970

JUNE 26
Ride Don't Hide 2016
Community bike ride for mental health taking advantage of views of Georgian Bay.
Kelso Beach, Owen Sound
ridedonthide.com 519.371.3642

JULY 2
Waterfront Festival
Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, Owen Sound
marineandrail.ca 519.371.3333

JULY 29-31
Emancipation Festival
Harrison Park, Owen Sound
emancipation.ca

JULY 30
Creemore Children's Festival
Downtown Creemore
CreemoreChildrensFestival.com

AUG. 2-4
The Grey Bruce Kennel & Obedience Club Annual Championship Conformation Dog Show and Obedience Trials
Harrison Park, Owen Sound
greybrucekennelclub.com
519.538.1525

AUG. 14
Leathertown Festival
Mill St., Acton
LeathertownFestival.com

AUG. 19-21
Summerfolk Music & Crafts Festival
Kelso Beach Park, Owen Sound
summerfolk.org

AUG. 26-SEPT. 4
Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular
Owen Sound
sydenhamsportsmen.com

AUG. 27
Copper Kettle Festival
Mad River Park, Creemore
copperkettlefestival.ca

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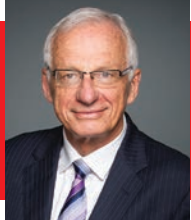
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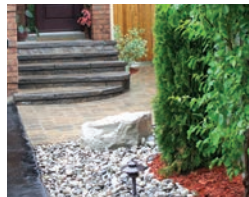
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FORESIGHT

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!**

Kayaking in Big Tub, Tobermory.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

ALTERNATIVES TO CAR USE

Oakville plans to add
**28 km of cycling
and pedestrian paths**
to town. New cycle lanes, off-road trails, sidewalks and signed bike routes will begin to be created by the end of 2016. More public bike storage options have also been promised.

ENERGY FROM GARBAGE

Niagara Region endorses an energy-from-waste plant that will
create steam to power a turbine, generating electricity.
The plan is for garbage that can't be recycled to be diverted from landfill and burned for energy. The resulting ash can be mixed with concrete and used as road material, while the remaining particles would become landfill. Environmental assessments still need to be done.

GRILLED FRUIT SKEWERS

with Habanero Caramel Sauce



Prep Time: 15 min.

Total Time: 30 min.

Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp Butter (30 mL)
- 1/2 cup Sugar (125 mL)
- 1/4 cup 35% Whipping Cream (60 mL)
- 3 tbsp *Sensations by Compliments* Spirited Mickie Tequila Lime Habanero BBQ Sauce (45 mL)
- 2 Mangos, peeled, cut into large chunks
- 1/2 Papaya, peeled, cut into large chunks
- 1/2 Pineapple, peeled, cut into large chunks
- 8 Wooden Skewers, soaked

Directions

1. Melt butter and sugar in medium saucepan over medium heat. When sugar is dissolved, increase heat to medium-high. Stir in whipping cream and BBQ sauce. Boil 3 to 5 min. until thickened. Cool slightly.
2. Meanwhile, alternately thread mango, papaya and pineapple cubes onto skewers.
3. Place skewers on grill preheated to medium-high heat. Cook 5 to 7 min., turning occasionally, until fruit is lightly golden and marked. Serve with warm caramel sauce for dipping.

tip: make skewers with local strawberries, melons and peaches when in season



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