

Wild Animals in Winter

I am not the most patient of people. I am so busy with this magazine, my forest property, garden and two dogs, that I feel that I am on the go all the time, until I'm exhausted. Then I rest until I can go again. Waiting quietly for things to happen is not at all easy for me.

I was astonished, then, to see Ann Brokelman's photographs of wild animals. Note: animals in the wild. Not in a zoo. Not at a rehab centre. Roaming freely. She says that much of her photography is done from her car.

Mike and I frequently spot wild animals and large birds while we're out driving in Escarpment areas. One of the wonderful things about this biosphere reserve is that it still provides habitat for plenty of birds and animals. Yet we are usually haring off to get to some meeting on time, or to finish a set of tasks for the day, or to make important deadlines, and we rarely can afford to stop, pull over and start taking photos. I think we're missing great opportunities.

Judging by Ann Brokelman's photos, which are on the cover and in an extensive feature in this issue, there are animals all around, if we only take the time to stop and pay attention, and wait. To practise patience

in other words. The results can be astonishing. Do you agree?

Animal Passages

While we're on the subject of wild animals roaming wild, it's great to see attention being paid to road ecology and how roads can be made safer for wildlife. Sue Horner has looked into the complex subject that is being explored by a large number of people and organizations, and she reports on some of the projects being undertaken in Escarpment countrysides.

Home & Holiday

This winter issue is our special focus on homes, and Sandra Howe has knocked on the door of Rural Rootz, a fascinating house built near Warton. Sustainability was the guiding principle behind every decision, and the result is a totally unique residence completely suited to its location on the rocky forest land of the southern Bruce Peninsula.

If you'd like a fresh Christmas tree for your celebration and feel like taking a drive to the country around Mono, you can do a good deed by buying one from Hockleycrest, supporting the Caledon Bruce Trail Club at the same time. Dan O'Reilly shares a great story about how the



owners became committed to sharing their farm's resources with the Bruce Trail.

These are only the large features in this issue. There's more to explore with this magazine and keep you occupied while you get cozy inside this winter. As always, drop us a note about what's on your mind and send us your photos and story ideas. I'm especially interested in your snapshots of Escarpment wild animals, because they might motivate me to slow

down on those dangerous roads and enjoy the views outside the car windows. The Niagara Escarpment is a great safe haven for wild animals, which of course as I always say, need wild spaces. We need to keep them safely that way.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!



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

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