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SUMMER 2017 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)



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Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



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(June, July, August)

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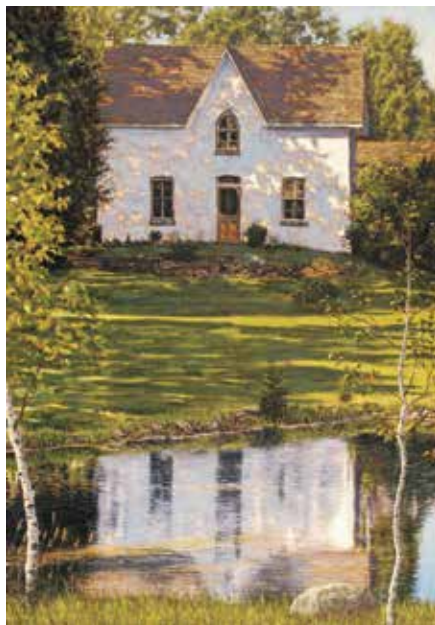
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Mike Davis and Gloria Hildebrandt

EDITOR

Gloria Hildebrandt, editor@NEViews.ca

GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT

Nicholl Spence
nsGraphic Design
www.nsgraphicdesign.com

ADVERTISING/ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Mike Davis, ads@NEViews.ca
905 877 9665

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Chris Miller

WEBSITE DESIGN

Joan Donogh, In-Formation Design

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History & Mystery

It's that wonderful, glorious time of the year when we want to be outdoors. The early part of spring has been lovely, with a long, slow, gentle unfolding that has been kind to early blossoms. With summer upon us now, the woods and trails of the Niagara Escarpment beckon, enticing us with their opportunities to enjoy nature.

In This Issue

These pages are full of places to see and things to do, from a working railway museum in a forest near Milton, to hand-carved street art in Orangeville, to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula for the annual Monarch Butterfly Festival hosted by our friends at Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, and onto Manitoulin Island where you can explore the discovery that there were Stone-Age people who lived here thousands of years ago.

From Milton to Manitoulin in this issue, there is history and mystery to experience.

Your Favourite Views

We have a big announcement to make. At the end of this year we will celebrate our tenth anniversary as a magazine. No mean feat these days, with experts proclaiming that print is dead. And magazines come and go like the leaves on trees. We have seen startups putter out and die, yet we persist. As Mike says, 10 magazine years are a thousand business years. So there will be plenty



At Halton Eco Festival in Oakville on April 29, Jenny Pearce of Sciensational Sssnakes!! (right) displayed snakes, turtles and amphibians, including this ball of two large Corn Snakes. I'm initially brave, but then startled.



to celebrate with our tenth anniversary special issue. One of the ways we'll celebrate is by publishing the best photos of your favourite Escarpment views – an obvious choice given our magazine name.

We're announcing our first photo contest, open to all who love the Niagara Escarpment. Show us something stunning, breathtaking, awesome or gorgeous. Show us something new, in a new way or from a new angle. Get high, get low, get creative, get simple. I often say that the Escarpment is so beautiful that you can point your camera in any direction and get an amazing shot. Well, it's not quite that

easy, but there's certainly a wealth of subject material.

Contest winners will have their photos published in this prestigious magazine. As well, prizes have been donated by some of our generous advertisers and supporters, who make it possible for us to create this publication. Prizes include a week's accommodation in a sweet cottage near Tobermory in a nature reserve, thanks to Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, a land trust that works hard to protect pristine nature near the Niagara Escarpment. Another prize is a \$100 gift certificate from the fabulous Home Hardware.

We encourage you to get out there this summer and show us what you see. Our contest closes Oct. 1 in order for us to get the winning photos in our Winter issue. For full contest details, see page 8. And check out the other benefits you get, just by entering the contest! We've found ways to make everyone who enters, feel a little like a winner.

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.,
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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 recently moved back to Southern Ontario from New York City and I remember reading your magazine in the past (when

I lived in St. Catharines). But I was particularly blown away by how much I enjoyed the latest Gardens issue of *Niagara Escarpment Views*. Keep up the great work! It was such a delight to read. I pride myself in consuming outstanding media, and your magazine is now up there with some my favorite reading materials, such as *Spacing* magazine, *FT Weekend*, *Apartment Therapy*, *Dr. Oz*, *Guideposts*, *New York By Rail*, etc...

Paxton Allewell, by email



We received our copy today of NEV. You and Mike did a fabulous job on the story and photos - thank you so much! Wonderful to see those photos in the middle of the winter! Might it be possible for us to obtain (or buy) a few extra copies of this issue as we would like to share it with family? Many thanks!

Alba Dicenso, Hamilton

I always enjoy the wonderful pictures and articles in *Niagara Escarpment Views*, but I have to take issue with the section on Endangered Species in the article on a rural Hamilton property in Spring 2017.

In this section, Honey Bees are listed. This is a domesticated species that is not endangered, unlike some

of our native wild bumblebees. Introducing honeybees to a woodland setting is like putting sheep or cows in a meadow. It can actually inhibit the native pollinators who do need our help.

Even worse were the comments regarding wood ducks and hooded mergansers. Wood Ducks are not endangered. In fact they are the second-most common species of dabbling duck in Canada (after the ubiquitous Mallard). Hooded Mergansers on the other hand are quite heavily hunted and are considered to be one of our least common waterfowl, with a limited range, mostly breeding in Ontario and Quebec. I would be absolutely thrilled if Hooded Mergansers were

to successfully breed in my ponds, in Wood Duck boxes, and there is absolutely no justification for destroying the eggs of this lovely duck. Both Hooded Mergansers and Wood Duck are native species with glorious-looking adult males. I would hope the Dicensos, who have carried out excellent conservation work, will not carry through with their plans to destroy eggs of this elusive duck.

More information can be found online, and a search under COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) is an easy way to find listings for endangered species in Canada. Wood Ducks are not listed, but are noted as a species of Least Concern.

Fiona Reid, Halton Hills

I read with pleasure and admiration of the on-going conservation successes Alba Dicenso and Brian Hutchison are achieving. I am acquainted with them, and familiar with some of their conservation and restoration projects through my work for Conservation Halton.

Speaking as a Conservation Halton ecologist, however, I read with concern the proposal that Hooded Merganser eggs are planned to be removed and destroyed, in an effort to encourage Wood Duck nesting instead. The article mentions that Ms. Dicenso has been told that this approach will attract Wood Ducks, without detailing the source of this information.

This is not an approach that I would support or that Conservation Halton would recommend. In point of fact, I would like to strongly discourage this approach. Primarily because Mergansers are a native species with their own ecological, beauty and intrinsic value. While Wood Ducks were once of conservation concern, they have recovered to the point of

being second only to Mallards in their abundance. There is little or no need, from an ecological perspective, to support Wood Ducks at the expense of Hooded Mergansers.

Moreover, Hooded Mergansers are protected by law. They are listed as a migratory game bird species under the Migratory Bird Convention Act (MBCA). This Act prohibits the disturbance or destruction of most native bird species, including their eggs and nests. It explicitly includes duck boxes and shelters. Wood Ducks may be the desired species when we put habitat features like nesting boxes in place, but we cannot control what species makes use of them.

The same problem exists for "Bluebird Boxes". The article mentions the need to manage House Sparrows when they take over Bluebird Boxes. In the case of House Sparrows, as an exception to the rule, this is actually a viable strategy, since they are an exotic, invasive species and are not protected by either the MBCA, or the Ontario Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA). In fact, they are one of only a few species specifically excluded from protection under the FWCA.

However, House Sparrows are not the only species which may take over Bluebird Boxes. These boxes are frequently used by Tree Swallows, House Wrens and other species which are protected by the MBCA. Some species can be encouraged (e.g. Placement of two boxes within three metres of each other permits both Tree Swallows and Bluebirds to nest and reduces competition - and therefore conflict - between these species), but others may yet take the space intended for Bluebirds (e.g. House Wrens are still a common occupant of such boxes). Once they have nested, native

Continued on page 8



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Katherine Le Pham
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THEME:

Your interpretation of a great Niagara Escarpment view. But show us something we haven't seen before! Hint: see our back issue centre spreads for places we already know. Online, they're at www.NEViews.ca/magazine-archives.

ENTRY FEE:

\$20 to send up to 3 photos maximum. One entry per person. Everyone who enters gets a free one-year subscription to the magazine! Existing subscribers can enter for free. And most exciting, all entries will be displayed on our website!

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 A week's accommodation, date to be determined, at the 350-acre Alvar

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 Gift certificate for \$100 from Home Hardware, good at any Home Hardware in Canada. Prize courtesy of Home Hardware.

RULES: To submit photos, contact editor@NEViews.ca for details. See also www.NEViews.ca. Be sure to include a maximum 25-word statement about each photo, giving the approximate location. And remember that if you have identifiable people in your photos, you need signed permission or model release form.

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READERS & VIEWERS

species and their eggs may not legally be disturbed.

If or when they do take up residence, I would encourage anyone to allow native species (Hooded Mergansers, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, etc.) to complete their brooding cycle undisturbed and without interference; and to enjoy and appreciate their presence in the ecosystem, in addition to Wood Ducks and Bluebirds.

**Yves Scholten,
Conservation Halton**

We would like to thank Ms. Reid for her comments regarding endangered species. We appreciate that honey bees are not endangered. Last year was our first experience with duck nesting boxes. We were advised

by someone who worked hard over several decades to provide nesting boxes for wood ducks whose numbers had been reduced by hunting and habitat loss. We now realize that both wood ducks and hooded mergansers are listed as "least concern" by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Accordingly, we have decided to use a "finder's keeper's" approach with our nesting boxes. As of April 2017, three of our five boxes have 30 eggs, all laid by hooded mergansers. We find it interesting that numerous wood ducks visit our streams and pond but so far have not chosen to lay eggs in our boxes.

**Alba DiCenso
& Brian Hutchison,
Hamilton**



On page 51 of your Spring 2017 issue... I was alarmed at seeing a Bluebird nest removed

from its nesting box. We have Bluebirds come every year and found they are very private birds. When we have visitors, the Bluebirds just disappear and don't come back until the visitors are gone. We have discovered that even opening the door to check the eggs will usually stop them from returning to the nest. I wonder how many of those 5 or 6 eggs in the nest will actually hatch?

I understand the Wrens are also enemies of Bluebirds. They will build their nest on top of the Bluebird eggs. Another note which the Bluebird people are probably aware: I have heard, leave the nest up all winter, as the migrating Bluebirds check out future nesting areas in the Autumn.

Thanks for your time and

keep up the good work.

Cameron Dolson, Erin

Editor's note: Thank you for your concern about bluebirds. You make good points about them. The man in the photo is Dan Welsh, an expert on the Eastern Bluebird, and the eggs in the nest were not viable when they were used as a teaching aid. Watch this magazine for a future feature article on bluebirds!



There is a woman in New Jersey who received the *Niagara Escarpment Views* [Winter 2016-17] (she used to live in Windsor) and she saw the article on me in the Worth the Visit column and she called and placed an order with me. :-)

**Betty-Anne Whipp,
Georgetown Yarn, Georgetown**

EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Mimi Keenan of Royal LePage Meadowtowne Realty, flanked by her sons, hosted her Blues Buster Evening at Glen Williams Town Hall on Feb. 4. PHOTO BY SHEENA GLEN OF SHEENA GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY.



▲ The new owners of Milton Home Hardware Building Centre, Tima and Jeff Seydel, and their daughters held a reception on Feb. 14.

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EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Halton Hills Wildlife & Nature Artists celebrated the opening of their studio on March 4 at Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre, Glen Williams.

PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT



▲ Sandra Howe, Randy Foulds, Bill Walker MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, Jan Chamberlain, Jim Hepple and Wendy Tomlinson received a \$6,000 Ontario Community Capital Program grant on March 24, to install a new HVAC system in the historic CNR Dining Car, part of the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre on Owen Sound's waterfront. PHOTO SUBMITTED.



◀ Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch held an open house at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, Grimsby, on April 14. This was the 43rd year of counting migratory raptors at Beamer. Canadian Raptor Conservancy gave a presentation of live raptors on the glove.

PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

► With the Niagara Escarpment in the background, people turned out in large numbers to plant 1,000 trees for Earth Day Hamilton's tree planting festival on April 22 in Churchill Park, Hamilton.

▼ On Feb. 15, National Flag Day, the large 15-by-30-foot flag returned to a new pole and base in Dragonfly Park in Orangeville. The previous flagpole was removed in 2015 due to structural issues.

PHOTO BY SHEILA DUNCAN.



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June 24 th	Saints & Sinners: Taste of the Trail

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July 8 th	Hottest Street Sale
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AUGUST

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August 4 th – 6 th	Emancipation Festival
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Aug 25 th –Sep 3 rd	Salmon Spectacular Fishing Derby

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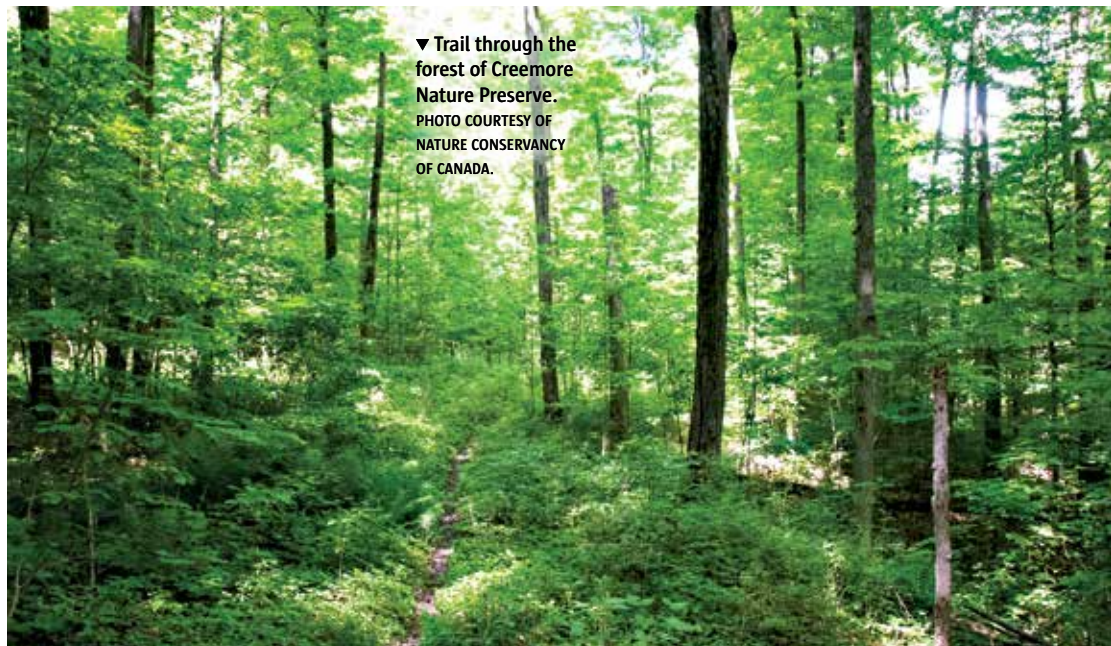
Experiencing Creemore Nature Preserve

By Aiken Scherberger

“Am I at the right place?” might be the first question you ask upon arrival at the Creemore Nature Preserve. There’s no trailhead sign but you can’t really drive any further so this must be it. Getting here is a bit of adventure. Three km west of Creemore you turn south off County Road 9 onto Concession 6 South, a steep little dirt road that immediately starts climbing the Niagara Escarpment. After only a few hundred metres up, just past the last private driveway, the road ends.

Once out of the car a sign reveals itself. Partially hidden by bush is a bronze plaque mounted on a large rock: “We don’t inherit the earth, we just borrow it from our children. THE MINGAY TRACT: This beautiful 200-acre woodland was donated by Don and Mary Mingay to Nature Conservancy Canada as a nature preserve, 31/12/96.”

Experiencing the Preserve is like entering a movie set of nature in miniature. Only the elves are missing. Within minutes you’re walking through



a lush tiny valley formed by sharp rolling hills. There’s a sturdy little stream complete with miniature rapids and 180-degree bends. The water is crystal clear. The elves have been busy; four perfect little bridges cross over the stream. Even time is miniaturized. What felt like half a day on the trails turns out to be less than a hour.

But the experience is not quite over yet. The Creemore Nature Preserve is exactly

four km from the front door of Creemore Springs Brewery on the main street of Creemore. When you go into the retail store and have a free sample or two, you’re actually drinking part of what you just experienced.

The water used for brewing Creemore Springs beer comes from a natural spring on the north end of the Nature Preserve right beside County Road 9. When the brewery

started up 30 years ago, the key financial partner suggested they source the water from a spring on his land. That’s also where the brewery got its name.

That financial partner was Don Mingay, the same man whose name is on the bronze plaque. Twenty years ago he and his wife Mary donated the land to the Nature Conservancy of Canada with the sole purpose of “returning it to our children.” Thank you, Don and Mary.



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Timothy Carter
Financial Advisor
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Oakville, ON L6J 6N2
tim.carter@edwardjones.com

Todd Neff, CFP®
Financial Advisor
(905) 331-1099
1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 6
Burlington, ON L7P 3P5
todd.neff@edwardjones.com

George Paolucci
Financial Advisor
(519) 833-9069
132 Main Street, Unit 4
Erin, ON N0B 1T0
george.paolucci@edwardjones.com

Joel Sinke
Financial Advisor
(905) 385-2424
1119 Fennell Ave. E.
Hamilton, ON L8T 1S2
joel.sinke@edwardjones.com

Brett Strano, CFP®, CIWM, FMA
Financial Advisor
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330 Bronte Street S., Unit 217
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Grey Highlands in Summer

Markdale and Flesherton are entry points to the west side of the Niagara Escarpment, and may be a little less known than busier towns on the east side. This is the best route to Beaver Valley and the magnificent outlook Old Baldy, so profoundly treasured that a wedding party in full formal wear has been seen there taking photographs!

The Bruce Trail is accessible here as it continues all along the Niagara Escarpment. Bikes, canoes and kayaks are other ways to get around this challenging, spectacular countryside, especially on Beaver River and Lake Eugenia. There are nine falls on Grey County's waterfall tour to explore, including Eugenia Falls, Hogg's Falls and Inglis Falls. Swimming and fishing is offered at Eugenia Lake, Flesherton Pond, Markdale Pond, Wilcox Lake, Irish Lake and for better swimmers, Beaver River.

Celebrations

This summer there are plenty of celebrations and events to

attend. Osprey Old Home Weekend on June 30 to July 2 has parades, breakfast parties, tractor rides, musical performances, theatre and more. There is a Canada Day weekend art fair, classic car show, heritage exhibition and the traditional fireworks. Eugenia Gold Rush Day on July 8 commemorates the fascinating, rumour-driven, short-lived gold rush excitement that took place here in 1853, when pyrite was found instead. The annual Markdale Rotary Mountain Top Jamboree, with live entertainment and weekend camping, will happen Aug. 11 to 13. Visitors are welcome at all these events.

Shoppers can enjoy the hunt for treasures. There are crafts and art work in all media to select in the towns' small galleries or the countryside's home studios. Delicious local

food includes apples, cider, honey and garden and farm produce, available to take home or savour in the area's many fine restaurants.

Accommodations

For those staying overnight, the choices range from camping to cottage rentals, friendly B&Bs to luxurious inns, chalets to motels. Some

hosts are so dedicated to guests' enjoyment that they can create a schedule for every type of interest, customizing a route and memorable stops along the way, as well as providing a picnic lunch.

Grey Highlands residents are eager to welcome visitors to their impressive stretch of the Niagara Escarpment, on the west.



▲ Road to Old Baldy. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



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Canada Blooms' Most Imaginative Garden Design

At Canada Blooms this year, the winner of the Most Imaginative Garden Design Award, sponsored by *Niagara Escarpment Views*, was the display entitled "Celebrating Ontario's North," designed by Elite Environments, of Mono, and built by Landscape by Evergreen, of Brampton.

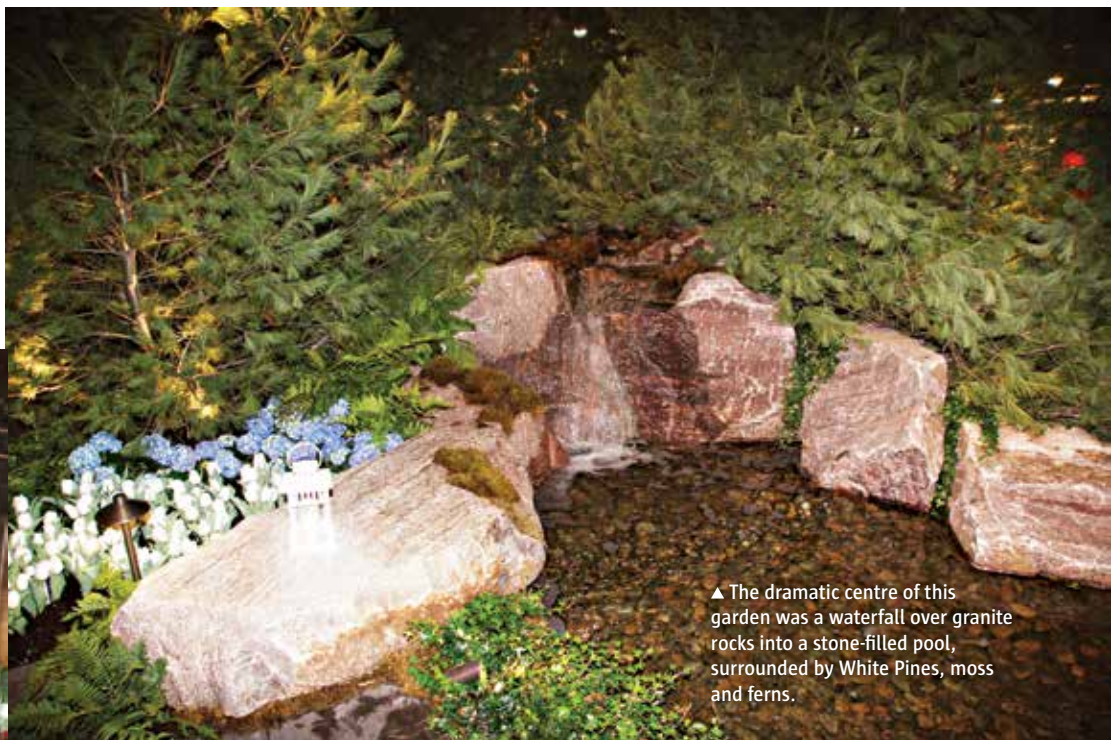


◀ An external corner of the garden was the Canada 150 planting, with mini red roses and white azaleas. The tree is a Redmond Linden, *tilia americana*.



▲ Lou Savoia, of Landscape by Evergreen, has a waterfall at his residence and says "The water is not too loud. It's nice to come home to at night. I enjoy sitting outside in my backyard."

◀ Blue Hyacinths wafted spring fragrance out from under White Pines.



▲ The dramatic centre of this garden was a waterfall over granite rocks into a stone-filled pool, surrounded by White Pines, moss and ferns.



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► “The Farmer” by Jim Menken of Mono welcomes people who enter downtown Orangeville from the east. The first large-scale carving ever created by Menken, it changed his career from teacher to carver. The dates on the sign are last year’s.



ORANGEVILLE'S STREET ART:

Enhancing Community

Written & photographed by Rosaleen Egan



“THEY ARE SURPRISING WHEN YOU COME UPON THEM,” says occasional visitor to Orangeville, Mary Anne Giannini, about the 54 tree sculptures around town. “They make you pause, and they call for a response, to connect to the here and now, although they may not be of the here and now. They cause you to break from busy-ness and wonder at the artistry. And that is always good.”

To help with that connection, giving some background of each sculpture, the location, and information about the artist, the Town of Orangeville updated the Art Walk of Tree Sculptures brochure in the fall of 2016. It now also has a web app that includes everything in the brochure plus the ability of an observer to hear a short story about a sculpture on a cell phone and to check in at each site via Facebook. According to the brochure, “The goal of the program is to sustain the life of trees that have reached the end of their life expectancy in a way that allows them to continue adding character to our community.”



The Town of Orangeville in Dufferin County, sits just south and west of the Niagara Escarpment. Early settlers used a tributary of the Credit River, Spring Brook, as a water source and to power several mills. The town grew from there.

Along the Art Walk of Tree Sculptures are sculptures related to the history of the area from farming to sports, and the influence of certain individuals and music on the community. Local wildlife appear, as well as tree spirits, whimsical and fantasy characters. Really something for everyone, produced by 18 artists from

across Ontario and the Headwaters Carving Club.

Each of the sculptures, and the sculptures as a community, add warmth and vibrancy to the town. Although it may be unexpected from something wooden, the sculptures add personality. They are an unusual way to access local history and what is important to those who live there. The walk allows for exploration of the town

▲ The “movement” of the sculpture “Victorian Lady” complements the elegance of the homes and old trees on Zina Street. It is a private commission by artist Robbin Wenzoski. Besides sculpting, Robbin teaches a chainsaw sculpture introductory course each summer at the Haliburton School of the Arts.

as it now exists and brings visitors to unknown areas.

Sheila Duncan, communications manager for the Town of Orangeville says “A former mayor first saw a handful of tree sculptures in Nova Scotia and thought it was a great idea to prolong the life of trees, to add character to the streetscape and promote the community, to promote art, and to tell stories about our history.”

Carving Tree Stumps

The town had avenues of Maple trees, with many of those reaching the end of their life expectancy. Sheila says “John Taylor of Palgrave kicked off the carving of tree stumps in downtown Orangeville August 16, 2003. He carved a design on the tree located in front of 269 Broadway, near Clara Street. There is a band of text carved at the bottom – Homage



▲ Donations of about 100 people in the community made this sculpture of local teacher, librarian and storyteller Marilyn Doekes possible. Sculpted by Jim Menken, “The Storyteller” stands outside the Library.

To The Tree That Was.”

Jim Menken of Mono, who has carved more of the Orangeville sculptures than any other artist, says “Depending on what’s requested, the log can determine what can be carved. Sometimes the wood speaks to you.” In describing the carving process he says, “It is extreme art. There is danger to it. You can be way up on scaffolding using a chainsaw.

And it can be hard to do detail without kickback. The carving bar can come back at you.”

According to Sheila, “One-third of the sculptures were created in place. Over time, due to health and safety concerns and the risk of an artist encountering too much rot, the trend is to have the art created in artists’ studios. That permits the municipality to create a sloped base so

Continued on page 22 ►



► “The Dancer” by artist Bobbi Switzer of Atwood adds grace to the corner of Town Line and Broadway.

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Little & Weill Photo by Gareth Payne

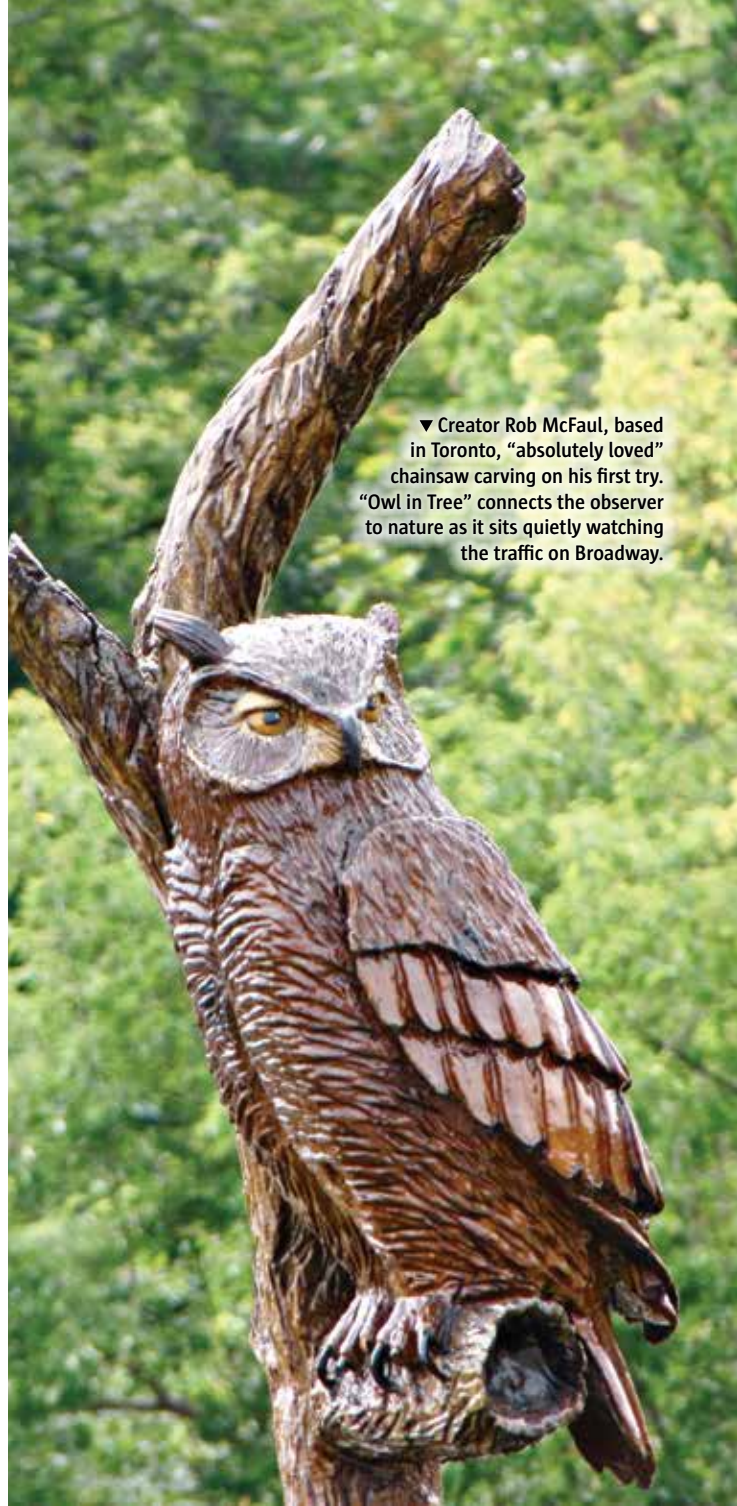
Pictured here Patricia Vandenberg & Norm Foster Photo by Peter Peterson

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▼ Creator Rob McFaul, based in Toronto, "absolutely loved" chainsaw carving on his first try. "Owl in Tree" connects the observer to nature as it sits quietly watching the traffic on Broadway.



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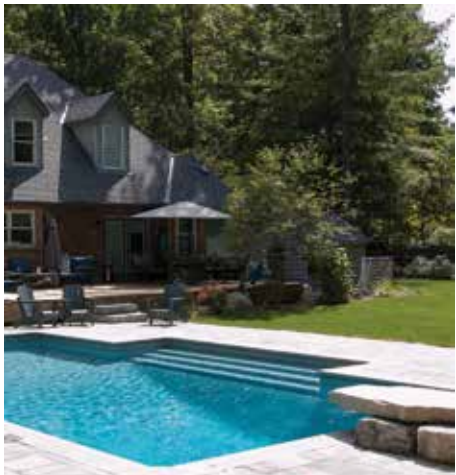
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▲ Thanks to a fundraising initiative of the Orangeville Blues and Jazz Festival, the carving "The Musicians" was created by Jim Menken to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the festival in 2012. They play their silent music in Alexandra Park.

► Rope posts are a speciality of Jeff Waters from Stayner, where he is a baker and part-time carver. In "Braided Rope Post," it's fascinating to see how the braided "hair" of the male and female weaves this two-sided carving into a whole.

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▲ One of Orangeville's utility boxes before getting the artistic treatment.

◀ Graphic design student Madison Pflance of Mono interpreted Orangeville's landmark buildings and an image of founder Orange Lawrence, using digital art. It was selected from submissions to the 2016 Box Art Display Program, printed on vinyl wrap and affixed to the box at John St. and Broadway.

► Jim Menken at his home studio in Mono. Currently, 23 of the 54 carvings in the Art Walk of Tree Sculptures are credited to him.

the water doesn't pool at the bottom and seep into the sculpture and extends the life of the art piece."

Every summer and fall a municipal employee checks the condition of each sculpture and applies preservative as needed. A status report is maintained.

Some of the sculptures on the Art Walk are private commissions, others are commissioned by the town. The Town, local group, or individual resident initiates an idea. Residents or groups bring their idea to the town by contacting Sheila Duncan or emailing info@orangeville.ca. Sheila says "The Town is currently working with three new sponsors, two residents and one developer, who have presented ideas for sculptures."

Wrapping Utility Boxes

Besides the tree sculptures being an artistic addition to town, Orangeville is in its second year of the utility box art display program. Plain, sometimes ugly, metal utility boxes are being covered with artwork printed on a special vinyl wrapping that goes around the box.

Artists from Dufferin County over 18 years of age are called to submit a piece that is "innovative in design, fosters community pride, strives to counteract graffiti vandalism, and contributes to a sense of identity for residents and businesses." An art jury decides the winning submissions.

Ruth Phillips, economic development manager, says

"The program was an idea formulated by councillor Sylvia Bradley, the Town's Arts and Culture chair, who had heard about a similar project in another community. Councillor Bradley wanted to find a unique way to help beautify Orangeville while also supporting local artists. This public art program recognizes local artists, celebrates the Town's culture and history, and helps promote Orangeville as an arts and culture hub for the region."

The beauty and personality of Orangeville are enhanced by this program and the Art Walk of Tree Sculptures that now brings in busloads of tourists. Seeing a tree sculpture by chance, or by intention with the help of the brochure or app, heightens an

experience of Orangeville. It gives an opportunity to pause, wonder at the artistry and gain a sense of the community, which is always good.

Brochures and the app can be downloaded at orangeville.ca.

Print copies are available at: Orangeville Town Hall, 87 Broadway, Orangeville Public Library, 1 Mill Street and the Orangeville Visitor Information Centre at the corner of Broadway and Hwy 10. **NEV**

Rosaleen Egan is an independent writer, editor and photographer with a website rosiewrites.com. Her last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Willow Park Ecology Centre: Success and Sustainability," Summer 2016.



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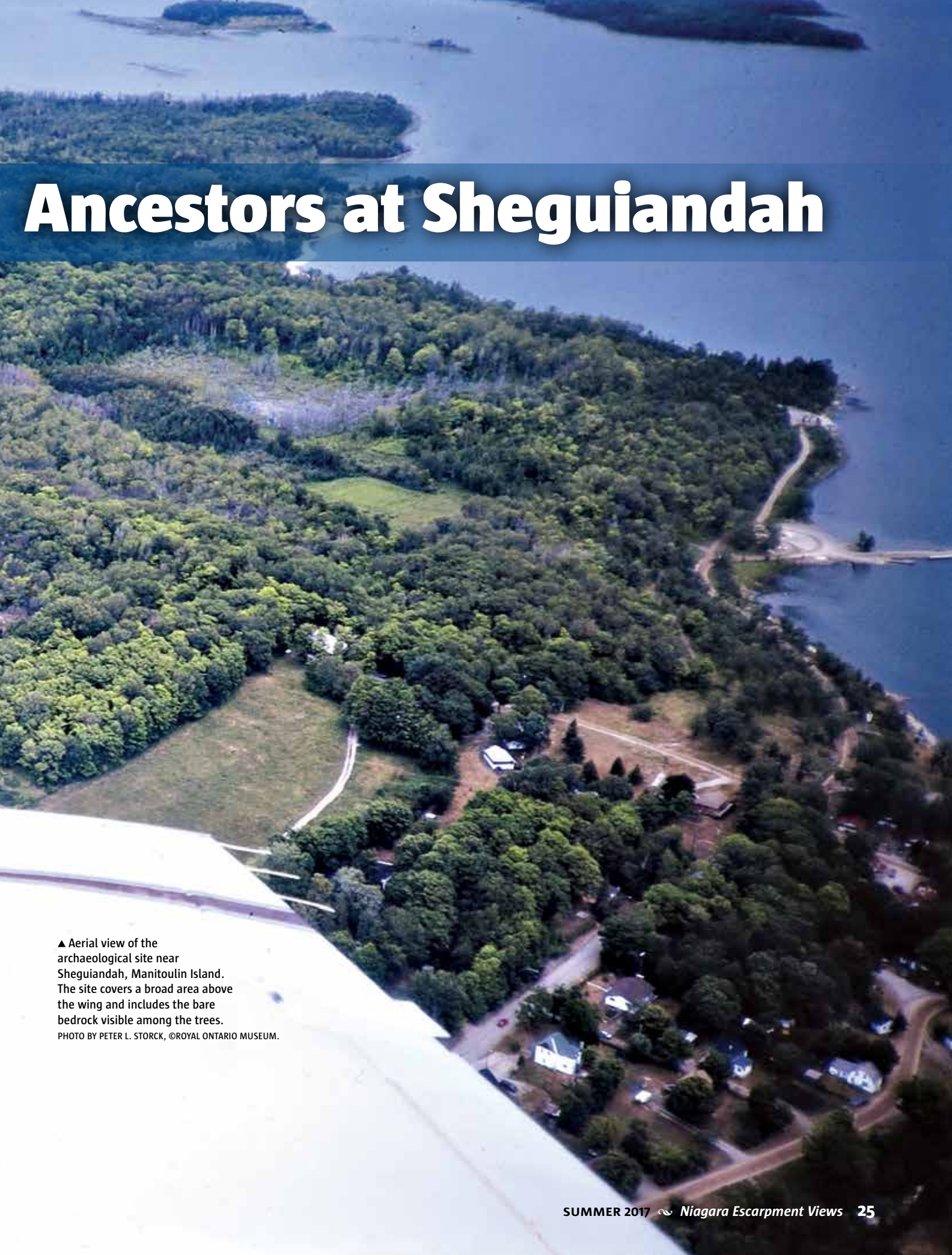
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An aerial photograph of a lush, green forested landscape. A dirt road winds through the trees, leading towards a small building with a dark roof. The background shows rolling hills and more forest. The title 'QUEST FOR QUARTZITE: Aboriginal' is overlaid in white text on a dark blue banner at the top.

QUEST FOR QUARTZITE: **Aboriginal**

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT AREA has several sites that reveal some of the history of indigenous North Americans. They may have been attracted to certain qualities of the Escarpment, or it may simply be that relatively recent protection of the areas from development has also preserved the sites. Manitoulin Island's village of Sheguiandah is near a site so significant that it was designated a National Historic Site of Canada.



Ancestors at Sheguiandah

▲ Aerial view of the archaeological site near Sheguiandah, Manitoulin Island. The site covers a broad area above the wing and includes the bare bedrock visible among the trees.

PHOTO BY PETER L. STORCK, ©ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM.



**ACCORDING TO HISTORIC
SITES AND MONUMENTS
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“Sheguiandah was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1954 because through more than 9,000 years...Aboriginal peoples came to quarry the local outcrops of quartzite, leaving an integrated cultural and environmental record.

“The main features of the site are the local outcrops of

quartzite, from which early Aboriginal peoples could make tools and weapons. Large stone hammers were used to strike off pieces of the bedrock, and from the finer fragments the settlers chipped out great numbers of knives, scrapers, and other tools for use in hunting, fishing, and food-gathering.”

Regarded as “the richest Stone Age find ever recorded for Canada,” the archaeological

site at Sheguiandah was studied by Thomas E. Lee in the 1950s. Based on artifacts he found, such as scrapers and knives, some of which are displayed in Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah, Lee estimated the earliest date of occupation at the site to be about 30,000 years ago. This date was an astonishingly early estimate of human occupation in North America.

Controversy over the

date increased because of complexities involving glacial ice, whether the Sheguiandah artifacts could be found in glacial deposits, and the age of ice advancements and retreats. Research done since the 1950s on glacier ages has suggested that the ice age relevant to Manitoulin Island and therefore to any artifacts found in its deposits, could be as much as 135,000 years ago.



◀ Studying stone debris left from tool making 10,000 years ago. Dense surface scatter of broken tools and debris can be destroyed by walking on it, which is why the site is so vulnerable.

PHOTO BY PETER L. STORCK,
©ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM.

Sheguiandah Reexamined

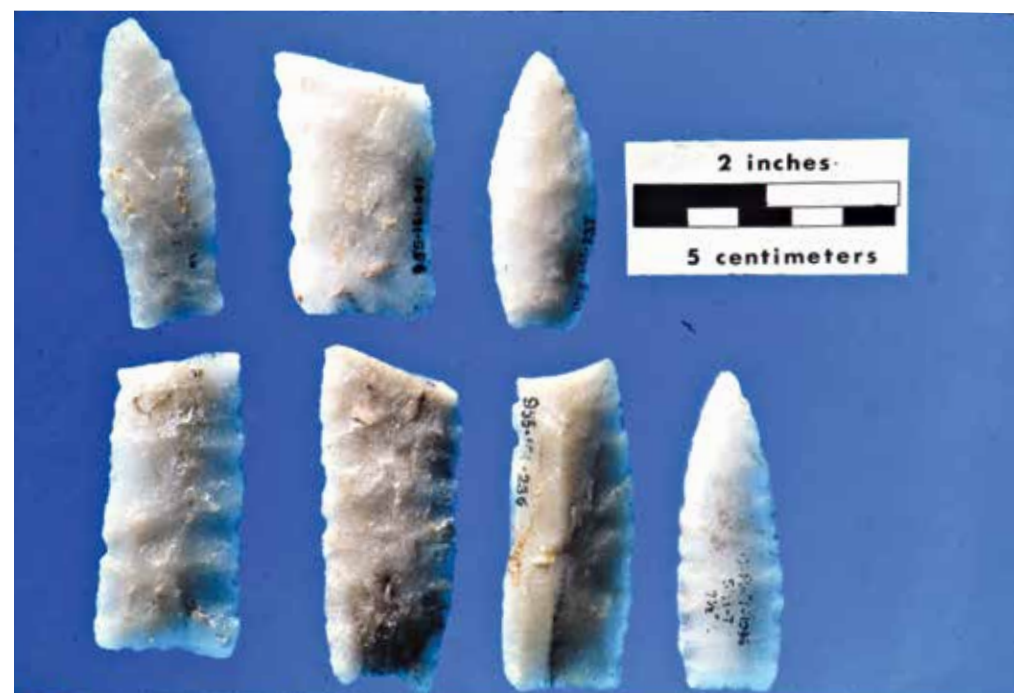
Further research was done at Sheguiandah in 1991 by a team that included Dr. Peter L. Storck, archaeologist and curator at the Royal Ontario Museum. Findings at that time revealed that the date of the site is closer to 9,500 years ago. It is still “very early, one of the earliest in northern Ontario, occupied shortly after de-glaciation,” Peter says now. “The site is also unusual in the

large amount of archaeological material visible on the surface, debris from tool making, some of it little disturbed since the time it was deposited.”

Peter was a speaker at the Sources of Knowledge Forum in Tobermory last spring, and new interest was sparked in his 2004 book *Journey to the Ice Age*, which chronicles his career and details the history and mystery of the Sheguiandah site.



► Ancient scrapers discovered by Thomas E. Lee in the 1950s on display at Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS, COURTESY OF CENTENNIAL MUSEUM OF SHEGUIANDAH.



▲ Spear points made of quartzite, found at Sheguiandah by Peter Storck’s team. “The lanceolate (leaf-shaped) style and method of manufacture indicate that these artifacts were made by Late Paleo-Indian people around 10,000 years ago, supported by the geological age of the deposits (as interpreted by us in 1991) and paleoenvironmental evidence (we also obtained in 1991) elsewhere on the site,” explains Peter.

PHOTO BY PETER L. STORCK,
©ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM.

Wanting to learn more about the story of Sheguiandah, the author of this article, with its photographer, joined other people in researching the site. The small Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah houses some of Lee’s found artifacts, photographs, drawings and maps, which we were invited to photograph.

Next, we tried to find the site. We ended up on top of a



A detailed map of the Sheguiandah National Historic Site, on display in the museum.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS, COURTESY OF CENTENNIAL MUSEUM OF SHEGUIANDAH.

hill that may or may not have been the actual site, although it somewhat resembles this description in Peter's book: "The site is truly impressive. It covers a large white quartzite hill that juts high above the surrounding fields and glistens brilliantly when sunlight passes through the sparse oaks on its upper ridges and crests. On the north and west faces of the hill the slopes are steep, in places nearly vertical,

while the slopes to the east and south are much more gradual, falling gently toward the waters of Sheguiandah Bay on the coastline of Georgian Bay."

Sensitive Issues

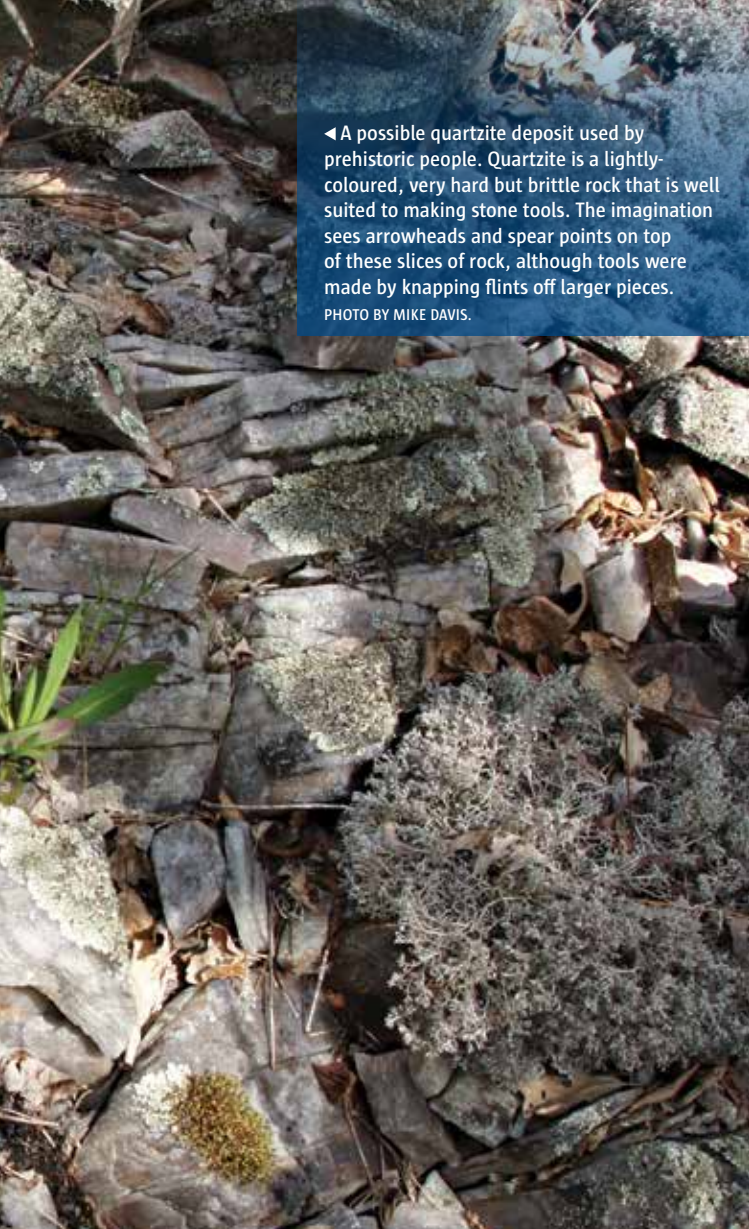
Not having completely read the book at the time, I hadn't yet come to the warning at the very end: "The archaeological site is located on the northern edge of the village. Please do not attempt to walk onto the

Continued on page 30 ►

► A trench beginning to be excavated by Peter Storck's team in 1991. Thomas E. Lee's 1950s excavations were re-examined in order to confirm or re-interpret his estimated age of occupation as 30,000 years ago.

PHOTO BY PETER L. STORCK,
©ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM.





◀ A possible quartzite deposit used by prehistoric people. Quartzite is a lightly-coloured, very hard but brittle rock that is well suited to making stone tools. The imagination sees arrowheads and spear points on top of these slices of rock, although tools were made by knapping flints off larger pieces.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



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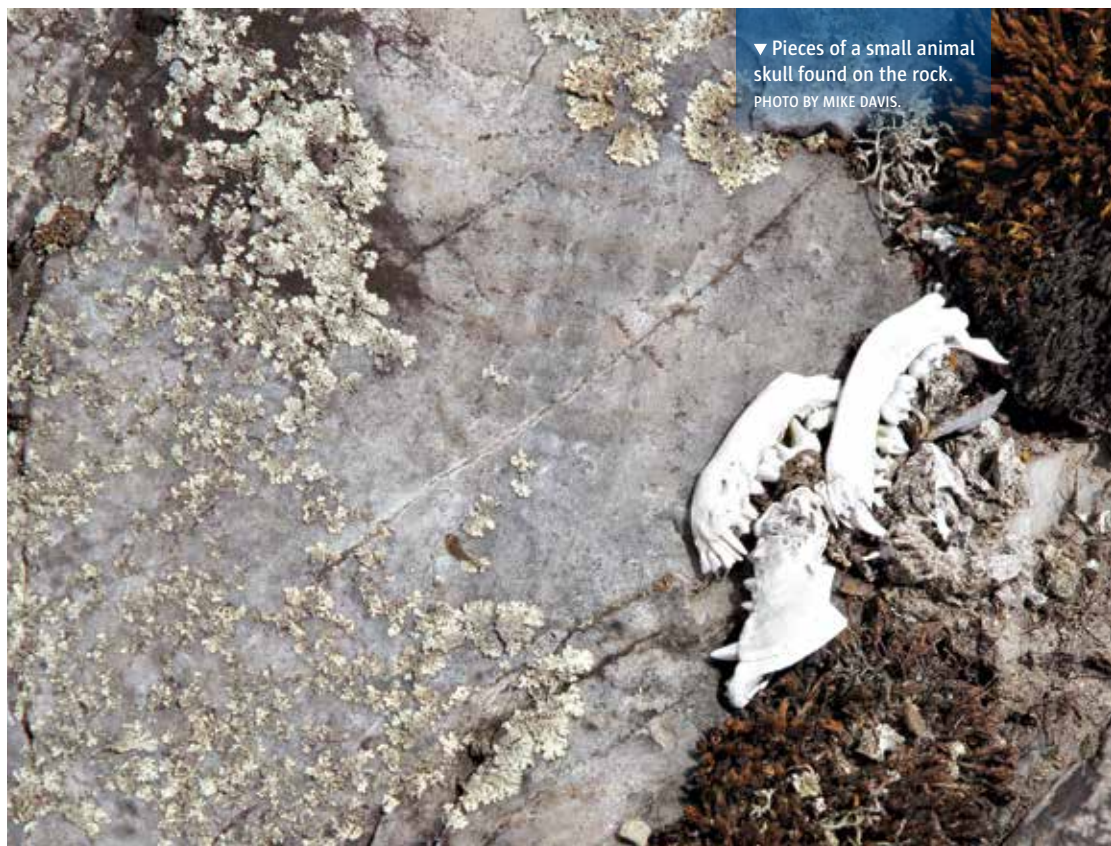
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site because it is extremely vulnerable to disturbance, the land is all privately owned, and no formal trails exist. Remember that it is not only illegal to pick up or remove objects from any archaeological site in Ontario without a licence but to do so is roughly equivalent to tearing a page out of a one-of-a-kind history book owned by a public library. The missing page not only mutilates the book but changes forever what we and future generations might otherwise have learned from the past.”

A later statement from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport makes the point even more strongly: “We recognize and respect Indigenous peoples’ significant contribution to Ontario’s cultural heritage and their interest in archaeology. The Ontario Heritage Act makes it illegal for anyone but a licensed archaeologist to knowingly disturb an archaeological site. This means that unless you are a licensed archaeologist, it is illegal for you to dig an archaeological site to record its condition or remove and keep artifacts. Visitation to a designated archaeological site should only be undertaken with a licensed archaeologist and with the permission of the landowner.”

First Nations’ people also have interests in the ancient Sheguiandah site. Some Elders use the place for meditation and ceremonies. There can be friction between commemoration and interpretative uses. Sheguiandah First Nation did not respond to our requests for information.

Dr. Ron Williamson of Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Services, who was involved in the 1991 work on the site, notes “The site



locale was seen by many in the community as a sacred place. Not only is this a place in which one can see the inextricable links between natural and cultural heritage but also the importance of intangible heritage in the form

of oral history. The conclusion that Indigenous culture is present and vital in an ancient sacred place is inescapable.”

What Visitors Can Do

Dr. Patrick Julig of Laurentian University in Sudbury, also

a 1991 team member, agrees that the site may be sacred to some First Nations’ people, but he believes that multiple uses may be possible, and that a culturally sensitive development could happen, as long as the more sensitive

◀ A brilliant white stripe of possible quartzite running through the rock glistens in the sunlight.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



▲ Interesting stone fragments on the surface among moss and lichen.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

areas are protected.

"We think that visitor access may soon be possible," he explains. "The Town of NEMI and Centennial Museum are well along toward developing educational interactive displays, signage, and historical tour of the Shég site and new museum displays. They have raised most of the funding, I believe, and signage is being made for the important locations along the trail. So likely by late summer or fall, guided tours may be possible."

David Williamson, chief administrative officer of Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, confirms "The municipality will be developing the trail system

and fencing in the site this year. We will be placing interpretive/educational trail signage at designated points on the site. Guided tours will be provided through the Centennial Museum. No one will be permitted on the trail otherwise in the interest of preserving the site. For those unable to traverse the trail, we will have interpretive signs and displays at the Centennial Museum in Sheguiandah." **NEV**

Gloria Hildebrandt and **Mike Davis** are co-founders and co-publishers of Niagara Escarpment Views.

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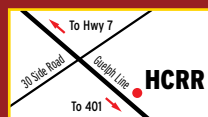


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Lake Mindemoya, Manitoulin Island.
PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS.



► Streetcar 2894 has been used in *Murdoch Mysteries*. The railway museum is often used for filming and can even be rented for private photo shoots.



GONNA TAKE A
HISTORICAL JOURNEY:
Halton County

*Radial Railway
Museum*

WRITTEN BY PATRICIA POST | PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

Each morning at the Halton County Radial Railway museum, volunteer train operators line up cars on the track, and water flower gardens around their historic train station, while summer students open the shop and snack bar. Staff are preparing for visitors of all ages, who will enjoy unlimited rides on genuine, vintage trains.



▲ Vintage trains take passengers on a short track through forest.

RIDING THE RAILS through the unspoiled forest of the museum property near Milton takes passengers back to a time when cash fare was 10 cents for adults and three cents for children who were “not in arms.”

Life was slower-paced in the early 1900s, but train travel was a model of efficiency. You could get a streetcar from Toronto to Guelph, and travel between most southern Ontario communities, like Stratford and Port Dover, which had fully operational transit systems.

From May to October, visitors at the train museum are taken on a historical journey by a team of highly

skilled volunteers, who love trains and their history. The ride starts at what was originally the Grand Trunk Rockwood station of 1912, which was transported to the museum on a float.

From this station, passengers might catch the No. 327, an open-air train with comfortable wooden benches and iron arm rests. While these seem only fit for summer travel, in their original use, the car would have been taken to a garage, where it would

be lifted from the truck, or wheels, and replaced by a much warmer, closed-in car. However, this summer car is perfect for the museum’s open season.

Take the Trains

These trains and streetcars are meticulously restored by the volunteers. Their attention to detail is seen in the richness of finely crafted tongue-and-groove wood paneling, and intricate trim. Riding them almost feels like the original

commuters are still there with you. But there are no ghost trains here, except maybe at Halloween, or Christmastime, when the museum opens off-season for the special events.

During late spring and summer though, operators like Harold Jones, a conductor who has been volunteering at the museum for 15 years, shuttle patrons along a scenic track that loops to a flower garden, and a train car café, where passengers can disembark for a leisurely stroll, get some



▲ People enjoy riding No. 327, an open-air train perfect for summer use. A conductor operates the train at the front while a motorman stands at the rear.

◀ Rides begin at the 1912 Grand Trunk Rockwood station which was moved to the railway museum. Bill Thompson, left, watches the volunteers at work.

ice cream, or have a picnic at one the tables nestled along an inviting footpath.

No rush to catch the next train, as one will be along every 15 minutes to take riders back to the main station.

The dedicated train buffs, who skillfully restore the rolling stock, also ensure their methods of operation. Driving a train is not a responsibility taken lightly by museum operators, especially with lots of children running to and fro, so staff volunteers



◀ Volunteers Harold Jones on the train, with John Bellsmith.

▶ The end of the line lets you refresh yourself with ice cream, chips, pop and water inside the car that's been converted to a snack bar.

are given careful course training, earning an operator's licence and a point system to maintain high standards.

Each train is operated by a conductor who is in charge at the front of the train, and a motorman who stands at the rear. They depend on bell signals to indicate when to stop and start, just as a century ago.

Movies and television shows that are set in a historic time period often use museum cars. Streetcar 2894, which bears the banner "Oakwood – St. Clair," has been used in *Murdoch Mysteries* episodes. In CBC's current *Anne* series, the museum's train station and one of the train cars can be seen, which was also used in previous versions of *Anne of Green Gables*. Movies showing museum property also include *Cinderella Man* and Ron Howard's film *The Boxer*.

Continued on page 40 ▶



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Many Ontario small towns are facing challenges to maintain the historic integrity of their main streets in the face of aging buildings, bricks and structures.

In Downtown Georgetown, the two passionate developers behind a new luxury condominium development, The Residences of the Hotel McGibbon, have been deeply invested in the preservation of elements of the historic McGibbon Hotel. The first step to preserving its rich history is to survey the exterior bricks.

Heritage masons and a team of engineers were hired to survey the building's bricks in planning for careful harvesting during deconstruction. The exterior structure was inspected and photographed from every angle, providing a detailed record and numbering process for both restoration and historical purposes. Bricks were also taken for further testing to assess their quality and viability for preservation.

This approach is complex and planning is required to complete the work properly. It started with records and cataloguing, followed by protocols for removal,

storage and reinstallation. During the construction phase, delicate installation to frame the heritage elements and connect the restored bricks to concrete blocks will take place using an anchor system that will offer higher corrosion protection.

While the primary intention has been to preserve the rich history of the original hotel, working with as many genuine artifacts as possible during redevelopment into this luxury condominium, not all elements can be reused. Parts of the building that cannot be safely preserved will be authentically recreated to honour the building's rich history, such as the exterior balcony detailing and interior moldings.

Brick samples were also taken to create colour-matched mortar similar to what was used when originally constructed, and all surveying photos will be provided to the local archives to further preserve the legendary corner at Main and Mill.

For more information on SilverCreek Communities and this community condo development, please visit **TheHotelMcGibbon.com**.



What Else to Do

Visitors can also explore the large storage barn near the station, to see antique trains that are fully restored, but are no longer in operation due to their age. Visitors are encouraged to come aboard for a close look at the exquisite detail and craftsmanship of bygone eras.

To add to the experience, volunteers have set up small store fronts, as a sample of what passengers would

have seen through a train window pulling into a town: a train shop, ticket booth, freight office, hardware store, and a barber shop.

To add more fun to the childrens' visits, volunteer staff provide a scavenger hunt, hiding rubber ducks in different spots on the trains around the museum.

Staff volunteers try and make learning fun at the museum. "You have to know where you've been to know

where you're going," says volunteer conductor Harold Jones. "Sometimes what used to work still does, but if we don't know what's been tried already, mistakes can be repeated. We learn from our past, so we don't have to learn all over again."

How It Happened

Belief in the value of keeping history alive is how Halton County Radial Railway began during a discussion among

five young men at a New Year's Eve party in 1953.

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) streetcars were about to be scrapped, and these men wanted to preserve them, but the TTC didn't have the space, and wouldn't allow the small group to buy any of the cars. So, according to avid history buff and 25-year museum volunteer, Bill Thompson, the men notified several newspapers that the TTC wasn't allowing them

Continued on page 42 ►



◀ An office in Rockwood station, set up as it might have been in the past.

▼ Visitors enjoy riding vintage trains through the forest, although it seems that cell phones must still be monitored.



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◀ This Toronto car, built in 1915 for the Landsdowne North Line of the Civil Railways, a city-owned predecessor of the TTC, stays safely in the barn, but visitors are encouraged to look inside.

to save any of the cars. The story made the front page of a newspaper and there was a public outcry. As a result, the small group got their first car.

Then they met the challenge of finding the museum land, which already happened to have two km of track. Next, they got the right of way on the tracks for an electric rail.

Member Owned

It's always been a volunteer operation. Thompson explains that the museum is member owned and operated, with no government funding. They only receive grants for building and restoring, and their mandate is to "inform, educate and inspire the public," says Thompson.

Families, groups of friends, school groups who all enjoy a ride back in time on an authentic antique rail car,

benefit from this mandate.

Mark McDermott, a retired clergyman, volunteers at the museum once a week. "The museum is family centred," he says. "It's a great place for parents, grandparents, and their children, including those with special needs. It's a safe place. Parties, picnics, and even weddings happen here."

For more information, see hcry.org or call 519.856.9802. **NEV**

Patricia Post is a freelance journalist specializing in personal and community histories. She previously wrote "Industry to Forest: Kilns of Limehouse," Niagara Escarpment Views, Summer 2014. Her work is also on postwrites.com.



▲ Operator Garry Radden shows Jaime Mischak of Guelph, the basics of hand-operated train driving.



▲ This family was celebrating Gary Brinwich's 70th birthday last year at the railway museum, with relatives from New Brunswick. Gary is in the black and white striped shirt.

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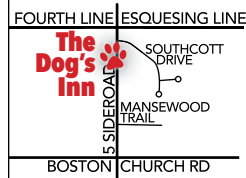
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Tag & Release: Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy's Annual *Monarch Butterfly* Festival

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED
BY SANDRA J. HOWE

“The Monarch Butterfly migrates farther than any other butterfly in North America, all the way to Mexico at the end of the summer. It is incredible that a small butterfly can fly 4,000 km!”

says Yuki Yamazaki, one of many volunteers helping and learning at the Monarch Butterfly Festival held each August near Tobermory at the Bruce Peninsula National Park Visitor Centre and nearby reserves. Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) organizes the event to educate people about the life cycle and great migration of this majestic species, and to promote conservation and habitat protection.

► Sofia Marques of Burlington, left, holds a tagged Monarch ready to fly while sister Leah watches.







◀ A tagged Monarch being placed on a child's finger before being released.

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pressure, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) removed milkweed from the Noxious Weeds List in 2014. Changes in land use and development of wild, natural areas also reduce habitat for Monarchs and many other species.

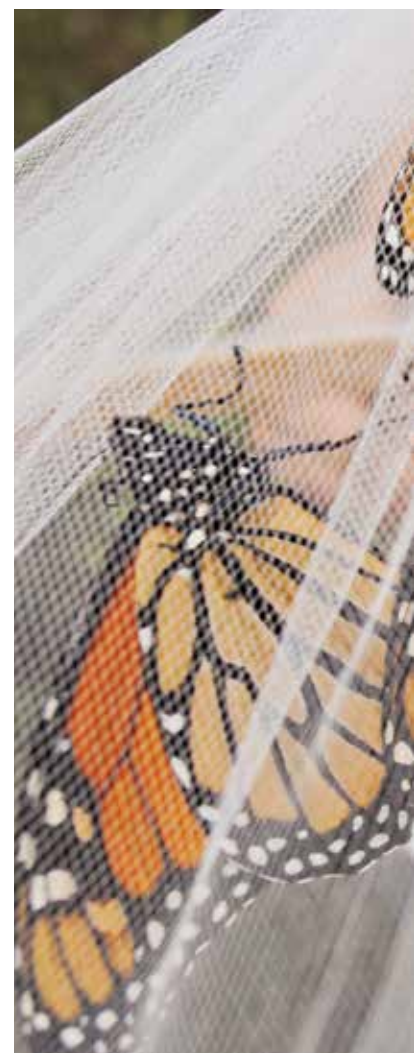
In late August, Monarch Butterflies throughout North America begin their flight south. While most adult Monarchs only live for two to six weeks, this migrating generation survives through the journey south and all winter to begin the long trip north again. Some will winter on the California coast but the majority will travel 2,000 to 5,000 km to the mountain forests of central Mexico. Here they

Listed as a Species of Special Concern, provincially, and recently upgraded to an Endangered Species at the federal level, the Monarch Butterfly holds a special place in many people's hearts. It is the subject of a very active citizen science network, Monarch Watch, and also the star of the film *Flight of the Butterflies*. This film, shown in the Visitor Centre theatre, documents Dr.

Fred Urquhart's discovery of the migratory route and overwintering grounds through citizen science monitoring. At the Monarch Butterfly Festival, visitors participate in this ongoing research by helping to capture, tag, and release Monarchs on their journey south.

Monarchs make the second-longest migration of all known insects; Globe Skimmer Dragonflies hold

first place. Monarchs spend the warm months feeding and reproducing in southern Canada and across the United States. They are entirely dependent on milkweed species for survival. Eggs are laid and caterpillars eat only milkweed, which has been considered a noxious weed. Agricultural herbicides target milkweed meaning loss of food supplies in farm fields, and along roadsides. Under public



► Common Milkweed with its distinctive seed pods. Knapweed with purple flowers in background.



face additional threats: illegal logging causing habitat loss in the wintering reserves, and encroachment by agriculture and tourism. The “Golden Forests,” fir trees teeming with thousands of butterflies, are protected but still shrinking.

Late August Festival

The Monarch Butterfly Festival celebrates this amazing insect, educates the public about current risks to the species, and engages visitors in protecting and supporting the butterflies. EBC, the event organizer, is a major land trust in Ontario. EBC has over 156 nature reserves conserving more than 12, 500 acres or 50 square km, with new lands often coming into protection. These

properties span the length of the Niagara Escarpment, including Manitoulin Island, the Lake Huron shoreline and adjacent areas. This is a massive contribution to habitat protection for Monarch Butterflies as well as many other rare and endangered species of fauna and flora.

EBC hosts the Monarch Butterfly Festival at Bruce Peninsula National Park each year in late August

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▲ Monarchs in holding net for transport to Visitor Centre for tag and release.



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▲ Bob Barnett dances among Goldenrod and Tansy while netting Monarchs near Tobermory.





▲ Monarch caterpillars grazing on Common Milkweed before forming a chrysalis, undergoing metamorphosis, and emerging as an adult butterfly. Various milkweed species are their only food source. According to the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Swamp Milkweed is the best choice for planting near rural areas, as it is not harmful to agriculture.



◀ Scouting for Monarchs to capture for tag and release at EBC's Alvar Bay Nature Reserve near Tobermory.

as the butterflies begin to migrate. Displays, films, crafts, naturalist talks, and guided walks add to the highlight: tag and release of captured Monarchs. EBC staff and volunteers bring a sense of excitement, joy, and wonder to the activities. From face painting to studying geology, people are having fun and learning.

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▼ After successfully netting Monarchs, from left: Bob Barnett, Stephen Gile of Owen Sound, Yuki Yamazaki of Japan, Jiae Lim of Korea, and Evelyn Howe of Neustadt. Yuki and Jiae were volunteering at the Monarch Festival.



◀ Daryl Cowell, a Tobermory-based geology consultant, at Lake Huron shoreline in Alvar Bay Nature Reserve, explaining the erosion and glaciation processes that have shaped this alvar or limestone pavement.



on hand chasing butterflies with a net and sharing his stories and enthusiasm.

Volunteers are also invited to help catch Monarchs after some brief training on butterfly net use. This is a great chance to get up close with butterflies, literally in the field. We examined milkweed plants for eggs and caterpillars, collecting a few to carry back to the Visitor Centre. We ran around in the meadow trying to get close for capture; the trick is to wait for the Monarchs to land before scooping. Bob transfers the captured insects very carefully into a holding net. These butterflies go to the Visitor Centre for tag and release. The tiny numbered tag affixed to a wing allows researchers further south to monitor where and when these butterflies were tagged, adding to scientific knowledge of the butterflies' life cycle.

"This festival provides excellent outreach for public education on Monarch Butterflies as a species at risk, and all the ways people can help protect them. Individuals acting alone cannot stop climate change or alter agricultural practices but each little butterfly garden in a backyard can make a difference to species survival," says Audrey Armstrong of the Monarch Teacher Network of Canada. She notes that change is happening all the time; for example, OMAFRA's new Pollinator Health Action Plan should help legislate greater protection of habitat and reduction of herbicide use to protect pollinators including butterflies.

In the "Golden Forests" of Mexico, at least one tiny tag carried by a valiant Monarch Butterfly from Tobermory has been recovered. A Mexican was paid for returning the tag

Tobermory's Alvar Bay Preserve

Alvar Bay Nature Preserve, an EBC property just west of Tobermory, acts as a field lab for nature study. Daryl Cowell, a local geology consultant, provides fascinating guided walks to explore the alvar habitats along the Lake Huron shoreline. Alvars are globally rare ecosystems based on limestone plains with little or no soil. Participants learn about the formation and layers of the Niagara Escarpment, view fossils and erosion processes, and witness the signs left by glaciation on this unique landscape. Other researchers teach about butterflies, bats, insects, and local plants and wildlife during day and night hikes. Bob Barnett, landowner relations contact for EBC, is



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▼ Evelyn Howe of Neustadt, left, and Jenna Siu of Richmond Hill use a guide to identify a captured butterfly. Jenna was a volunteer at the Monarch Festival in 2016.



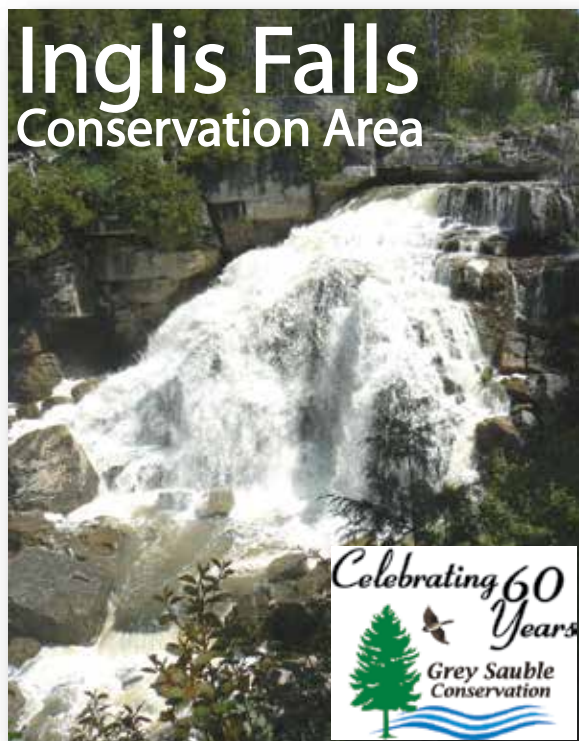
to Monarch Watch staff thus contributing to sustainable livelihood and community engagement near these critical wintering grounds. In Bruce Peninsula National Park, thanks to the dedicated efforts of EBC staff and volunteers, more people will come to understand the incredible journey of this little insect. You can help by joining Monarch Watch at monarchwatch.org/waystations, supporting nature through conserving habitats, planting

milkweed and other nectar-producing native plants.

The 2017 Monarch festival is planned for the first weekend before Labour Day. For details, see escarpment.ca or call 888 815 9575. **NEW**

Sandra J. Howe's last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Rural Rootz: Sustainably Self Built" in Winter 2016-17.

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There's more information about this year's show at classicsagainstcancer.ca. There is also a Facebook page, Classics Against Cancer Fathers Day Car Show - Georgetown. The phone number is 647.558.8143.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



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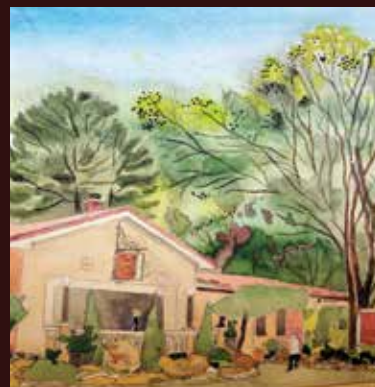
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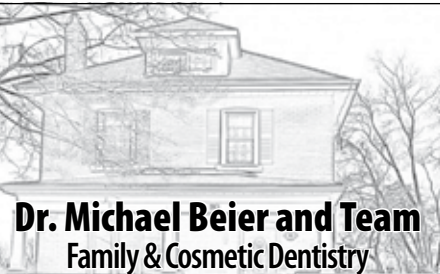
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Extinctions? Here?

By Bob Barnett

Who knew that southern Ontario has such a trove of rare, threatened and endangered species? Ontario's Natural Heritage Information Centre says there are 217. Maybe none are as charismatic as White Rhinos, but we do have the Bald Eagle and the Massasauga Rattlesnake on Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) reserves. We are losing 300 acres a day of the limited habitat we do have left in southern Ontario to development. Despite the Snapping Turtle being a species of special concern, it was legal to hunt them in Ontario until April of this year. It takes a long time to turn the Titanic, but I can see it veering on a more favourable course.

The best way to protect our rare species is to leave them and the land they occupy, alone. Ontario, Canada and 193 countries have agreed that 17 per cent of our land should be protected as parks or nature reserves to ensure their survival. I got a letter from David Suzuki suggesting we should be protecting the full 50 per cent suggested by biologist E.O. Wilson. Protecting land is where EBC comes in. We are trying to keep pockets of biodiversity natural, expand existing protected areas and connect them all together.

So far we have protected the habitat of 52 rare, threatened and endangered species. We include species of special concern like the Monarch Butterfly and even make it the headline performer in our annual Monarch Festival. We sit outside the doors at the Bruce National Park and tell kids about their remarkable

migration to Mexico. We encourage people to plant Milkweed to counter the GMO fields where they spray Roundup to create monocultures without "weeds" that the Monarchs depend on. We have created 158 nature reserves with 52 square km where nature creates the plants that occur naturally. We are an official Monarch Waystation. So far we've discovered that 62 of our reserves have at least one "tracked" species of special concern or greater importance.

62 OF OUR RESERVES HAVE
AT LEAST ONE "TRACKED"
SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN
OR GREATER IMPORTANCE.
MANY MORE RESERVES
HAVE RARE ECOSYSTEMS
LIKE ALVARS AND COASTAL
MEADOW-MARSH.

Many more reserves have rare ecosystems like alvars and coastal meadow-marsh.

Endangered Species

It's hard to paint a picture of all these species we protect. The endangered ones are hard to find. We need experts like Jarmo Jalava and Richard Aaron to help us find them. Ten years ago, I was walking EBC's shoreline with Susan Gibson and an expert from the U.S. Nature Conservancy when we discovered a Queensnake on the northern Bruce. I'm glad he recognized it, because I'd never have known it wasn't just another water snake.

It turns out that everyone thought Queensnakes had been extirpated from the Bruce Peninsula. After we found one, the Park naturalists looked and found more. They are endangered but not extinct.

Judith Jones has found Gattinger's Agilinis way out on the point at our reserve on Manitoulin's north shore. I've looked several times for this late blooming gerardia, but never found it.

Some people question the need to protect the habitat for these endangered species.

to create places where these species can continue to exist. These and the other 45 rare and endangered species we look after improve our lives by their song, the insects they eat, the carbon they sequester and the fact that the entire ecosystem works together. We believe in wild spaces for wild animals, as the editor of this magazine advocates in each issue.

The Monarch Butterfly may survive the loss of its roosting trees in Mexico and the fields where "improved" crops of corn are grown. Our job at EBC is to create enough habitat and awareness to help them and all of nature thrive as much as we can. Awareness helps. We tell people that Ontario's last death from a Massasauga Rattlesnake was 60 years ago when a boy tried to scare his girlfriend and then ignored the bite. It rattles to warn us to stay away. There's no use wasting its venom on us.... we're too big to eat anyway.

For a full list of EBC's endangered, threatened, rare and special concern species, visit our website. If you want more information on the species near you, please give us a call. EBC's way to protect these species is to accept DONATIONS of land from the owners. We only pay for appraisal, legal and sometimes, survey fees to accept the donations. Thus we can often protect 100 acres of forest and wetland for only \$5,000 or \$50 an acre. Such important protection is quite economical and may be the best conservation bargain available.

Protecting Habitat

Other people would say we must do our utmost to ensure these species survive and recover. Our charity can't eradicate the fungus or stop development but we can work

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

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Making Things Easier

By Gloria Hildebrandt

The first weekend in July can be hot. I remember my mother's wisdom about keeping the house cool naturally: open the windows from about 8 pm and keep them open through the night to get the cool air in, and early in the morning, when you get up, close the windows. Even if it's 22°C inside, if the outside temperatures soar to above 30°, it'll feel cool inside in comparison.

I also know to go for a walk early or late in the day, when it's cooler. This morning I had my walk around the back. I got dressed in long pants, socks, boots, T-shirt, bug shirt with hood, and work gloves. I slapped on a mosquito protection patch and then the bug shirt. They work for me fairly well. Although swarms of mosquitoes whined around me, I was only bitten on my wrist where there was a gap between my bug shirt sleeve and my work glove, and on the back of my neck where the bug shirt was close enough to my bare skin for a mosquito to bite through the netting.

I also completed a little chore. I carried a rake with me and used it to spread out some piles of wood chips that Mike and I had created in the woods yesterday, dealing with downed branches. I simply walked and stopped to rake as I came to each pile. It would have been an irritating job if I had to go out back just to rake the piles. But as I was passing anyway, it was easier to stop a moment and rake each pile.

We've found a few ways to make it easier to do the wood chipping. It's great if the branches to be chipped are already stacked in a pile. I can then hand them to Mike who feeds them into the chipper. If we position the tractor

wagon to catch the chips, I can then drive it to the section of trail where I want to spread the chips, dump the wagon and rake them smooth.

Letting The Chips Fall

Yesterday we chipped deep in the forest where the ice storm damage had been severe and where I had not been able to pile up all the branches. We figured out to gather wood beside the path and let the chips fall directly onto the trail. Since the whole trail here could benefit from chips, it doesn't matter where we put them. When we cleared a section, we moved the chipper and gathered the branches at the new spot. Hence the many small piles of chips.

But it's just not a pleasant time of year to work hard outside. Because of the bugs, the heat, humidity, the lack of wind, it was jungle-like out there yesterday. We sweated 'til we were soaked. The bug

veil makes it difficult to get air even when breathing deeply, so I was panting. Bending over repeatedly to drag branches out of the undergrowth made me dizzy and gave me a bit of a headache after a couple of hours.

When we got back inside and took off our protective gear, my hair was soaking wet from roots to ends. My face was red. I craved water and salt. In the relatively cool house, I felt cold to the bone. Mike had sweated through his clothes, but all he said was "That was pretty intense. Again."

Easier Time of Year

There must be a time of year when doing this work is easier. Like autumn? When there are no mosquitoes, there's a cool breeze and no humidity? When you actually want to be outside working for hours?

But there's still so much to do. So many branches still down. Not nicely down, flat on the ground where creatures can

live under them as they slowly rot, but on the ground at angles, branches sticking up high off the ground, like the game of Pick-Up-Sticks on steroids. Unsightly, impenetrable branches that signal "this property is not well maintained."

However, we are making progress. The wood pile is also steadily growing as I stack the bigger branches, too big to chip, that Mike cuts up into stove lengths. Occasionally I drive the tractor wagon around to collect the cut wood and bring it back. Using the tractor wagon is another way to make work easier than trundling a wheelbarrow. The bigger challenge seems to be having patience, being satisfied with doing a little bit at a time, and working with, not despite, the seasons.

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



▲ The trusty little old tractor and wagon can shift a mountain of wood chips, but it takes time.
PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

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AUG. 26

Creemore Springs Copper Kettle Festival

Creemore
copperkettlefestival.ca

AUG. 26-27

Monarch Butterfly Festival

Tobermory
escarpment.ca

PLANK GRILLED Stuffed Potato Skins

Prep Time: 20 min.
Total Time: 45 min.
Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 2 Russet potatoes (about 1 lb/500 g)
- 1/3 cup light sour cream (75 mL)
- 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper (1 mL)
- 1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (125 mL)
- 4 slices **Sensations by Compliments Thick Centre Cut Dry-Cured Bacon** cooked and finely chopped
- 2 tbsp fresh chives (30 mL) finely chopped, divided
- 1 **Compliments Maple Grilling Plank** prepared according to package directions

Directions

1. Preheat grill to medium-high. Wash and scrub potatoes; prick all over with fork. Microwave on high, turning once, 8 to 10 min. until potatoes can be easily pierced with a fork. When cool enough to handle, cut each potato in half lengthwise. Scoop flesh into bowl, leaving ½-in./1-cm thick potato "shells".
2. Mash the scooped-out potato flesh with sour cream, salt and pepper. Stir together ¼ cup (60 mL) cheese, bacon and 4 tsp (20 mL) chives. Fill potato skins. Top with remaining cheese. Arrange on plank and place on grill. Close lid and cook 12 to 15 min. or until cheese melts and potato is heated through. Garnish with remaining chives to serve.

Find these ingredients and more at:

Creemore Foodland
187 Mill Street
705-466-3305

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Shelburne Foodland
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