



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 screens,

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**