

Your Valuable Contributions

This magazine would be very different without your letters, notes, comments and ideas. It's hard to imagine just what it would be like, but I suspect it would be safe, bland and ordinary. We are grateful for the number and kind of contacts we receive from our readers and viewers. Judging by the many letters to the editor that we receive, and especially those in this issue, some of which are not complimentary, this magazine is not ordinary. It provokes response and involvement, which I regard as a sign of success. Having you care about what you see, experience and learn about the Niagara Escarpment and its nearby communities is really the whole purpose of this magazine.

These exchanges are even extending to our Facebook page, which has increasingly lively discussions. We seem to be getting to know each other there. Some of you may not know that I am the one who posts, shares and replies to your comments. We don't have a social media person who handles this for us. So if you follow our Facebook page, you are in contact with me all the time.

Shaping the Content

I am delighted to hear from so many of you with suggestions for future stories we can work on. In fact, we're a little over-

scheduled for what we'd like to publish next year. Don't let that stop you, though, from sending me your ideas. I would hate to miss something fantastic. One of the features in this issue came from one of our readers and was completely new to me.

Sometime last year I got an email from someone who had been researching his family tree and discovered that his ancestors in the 19th century were involved with a significant number of water-powered mills in Ontario. I became intrigued when I realized that many of them were located on the Niagara Escarpment, which is hardly surprising given the number of waterfalls that flow over it. Further email exchanges and a lot of work on this person's part, led to the impressive photo essay in this issue, "The Plewes' Mills of the Escarpment." This fascinating work would not have been created had Gerald Hunt not approached me with his findings.

A Question

Similarly unexpected was the feature on Escarpment-themed poetry that we spotlight in this issue. On his travels, my co-publisher Mike Davis picked up a packet of papers called *The Poetry and Ecology Project*. After reading it, I wanted to share the story of this project with you. Through the generosity of the project participants, we were

able to publish a great overview of this interesting literary work.

This leads me to ask if you'd like more poetry or short fiction in the magazine. I figure that in winter we have a bit more time to get cozy inside and enjoy reading a little more. I know that we have a great many professional and amateur writers and poets who live near the Escarpment. Would you be interested in exploring more creative writing in these pages? Let me know what you think.

Other Features

It wasn't my intention to have a nature story in each issue, but this year it happened. We had bluebirds in Spring, crows and ravens in Summer, and mushrooms and fungi in Autumn. This winter we look at where non-migrating animals go to survive the winter weather. Our piece on dreys, snags and brush piles teaches us a lot about the kinds of shelters animals need, find or even build.

As we know from sales of Mike's new pack of blank Christmas photo cards, available to order in this issue and online in our "General Store" on our website www.NEViews.ca, Christmas is coming. We have a charming article by Colette Shand about the challenges and rewards of directing children in a Christmas pageant.

There are of course, other seasonal holidays and festivities.

One thing they may have in common is the giving of gifts. Even if you're only going to dinner parties this winter, you will probably want to bring along something special. To help with ideas for the gift-giving season, we present selections from some of our favourite retailers along the Niagara Escarpment. Costly or affordable, the suggestions from our shopkeepers are just the tip of the iceberg of what's available. Look locally for gift options, as these business owners will welcome your visits.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.



In memory of our beautiful Kelly, March 13, 2002 to Oct. 19, 2018

ASTONISHED AND HUMBLED

In October we were astonished to receive a donation in the mail and the note:
Please accept the attached cheque from my late sister, June Kish [of Niagara Falls]. She was a fan of your magazine. She died yesterday [Oct. 15, 2018].

Richard Kish, Niagara-on-the-Lake

We did not know either June Kish or Richard Kish. We are humbled by June's generosity and regard for the magazine. We extend our sympathies to Richard for his loss.



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.



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