

Niagara Escarpment ***ViEWS***

SPRING 2017 (MARCH, APRIL, MAY)



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Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



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(March, April, May)

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Photo by Mike Davis

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Conservation
Halton Award, 2014
to Mike Davis in
Media/Blogger
Category

VIEW FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK ■

Gifts in Spring!



on Mountsberg Road in rural Hamilton. In addition, Chris Mills urges you to put on your hiking boots and take a spring walk in Beamer Memorial Conservation Area. There's plenty in this issue to inspire you to get back to enjoying the outdoors.

SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS!

- ✓ **FREE TICKETS** to Canada Blooms
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100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants for Canadian Gardeners

Welcome to our annual special issue on gardens. Some of us can't wait to get out and work the soil, while others of us look forward to enjoying the beauty that other gardeners create. And there's the large group that loves how Nature itself unfolds the seasons.

I had reason to look through some photographs of my own garden recently. While I usually focus on what's wrong with my garden, how it doesn't live up to my dreams and desires for it, when I look at the photos out of season, I see the amazing beauty that flourishes around me every year. Although things could always be better with my garden, plants and flowers of any kind and condition always look wonderful.

This issue lets you explore the gorgeous private gardens of some dedicated residents of Dundas and Niagara-on-the-Lake and the impressive newly renovated Rock Garden of the Royal Botanical Gardens, which you are encouraged to visit yourself, especially now that its entrances and paths are fully accessible.

We also show some of the features of a well-protected and ecologically safe property

Canada Blooms Free Tickets

Again this year, *Niagara Escarpment Views* is a sponsor of Canada Blooms, the annual festival celebrating gardening, landscaping and outdoor living. At the show, watch for the Most Imaginative Garden, an award again given to an unusual garden design in the name of the magazine.

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This year we're giving away **10 pairs of free tickets to Canada Blooms**, valued at \$20 each! First chance at tickets is being given

to subscribers of *Niagara Escarpment Views*, as thanks for your loyalty and support. Just email editor@NEViews.ca or call 647.680.2834 with your name and phone number and you'll be entered for your chance at two free tickets.

If you aren't a subscriber, there's still time! Just subscribe with the form on page 60 in this issue or the website www.NEViews.ca/subscribe-now, and let us know you want to win tickets!

We need to hear from you before March 3, when we'll notify the winners. Tickets will be held for you at the Canada Blooms office.

Book Giveaway

We have **ANOTHER GIFT FOR ONE LUCKY PERSON: a FREE COPY of *100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants for Canadian Gardeners* by Lorraine Johnson**. You can read an excerpt from this newly published book on page 10. Subscribers are welcome to contact us at editor@NEViews.ca or 647.680.2834 and ask for the book. We'll get back to the

winner for your address and a copy will be mailed to you.

Canada 150 Tulips

Still on the theme of gardens, in the Autumn issue we encouraged you to plant the specially bred Canada 150 Tulip, which seems to show the flag. If you did, and this spring they make a good show, we ask you to send us a photo. We'll publish some in the Summer issue just in time to help celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. Here's hoping that the squirrels didn't get at all of them, and that we have a lovely start to this special year for the country!

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



Thank you so much for this wonderful honour.
Ann Brokelman, Toronto

I was quite taken with the wildlife photography of Ann Brokelman in the winter issue of NEV. Her work is so fresh and engaging! I particularly liked the skunk trundling through the deep snow. To you, as editor, and to Ann, I say, "keep up the good work."
Barbara Palmer via email

I am originally from Vineland so it is always nice to catch up on the latest news from around my hometown region. The lovely photographs also display the uniqueness of the Niagara region.
Hon. V. Peter Harder, P.C.,
Government Representative in the Senate



We would like to thank you for publishing our article-KEEP THE BRUCE CLEAN AND GREEN in your latest Niagara Escarpment magazine. With the National Parks giving out free passes this year, we will need all the help and exposure we can get
Deryn Harkness, Gail Beagan, and Angie Beutel via email

I really enjoy your magazine. For a few issues you had an advertiser that was a butcher shop, with a few locations. They advertised that they carried Chiannina beef. I haven't seen their ad lately and do not have a back copy to find them. Do you have the company name as I wish to visit one of their locations to order this product.
Dave McDonnell via email
Editor's note: We introduced Dave to the advertiser who was going to get in direct contact.



I enjoyed reading through your latest Niagara Escarpment Views magazine. I really liked the photographs & reading about the wildlife fencing. I was at Banff National Park in Alberta last year & they've installed 82 kilometres of fencing along the Trans Canada Highway 1, 6 wildlife crossing overpasses & 38 underpasses to keep animals & people safe. I like that they're being installed locally too.
Andrea Vidolovics via email



These photos of deer and a coyote were taken at separate times over a few days in November on a property just north of the Escarpment near Georgetown.
Photos by Barry Merkley and Gordon Seaman





Die Inzerate sind ja super! [translation:] The advertisements are super!

Oliver Kruse,
Norderstedt, Germany

◀ We met at the Guelph Organic Conference a while back where I began our subscription to 'Views' & have been a fan ever since. Tip top articles & photography. The ad for Clearview Station B&B at Creemore perked our interest. A unique romantic 2 day anniversary getaway this summer included slumbers in a caboose & breakfasts par excellence with caring charming hosts.

Clare Johnston, Fergus
The photograph is of Clare and her husband.
Photo submitted.



Rev The Border Collie holding the Winter issue. Follow his exploits at facebook.com/RevTheBorderCollie. Photo submitted.

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

◀ I happened to pick up the winter edition today while out for lunch and was delighted to discover Hockleycrest trees. What a wonderful idea! Unfortunately the article didn't make it clear when the trees could be purchased. I drove to the address, but there was no sign, no info and no one around to ask when the trees might be available. I love the magazine but was very disappointed with not being able to purchase a tree.

Lorna Embrey via email

Editor's note: We should have clarified when sales of trees take place, indicated by the sign that is put at the road.



I love the way one can pick up an article by Gloria Hildebrandt any time and be lifted up – not just by the subject, but by the way she writes. You are a master! (Just read "Winter Walks.")

Julia Soong, Richmond, B.C.



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■ EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

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



◀ George Paolucci, Edward Jones financial advisor in Erin, with his wife Sandra and right, branch administrator Judith Gibson, hosted a reception in their Main St. office on Nov. 18 during the Village of Erin's 14th annual Window Wonderland, the popular storefront unveiling and Christmas tree-lighting event.

▲ Doug Pattison exhibited his work in the show "Missed Me, Missed Me" in September at Red Door Gallery in Georgetown.
PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER.

► Approximately 160 rural landowners joined Credit Valley Conservation on Nov. 10 for its landowner appreciation event. Also attending were from left, Orangeville councillor Gail Campbell, Brampton councillor Michael Palleschi (back), Mississauga councillor Karen Ras, Halton Hills councillor Bob Inglis (back), CVC CAO Deborah Martin-Downs, Caledon councillor Johanna Downey, Erin councillor John Brennan and CVC chair and Mississauga councillor Nando Iannicca. PHOTO SUBMITTED.



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Gardening With Native Plants

By Lorraine Johnson

My first native plant garden, planted decades ago, was a small native plant meadow (16 by 10 feet/4.8 by 3 m) in the backyard of my

Water? A total of 30 liters (about 8 gallons) directed exclusively at four seedlings I put in in the spring and needed to water until they got established. Other than that, the rain did my watering work – even during a very dry summer. Gas? No

woodland ground-cover beside a hosta, which is non-native, and see which plant the slugs devour. The exotic hosta, guaranteed. Actually, my then neighbor and I enacted this experiment every summer. He poured on the slug poison and I poured on the native seeds, five feet (1.5 m) away. The slugs in my garden were more than happy to ignore my natives and instead spend their lives in the compost bin (where they're useful); my neighbor's slugs, on the other hand, were happily munching their way through a third expensive hosta planting.

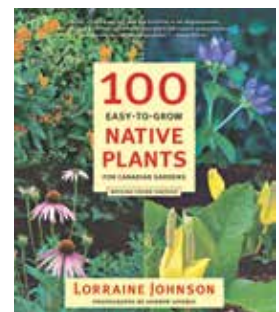
Diversity

In case this is starting to sound like unseemly gardener-one-upmanship, I should note that my neighbor had a lovely garden, and that my meadow was not to everyone's taste. No single garden ever is. Anyone with claustrophobia would have found my towering plants dizzying, and even in such a small plot, one could have gotten lost in foliage on the trip to the compost bin. But the look of my garden was dictated by my particular choices of native plants, not the fact that I chose to garden with natives. If I had wanted a more restrained style, I could have easily chosen from the dazzling array of natives with more compact growth. And that, essentially, is one of the beauties of native plant gardening: the incredible diversity from which to choose. Whatever your conditions – shady, sunny, or somewhere in between – and whatever your desired style – formal, informal, or a mix of the two – you can find many natives to suit your needs and achieve your goals.

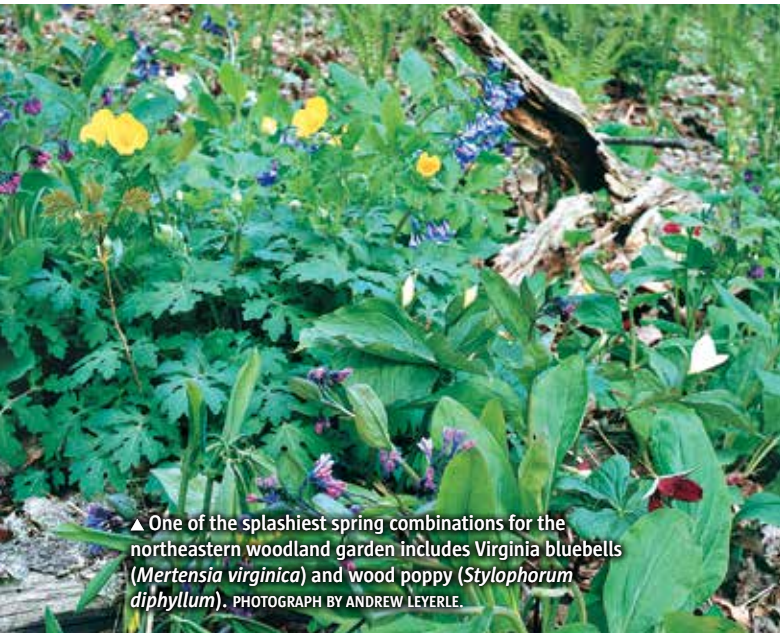
The hundred easy-to-grow native plants detailed in this book (and the dozens of

others referred to in various sections throughout) represent just a fraction of the native plants appropriate for the garden setting. It was next to impossible (and more than a little heartbreaking) to limit my choices to a hundred. I was guided, however, by the principle that, along with being easy to grow, all should be relatively easy to find in the nursery trade and most should be ones I'd actually grown. My own experiences in cultivating these plants have been supplemented by many fruitful exchanges with hundreds of other native plant gardeners across North America who have so generously shared their adventures with me.

Lorraine Johnson was the president of the North American Native Plant Society and is the author of numerous books on gardening and environmental issues, including The New Ontario Naturalized Garden, The Gardener's Manifesto, and City Farmer: Adventures in Urban Food Growing. Lorraine is much-in-demand throughout North America as a garden speaker on native plants. She currently lives in Toronto.



From 100 Easy-to-Grow Native Plants for Canadian Gardens, Lorraine Johnson. Photographs by Andrew Leyerle. ©2017. Published by Douglas & McIntyre. Excerpted with permission of the publisher.



▲ One of the splashiest spring combinations for the northeastern woodland garden includes Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) and wood poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*). PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW LEYERLE.

first house. In the late 1990s, I was asked to be part of a study to assess the amount of time and inputs (water, fertilizers, etc.) various types of gardens require. In addition to my native plant meadow, the survey looked at a typical lawn and a conventional flower garden, among other landscape styles...

Nature – a loaded and problematic term, I admit – is pretty much in control of things. Sure, the gardener can tinker away, as temperament and the need for soothing work-time in the garden demand, or the gardener can take low maintenance to the extreme outer reaches (as I seem to have done that summer), but at the end of the day the native plant garden continues ... on its own steam.

Which explains my survey results in the “input” categories.

lawn, so no endless mowing and no fossil fuel or electrical energy use. Fertilizers? The meadow plants don't need any.

Organic

Chemicals? Zilch. My gardening approach is organic on principle and organic in practice, and the majority of pest problems I encountered could be dealt with using soap and water, or muscle. Most other native plant gardeners I've talked with across North America report the same thing. It's the adapt or die principle in action – native plants have evolved over thousands of years to the conditions found in their home range, so in a biodiverse native plant garden they don't succumb to pest attack with the same regularity as exotic plants. Anyone who doubts this should plant a native

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The Future of the Bruce Peninsula: Learning from Seven Generations Thinking

Visitors to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula over the past several years have been struck by one big challenge – people are everywhere. On peak summer weekends, thousands of people are turned away from such popular attractions as the Grotto and Singing Sands beach, and traffic on the highway into Tobermory moves at a crawl. Less visible to visitors are some troubling changes in natural systems, including the subtle impacts of climate change and the shifting biodiversity of the lake waters brought on by invasive species and other factors.

Tobermory, the picturesque little community at the tip of the Bruce, struggles with social and economic changes as well. The population is aging as young people leave to find jobs and retirees arrive to enjoy the tranquility and natural beauty. The stark seasonality of the economy is a factor that must be reckoned with by developers, entrepreneurs and residents alike.

This area has amazing attributes based around large contiguous forests and pristine shorelines that have real potential for improving the environment and creating economic opportunities. But these current challenges to the physical and natural systems suggest that recent approaches to managing our natural and human systems are not working as effectively as they might. Perhaps it is time to reconsider how we view the future of the Niagara Escarpment and the Bruce Peninsula.

Sources of Knowledge

One organization is attempting to start a conversation about the future and how we might



◀ Canada Day weekend visitors at Indian Head Cove in Bruce Peninsula National Park. Photo courtesy of Bruce Peninsula Press/ Doug Sweiger

view it differently. Sources of Knowledge is hosting their ninth annual forum May 5-7, 2017 in Tobermory. The forum's theme is "Accounting for the Past, Envisioning the Future: A Seven Generations Framework for the Bruce Peninsula." All the speakers, workshops, field trips, videos and displays during this event will help participants to see the future through the lens of the First Nations' Seven Generations way of thinking.

The Seven Generations perspective is grounded in traditional ecological knowledge and long-term thinking. This approach recognizes that individuals will be influenced by great-grandparents, grandparents and parents and will in turn, help to shape children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. While these generations may not all be present at the same time, there is a connection that runs through those who are here now to those recently gone and to those soon to come. These connections amount to seven generations of accumulated experience and wisdom about who we are,

where we live, and what we do.

For First Nations, this Seven Generations perspective applies to decision making about the natural environment, society, political relationships and family connections. The Seven Generations approach intensifies community bonds, promotes cultural and natural stability, and provides real values for which all people can judge their own actions. The approach contrasts sharply to decision making that we often see in the broader Canadian society that focuses on the shorter term, such as the next fiscal year or the next term in political office.

Annual Forum

The Sources of Knowledge annual forum has become an important social and intellectual event in Tobermory's calendar. Over the years, experts and interesting speakers have shared their ideas on topics such as the Peninsula's coastal heritage, the need for a strong dark skies policy and threats to subsurface ecosystems. This May's event is the third in a series about the Great Arc – the Niagara Escarpment as it

crosses Ontario, Michigan and Wisconsin. Last year's forum focused on the interactions between this physical feature and the indigenous peoples who occupied the land after the retreat of the last glaciers.

This year, the keynote speaker is John Borrows of the University of Victoria. Professor Borrows is currently the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law and an international authority on the legal traditions and legal reasoning of Aboriginal peoples. As an Anishinaabe person, it is his contention that these legal traditions can be applied more broadly to the whole of Canadian society.

Forum 2016 sold out and we expect the same level of enthusiasm for this year's event. Check regularly at sourcesofknowledge.ca for details about the program and registration.

Sources of Knowledge is a community-based, non-profit organization with a mandate to share ideas and information about the people and places on the Bruce Peninsula.

Graham Draper, Board of Directors, Sources of Knowledge

Niagara Escarpment Authors' New Works

***How We Danced*, 2016, Cactus Rain Publishing**

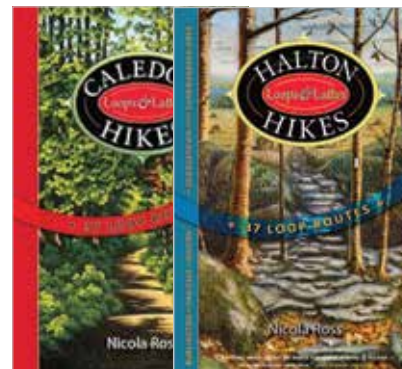
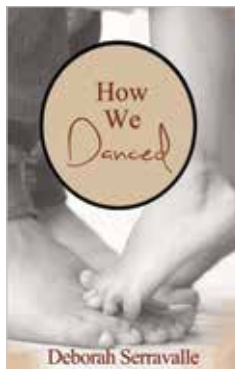
Aging, homosexuality, adultery and death are themes in *How We Danced* but Deborah Serravalle portrays them with nostalgia, sweetness and understanding. Set in Hamilton, the story unfolds in two time frames, the contemporary present and in memories from 40 or 50 years ago, when morals were different. People familiar with the city's history will enjoy having treasured parts of it recalled to life.

This is the first novel published by Deborah, who for Autumn 2008 contributed the feature article "Around the Bay Race: Older than Boston's" for this magazine. She is already working on another book.

***Caledon Hikes: Loops & Lattes*, 2015 and *Halton Hikes: Loops & Lattes*, 2016, Woodrising Consulting**

Nicola Ross's two hiking books are collections of circle walks that end back at your car, eliminating the need to park vehicles at both ends of a trail or to return the whole way you went in. A lot of work by several people went into these books. There is a map for each of the 37 hikes in each book, with detailed directions to follow, plus descriptions of what you can see, as well as some photographs. An information box for each walk gives the length, level of difficulty, length of time to complete, the number of steps (!) and more.

This is a highly personal selection of walks, with some



▲ Two Escarpment-area authors present new books: Deborah Serravalle has the novel *How We Danced* and Nicola Ross has *Caledon Hikes: Loops & Lattes* and *Halton Hikes: Loops & Lattes*.

choices that may surprise local residents who prefer other options. The routes were tested by people before publication. Exact locations of parking space for each hike are particularly useful, and the notes about where to buy refreshments make

for highly civilized outings.

Note that *Halton Hikes* is not to be confused with Conservation Halton's 2007 book of that name, by Gary Hutton, for which Gloria Hildebrandt, publisher of this magazine, was copy editor.



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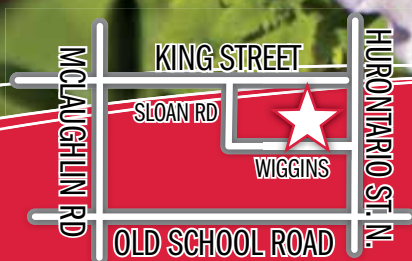
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▲ Rendering of the state-of-the-art geothermal heating and cooling system in The Residences of the Hotel McGibbon. IMAGE PROVIDED.

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building from the ground up to be remarkably sustainable and environmentally-friendly, but best of all, they've made it easy for residents to be green. State-of-the-art features

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Typical air handling systems use a chiller that consumes and discharges plenty of water, and requires a number of chemical products to clean and maintain. This building will

save 4.25 million litres of fresh water yearly and eliminate the disposal of harmful chemicals

These built-in features will work seamlessly to green the reinvented McGibbon Hotel, while adding to the vibrant lifestyle where shops, restaurants, art galleries and more are just a short walk from the resident's front door.

Going green hasn't taken away from the award-winning design, received at the 2017 National Sales and Marketing Council (NSMC). Once completed, each bright and airy suite will not only maximize the sweeping view and natural beauty of Halton Hills, but the eco-friendly benefits will come together to create a residence to be proud to live in. —Alicia Poirier

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▲ Angelo Dias compounding a prescription medication for a patient.

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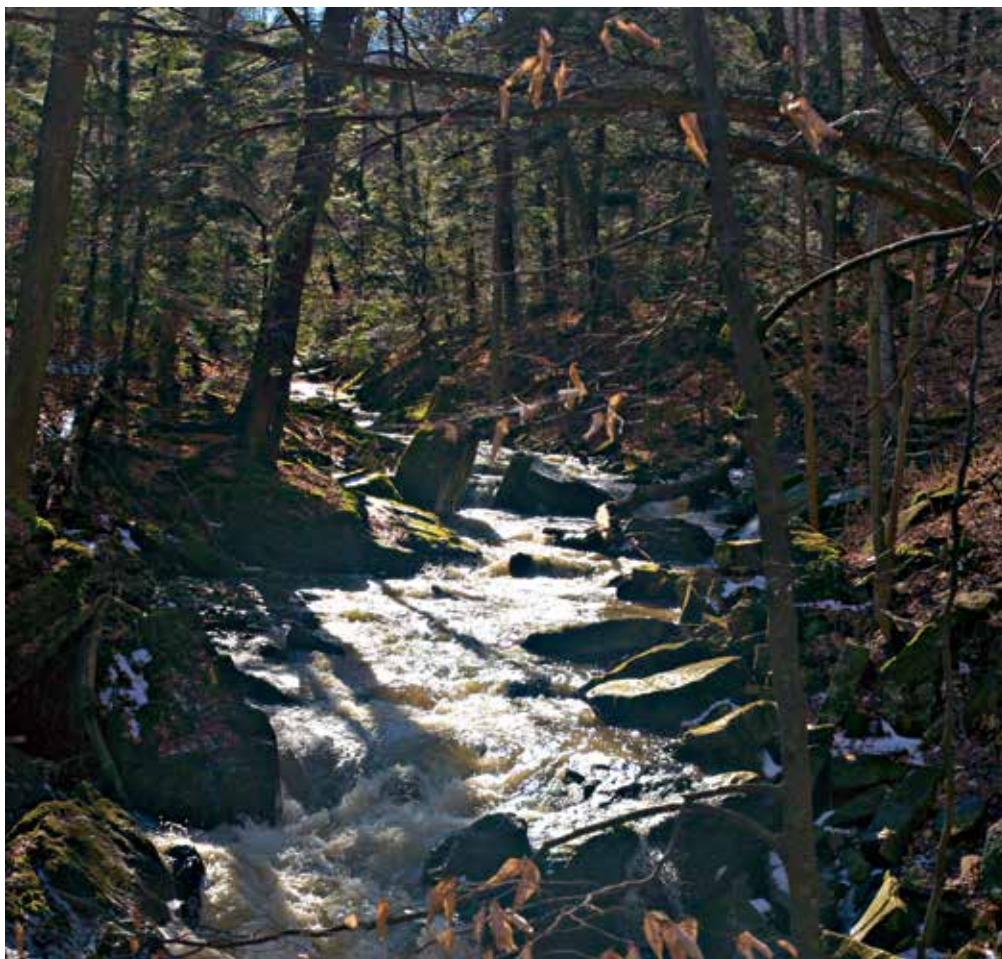
A photograph of a person hiking down a wooden staircase in a forest. The trees are bare, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. The person is wearing a dark jacket and blue pants. The staircase is made of wooden planks and logs, and it descends from a viewing platform at the top of the frame.

A Late Winter Hike to Beamer Falls

Written & photographed by Chris Mills

THE FIRST HARBINGERS OF SPRING are usually underway by mid-March in Niagara Region's Niagara Escarpment. Not too cold, not too wet, maybe enough sunshine to break out the sunglasses. In spite of a very poor attempt by winter last year, ungraciously savaged by the notorious El Niño, my wife and I headed for Beamer Memorial Conservation Area on the edge of Grimsby to try our chances at a late winter hike. Instead of snow boots, we brought hiking boots at my wife's insistence. Clearly she was prescient.

This stairway descends from the viewing platform at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area to Forty Mile Creek.



▲ A rivulet from the Niagara Escarpment has created a wonderful cliff face of ice.

◀ Dolomite boulders that fell from the Escarpment rest at the edge of Forty Mile Creek.

Beamer Memorial Conservation Area has several notable benefits. It's not too terribly challenging when it comes to icy slopes and treacherous terrain, but it has its share of climbing and clambering so that you're not merely taking a walk in the park.

Here's the key, you'll find not just one cascading falls, but two seven-metre-high falls on this one creek. Both are visible from a car park on Ridge Road West. But at my wife's request we proposed to access them from the north through Grimsby.

The trail is the Beamers Falls Side Trail, part of the Bruce Trail, and is thus protected not just by the Niagara Peninsula



▲ View of the Lower Falls on Forty Mile Creek.

► Gibson House at the start of the trail is circa 1860 and has been designated of heritage significance by the Town of Grimsby.



Conservation Authority who will smack you for walking on trilliums, but also by more than 100 private landowners who protect their property in order for the hiking public to use it.

It's called voluntary stewardship and it's a wonderful thing in Ontario, unless you park your car somewhere along the trail as I did once and found myself under the wrath of an elderly woman with a phone threatening to call the police unless I moved my butt. Hikers however are tolerated.

History

The area was settled back in the American Revolution days when Loyalists and Pennsylvania Dutch arrived to civilize it away from the local Iroquois. Very little data exists of how the original inhabitants felt about this, although 30-odd years later they would fight alongside the British to

keep the United States from taking over in 1812. The Town of Grimsby was incorporated in 1921, and to this day has retained its town status rather than become a city. Thus its charm is deliberately and shamelessly protected.

Before that, say 470 million years or so, it was under a lake that covered everything



► A closer view of the Lower Falls with its two kinds of cascades.

in a basin that was centred in Michigan and fanned out across the entire Great Lakes region from there.

The sheer quantity of organic material and sea life in the form of fossilized bodies that died and sank to the bottom of the lake over millions of years became the limestone base upon



which layer upon layer of sandstone, dolomite and shale was built, all topped by impermeable Lockport Dolomite that caps the Niagara Escarpment in this area.

When the lake withdrew some 300 million years ago to form a large plain, a bowl was left behind. What makes this interesting is that

streams flowed over the rim and waves crashed against the base of this Escarpment. Erosion undermined the softer under-layers of rock, which caused great blocks of the overlying dolomite to break off and tumble into the bowl leaving the rocky face of the Escarpment that we see today. Modified by the retreat

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◀ The spring melt can fill the creek with dramatic volumes of water.

▶ Beamer Memorial Conservation Area and Forty Mile Creek are within Carolinian forest.

Niagara Parks chief gardener identified 909 different species of plants and ferns around Niagara Falls about 40 miles east. Over 300 species of birds have been identified including Turkey Vultures, Red-tailed hawks, Sparrow hawks, eagles, falcons and Ruffed Grouse.

Thus enthused for an invigorating commune with nature, we parked at the Coronation Park and Grimsby Lions Community Pool parking lot that's a couple hundred metres from the beginning of the trail up a quiet residential street at the end of which we found a historically-designated house, the 1860 Gibson House at 114 Gibson St., Grimsby.

If you follow the Bruce Trail markers reading "Iroquoia Section" (see Grimsby Map 5 in the Bruce Trail Guide) you'll find yourself on a trail above and beside the Forty Mile Creek cascading joyfully and noisily. It's about a 1 ¼ km hike to the falls.

Thanks to the spring melt, the lower falls is a daunting and cheering sight since it falls from a high distance. Well worth the effort to get there. The upper falls is about 100 metres past it, and according to reliable sources readily viewed from the parking lot off Ridge Road West. However the trail looked a bit dicey and the afternoon was getting late, so we turned around, but will make the effort another time to have a look at it, although it has a more leisurely drop in a staircase kind of cascade.

You can park atop the Niagara Escarpment in the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area parking

of ice ages, the most recent of which was about 13,000 years ago, fast-flowing rivers cut the chasm for Beamers Falls at one of the highest points in the peninsula just above Grimsby and opposite 200-metre-high Grimsby Mountain on the east side.

What geologists around the world understand is that this makes the Escarpment literally a geologist's paradise where millions of years of earth history unfold in visible layers you don't even need a rock hammer to see.

Forty Mile Creek is one of those rivers (so named evidently for the first forty families of Loyalists to cross the border to found Newcastle, later called Niagara-on-the-Lake. Or the distance from the U.S. border depending on whom you ask).

Botany

Equally unique about the side trail is that it's entirely located within the northernmost reaches of what's called Carolinian Forest. This is an old-growth

forest of Sugar Maples and Red Oaks, Hemlock and centuries-old White Cedar that produces such diversity in wildlife as the Tufted Titmouse, Louisiana Water Thrush and an abundance of White-tailed deer.

It's so diverse that it was designated in 1984 by the Carolinian Canada Coalition to be one of 38 critical natural areas in need of protection, not just for birders, hikers and nature purists, but also for natural and scientific interest. Much earlier, in 1894, the



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lot off Ridge Road West and use the Grimsby Point Side Trail. A wood staircase built into the cliff allows hikers to descend to the creek, which cuts about half the hike. You could also approach from the car park around the corner on Ridge Road West whereby you barely need leave your car to see both cascades. Parking is limited to five cars.

Hawk Watch

Another point about the aforementioned Conservation Area parking lot is that this is where the hawk watchers gather in March. Those are exciting times.

Due to the rising currents that push over the Escarpment, tens of thousands

of hawks, eagles and falcons can be seen on their annual migration north in early spring. It's a natural funnel where raptor watchers flock, and during a typical Sunday you'll be hard pressed to find a place in the watchtower set in the middle of the meadow. Birders fill their books with not just sightings but volumes of sightings.

Bring running shoes to change into following the hike. They'll save your car's interior.

Chris Mills writes and photographs for a variety of publications in Ontario. His last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "A Country Manor for Everheart," Winter 2015-16.

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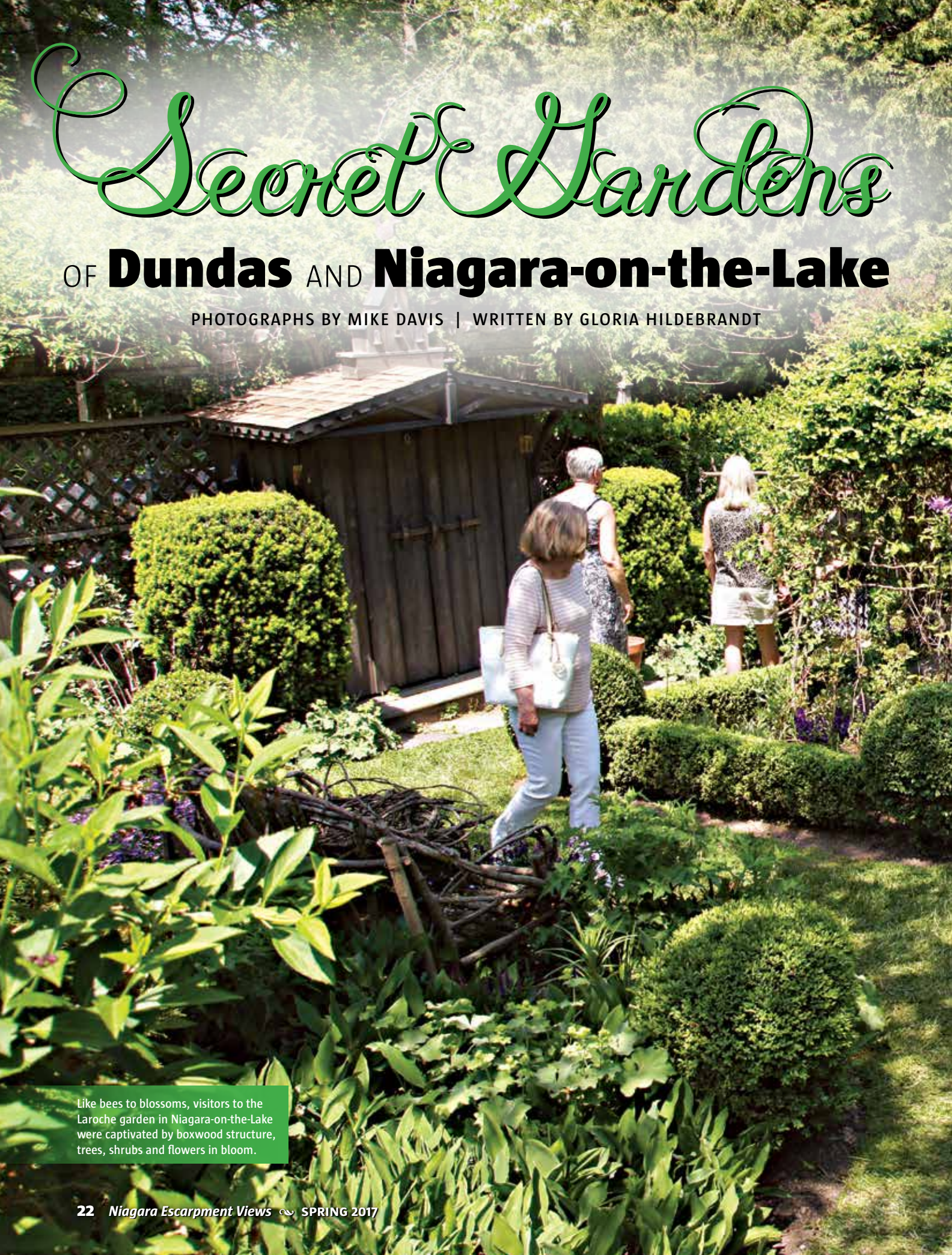
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Secret Gardens

OF **Dundas** AND **Niagara-on-the-Lake**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE DAVIS | WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT



Like bees to blossoms, visitors to the Laroche garden in Niagara-on-the-Lake were captivated by boxwood structure, trees, shrubs and flowers in bloom.



A H, THE TYRANNY OF SPACE! There's never enough. Avid gardeners know the disappointment of not having enough room for all the plants they want. Similarly, we have more photographs of great gardens than we can fit into our spring special issue, and every good photograph is worth a full page or two. So many gardens, so little time to see them all in detail, so little space to do them justice in print. Here then is a highly personal selection of garden photographs from last year's tours in the Niagara Escarpment communities of Dundas and Niagara-on-the-Lake. One was called The Carnegie Gallery's Secret Gardens 2016 Tour; the other was Shaw Guild Garden Tour: The Secret Gardens of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Both are beautiful towns, both tours were fundraisers for a treasured part of their communities.





◀ The Penner property in Niagara-on-the-Lake featured a pond with a pergola reached by a boardwalk. The wisteria near the pergola was past its prime but the rich colours of potted lobelia and pelargonium, commonly known as geraniums, gave powerful punches of colour. Japanese influences make this courtyard unique.

◀ Niagara Escarpment cradles Hamilton, Ancaster and Dundas. The Howard back yard in Greensville ends at the north curve of the Escarpment, providing a spectacular year-round vista. Large beds of peonies, phlox, daylilies, roses and more punctuate the generous space.

LAST YEAR, dry spells continued to be a challenge. In some gardens the early flowers had just finished and

the mid or late spring flowers were not yet fully open. And pink seemed to be the prominent colour in bloom.

Some of the garden owners were on site and available to talk to visitors, enriching the garden experience. ▶



► The Greensville property of the Galers has a waterfaling stream flowing across the front yard. Perennial beds, rock gardens, bonsai'd junipers and trees surround the house. In the back near the pool, there's a beautiful "she-shed."

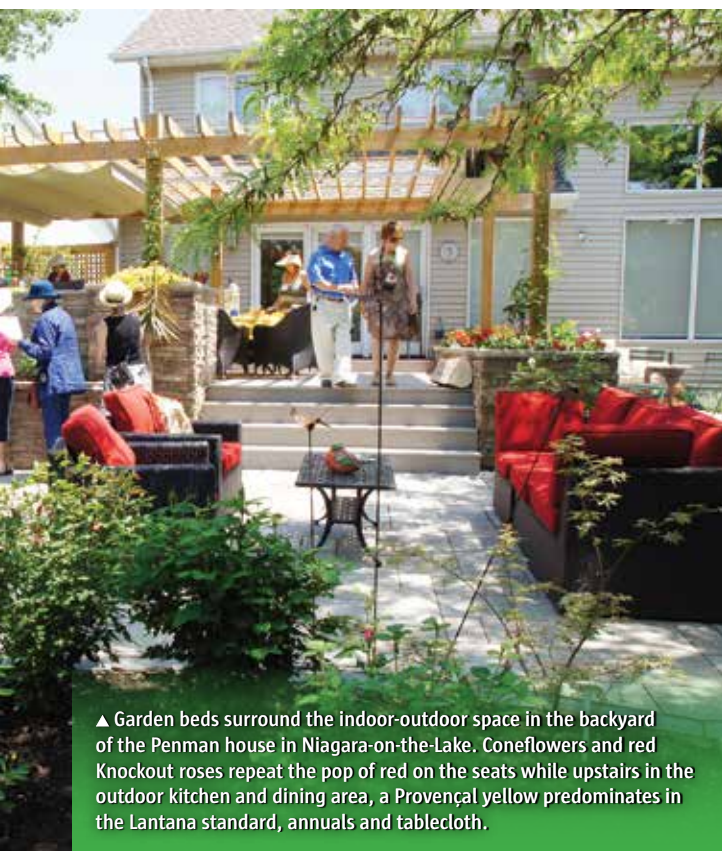


▼ On the 16-acre DiCenso/Hutchison property in Flamborough, the formal lawn and garden near the house blend gracefully into the forest and stream. This property is more fully explored elsewhere in this issue.





▲ Two stately flower-filled urns flanking the front door of the Smiths' Georgian house in Niagara-on-the-Lake reveal the taste, elegance and refinement of minimalism, which is enlarged in the clean lines of the lawn and garden beds of the back garden.



▲ Garden beds surround the indoor-outdoor space in the backyard of the Penman house in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Coneflowers and red Knockout roses repeat the pop of red on the seats while upstairs in the outdoor kitchen and dining area, a Provencal yellow predominates in the Lantana standard, annuals and tablecloth.



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▼ The one-acre Turkstra property in Greenville seems much bigger due to the large lawn and garden on the lower level stretching up to a stream and woodland beyond. Art and found driftwood sculptures have been placed throughout.



▲ While the pergola and waterfall at the pool is the most dramatic feature of the McCaughey residence in Niagara-on-the-Lake, there is a densely planted garden beyond, with winding paths leading to a secret dining area hidden among the greenery.





▲ Closeup of a stunning Florida 'variegata' weigela in the Laroche garden in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



◀ A Florida dogwood in full bloom in a corner of the Thomas minimalist garden in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

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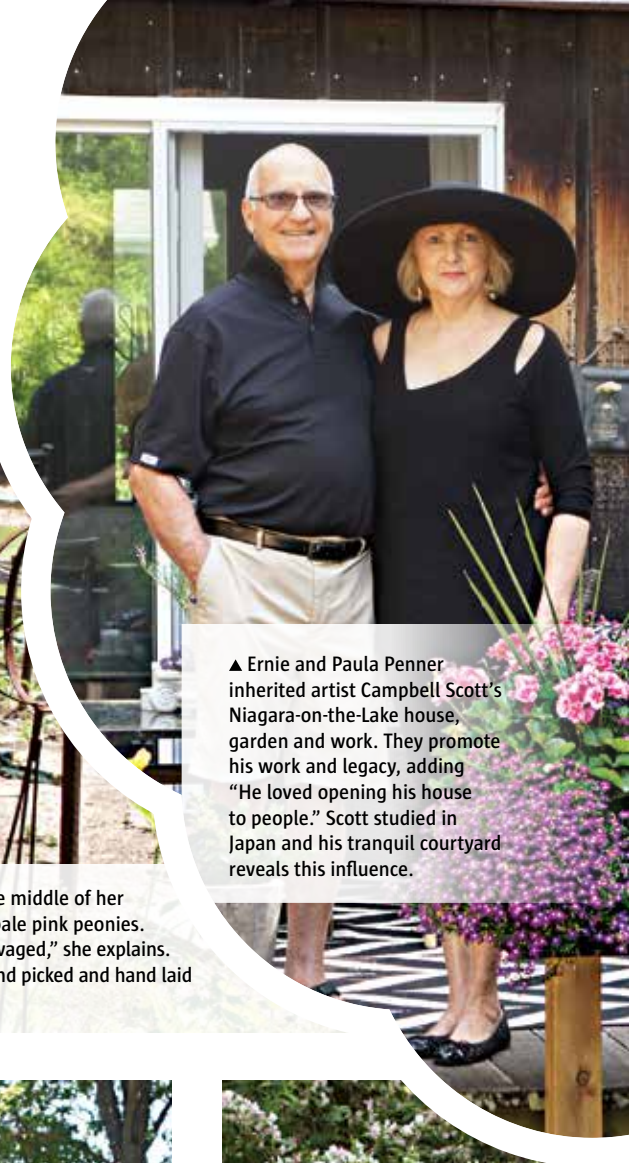
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Garden Owners

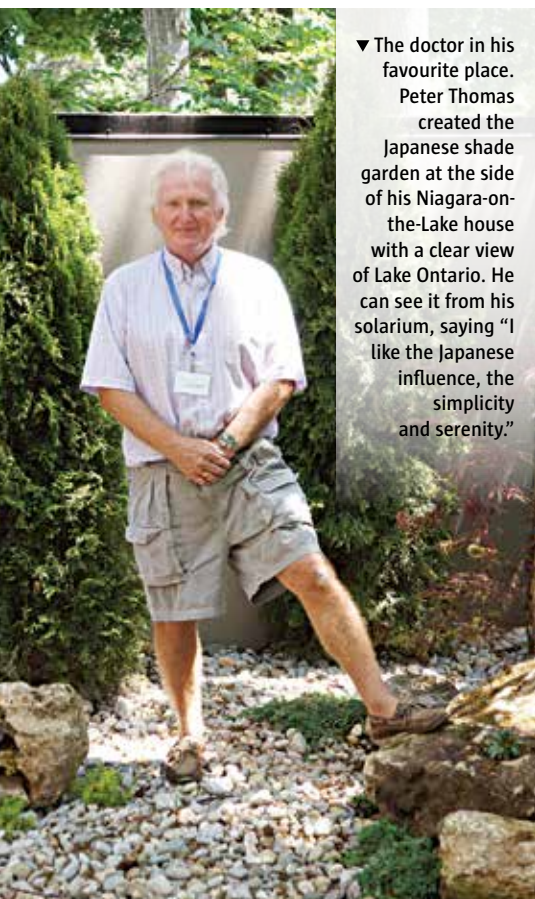
Meeting the owners and creators of the gardens on tour can be an added joy for fellow gardeners. Here are the ones who were available for photographs.



▲ Karen Turkstra created a shady resting place in the middle of her large lower-level garden. Art mimics life regarding pale pink peonies. "All the stuff in my garden was sourced locally or salvaged," she explains. "The driftwood was pulled from the stream, and I hand picked and hand laid the stones for the garden."



▲ Ernie and Paula Penner inherited artist Campbell Scott's Niagara-on-the-Lake house, garden and work. They promote his work and legacy, adding "He loved opening his house to people." Scott studied in Japan and his tranquil courtyard reveals this influence.



▼ The doctor in his favourite place. Peter Thomas created the Japanese shade garden at the side of his Niagara-on-the-Lake house with a clear view of Lake Ontario. He can see it from his solarium, saying "I like the Japanese influence, the simplicity and serenity."



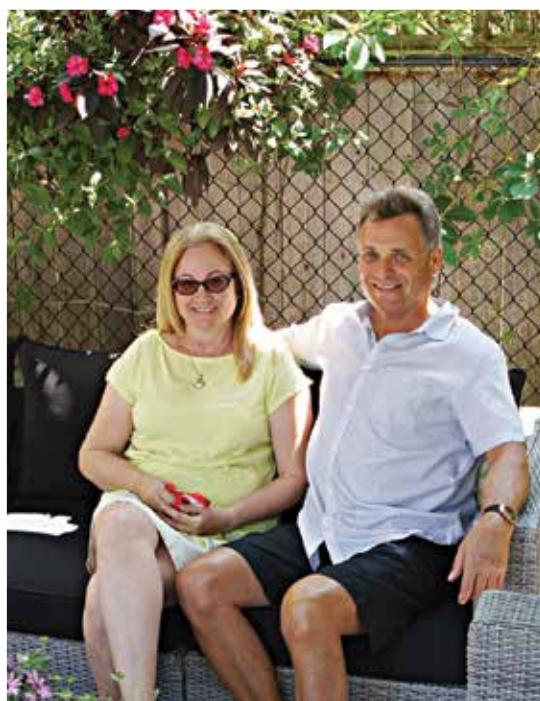
▲ Wayne and Sheri Galer have gardened on their Greensville property for about 34 years. A brother-in-law is a landscape designer.



▲ John and Ann Howard have both worked on their beautiful, mature Greensville gardens for 32 years. "There's a nice view in all seasons," they say modestly of their breathtaking Escarpment views.



◀ Alba DiCenso's Flamborough woodland garden is nestled within a 16-acre property. With husband Brian Hutchison, she is learning about and practising conservation. For more about this property, see the full feature article in this issue.



Birgit and Greg McCaughey bought the Niagara-on-the-Lake house with its existing lush garden about seven years ago, and continue to use the same gardener for maintenance as worked there previously.

Birgit creates the planted pots for the garden. With its pool and waterfall, "It's very tranquil all the time," they say.

Overleaf: The Carnegie Gallery's Secret Gardens 2016 Tour included the garden of Haakon Bakken and Catherine Quinn. The spectacular view from their backyard takes in Dundas and the Escarpment beyond. **NEV**



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The town of Dundas in the Dundas Valley, surrounded by the Niagara Escarpment. This view is looking south.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS



ROCK GARDEN RENO

Royal Botanical Gardens’ Oldest Feature Renewed

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT | PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

In May 2016 the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) at the border of Hamilton and Burlington opened its renovated Rock Garden. New plantings, fully accessible paths and a beautiful Visitor Centre overlooking the garden have rejuvenated the historic property.





▲ The new Visitor Centre perches on the edge of the bowl that cradles the newly named David Braley & Nancy Gordon Rock Garden.

ROCK GARDEN RENO

The Visitor Centre is the new entrance to the Rock Garden, now called the David Braley & Nancy Gordon Rock Garden after lead donors, long-time supporters and volunteers with the RBG. The building's roof sweeps dramatically like a curved leaf. Inside is a conference facility that can hold 130 people, and a restaurant, while the outdoor patio and lookout deck give a

view toward the old Tea House on the opposite slope of the Rock Garden.

Young formal plantings surround the centre, but from this point you don't see much of the old garden. Amid the sounds of traffic, you can hear water flowing. Paths lead you down the slope into the Rock Garden itself.

A former gravel pit on the Niagara Escarpment, the garden was constructed between 1929 and 1932. As the earliest part of what became the RBG, the Rock Garden

has some old plant specimens that are still cherished today. The recent renovation of the garden included keeping some of the older parts of the garden.

Jon Peter, curator and plant records manager, indicates the very first acquisition, in 1930, a Japanese cedar, *Cryptomeria japonica*, the national tree of Japan. New plants were the selection of Janet Rosenberg Studios, a Toronto landscape architecture firm,

one of the biggest in Canada.

The neighbouring Beauty Bush, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, is another original planting from the 1930s. When in bloom, this tree stops traffic in whichever garden it's located.

The second plant acquired for the garden, also in 1930, was the Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*. Two specimens still thrive in the sheltered microclimate of the Rock Garden bowl. "A



▲ The magnificent design of the Visitor Centre suggests a sheltering curved leaf held up by sticks.

deciduous conifer, it drops its leaves in the fall,” explains Jon.

Why the Renovation

Part of the RBG’s mission is to inspire and nurture a commitment to the environment. The renovation aimed to respect the heritage of the old garden but move to more sustainable garden designs and management. Instead of the labour-intensive planting and lifting of more than 150,000 bulbs and annuals each

year, the new garden was designed to use less water, less upheaval of the soil and produce less plant waste.

The new garden “incorporates a best-practices approach to plant selection, design and management, including pollinator-friendly plants, species native to Ontario, and a broad representation of drought-tolerant perennials that provide wide sweeps of colour and texture



► This Japanese cedar, *Cryptomeria japonica*, was the very first acquisition of the Rock Garden in 1930. Blossoms of an old Beauty Bush are visible in the background.



ROCK GARDEN RENO

► Three of the finest and largest Manchurian maple trees in Canada, surrounded by brown mulch.



▲ Jon Peter, curator and plant records manager, with a 1959 acquisition, the Japanese dogwood or Kousa dogwood, in stupendous bloom.

◀ From the outdoor patio of the Visitor Centre there's a good view of the Tea House across the bowl of the Rock Garden.



▲ This old stairway has been retained in the redesign but the new handrail increases safety. This view was used for the cover photo of *Escarpment Views*, Spring 2010.

throughout the seasons,” states RBG information.

Jon adds more specific details by pointing out “One big reason for the renovation was the leaky waterways caused by two overgrown willows. The waterfall is always popular. The old one was retained but some parts of it were reinforced.”

Along the walkway to the Tea House, now renamed Garden House, at the edge of the garden are mostly native species of trees and shrubs, acting as a transition space to the natural area beyond the fence.

“The architects used a broad sweeping landscape

design as much for texture contrast as colour,” says Jon. “There’s a long season of interest. I think this garden is at its best in the fall.”

Taking another path to the top of the bowl, it’s possible to enjoy several different vantage points to the whole garden below from the several lookouts. New fully accessible paths with gradual grades now make it possible to take strollers and wheelchairs easily throughout the garden.

Finest Specimens

“There are a lot of interesting plants from Japan,” adds Jon, “many of them unique. RBG has tried to represent what’s

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ROCK GARDEN RENO



▲ This Beauty Bush, *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, was planted in the 1930s. About twice the height of a person, it is a show stopper when blooming.

◀ Two stately Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum*, planted in 1930, now tower to grand heights. Dropping its leaves in the fall, it puts out new coniferous growth each spring. The Visitor Centre can be seen in the background.



◀ The deliberately rough alignment of rocks in the Dalglish courtyard provides space for Alpine plants.

new in the horticultural world.” Returning to the Visitor Centre, Jon stops at some mighty trees surrounded by lawn, identifying them as Manchurian maple, with a trifoliate leaf, unlike a Canadian maple.

“These are three of the finest specimens you’ll see in Canada,” he declares. They were grown here from seed in 1973 and are likely the largest of their kind in Canada.

Outside a side door of the Visitor Centre is a new walled area, called The Dalglish

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ROCK GARDEN RENO

Family Courtyard after other significant benefactors of the RBG. It's an intimate space with a water fountain; alpine plants are intended to grow in crevices of the rock walls.

As curator and plant records manager, Jon has a lot to do. Of the original garden, about 20,000 plants remain. With the renewed design, there are 143,800 individual

plants, forming 2,411 species. From 1930, the first year that plant records were kept at RBG, 39 accessions are still alive and growing well.

Of the Rock Garden,



Jon declares "It's our oldest and most precious site."

In 2010, the old Rock Garden was featured extensively in this magazine when it was

called Escarpment Views.

This feature is available to view on the website www.NEViews.ca as the cover story for Spring 2010 under Magazine – Back Issues. **NEV**

▼ A waterfall down the side of the Rock Garden bowl courses into a waterway that winds through the centre of the garden. New lights and a sound system have been added for more interest in the dark hours.



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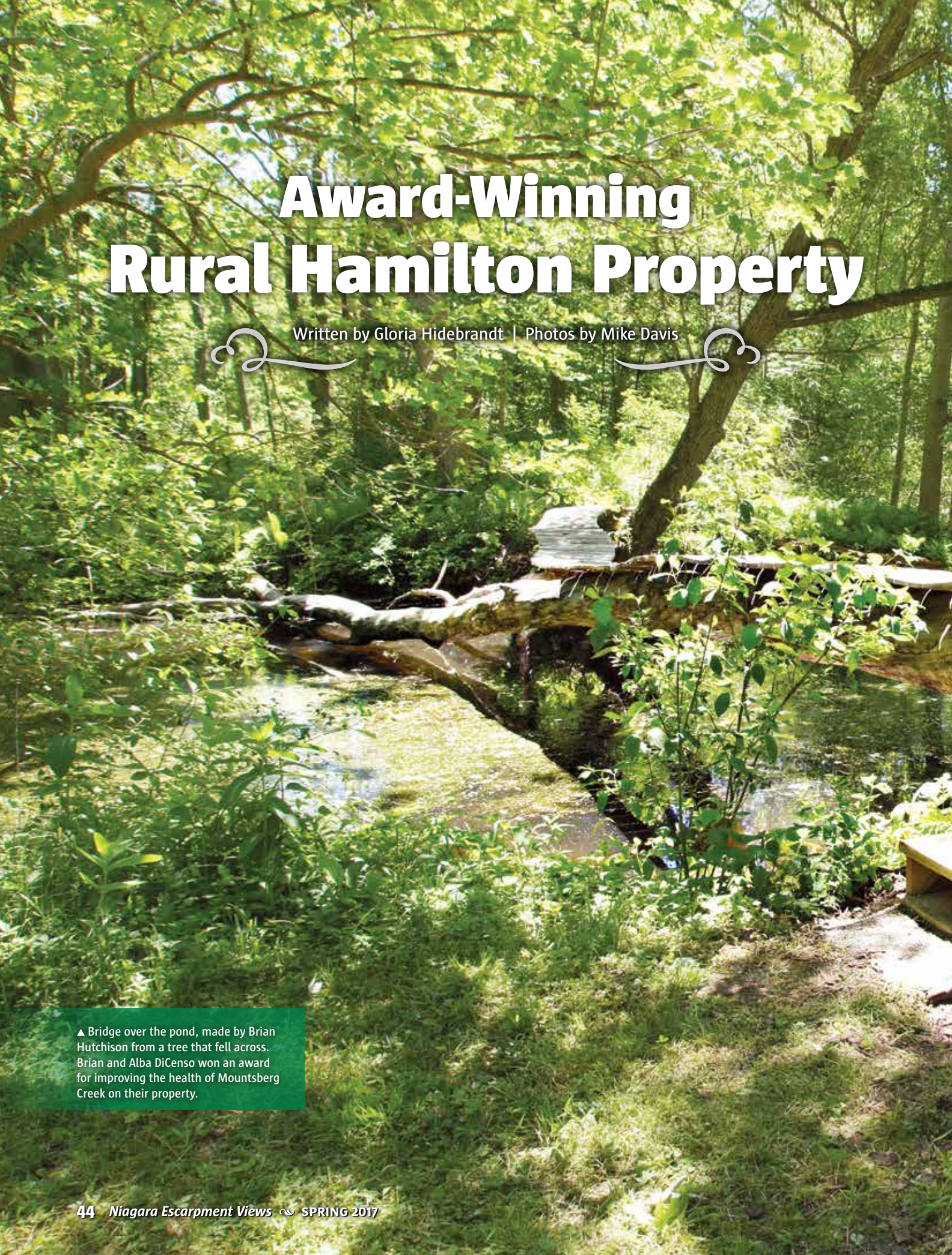
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Focusing on environmentally-friendly solutions

A lush green forest scene with a small pond and a rustic bridge made of fallen tree trunks. The bridge is constructed from several large, weathered logs and branches, spanning a narrow stream or pond. The surrounding area is filled with dense foliage, including tall trees and various shrubs. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating a dappled light effect on the ground and water. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Award-Winning Rural Hamilton Property

Written by Gloria Hidebrandt | Photos by Mike Davis

▲ Bridge over the pond, made by Brian Hutchison from a tree that fell across. Brian and Alba DiCenso won an award for improving the health of Mountsberg Creek on their property.

A large, textured tree trunk stands prominently in the foreground, partially obscuring the view. To its left, a wooden walkway with three steps leads down to a calm body of water. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage, suggesting a forest or park setting. The lighting is bright, indicating a sunny day.

BRIAN HUTCHISON
AND ALBA DICENSO
bought a 16-acre
property in a rural part
of Hamilton about 12
years ago and have been
protecting, preserving and
enhancing it ever since.
In 2015 they received a
Watershed Steward Award
from Conservation Halton. ►



◀ The log deflector with plant material behind it, directs creek water away from the pond, taking it off line and improving the creek's habitat for fish.



◀ The pond has been taken offline from Mountsberg Creek and has aerators operating to improve the quality of the water.

Mountsberg Creek which flows through their property. Specifically, they keep water flowing in the creek by having closed the man-made channel which used to send water to the pond.

“The objective was to improve the water quality in Mountsberg Creek for native species,” explains Alba. “Staff from Trout Unlimited Canada and Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship placed a log deflector approximately two metres upstream of the pond’s inflow channel. It is secured in place with wooden stakes and twine. This deflector directs flow into the centre of the channel and away from the inflow of the pond. Plant material was placed behind the deflector to act as a sediment trap and to stabilize the creek’s bank. As the sediment continues to build up, the inflow channel will be completely blocked and the creek will be disconnected from the pond. Disconnecting the on-line pond reduces the temperature of the creek water improving the habitat for fish because ponds absorb more heat from the sun and then heat up the creek water.”

They added five aerators to the pond, which provide the benefits of reducing the oxygen stress of fish, mixing the water, insuring that oxygen reaches the bottom of the pond, and improving bacterial activity and decomposition of organic material, reducing the growth of algae.

Conservation Halton describes the Hutchison-DiCenso property as uniquely beautiful, with “a variety of natural features including portions of the provincially significant Lower Mountsberg Creek Swamp Complex,

Mountsberg Creek, a tributary of Bronte Creek, locally significant woodlands and ... part of the Mountsberg East Wetlands Environmentally Significant Area.”

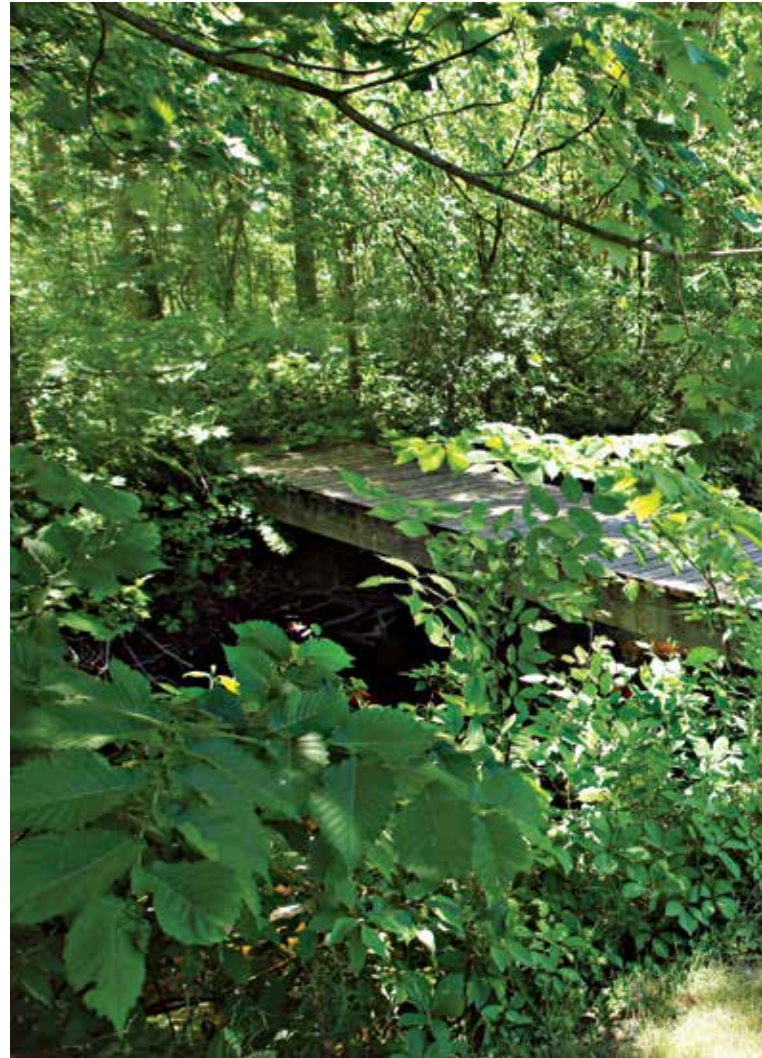
“We had a dream for what we wanted each part of the property to be,” says Alba,

“and we’re now learning about conservation.”

In 2017, Alba and Brian began improvements to their pond, which is about 2/3 of an acre in size. Created by previous owners, it needed to be taken off line, meaning it is kept separate from



▲ Mountsberg Creek, a tributary of Bronte Creek, meanders lazily through the 16-acre property.



▲ A boardwalk bridge over the creek gives access to more of the forest.

◀ The fallen tree-trunk bridge from across the pond.





Protecting Endangered Species

Wildlife is plentiful thanks to the water on their property.

"We are interested in protecting endangered species," adds Alba. "We have Honey Bees. We're involved in protecting Snapping Turtle eggs and we are encouraging Wood Ducks. But this past year, the Hooded Mergansers, which come earlier in the spring and are more aggressive, laid eggs in four of our five Wood Duck boxes. All we have done to encourage the ducks, both of which are cavity nesters, is to install five Wood Duck boxes, each facing a stream, and filled with about six to eight inches of fresh wood chips. In total last year, we had 42 Merganser eggs laid in the boxes, 26 of which successfully hatched.

We have been told that in order to attract Wood Ducks to the boxes, we must remove the Merganser eggs which are laid daily. We plan to try this approach this spring."

Alba and Brian also raise Monarch Butterflies by harvesting eggs from milkweed plants and keeping them in protected cages.

"Last year I raised 72 Monarch Butterflies," boasts Alba.

They've worked with Dan Welsh, an advocate for Eastern Bluebirds, to install five bluebird boxes on their land.

"Last year was our first year," says Alba, "and we had a nest in one box with four babies successfully fledged."

Bluebird conservation and protection involves more than just putting nest boxes on fence posts. The Ontario

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▼ Pond aerators work to stir up the water, increasing oxygen to the bottom of the pond and reducing algae.



◀ View inside a Wood Duck box from the side, showing the fine wood chips available as nesting material.

▲ A touch of luxury: in the woods near the house and garden, a charming “she-shed.”



Eastern Bluebird Society has many specific requirements for helping the bluebird population, and declares that failing to meet all the requirements can actually do more harm than good. This includes humanely destroying or relocating 50 km away, alien House Sparrows

which destroy bluebird eggs, young and adult bluebirds and Tree Swallows, which are fully protected by law.

“If you cannot bring yourself to remove these alien predators please remove your boxes as you are not helping the bluebird population,” states a brochure of the society. Fortunately, Dan told Alba and Brian that House Sparrows should not be a problem for them.

Alba and Brian are happy to share their knowledge



► On last year's Carnegie Gallery Secret Garden Tour, expert Dan Walsh and Alba DiCenso were happy to share knowledge of Eastern Bluebirds.

and successes. Last year they were part of the Carnegie Gallery Secret Garden Tour and had experts in gardening, beekeeping, bluebirds, turtles, ducks and water stewardship stationed throughout their award-winning property to talk with visitors. **NEV**

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




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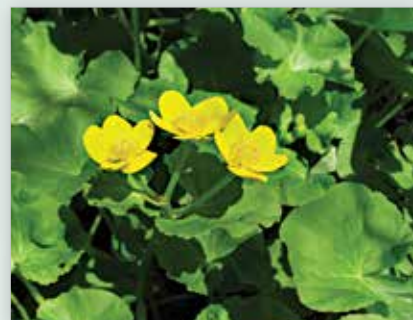
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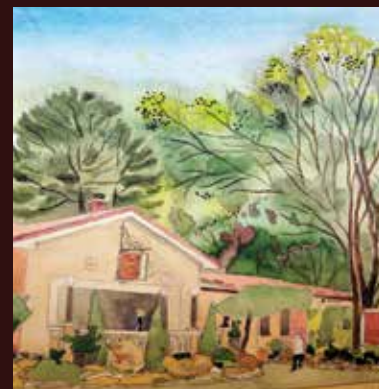


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My Father's Gardens

By Gloria Hildebrandt

When I was eight we moved to the country where my father had all the space he wanted for gardens. He had two large curving beds beneath the windows at the front of the house, bordered by small rocks. He made an enormous vegetable garden on top of the septic system's weeping tiles. He created a flower garden at the south side of the house, bordering a low waterfall and stream he formed from the basement sump pump's run-off. He built an arching wooden bridge with handrails to cross the stream.

Within the large concrete patio, he had a circle bordered by clipped boxwood and filled with tulips in spring and tropical houseplants in summer, and a rectangle for a simple knot garden of boxwood and a plant with leaves in a contrasting colour, all neatly clipped. The patio

ended where the land dropped down abruptly about four feet. Here he built concrete steps and edged the slope on either side with low-growing evergreens. Over 50 years, their stems and branches grew thick and gnarly, with an ancient beauty.

On the sunken lawn he grew a carpet of thyme and planted dwarf fruit trees, rhododendrons and azaleas. They didn't do well here as the sunken lawn was flooded with spring meltwater for weeks but they did bloom with beautiful flowers. Next to the sunken lawn the ground rises sharply to a small hill. Escarpment rocks break out of the ground here, so my father developed a rock garden. It was a tremendous amount of work to maintain, as were all of these gardens, but for decades my father relaxed from running his business by tending them.

German Vegetables

I was required to help out

by weeding and harvesting vegetables and fruit. I hated it. I got dirty, it took forever in the heat with bugs crawling on my face, and I often seemed to be doing it wrong. I didn't even like eating a lot of the strange European vegetables: kohlrabi, white asparagus, tough lima beans, gooseberries, and green cabbage or kale before it became fashionable. I always loved sweet carrots fresh from the soil, peas eaten from the pod, yellow German potatoes roasted or in a vinaigrette salad, and the berries: raspberries, strawberries, red currants with milk and sugar, supplemented by wild blackberries that my mother picked from the rest of the acreage.

Although I hated working in my father's garden as a child, as soon as I had some earth of my own, I wanted to garden. I didn't know what I was doing, but I felt my way forward blindly, beginning with a raised-bed herb garden

at my back door, then an island flower bed in the middle of my own thyme lawn.

Most of my plants came from my father's divisions and extras. Often in spring he would appear from next door with roots and flats of things, asking if I wanted them. I always did, even though I didn't know what they were. It didn't help that my father usually only knew their German and Latin names. I learned the English common

names from other sources. I was given bleeding hearts, columbines, primroses, dahlias, gladiolae and more. Once he gave me a Rose of Sharon which a nursery had mailed him as a substitute for hibiscus. Unacceptable to him, it has become a large tree in my front yard with prolific pink flowers early each autumn.

Gardening Skills

My father also had a greenhouse where he started all sorts of things from seed. He became my annual supplier of Italian vegetables that he didn't like: zucchini and plum tomatoes. He would shake his head as he delivered these foreign plants.

My father really knew how to garden. He knew how and when to apply manure. He divided and transplanted and renewed his beds when necessary. He was forever buying new plants and seed from increasingly specialized nurseries. He had control of his gardens, they didn't overwhelm him as they do me, although he decommissioned some of them as his energy decreased or his interests moved elsewhere.

I could have learned so much from him about gardening. I realize this acutely now that he's gone. But somehow, his passion for gardening was planted a little bit in me. Having grown up within fine gardens, I must feel a need to be surrounded by them. I'll bumble along, doing my best to keep up with my ambition to create the gardens I have in my mind.

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



▲ Purple irises, blue columbines and coral bells passed on to me by my father. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

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Cheaper to Prevent Quarries

By Bob Barnett

We've seen the expensive fights against quarries. It costs a lot to present planning and hydrological evidence that nature will be harmed. Tom Ashman and Dee Cherrie had a different vision. They had quarries around their Escarpment property in Wiarton and didn't need a crystal ball to know what the "highest and best" next use would be. They chose to put a conservation agreement on their property which would never allow quarries.

Canada Revenue Agency says donations to religious organizations reach 40 per cent of total donations while health reaches 21 per cent, social services 11 per cent, international causes eight per cent, education four per cent and the environment at only three per cent. Environmental donations do top the arts at one per cent and sports at two per cent. This is especially strange when a protected environment has been proven to enhance health and improve educational outcomes.

Religious donations also support social causes and international work, but a great deal must go toward salaries and building upkeep for the organizations themselves.

If it were only better recognized that the environment provides us with a parallel economy. Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry figures cleaner air and water, with flood control and rare species thrown in are worth \$84 billion a year, just in southern Ontario. That's almost as much as the government spends on hospitals, schools, roads and whatever else is in Ontario's

annual budget. Strange how health, social services and education get both substantial government funding and loads of donations. Strange how government funding for environmental causes has taken such a dive, just as we and Kathleen Wynne are figuring out that climate change is the biggest problem facing society.

In *Don't Even Think About It: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Ignore Climate Change* George Marshall explains our lack of interest in the environment very well:

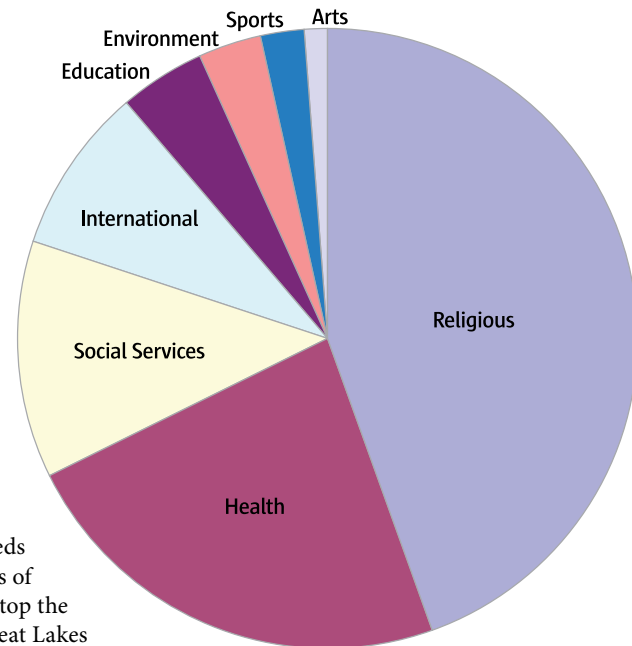
1. It's too big to deal with
2. You can't see it very clearly
3. The message is confused by religious and economic ideas
4. Protecting it is not going to make us popular
5. Our brains deal with emergencies better than big issues
6. It's not a big problem today
7. It's not right on our door step
8. It's not a certainty
9. We have other things to worry about
10. It's a difficult problem, let's do something simpler
11. It's for our children, not us

Buy It Or Lose It

I've been fundraising for 20 years now. The best campaign I ever ran was to protect Skinner's Bluff on the Bruce Trail up by Wiarton. The owner had erected a sign I still have in my basement saying "Buy it or you can't walk on it". We had a deposit down and we printed photos of people standing there admiring the view. The money came in.

There is a lot of money available when the right people ask and it's for a close-at-hand, tangible battle to protect a visible part of the community.

► Canada Revenue Agency's size of charitable donations by category



I've seen local cottagers band together to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to "Stop the Drop" in Great Lakes water levels. One wealthy businessman gave \$100,000. We raised about \$200,000 to fight the development of the David Dunlop Observatory site. The people of Richmond Hill really got on the bandwagon. Sarah Harmer organized some great concerts to fight the Nelson Quarry at Mount Nemo in Burlington. They paid for a lot of consultants and experts, but Jefferson Salamanders saved the day and killed the project.

At Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) we're stuck with paying the cost of our success. With a new reserve every month, and in rural communities all over south-central Ontario, we find it hard to marshal the donations to pay for appraisals, legal fees and the occasional survey. Last year it cost us about \$100,000 to protect 1,478 acres worth \$2,632,000 and protecting \$4,440,000 a year of those hard-to-understand ecosystem services every year. That's the best conservation bargain around! Every dollar protects \$26 worth of land and \$44 worth of cleaner air and water.

Prevent Quarries

I see people donating \$100,000 hoping to stop a quarry or a pit and I compare that with the few thousand it takes to provide preventative environmental medicine and protect the land BEFORE the developer buys it. EBC is a better investment. But we lack the urgency and the stark picture of what will happen when they "blow a hole in my Escarpment." Just as the Bruce Trail is successful because people support the land they walk on, we're hoping you'll come out and walk on our trails, see our trees and put your feet in Lake Huron.

I'm surprised that the same landowners that spend thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours fighting the quarries rarely protect their own property with a "no quarry" conservation agreement.

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

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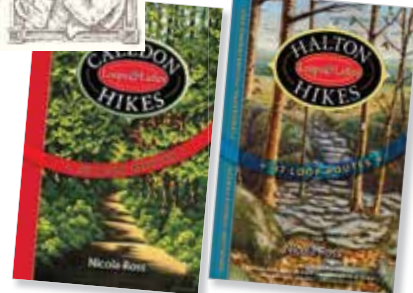
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STRAWBERRY-RHUBARB & GINGER CRISP



Prep Time: 10 min.
Total Time: 50 min.
Serves: 8

Ingredients

- 2 cups Sliced Rhubarb (500 mL)
1/2-in. / 1 cm Pieces
- 2 cups Sliced Strawberries (500 mL)
- 1/4 cup Pure Maple Syrup (60 mL)
- 1 tbsp Cornstarch (15 mL)
- 1/2 tsp Ground Ginger (2 mL)
- 1/4 tsp Salt (1 mL)
- 1 cup Original Granola Cereal (250 mL)
- 1/2 cup Natural Almonds, Chopped (125 mL)
- 4 tsp Melted Butter (20 mL)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). In an 8-in./20 cm square (2 L) glass or ceramic baking dish, mix together rhubarb, strawberries, maple syrup, cornstarch, ginger and salt.
2. In a bowl, combine granola, almonds and butter. Spread over fruit.
3. Bake on middle rack of oven until fruit is bubbling and topping is golden, about 30 min. Serve warm.

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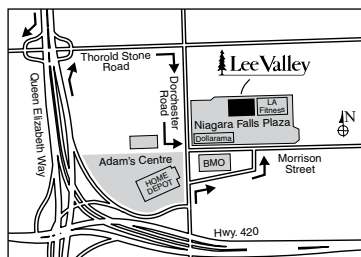


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