

Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

AUTUMN 2016 (SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER)

WITH WORK BY
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MIKE DAVIS

**HEADWATER
HAUNTS**

ANNUAL ARTISTS' ISSUE:

**ART
Along the Ledge**

**BIRDS
Across the Bruce**

**Peter Kelly on
Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark**

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Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



Autumn 2016
(September, October, November)

ON THE COVER:
Mary Lou and David Brock of Williams Mill
Visual Arts Centre, Glen Williams
Photo by Mike Davis

FEATURES



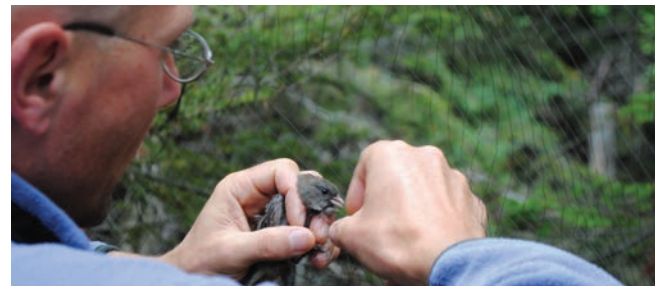
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Relatives Gone Rogue

Autumn is the time for deaths in nature, when plants are finished or if not actually dead, look like they are. I'm more aware of death, or what resembles it, these days.

I got a phone call recently from someone who after a while, said "Your magazine is amazing, by the way. Whenever I see copies I grab them. Your father would be so proud."

"Did you know my father?" I asked.

"No, but I read your column. Do you still own those 14 acres?"

"Oh yes I do."

She then told me that she is part of a large family that had a farm they loved. When her father died, her oldest brother inherited it, but then sold it and it was lost to the family. No one in the family could afford to buy him out.

As wealth is transferring from the older generation to baby boomers, there are increasing stories of inheritances causing rifts and splits and divisions and hatreds. It's easy for relatives to "go rogue."

Siblings are taking each other to court. Trusts are being challenged for mismanagement and depreciation. Understandings evaporate, promises are broken. It's particularly heartbreaking when it's about property. Money is portable, simply a tool. Property can hold memories and history and the essence of its owners. Some relatives see no value in parents' legacy, only seeing dollar signs for what they can get by cashing out.

It's sadly ironic that money, supposed to make things easier for people, can actually be the cause of pain. It may be easier to be on good terms with relatives when you all are poor! Parents are surely rolling in their graves at the

reality that while they wanted to provide some financial security, perhaps shelter for a child's remaining life, they have produced rancour and discord to the point of hatred and permanent separation between siblings.

True Character Revealed

Even when there's every legal right for people to do what they want, there are moral considerations, there may be familial ties to consider. What causes the most permanent break between siblings may be that people's actions reveals their true character.

If someone sells a unique family property with decades of family history, it may show that this person does not hold the same values as other family members. They may not care enough about their own children to want to pass on a family estate to them. They may no longer be the type of people you want close to you.

Maya Angelou famously wrote "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

Deaths of relationships can be sad, just as it's sad to see the garden fade in autumn, the gorgeous leaves fall to the ground and turn brown.

Perhaps there's hope for renewal in a complete break with a family member. Not for the restoration of the relationship, but for the beauty of clarity and the ability to live a life purely and honestly, without pretending to like each other. Like spectacular flowers that appear to die before coming into glorious bloom in spring, you just might come through strengthened and more capable of discovering who you really are, without dissembling.

Surely that's what parents would want for all their children.



Gloria looking forward to the new growth possible after change.

Autumn Changes

This issue looks at some positive changes. There's a new art gallery on Manitoulin that's worth a visit, a boutique gallery in a new location in Georgetown, and new works to touch your hearts in a gallery studio that's celebrating its 20th anniversary, as well as in a set of old industrial buildings transformed into the centre of a historic village. Changes brought by old and new are the theme of this year's special focus on artists.

Peter Kelly, who co-wrote the influential book *The Last Stand: a Journey Through the Ancient Cliff-Face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment*, has written about the ways

in which the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System at the west end of Lake Ontario, is unique in North America and worth celebrating.

Sandra J. Howe reports from the tip of the Bruce Peninsula about autumn bird migration and the important research done by the bird observatory there.

To get us in the mood for Halloween, Andrew Hind shares his spooky tales of ghosts said to haunt some buildings in Orangeville and Alton. Publishing ghost stories is not without risk; in the past when we did this about an advertiser's accommodation, we received a complaint, the fear that some people may find spectres to be a turnoff. Later, however, this advertiser reported how many people had gotten in touch in order to have the chance of experiencing a ghost! We hope the same thing happens to Alton and Orangeville. Don't let a little shiver down your back keep you from visiting these fine old Escarpment communities.

Gloria

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

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!



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

More Online!



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



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



I was shocked and disappointed to read the story about the Collingwood area and “Carving the Escarpment.” For a magazine that I assume is dedicated to educate and inform people about this unique ecosystem I am amazed that you condone the wanton destruction of the Niagara Escarpment by off-road vehicles. As well you seemed to enjoy “Casting aside all concerns over any harm done to the area’s fragile ecosystems...” for your thrilling ride while promoting such excursions with profiteers. The two photographs accompanying the story, one of the Bruce Trail rutted by trucks and the other of the Hummer plowing through a seriously eroded section of road allowance, were equally distasteful. I wonder if your advertisers are fully aware of the type of activities you are promoting on the Escarpment. If you would like to see further destruction of the Niagara Escarpment by off-road vehicles and some of the remedial work that is being done by concerned citizens, I would be happy to give you a tour of the Escarpment west of Meaford. This would be a walking tour!

Greg Brown, Meaford

In your summer 2016 article “The Summer Side of Collingwood,” you describe your trip with Xtreme Hummer Adventures. The sentence at the start of the second paragraph of this part of the article begins with “Casting aside all concerns over any harm done to the area’s fragile ecosystems...” Yet you never explain why you feel it is possible to cast aside such serious concerns. You actually describe riding “...through large water-filled mud holes, down extremely steep rocky screes,

while churning up deep wheel ruts...” all of which is extremely damaging to the natural environment and cause for great concern. On top of that, the accompanying photo shows the tour vehicle driving into a stream bed—as if that isn’t of concern!!

Irresponsible and unauthorized use of off-road vehicles is a constant threat to most natural areas in Ontario, even in protected areas such as provincial parks and conservation areas. We have a long way to go to educate people about environmentally-responsible riding. Not only did you yourself not follow the accepted code of ethics for responsible off-road riding, but you also condoned and promoted these irresponsible practices to the public in your magazine.

You need to discuss responsible off-road riding in print in the next issue (ASAP!) to correct the damage you have done. Environmental codes of conduct for ATVs and ORVs have been developed by many different outdoors groups and environmental agencies, so I suggest you look up a few to get the general idea of what they entail—since it seems you yourself need to be educated on this subject.

I enjoy your magazine very much, so it is really disappointing when such a good source of information about the escarpment prints something like this.

**Judith Jones,
Winter Spider Eco-Consulting,
Manitowaning**

We recently picked up a copy of your latest issue of Niagara Escarpment Views. Generally we found the subject matter quite informative, but feel strongly motivated to comment on the cover photo and article about Xtreme [sic] Hummer Adventures.

We are very surprised that you would feature an article about a business that is so destructive to the ecology of our wonderful Niagara Escarpment.

To quote your article “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.....while churning up deep well ruts....” This attitude shows a total disregard for our valuable ecosystem on the part of Mark Bourbonnais.

At a public meeting held last fall at the Town of the Blue Mountains Council Chambers, Mark’s application to extend his area of operation in more sensitive areas of our escarpment was highly criticized by an overflow turnout of concerned citizens and his application was later denied.

How could this type of article be included in a publication that appears to promote conservation in other ways?

Peter and Ann Smith, Clarksburg

How interesting that the Editor asks in the Summer 2016 issue, “Are We Stupid?” It seems you are - for printing a photo of Xtreme Adventure Hummer Tours on your cover. Since this machine rips up swaths of otherwise well-preserved land all over the Escarpment - and caused the Town of the Blue Mountains to have to pass a by-law in 2016, blocking their access into the Len Gertler Memorial Loree Forest - you have now blown any pretensions you might have had to ecological awareness. I guess it is, after all, about the advertising.

Joan Nuffield, Heathcote

Editor’s note: We were told that Xtreme Hummer has permission to use these road allowances. We presented our experience in the hope that our readers will form their own conclusions. Thank you for presenting these thoughtful opinions.

To begin, I loved reading through the summer 2016 issue of Niagara Escarpment Views. The photography in your magazine is beautiful, and I adore seeing passionate people making a difference and doing what they love right here in Halton Hills and surrounding areas. Right now, I would like to write in and address your question on turning away advertisers from ‘View From the Editor’s Desk’.

Are you stupid? My answer to that burning question is... NO!

This is a topic that my family and I have been discussing at length in recent times. Sometimes people expect you to treat them better or give them a special deal because of some reason or another. Unfortunately, this is where all the problems start. As soon as you treat one person differently, then you have to treat everyone differently, and where do you draw the line after that? It really is not all about the money, and more people need to start realizing that.

It takes a lot of courage to stick to your own values in times like this, when the pressure is put on and you’re eager to get all the extra revenue you can. The way you put your opinion on this in your column was beautiful, and my hope is that all people start running their businesses just like you do. I give you my highest and sincerest commendations, as well as my thanks. You guys rock!

Elena Hall, Georgetown



Hi Mike and Gloria, I spent my first 50 years in Burlington, my husband 60 years in the Milton area. We met hiking the Bruce Trail. Bill has hiked it End to End (#296). Many wonderful memories! And Friends. We retired to beautiful Comox, B.C. in 2001 and are now making new memories.

Our Collingwood friends sent us the Spring 2016 issue of Niagara Escarpment Views and in an instant we were back in Halton. You have a beautiful magazine. The photos and articles took us home again. Enclosed is a cheque for a 2-year subscription. Remind us when to renew.

Pam Brown, Comox, B.C.

Hello Gloria, love your magazine, the photos are beautiful, and articles so interesting. I have passed them onto friends and family, but really like to keep them for myself. I have missed my subscription, being out of Canada for the winter. So will renew today.

You and your staff do a wonderful job in putting together this great magazine.

**Cheers, Diana Barker,
via www.NEViews.ca**

We have had requests for the Niagara Escarpment Views Magazine for the Summer months. Do you know when they will be delivered to the Wasaga Beach Chamber of Commerce? We have the Spring one here on display.

Wasaga Beach Chamber of Commerce

We value your views!

Write to: Niagara Escarpment Views
50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2
Email: editor@NEViews.ca
Comment through: www.NEViews.ca

This e-mail is twofold in purpose. First I would like to thank you for the photo/info montage of the three gardens in Grey-Bruce. I really enjoyed the set up in mixing the gardens together. We are all friends and support each other. We thank you for your support. You supplied just enough information to pique your readers' interest.

The second reason for writing is a personal thank you for writing "The Gift of Land." When I read these pieces I feel that I walk in your shoes. Having a little chunk of nature under your responsibility is a feeling I well know especially the dreams of "improving" it while knowing it will fare well if just left alone and, of course, knowing that you probably will not get the time to make these improvements. What a delight to know you have the power but you don't have to exercise it. My walks through our little farm elicit similar feelings.

Anyway, wishing you many good walks (who needs yoga) and continued delight in your patch. (Better to have the gin and tonic after the walk you know.)

**Bill Loney, Keppel Croft
Farm and Gardens**

Following is an excerpt from a letter sent June 6, 2016 by The East Hamilton Mountain Community Group to Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger about the urgent need to understand the root causes of the degradation of the Niagara Escarpment in this area. The letter makes a number of recommendations including:

- carry out a scientific study of the Escarpment face in this area by a Geotechnical Engineer and a Geologist/Hydrogeologist and implement the report recommendations

- Re-direct Truck traffic permanently away from the fragile Niagara Escarpment Edge and increase the capacity of the Red Hill and Lincoln Alexander Parkways to meet current and future traffic demands
- reduce the speed limit from Concession St at Upper Gage to Mohawk to 40 km/hr. and implement a 3 way stop at Rendell and East 43rd St.
- reconfigure the traffic circle at the top of the Kenilworth Access to improve safety and install a privacy wall to reduce noise pollution
- close the inner lane of the Kenilworth Access in favour of a bicycle/walking path that will encourage citizen use and increase safety
- Promote and encourage citizens to use Public Transit, LRT, and mass transit when available.
- increase traffic enforcement in order to reduce speeding and other traffic violations

The Residents of the East Hamilton Mountain community request that the City of Hamilton partner with them in the areas of protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance, and stewardship of the Escarpment. The sustainability of the Niagara Escarpment and the environment in this community is being threatened. We need to work together to ensure long term protection and enhancement of Escarpment lands for future generations to enjoy. The residents of the East Hamilton Community also advocate for increased Public Safety, improved Quality of Life, and reduction of emissions and chemicals polluting the environment as these pose a significant Public Health risk.

**Kate Fraser on behalf of
the East Hamilton Mountain
Community Group**

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

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



▲ Orangeville's "Inclusive" sculpture was unveiled on May 30 by Access Orangeville at the corner of Broadway and Sherbourne Street. At the ceremony was Orangeville mayor Jeremy D Williams, councillor Gail Campbell, chair of Access Orangeville, Mike Gravelle and Diva Anderson of Access Orangeville, councillor Nick Garisto, Peter Roy of Access Orangeville, and councillor Don Kidd. PHOTO BY SHEILA DUNCAN.



▲ Celebrating the gala opening of Georgetown's Old Armoury as a performance space, are the cast, band and members of Globe Productions' Old Armoury committee. On June 2, the renovated Armoury held the opening of the cabaret "Wonderfully Wicked."



▲ Many people took the Shaw Garden Tour in Niagara-on-the-Lake on June 4, featuring eight well-tended town properties.

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ A walk for ALS was held at Dominion Gardens Park in Georgetown on June 4. Walkers began at Christ the King Catholic Secondary School. The goal of raising \$185,000 was surpassed, with \$202,000 being raised. PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER.



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■ EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

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▲ On June 8 the Extraordinary Tree Project received a donation of more than \$18,000 from Bruce Power. At the cheque presentation in Owen Sound, from left are Heather Hughes and Robert Alton of Tom Thomson Art Gallery; Krista McKee, Grey Sauble Conservation; Francis Chua, manager, environment & sustainability; Stephen Hogbin, chairman of Extraordinary Tree Committee; Petal Furness, manager of Grey Roots Museum and Gord Edwards, public member. PHOTO BY GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION.



▲ Grey County Tourism held a tour of area attractions on June 8 for members of the tourism industry. At Last Adventures staff led a short hike into the Niagara Escarpment to see impressive rock formations.



▲ Work in progress: on June 8, artists in Owen Sound were creating a huge, long mural in a downtown alley. A Legacy Mural Project of Owen Sound Artists' Co-op, the mural was supervised by graffiti artist Billy Goodkat and completed by students of Keystones' Residential Programs.

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



▲ Fines Ford Lincoln of Bolton held a June 11 fundraiser for Bethel Hospice of Inglewood. For every household that had a person test drive a Lincoln, the dealership donated \$50 to the hospice. From left, Chris Miller of Georgetown and Carlos Martins, Fines' general manager. PHOTO BY BRIAN PERROT.



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▲ People enjoyed a wide variety of beautiful gardens on the June 12 Carnegie Gallery's Secret Gardens tour in Dundas and Greenville.

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

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



▲ Escarpment shoot: the award-winning CBC production “Schitt’s Creek” was filming on location in Hockley Valley the week of June 13–16. Photographing actors was not permitted but seen on set were Eugene Levy, Catherine O’Hara, Daniel Levy, Annie Murphy, Emily Hampshire and Dustin Milligan.



▲ On June 14 members of Halton-North Peel Naturalists’ Club checked their bluebird boxes installed at Scotsdale Farm north of Georgetown. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.



▲ With an operating grant of \$74,800 from Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), Regional Councillor Jane Fogal, MPP Ted Arnott and Winston Uytenbogaart of OTF cut the ribbon at the June 25 re-opening of Red Door Gallery in downtown Georgetown.

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ People were thrilled to see Batman at his Batmobile on June 19 at Classics Against Cancer in Georgetown's Cedarvale Park.

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There are more than 20,000 species of pollen bees worldwide and 3,500 of them live in North America. The term “pollen bees” was coined in 1992 to describe all the bees other than honey bees that help to pollinate crops and wildflowers.

There has been a significant reduction in the bee population lately, and both the honey bee and the solitary pollen bee have been affected. As over 60 per cent of food requires pollination, this is of concern to the very existence of the human race.

Many gardeners are paying attention to the solitary pollen bee. As the name suggests these bees do not live in hives nor do they have a queen. Some of them dig burrows in the ground to lay their eggs. Others like to nest above ground in tube-like cavities such as plant stems or holes left in wood by beetles. Pollen bees such as the Mason Bees and Leaf-cutter Bees that nest in cavities above ground are very vulnerable to predators and weather.

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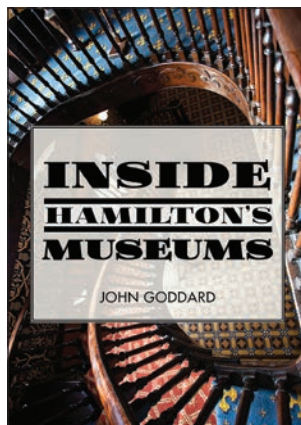
— Article and photos by Pollenbeenest.com

Inside Hamilton's Museums

Having previously written the well-received *Inside the Museums: Toronto's Heritage Sites and Their Most Prized Possessions*, John Goddard has now turned his gaze on Hamilton. In *Inside Hamilton's Museums* (Dundurn, \$19.99), the former *Toronto Star* reporter explores the history of Steel City through an exploration of its many museums.

In a book appealing to visitors and Hamiltonians alike (it's a strange phenomenon, but while people will eagerly explore museums in areas they visit, they rarely do so in their hometowns) Goddard chooses to focus his attentions on heritage-house museums, including Dundurn Castle, Whitehorn Historic House, the Joseph Brant Museum, Battlefield House, and Griffin House. Through these museums we meet some of Hamilton's most fascinating historic inhabitants.

Joseph Brant, for example, was one of the most influential aboriginal leaders to ever live, having guided his refugee people, who had remained loyal to the Crown during the American Revolution, north from New York State to settle along the Grand River. A replica of the home he built in Hamilton today serves



this remarkable man's story and displays some of Brant's personal artifacts.

Allan Napier MacNab is a true rags-to-riches story. Born virtually penniless, he served heroically in the War of 1812, then found his fortune as a lawyer, land speculator, politician, and industrialist (he was president of three railway companies, among other business interests). MacNab built a house which suitably reflected his status as one of the wealthiest and most powerful men in the province, a magnificent Italianate manor that has since been designated a National Historic Site.

Goddard introduces us to these individuals and others like them, and leads us through guided tours of their former homes, pointing out artifacts of notes and little-known historic facts

that bring their stories to life. Eminently readable, informative and accessible, it fills an important niche in Hamilton literature. Perhaps most importantly, it encourages readers, residents and visitors alike, to explore Hamilton's many heritage-house museums in person. — *Andrew Hind*

Plant Tulips for Canada's Sesquicentennial



A special tulip has been bred to mark the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation. The petals are white with red streaks, giving the impression of the Canadian flag. Bred in the Netherlands for the National Capital Commission, it has become the official tulip for 2017 and is known as the Canada 150 tulip or the Maple Leaf tulip. The tulips bloom in mid season and grow to about 22 inches tall.

Bulbs will be available for purchase in early September for fall planting. They will be available exclusively at all Home Hardware stores and Building Centres in Canada. Prices are \$12.97 for a box of 25 bulbs, and a box of 100 for \$44.99. Boxes of 500 bulbs for community groups will cost \$199.99. People wanting large quantities should contact the nearest Home Hardware store about pre-ordering.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY HOME HARDWARE STORES LIMITED.

Hidden No More

In 2013, James Dick Construction Ltd. (JDCL) announced plans for its "Hidden Quarry." It would be blasted 23 metres below the water table on a 100-acre Guelph Eramosa Twp. property on Highway 7 between Rockwood and Acton. JDCL would use an experimental underwater blasting technique in an environmentally sensitive and agricultural area, within 1,000 metres of hundreds of homes. 700,000 tonnes of aggregate a year would be hauled by up to 38 trucks an hour along the school bus routes and through already truck-burdened local towns.

Residents are concerned. Provincial policies and official plans stipulate that potentially negative impacts from quarry operations must be assessed in the context of the environment, safety, agriculture, roads, etc. This fall, beginning on September 27, the Concerned Residents Coalition, 1,100 strong and having raised almost \$400,000, will state its opposition to the Hidden Quarry to a single adjudicator at the Ontario Municipal Board, bringing five experts to speak to the many potentially negative impacts of the proposed quarry. Halton Region, Halton Hills, Guelph Eramosa Township and Milton join CRC in opposing the application.

By Linda Sword, member of the board of Concerned Residents Coalition



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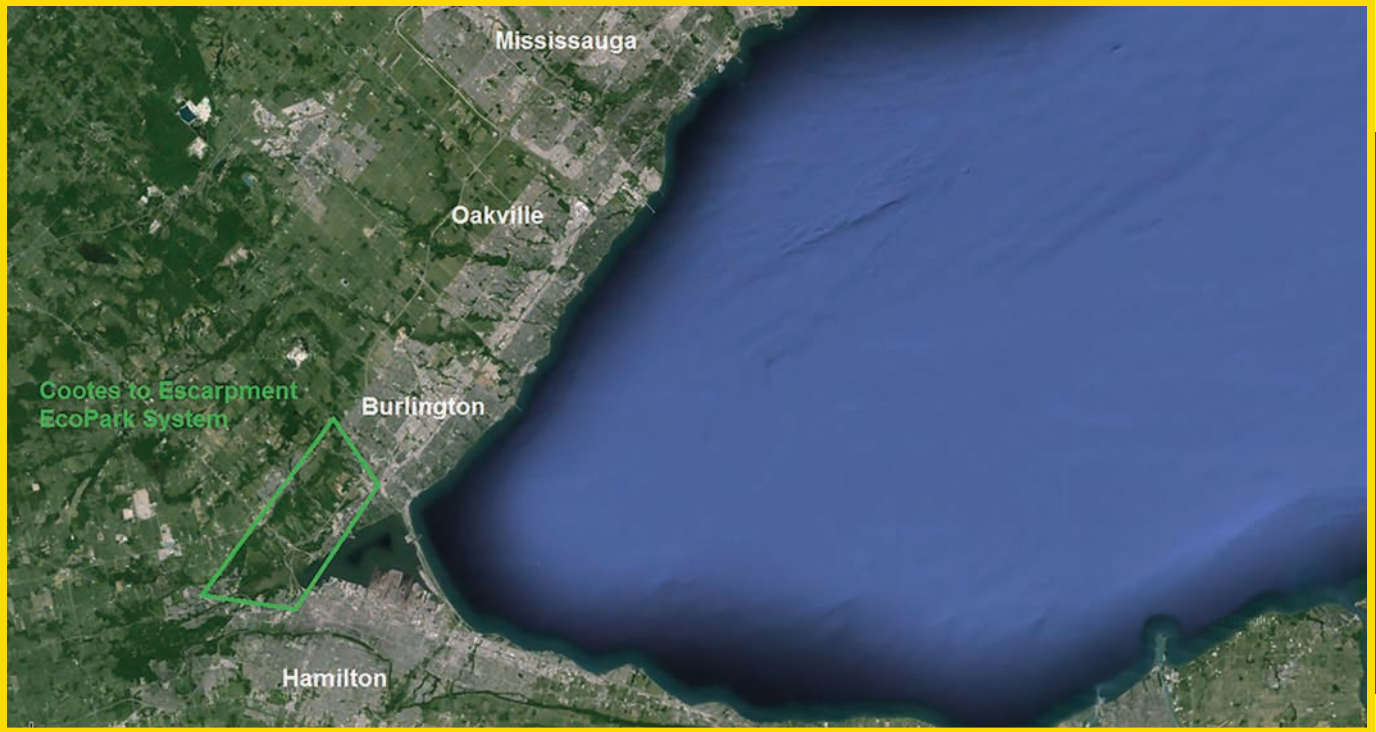
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Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Vision



- Legend:**
- EcoPark Land Boundaries
 - Stewardship Lands
 - Hydro Corridors
 - Water Bodies
 - Roads
 - Rail Lines
 - Hiking Trails



Vision

Our vision for the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System is to create a known internationally as a protected, permanent and connected sanctuary from the Harbour to the Escarpment that promotes environmental and human health within Ontario's Greenbelt.

◀ The EcoPark System stretches from the Niagara Escarpment to the western end of Lake Ontario in one of the most densely populated areas in Ontario.
COURTESY COOTES TO ESCARPMENT ECOPARK SYSTEM.

Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System: **UNIQUE IN EASTERN NORTH AMERICA**

WRITTEN BY PETER KELLY



WHEN WORD GOT OUT that two prime pieces of private real estate near the Niagara Escarpment in the Pleasant View area of Dundas were up for sale recently, it triggered a cascade of communications between local conservation authorities, municipalities and non-profit organizations dedicated to conservation and restoration in the area.

This was a unique opportunity to establish an unrestricted corridor of natural lands between Cootes Paradise and the Niagara Escarpment, something that hadn't existed in over 150 years. By December 2015, the deal was done. Nine governments and organizations made the announcement, using moneys secured by the partners themselves. Who are these nine different agencies and organizations? How did they accomplish this and why?

◀ Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System consists of six areas called "Heritage Lands."
COURTESY COOTES TO ESCARPMENT ECOPARK SYSTEM.



▲ Smokey Hollow Falls or Great Falls in Waterdown is where Grindstone Creek flows over the Niagara Escarpment and is part of the EcoPark System. PHOTO BY PETER KELLY.

The threat of urban encroachment on these significant natural lands was the impetus behind devising a plan of action that could provide permanent protection, create natural corridors and offer opportunities for sustainable recreation and education.

WELCOME TO the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, a collection of lands owned by three municipalities, two conservation authorities and three non-profit organizations. McMaster University is also a member and support is provided by the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan. Formally hatched in 2013 after seven years of planning, the EcoPark System partnership's mission is to collaboratively preserve and enhance natural lands using a sustainable approach that balances natural ecosystem health with responsible human activities.

Framed by the Niagara Escarpment to the north, stretching between the eastern edge of Dundas to the west and Brant street in Burlington to the east, and the wetland complex known as Cootes Paradise to the south, the EcoPark System is located in one of Canada's biological hotspots and is nestled within the Greenbelt at the western end of Lake Ontario.

The area is home to almost 1,600 species of flora and fauna, including over

50 species at risk. Yet it is surrounded by urban development including two cities with a combined population of over 700,000: Hamilton, including Dundas and Waterdown, and Burlington. The threat of urban encroachment on these significant natural lands was the impetus behind devising a plan of action that could provide permanent protection, create natural corridors and offer opportunities for sustainable recreation and education.

Overarching management plans for all natural lands within the EcoPark System are currently being prepared. Regardless of partner ownership, all natural lands have been partitioned into six groups of "Heritage Lands." Partner staff, regional stakeholders and the general public through meetings and open houses, provide input on these plans.

EcoPark System partners are able to preserve natural lands by land purchase, land donation or conservation easements held by one of the partner agencies. Land acquisition is facilitated by a land securement coordinator. Since

Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System Landowners

Municipalities:

- City of Burlington
- City of Hamilton
- Halton Region

Conservation Authorities:

- Conservation Halton
- Hamilton Conservation Authority

Non-profit Organizations:

- Bruce Trail Conservancy
- Hamilton Naturalists' Club
- Royal Botanical Gardens

2013, 89 hectares (219 acres) have been acquired by the EcoPark System partners including a 15-hectare (37-acre) property that includes two spectacular ravines



▲ The boardwalk in Kerncliff Park, Burlington, is a popular part of the EcoPark System. PHOTO BY PETER KELLY.

Some Plant Species at Risk Found in EcoPark System Lands

- Red Mulberry (*Morus rubra* L.)
- Eastern Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida* L.)
- Butternut (*Juglans cinerea* L.)
- Hoary Mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum incanum*) (L.) Michx.
- American Columbo (*Frasera caroliniensis* Walter)

Six Heritage Lands

- Borer's Falls-Rock Chapel
- Burlington Heights
- Clappison-Grindstone
- Cootes Paradise
- Lower Grindstone
- Waterdown-Sassafras Woods



formed by headwater tributaries of the Grindstone Creek watershed. This property was donated outright when landowner John Holland heard about the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System.

"This is a unique and beautiful property," John said, "one I am proud to share with the people of Burlington on behalf of my family." The Eileen and John Holland Nature Sanctuary was dedicated in 2014 in memory of his late wife.

Much of the land within the EcoPark System will never be protected through acquisition. Some of the lands have already

been developed and development has been approved on others. A significant proportion of the lands will always remain private; there will always be a strong human presence in the ecopark.

Private Lands

But lands in private hands can also contribute to the vision. In the fall of 2014, an EcoPark System stewardship program involving landowner outreach was begun. Through contributions from the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and The Province of Ontario, stewardship

technician Kestrel Wraggett is working to foster ecological stewardship and conservation within the community of private EcoPark System landowners. She provides landowners with advice about stewardship initiatives that can maintain the natural features of their properties.

Landowners can learn about invasive species and their control, protection and enhancement of stream banks to improve water quality and reduce erosion, protection and enhancement of forest environments, and habitat-creation projects like pollinator gardens.



▲ Valley slopes in The Eileen and John Holland Nature Sanctuary in Burlington. PHOTO BY PETER KELLY.



▲ Northern Map Turtle in Cootes Paradise. PHOTO BY PETER KELLY.



▲ Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring recognizes John Holland for his donation of land to the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System. COURTESY CITY OF BURLINGTON.

Sometimes, landowners learn about the native plants and animals with whom they share the land and gain an understanding of how their property fits into the local landscape. The idea behind the stewardship program is that small actions or projects on multiple properties can make a difference over the landscape as a whole.

Efforts have been made to identify areas that may improve habitat for the Mottled Duskywing butterfly. This endangered species lays its eggs almost exclusively on the foliage of New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*).

A new project in 2016, with seed funding from the RBC Foundation, will engage rural, urban and corporate communities within the EcoPark System to work together on stream improvements, stormwater runoff reduction and

the enhancement of pollinator habitat.

"I'm excited to move forward with our community restoration projects this year," says Kestrel. "Not only will we have the opportunity to conduct ecological restoration over a larger geographical area, we will also be engaging neighbours and co-workers to work together and take ownership of projects within their own communities."

Public Trails

Sustainable recreation within the EcoPark System is also important. Hamilton Burlington Trails Council, an early working group of the ecopark, evolved into an independent organization to consolidate and build a well-connected trail network within the protected lands for recreational trail users while at the same time conserving natural ecosystems.

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◀ The Mottled Dusky Wing butterfly is endangered in Ontario but its habitat is being created in the EcoPark System. PHOTO BY BRENDA VAN RYSWYK.

This trail network will be community supported, community accessible and a model of progressive recreation and sustainable tourism. An interactive trails map has recently been launched on their website, hamiltonburlingtontrails.ca.

The EcoPark System is unique in eastern North America. There is no other region where this level of collaboration and consensus-based decision-making is supported by such a broad suite of partners. It isn't the norm for local governments and organizations to make decisions with regional perspectives that go beyond the limits of their borders. Furthermore, enthusiastic support has come from multiple partners, communities inside and outside the EcoPark System and politicians at every level of government. With the continued commitment of the partnership to the vision, the future looks bright for natural heritage protection and restoration along the Escarpment at the western end of Lake Ontario. **NEV**

Peter Kelly works out of the Royal Botanical Gardens as coordinator of the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System. He has worked in the environmental sector his entire life and is co-author of three books including The Last Stand: a Journey through the Ancient Cliff-Face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment.



◀ Stewardship technician Kestrel Wraggett. PHOTO SUBMITTED.



▲ The striking American Columbo is a plant species at risk but survives in the EcoPark System. PHOTO BY NIGEL FINNEY.



▲ At risk but found in the EcoPark System: Eastern Flowering Dogwood. PHOTO BY NIGEL FINNEY.



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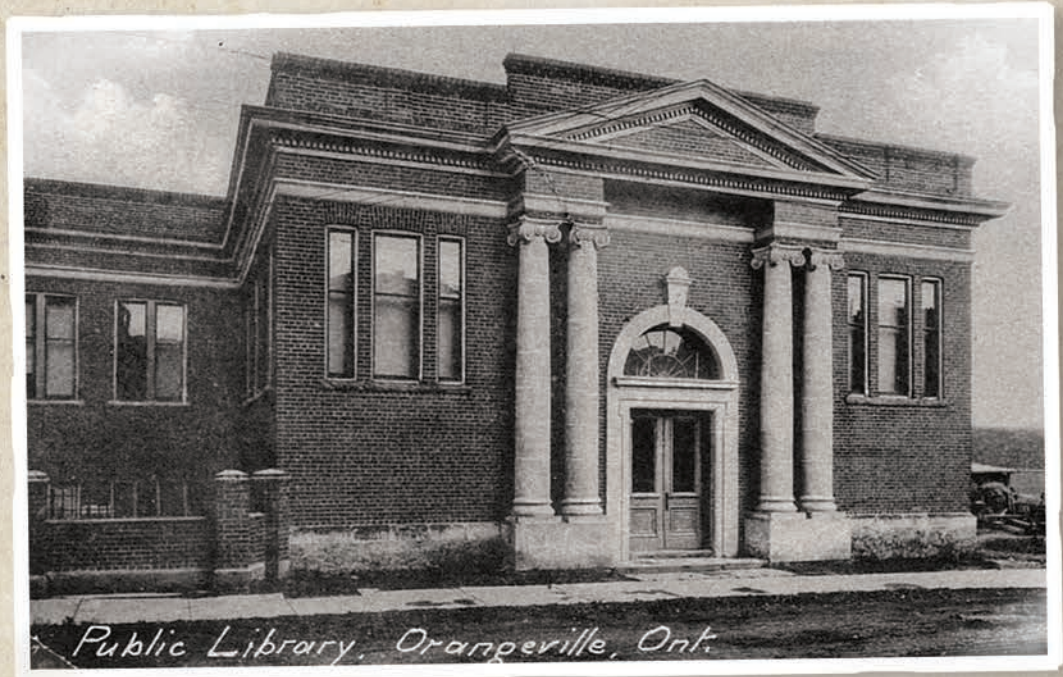
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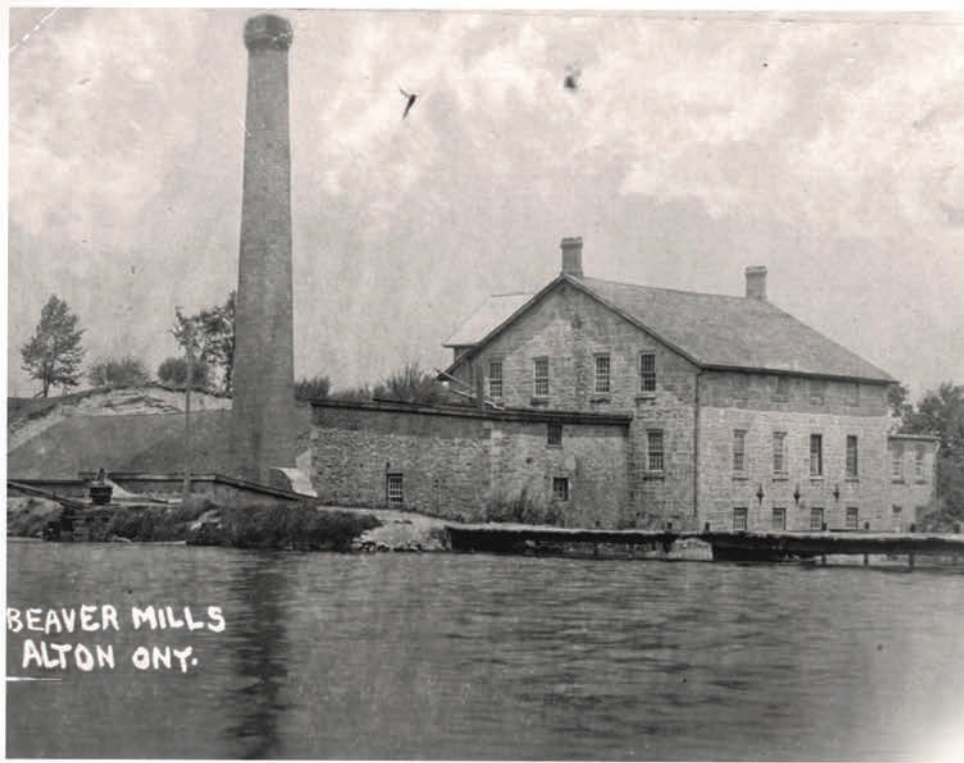
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Exterior of Orangeville's old Carnegie Library.
IMAGE P-3477 FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES.



Orangeville Town Hall. Note the horse trough in bottom left and the horse and wagon in the shade close to the building. IMAGE P-1036 FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES.



Beaver Mills in Alton, circa 1905. William Algie built the Beaver Knitting Mill in 1881.
COURTESY OF PEEL REGION ARCHIVES AND THE ALTON DEVELOPMENT INC..

Haunted **HEADWATERS**

Take a journey to the Headwaters' haunted side, where the ethereal residents are unrestrained by mortal bonds.

WRITTEN BY ANDREW HIND
PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

THE HILLS OF THE Headwaters is a pleasant area, full of bucolic farms and historic communities, but even with its reputation for tranquility and simple living, the region isn't immune to dark mysteries and eerie haunts. Spectral reminders of the past, displeased with the tragic nature of their deaths, abide within any number of historic buildings, awaiting the perfect moment to emerge from the darkness and chill the heart.

Library's Restless Spirit

By twist of fate, most ghosts reside in historic buildings, so uncovering the identity of a restless spirit is a lesson in history

as well. Take the Orangeville Library for example.

This building in the heart of town is the residence of a mysterious spirit, an ethereal woman wearing a long, Victorian dress and with hair pinned up in an old-fashioned manner. This ghost regularly makes her presence known in a variety of poltergeist-like ways. Chairs are rattled, books are scattered about the floor after staff have carefully tidied the library for the night, and once a wide-eyed patron watched as a book truck rolled several feet by itself. On rare occasions, the ghost is actually seen, gliding without a sound across the floor before disappearing in the blink of an eye. Thankfully, this spectral woman is more

Hills of Headwaters consists of:

Erin, Caledon, Dufferin County, Mono and Shelburne

playful than petrifying and has not done anything to truly frighten staff or patrons.

But who is she? The building's history offers some possibilities. The current library actually comprises what were once two distinct buildings: The Carnegie Library (dated to 1904) and a neighbouring bank (built in 1903 on the foundations of the Gordon Hotel). The two were joined in 1988 to make a more expansive library facility for what was a rapidly growing town.

With this in mind, perhaps

the ghost that silently wanders the library's hushed halls at night was a longtime teller or librarian who was so tied to her job that her soul is literally bound to the building? We'll never know. What we do know is that there was no tradition of the library being haunted before 1988, so it seems likely that the renovation work awoke the spirit from her slumber.

Restless activity aside, the spirit seems to enjoy the hushed tranquility of the library and shows no sign of leaving anytime soon.



▲ Interior of the old Orangeville library. IMAGE P-0030A FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE DUFFERIN COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES.



▲ The Orangeville Public Library now consists of the old Carnegie Library and a 1903 Bank of Commerce with its entrance on Broadway.



▲ Signs at the entrance to the Orangeville library. In 2002 the Town of Orangeville designated part of downtown Orangeville as a Heritage Conservation District to protect historic buildings.



▲ Orangeville's Town Hall and Opera House make great use of the old building.

One night when locking up after a performance Nixon was surprised to see a woman walking up the stairs from the basement.

Spectrally Active Opera House

History is close at hand at Orangeville's circa-1875 Town Hall and Opera House, so close that spirits from bygone eras feel perfectly at home, clinging to the walls like vines on time-worn walls. A sense of chilling unease, a shadowy figure seen in your peripheral vision, and ghostly sounds with no obvious source alert you to their spectral presence.

While the council chambers on the first floor are rumored to be the domain of a mysterious male figure, the theatre above is far more spectrally active. Here a female apparition makes frequent nocturnal jaunts to silently glide the halls.

Due to the nature of his

job, former Town employee Stephen Nixon was often alone in the building at night, working the very hours when the lonely spirit emerges to begin her aimless wanderings. One night when locking up after a performance Nixon was surprised to see a woman walking up the stairs from the basement. He thought she had somehow been locked in, so raced after her. Nixon called out to her, but she didn't respond. Instead, she simply disappeared, gone in a single beat of his now rapidly-racing heart.

On another occasion, while Nixon was alone in the building doing repairs in the dressing rooms, he heard the sound of someone climbing a ladder that had been left on the



▲ In addition to a show about Judy Garland, the Opera House hosts a ghostly play this autumn!

stage. Fearing that the person might fall from a step, he raced to the stage where he was stunned to find nobody there.

Others have seen the spectral woman floating across the stage, heard disembodied footsteps echoing through the theatre, and noted poltergeist activity in the dressing rooms. One young actress felt a chilled hand gently touch her shoulder while undressing after a show. A quick glance in the mirror and a turn of her head showed she was completely alone.

Fate may tie this woman's restless soul to the Opera House, condemning her to an eternity of aimless nighttime wanderings.

Haunted Mill

The village of Alton was once a thriving industrial centre thanks to its many mills. While much of the industrial past is

long gone, a prominent remnant is the Alton Mill, a provincially designed heritage building that's also listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places. If the legends are true, the mill must also be listed as one of Ontario's most haunted sites.

Built by William Algie in 1881 as the Beaver Knitting Mill, today the beautifully renovated historic building is home to the Alton Mill Arts Centre, an inspiring collection of studios, galleries, shops and a café. But the past cannot be covered over with new coats of paint. The spirits of those associated with the mill's past remain bound to the structure, tied forever to the building that defined their lives. The mill has long had a reputation for being haunted, and many point to William Algie as the spirit responsible for much of the unusual phenomena. After all,



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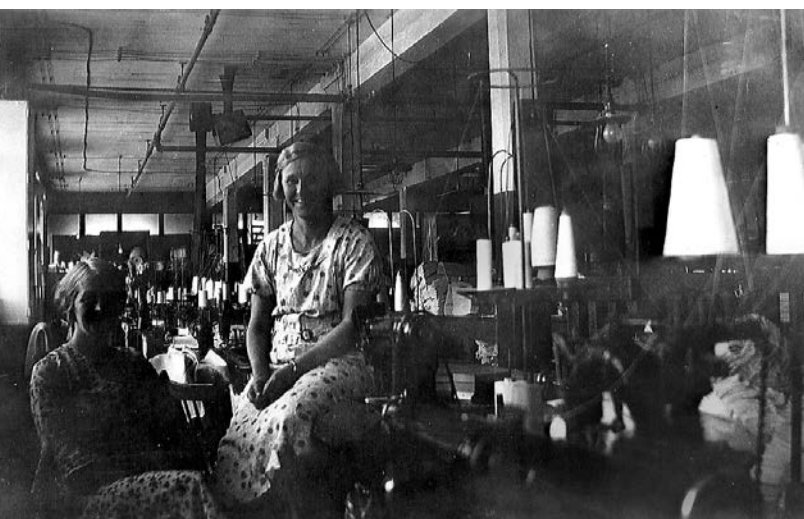
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Alton Mill Arts Centre is a fascinating renovation of the old building into artist studios.



▲ Women who worked in Beaver Mills. “The women in this shot are not identified and goose bumps come up when I think of the reality that they worked there, met people there, and lived full lives, and are now gone,” says Jeremy Grant of Alton Mill Arts Centre. PHOTO COURTESY OF PEEL REGION ARCHIVES AND THE ALTON DEVELOPMENT INC.



▲ No safety concerns. Staff at the old Beaver Mills building line up on all three storeys. PHOTO COURTESY OF PEEL REGION ARCHIVES AND THE ALTON DEVELOPMENT INC.

the mill was his life’s work, his legacy, and no one was more connected to it than he was.

At night, when the lights are turned off, a dark atmosphere pervades the building. Some people tell of footsteps echoing down the

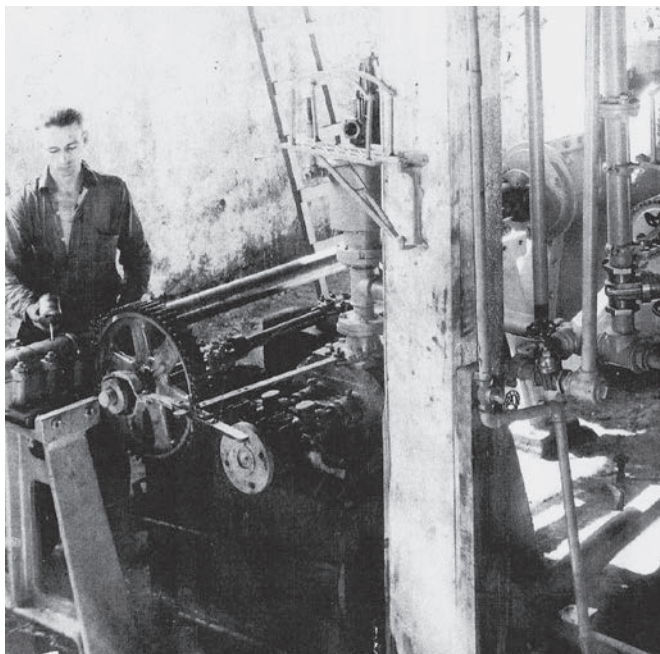
halls, unusual banging, and spectral machinery at work—all without earthly cause. Glowing orbs of light and mysterious shadows are seen flitting along darkened halls.

There are often strong emotional links between

a building and the people closely associated with it—sometimes this connection is strong enough to extend beyond the grave. **NEV**

Andrew Hind is a freelance writer, who with Maria Da

Silva has written 19 books, including Niagara: Daredevils, Danger and Extraordinary Stories and Ghosts of Niagara-on-the-Lake. His last article for Niagara Escarpment Views was “Cataract’s Historical Falls,” Summer 2015.



▲ Stan Hedges, mechanical engineer, running the boiler at the Western Rubber Company, a former business at Alton Mill. PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOEL PETRIE, COURTESY OF PEEL REGION ARCHIVES AND THE ALTON DEVELOPMENT INC.



▲ Very scary! Close up of a bronze sculpture by Yael Erlichman, available for sale at Alton Mill.

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Sydenham River through Harrison Park, Owen Sound.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS.



THE MARRIAGE *of* **OLD** *and* **NEW**

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT ■ PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED



▲ Work in progress: in May the mural was being painted.



▲ The huge new mural on an old building, now called The Mutchmor, in Providence Bay, Manitoulin Island, is getting a lot of attention. Created by Bruno Smoky of Essencia Collective. PHOTO BY BRUNO SMOKY.

THIS IS NOT ABOUT A WEDDING, but it does involve something old and something new. Often both together. At its most obvious, this is about Edwards Art Studios' 20th anniversary and the established Williams Mill Arts Centre, as well as the openings of The Mutchmor and the new Red Door Gallery location. Old buildings have been transformed into new art space, and artists have revived old themes into new interpretations.



▲ Richard Edwards with his acrylic painting called "Reed Impression," and pieces by some other artists in Edwards Art Studios: a woodworked cutting board, functional pottery and Barbara Edwards' weaving.



▲ "High Altitude Prayer," 7'x9' by Ann Beam. Prayer flags from Tibet are included in this work exploring the spirit. PHOTO BY ANN BEAM.

TO CELEBRATE THEIR 20 YEARS OF having a gallery plus art studio, this summer Richard and Barbara Edwards held several workshops on the topics of landscape painting, fused glass, bead creation, spinning and weaving, jewellery making and pottery.

20 Years of Edwards

In 1996 the couple renovated the upper floor of the old mill in Kagawong on the north shore of Manitoulin Island and created a gallery, shop and working studio. It is a large room with a view; the North Channel is visible from the deep-silled windows and the space is light and bright.

"Everything in the gallery is handmade, one of a kind," says Richard as he moves among the displays. All work by the various local artists is for sale. There are paintings and prints, glass pieces, jewellery, clothing, woodwork, quilts and more. He emphasizes that all the pottery, which is popular in their gallery, is functional, food safe and oven safe.

His own work is watercolour and acrylic landscapes done on and from location, as well as serigraphy or silk screening. Barbara is a weaver, stained-glass and fused-glass worker, a lamp work bead maker and jeweller. Acrylic

paintings by their son Morgen Edward makes this gallery a family business.

Much More in Providence Bay

On the south shore of Manitoulin Island, in the beach community of Providence Bay, the former Home Hardware building has been renamed The Mutchmor and turned into artists' spaces. Most dramatically, the exterior south wall of the building has been filled with a huge mural.

"It is a new artistic hub and café that welcomes all people to come and enjoy the peace of Providence Bay," says owner Matthew Garniss. "We are showcasing art and hand-crafted goods from artists on Manitoulin Island as well as introducing artists and products from makers around Canada to the island and the tourists that visit it."

Artist Ann Beam's work is carried in the gallery. One piece that's available is "High Altitude Prayer," a large mixed-media work with prayer flags incorporated into the acrylic paint. This is Ann's story of how the painting came to be:

"In the early '90s Carl [Beam, her husband] and I bought prayer flags and strung them about 10 feet off the ground, connecting the back of our adobe house, with the front of our

Artists at Edwards Art Studios

Richard Edwards, acrylics

Barbara Edwards, glass, weaving

Morgan Edwards, acrylics

Paula Walsh, pottery

Libby Dornbush, textile art

Maggie Nardi, pottery

Beth Campbell, pottery

Mark Kelner, pottery

Darlene Bryan, wood working

David Leeson, wood working

David Solomon, handmade wooden boxes

Ann Suzuki, batik silk clothing

adobe studio. It was a nice shady, cool and sometimes windy place, where we would sit under the prayer flags and feel good, and be calm. Sometimes we would stand under them and send off a prayer to Source Energy and the Universe!

"I have been doing multi-media artwork for a long time, and I always like to vitalize things, and make the art new, with the things that speak to my heart. I created





◀▲ Work in The Mutchmor created by some of the other artists: Shalak Attack from Essencia Collective (*opposite page*), Linda Williamson (*above left*), Madonna Aeschlimann (*top right*), Vladimir Kabelik (*bottom right*). PHOTOS BY MATTHEW GARNISS.

Some Mutchmor Artists

Madonna Aeschlimann
Shalak Attack of Essencia Collective
Ann Beam
Vladimir Kabelik
Bruno Smoky of Essencia Collective
Linda Williamson

many art works putting the recycled prayer flags into the paint, juxtaposing other images with them. Many small pieces and also this big one, 'High Altitude Prayer.'

"This particular painting was created outside, on the ground, and it was pretty windy. This was good, because that wind energy is clearly in the painting! As I was working it even began to rain a little, which is also observable in the dripping of the paint!

"I have been working with Earth images since the dawn of the new Millennium, the year 2000. I began with putting a heart glyph over the earth like a medicine additive. Then over years, the heart glyph evolved into a rainbow over the Earth.

Prayer flags launch their medicine/spiritual content into the universe by contacting with the wind. I thought they were a natural match to juxtapose with the Earth image."

Challenge of Williams Mill

Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre is a set of buildings located in the centre of the village of Glen Williams. The story of its creation is the result of dedication, hard work and love by its owners Doug and Mary Lou Brock. Some of the buildings go back to the early 19th century but had suffered from neglect.

"There has been an industrial facility here from the 1820s," says Doug. "I always admired the buildings as something that could be restored. I knew the buildings would have some use because of their location. My parents instilled in me the belief in restoring furniture and buildings but I fell in love with this location. I took it as a challenge, one step at a time."

"I call it Doug's dream and my nightmare," quips Mary Lou. "It has to be small steps. Doug does things very methodically and slowly. He does things right."

In 1985 the Brocks bought the old buildings, for a low cost that Doug doesn't want to disclose because it is misleading

due to the large amount of money spent on them since. They were so dilapidated that at least one heritage expert advised tearing them down. Instead, they began a gradual program of preservation and restoration by renting out a sound building and using the rental income to rebuild the others, sometimes with the aid of heritage grants.

In 1994 they began the arts theme for the buildings, renting space to their first artist. Now the centre includes two restored old buildings, a new gallery shop addition, a glass-blowing studio, and most recently, a dining tavern, for about 30 artists in the media of painting, sculpture, weaving, wood carving, textile art, jewellery and more.

"I take pleasure from taking on projects that no one thinks possible, and finding out that I can accomplish more than I think," says Doug.

Red Door Reopens

After some difficulties with arrangements at its previous location, Red Door Gallery has re-opened at a new address on Main Street in downtown Georgetown. Art shows will be complemented by musical performances, spoken word events, a day-time seniors'

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▲ Some of the buildings at Williams Mill near the terraced garden: the renovated old Stone Building with, at the corner, the remarkable life-size bronze sculpture of an elephant by Gabrielle Fischer.



Winter 2016

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▲ Barbara Edwards' glass beads made into jewellery displayed with her woven shawls.



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▲ Doug and Mary Lou Brock, founders and owners of Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre.

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“When working on a painting I hope to evoke that moment of original inspiration for the viewer. I know I have achieved this goal when I can hear the wind rustling through the trees and water lapping against the shore.”



▲ The remains of the old building, once a sawmill, built in Glen Williams by Benajah Williams in the early 19th century. PHOTO PROVIDED BY WILLIAMS MILL VISUAL ARTS CENTRE.



▲ At Williams Mill today, the old sawmill building after renovation, now called the Yellow Building. Upstairs inside can still be seen charred timbers that were scorched when the building caught sparks from a long-ago forest fire. No serious damage was caused.



▲ Shelley Newman, artist in residence at Red Door Gallery, with some of her landscapes.

program and painting evenings. Space will also be available for emerging artists. Shelley Newman, a Georgetown painter of landscapes done *en plein air* as well as in studio, is now the artist in residence.

She says "I have been given an opportunity to find inspiration by interacting with the public and emerging artists. By changing my work space to the downtown studio I am taken out of my comfort zone and forced to adapt to a new environment. This will be a bit of a shake up creatively and a time of exploration and discovery for me."

Shelley became a full-time artist in 2011. Of her work, she

explains "I hope to capture the vast dramatic beauty of Canada's wild spaces. I travel throughout northern Ontario and B.C., painting and photographing landscape scenes that will later become my realistic, large, studio paintings done in oil. When working on a painting I hope to evoke that moment of original inspiration for the viewer. I know I have achieved this goal when I can hear the wind rustling through the trees and water lapping against the shore." **NEV**

Gloria Hildebrandt and Mike Davis are the founders and publishers of Niagara Escarpment Views.

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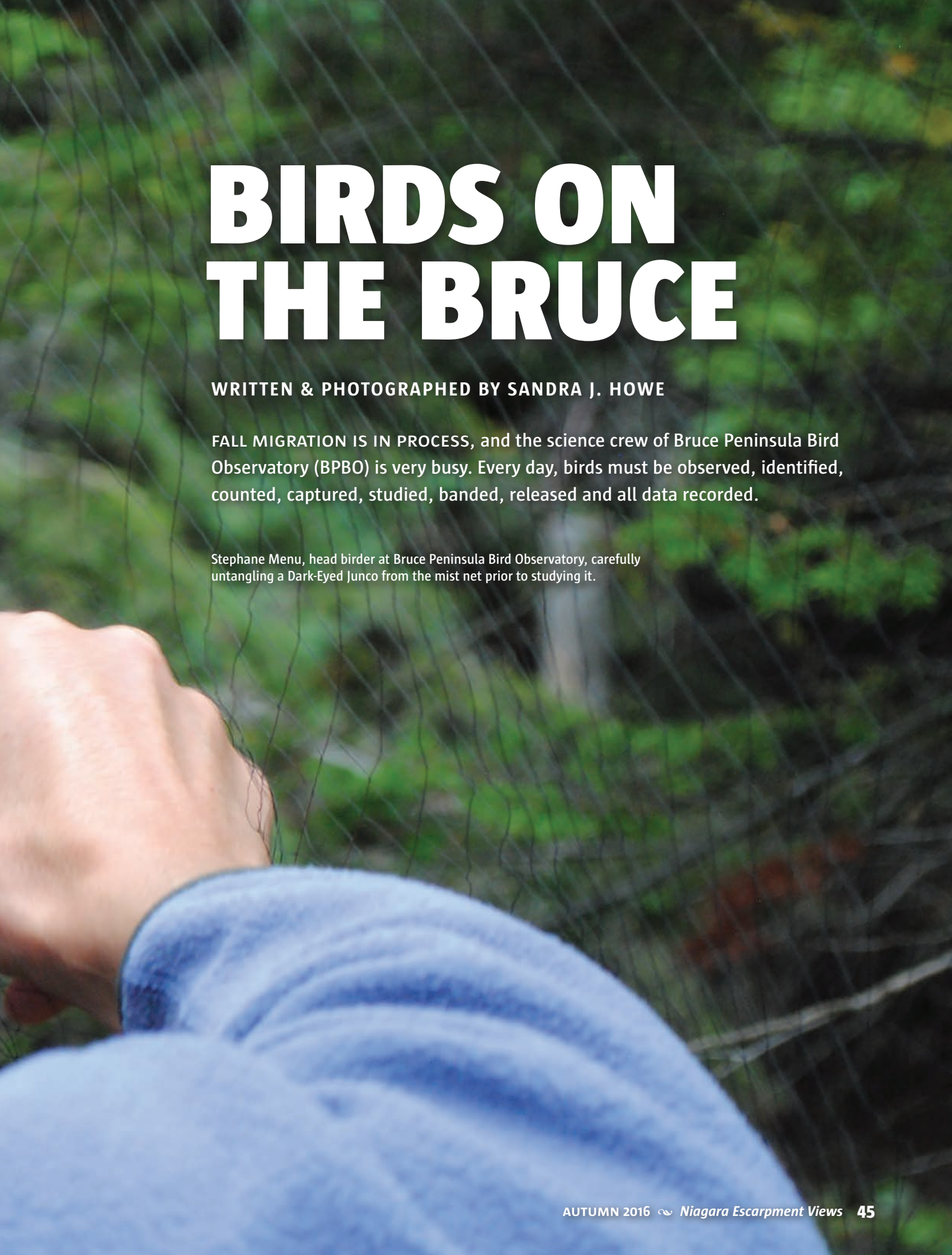
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BIRDS ON THE BRUCE

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY SANDRA J. HOWE

FALL MIGRATION IS IN PROCESS, and the science crew of Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (BPBO) is very busy. Every day, birds must be observed, identified, counted, captured, studied, banded, released and all data recorded.

Stephane Menu, head birder at Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, carefully untangling a Dark-Eyed Junco from the mist net prior to studying it.

Its breath-taking landscape and physical, botanical and historical features make this truly one of the most outstanding sites in Ontario.

THE BIRCH AND POPLAR are turning autumn gold. The forest is alive with bird song, feeding, and flight. Tiny Warblers, Thrushes, Juncos, Sparrows, and many other species are active at Cabot Head. You can hear them flitting among the Spruce trees. They are ground feeding all along the winding drive, storing fat energy for long journeys southward.

Cabot Head, the farthest northeast tip of the Bruce Peninsula, is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) of national significance. "It supports a continentally significant population of Red-necked Grebe," states IBA Canada's Cabot Head Conservation Plan. "Large numbers of White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck (Oldsquaw) and Common Loon, a significant raptor and landbird migration, and the largest contiguous forest south of the Precambrian Shield in Ontario add to the significance of Cabot Head for birds. Its breath-taking landscape and physical, botanical and historical features make this truly one of the most outstanding sites in Ontario."

Bird Research

Fall migration monitoring is one of BPBO's programs. The head birder and a dedicated volunteer crew work tirelessly from August 15 to October 31 at Cabot Head Research Station. They operate mist nets to capture, then identify, weigh, measure, and band

migrating songbirds. Many of these species breed and live in Canada's remote boreal forests where monitoring is extremely difficult. The work at Cabot Head tells researchers something of what is happening far north. Birds from farther south also make surprise appearances. In October 2015, a rare Hooded Warbler well beyond its usual range was caught; only six have been banded at Cabot Head in the past 15 years.

The science crew also does a daily census of species present by sight and sound. This fascinating process requires intimate knowledge of bird species and powerful observation skills. Walking with the team is a lesson in mindfulness: a Catbird meows, a juvenile Bald Eagle rides high air currents, a lone Common Loon calls from Wingfield Basin, a Belted Kingfisher perches in a dead tree overlooking the water. Life surrounds us, and in our fast-paced lives, perhaps we barely notice.

Stephane Menu was working his 10th year as head birder or station scientist in 2015. His clear love for birds and Cabot Head shines through in the way he welcomes visitors. He writes a delightful weekly blog about happenings at BPBO, painting a vivid picture of life at the station.

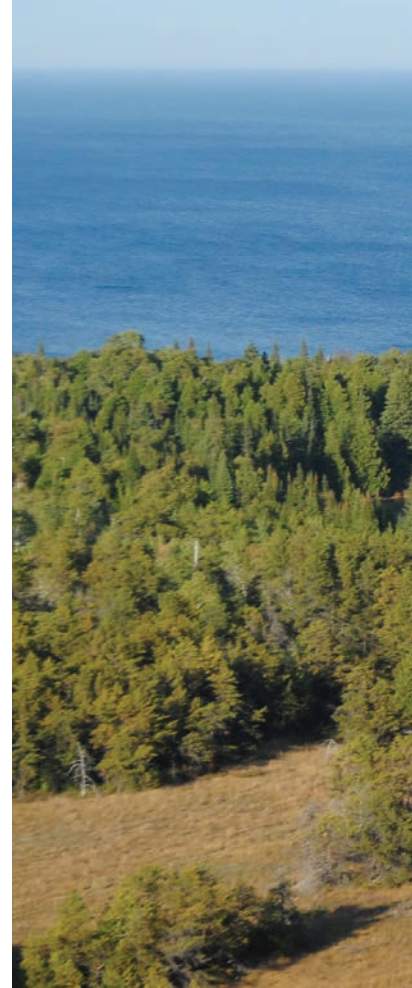
He says, "The data collection we do here is critical for providing detailed baseline information on

bird species, populations, and migration patterns in Canada, and for monitoring changes over time. These details allow for sustainable land and resource decision making." On quiet afternoons he often climbs the steep trail to Middle Bluff summit on the Escarpment for spectacular views over Cabot Head, to bird and wildlife watch, and to enjoy the serenity of place.

Two young volunteer scientists were also working at BPBO in October 2015. Annick Antaya from Montreal is pursuing a career in ornithology and ecology. She notes, "I am loving this beautiful landscape, and the diversity of birds. Stephane has taught me so much! Ecology and conservation are very important to me, and it feels like this work makes a difference in the world."

Tristan Luxner from Virginia was on his first trip to Canada. "This is an incredible opportunity to learn about diverse species and habitats," he says. "I have been able to take skills from school and apply them in the field. I am more confident in handling the birds, in banding and collecting data, and in recognizing many species."

Whether you are a keen birder or simply a nature lover, you may admit to a fondness for birds. They add wonder and beauty to our lives. Birds also act as barometers of ecosystem health; ultimately what happens to the birds is likely to happen to humans.



▲ View from West Bluff on the Escarpment toward Wingfield Cottage on Georgian Bay, one of two cottages that are part of the bird observatory. In front of the cottage is the shipwreck Gargantua. The bay is Wingfield Basin.

► From left, Tristan Luxner, a volunteer, Stephane Menu and behind him, Annick Antaya, volunteer, on porch of Wingfield Cottage observing bird activity on Wingfield Basin.





◀ An open mist net is almost invisible in the shade but sunlight makes it clear to the human eye. At least one bird appears to be caught in the net. Birds get caught and are retrieved as quickly as possible, usually within 30 minutes to ensure minimum stress.

For these, and many other reasons, we are wise to pay attention to their welfare. There are a multitude of ways to get involved. If you feed birds in your backyard, notice what species come, learn about their preferred foods and habitats and be aware that a sudden stop to a regular feeding schedule may put them at risk.

How to Help

The Internet has allowed for massive increases in citizen science opportunities for birders. Check out feederwatch.org and ebird.org as examples. Regular annual

bird counts, such as the Christmas Bird Count, are run locally by conservation and naturalist groups all over the world. Bird Studies Canada lists contacts along the Niagara Escarpment. Ontario Nature and the Audubon Society also provide great birding resources, information and events.

BPBO is more than a unique and beautiful place. It is a group of people and programs dedicated to studying and protecting birds and their habitats. You can help! Go to bpbo.ca to explore options. Become a member, make a donation, or volunteer



▲ Luxnor gently handles a Swainson's Thrush removed from the mist net. It will be taken to the lab for data collection, banded and released.

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▲ In the lab, Stephane Menu and Tristan Luxnor measure, weigh and band the birds, and record data. Menu uses magnifying goggles while Luxnor records the numbers.



◀ A Nashville Warbler just removed from the mist net. Although the birds appear stressed by the handling process, it is quick and they seem to recover easily. Wing and tail plumage is checked to estimate the age of the bird, a numbered leg band is put on, and if the bird is already banded, the number is checked and recorded to track migration patterns.



▲ This Hooded Warbler was well north of these birds' usual territory.

The "Adopt-a-Bird" program lets people donate to sponsor protection for particular bird species.

at Cabot Head Research Station. Get involved in education and outreach. Attend the annual fundraising dinner in November. Visit Cabot Head Lighthouse and Museum to understand the area's natural and cultural history. Join a BPBO-sponsored birding trip to Nicaragua. For connections to other environment, naturalist and birding groups see "Links" under "About Us" on the BPBO website.

The "Adopt-a-Bird" program lets people donate to sponsor protection for particular bird species. Detailed under "Support Us" on the BPBO website, this is a great gift idea for all ages. Choose your favourite bird and level of commitment. Perhaps you have a love of Chickadees or Juncos or little Owls. The birds continue to live wild and free. Your adoption fee

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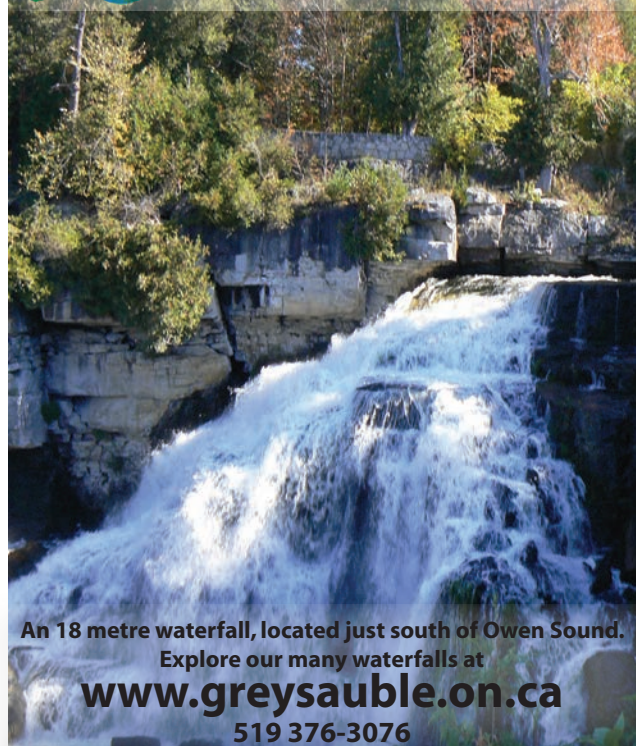
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▲ Stephane Menu bird watching from West Bluff lookout.



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▲ The Gargantua shipwreck is now home to a Beaver family.
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generations to come. **NEV**

*Sandra J. Howe's last feature
for Niagara Escarpment
Views was "Under Dark
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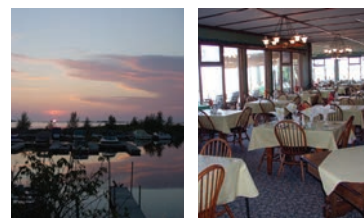
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Manitoulin Musings on Protecting Nature

Written & photographed
by Bob Barnett

Tonight I watched a beet-red sun go down across the North Channel on Manitoulin Island. The majesty and the intimacy of this protected landscape hit me hard. This could have been a long row of cottages with roads, chain saws and sea doos. Instead, you can walk for an hour along the shore all by yourself, although I was surprised to meet another solitary walker in our savannah. The terns noticed me as they wheeled overhead and the Canada Geese distracted me from their chick, motionless along the shore. That sun just grew and grew as it touched the horizon.

I spent today with an 89-year-old who wants to protect the town site of Michael's Bay on the Island. In the late 1800s it had 400 people feeding its sawmill. He told me of drownings and baby deaths. Today the once-

biggest town on Manitoulin is nothing but gentle pits in the ground where the coffins have collapsed. Not one original grave marker remains among the spruce and cedar. Only six months ago I was in Cambodia viewing a lost civilization, but Manitoulin has its own ghosts. The only trace of an entire town is a few root cellar hollows, and graves, all overgrown.

A Shadow on Earth

We are just a shadow, a flicker upon the earth. I'm reading about our ancestor apes which evolved 17 million years ago. I saw the silica hill in Sheguiandah where our First Nations ancestors may have chipped out stone tools 11,000 years ago. Or was it 20,000? We can't protect everything, but we should protect enough to remind us how small we are. And we must protect nature which has been evolving for billions of years. We are just one species and we have so much to learn by observation.



▲ At the mill ruins.

That's why Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy protects every piece of nature we can. We build trails so you and your family can see the motionless Bald Eagle in a tree and the White-tailed Deer run for cover in the forest as I did today.

I took Mark Zelinski around Manitoulin Island recently to prepare photos for his book on the Niagara Escarpment. Gloria and Mike of *Niagara Escarpment Views* joined us for part of that day. That guided tour made me think how important our conservation has become. It's not just a few disjointed woodlots and swamps, but tiny perfect examples of what needs to be protected. I wish I could take everyone, with their children and grandchildren, on the same tour.

Need to Protect Nature

We have protected rocky shoreline, alvars, crevices, savannah, rock faces and sand beaches. Our last project was a wetland right on the Niagara Escarpment. Our next project has a waterfall, wetlands, springs and Escarpment outcrops. I hope you can visit.

I hope we can protect the town site, right on the Manitou River where it joins Lake Huron. I hope that ghost of a town can be retained so we can all feel our place in the world



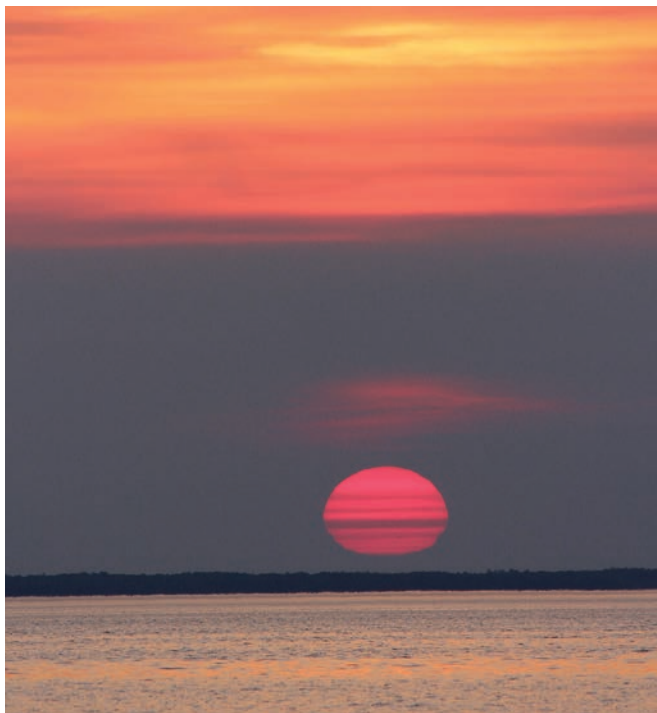
▲ Silica rocks possibly used by our ancestors for tool-making?

and get an inkling of how those people lived and died.

The same 89-year-old is extending a trail in Little Current to an abandoned mill. Today we saw young people meeting there with their friends, climbing the abandoned concrete piers and getting away from the rest of the world, just as I did as a kid at an old fort dug by the previous generation of kids in the woods. We need places in nature if we and our children and their children are going to know how it gives us life, comfort and understanding.

Niagara Escarpment Views and Mark's new book will give you but a quick glimpse of what is there. You need to sit in that scene to understand.

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



▲ Beet-red sun setting over Manitoulin Island's North Channel.

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Yearning for a Ruin

Written & photographed
by Gloria Hildebrandt

I have ruin envy. Driving around the countryside, I often see the remains of barns and concrete silos. Always drawn to them, I wonder what might be done with them. I even like old wood henhouses, imagining them as cute playhouses or garden sheds. I like stone ruins best. There's such beauty in a fieldstone wall, whether cemented together or only partially standing. The foundations of old barns are particularly attractive. Even if all they held were cows, pigs or farming equipment, they suggest a place of grand beauty.

My neighbours on the north side of my property have a barn ruin. I remember, as a child, that barn standing tall and being used for at least one goat.

There may have been more animals but I best remember Billy, who would come eagerly to the fence, stand on the wire strands and lean over to nibble the clothes of anyone standing near. He had strange eyes, circular ridges on his two curving horns and beneath his chin, a beard that you could tug. Billy seemed to be constantly chewing.

Some time ago, when I was living in Toronto, there were many changes to the neighbouring property, including the disappearance of the wood barn. All that now remain are the stone foundation walls, although they have broken down in some areas. And even the remains were vanishing under vines covering them, tall weeds filling the inside and surrounding the walls outside. The current neighbours said

they dream of making a rose garden there. But they've been consumed with completely renovating the entire 1902-era stone farmhouse, planting trees, rebuilding their drive shed and creating a vegetable garden. The rose garden must wait.

"I need a barn
ruin like a hole
in the head."

I need a barn ruin like a hole in the head. As if I don't have enough to do, tending my woods and clearing out buckthorn, garlic mustard, periwinkle, grapevine and Virginia creeper, all of which threaten to take over my land. Plus paths to maintain, bridges to repair and firewood to bring back. And the old wire fence to restore where it has vanished under plant growth. I have plenty to do.

Yet I'd love a barn ruin, a stone foundation wall. I could clear all around it, and inside too. If I couldn't manage a garden within or without, I could keep the growth mown down to a kind of lawn. It's a strange blessing that regular mowing here, where rocks permit, quickly turns the ground into lawn, without having to seed or put down sod. The place is so lush, that plants grow at top speed everywhere. Regular cutting keeps them in check. Inside my barn ruin, I could at least plant a couple of small deciduous trees, to provide summer shade for a few lawn chairs. I'm not looking to create Sissinghurst-type gardens. But a fieldstone wall looks so good, even next to green grass.

Fieldstones

I was sighing over barn ruins recently when I realized with a start that while I don't have a fieldstone wall, I do have

fieldstone rows, built by settlers or farmers. A by-product of clearing land, they border two areas on my property that used to be cultivated; one is the yard around my small house, where there once was an apple orchard. I remember many large, varied apple trees still growing here and producing fruit when I was young. A historical map of the area in 1877 even shows the location as an orchard. Over the years, these apple trees died off and were not replaced.

Cleared Land

The other fieldstone rows border three acres on the south side of my property, which used to be part of a huge field that was farmed for wheat or hay. The people who cleared the land would have used a horse-drawn stoneboat to hold the gathered rocks before taking them to the edge of the field. The stone row now borders the roadside edge and snakes along the rocky section of the property, separating arable land, now naturalized back to forest, from Escarpment outcrops of rocks, swamp and seasonal wetland.

The trouble is that the stone rows are barely visible. Trees have grown up through them, while brambles, dogwood and tall weeds form choking barriers next to them and fallen branches have landed on top.

If I want a stone ruin to clear of growth and maintain, these rows of rocks are a fair substitute. Turning them into attractive features that people will be able to see, is a big job. Yet another one. Even bigger than maintaining an old barn foundation.

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



▲ My neighbours' fine barn ruin with great potential for a walled garden.

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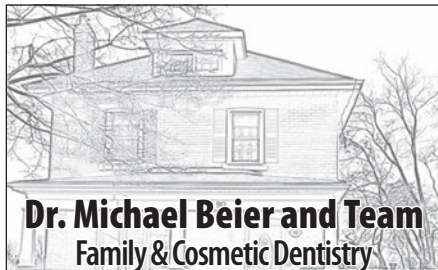
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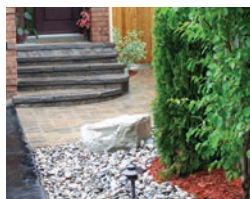
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SEPT. 15

Opening night of Eden Mills Writers Festival

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SEPT. 16 – OCT. 3

Headwaters Arts Festival

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SEPT. 18

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dundasstudiotour.ca

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The seeds of our future are taking root right now, for better or worse. This page shares better, forward-thinking ideas and celebrates significant environmental achievements that can help us lead the way in creating the Niagara Escarpment as a healthy, sustainable example of a thriving World Biosphere Reserve. **Send us your recommendations for good achievements!**

Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay seen from Irish Mountain Lookout near Meaford.

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Prep Time: 10 min.
Total Time: 70 min.
Makes: 1 loaf (12 slices)

Ingredients

1 3/4 cups	All-purpose flour (425 mL)
1 cup	Sugar (250 mL)
2 tsp	Baking powder (10 mL)
1 tsp	Ground cinnamon (5 mL)
1/2 tsp	Salt (2 mL)
1/2 cup	Coconut oil, melted and cooled slightly (125 mL)
2	Eggs
1 tsp	Vanilla extract (5 mL)
2 cups	Grated carrot (500 mL)
1/2 cup	Pitted dried dates, finely chopped (125 mL)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). In large bowl, whisk flour with sugar, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. In medium bowl, whisk oil with eggs and vanilla. Stir in grated carrot.
2. Stir wet ingredients into dry just until flour is moistened. Fold in dates. Scrape into greased and parchment paper-lined 5 x 9-in. (13 x 23-cm) loaf pan. Smooth top.
3. Bake 60 min., or until tester inserted into centre comes out clean. Set pan on rack to cool. Remove loaf from pan. Wrap and store at room temperature up to 2 days or wrap in heavy-duty foil and freeze up to 2 weeks.

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