

Into Our Second Decade

The first signs of spring along the Niagara Escarpment are usually subtle. If there's a good blanket of snow, an early signal can be at the base of trees, where the snow has started to melt away from the trunks, forming a clear ring. Soon the sap will move back up the trunks into the branches. The whole month of March is the best time for sugaring off, or making maple syrup. Snow is usually still on the ground but the sun should be shining brightly when you can spend a fun day at one of the many Escarpment locations that host maple syrup festivals. Make sure to wear waterproof boots, but get out there!

Spring Issue Features

Some gardeners plant seeds and start new flowers and veggies indoors long before the snow melts, but most catch spring fever once the Snowdrops and Forsythia start to bloom, the earth releases its scent, and Hyacinths, Daffodils and Tulips begin to poke through. For inspiration, we usually showcase gardens in our Spring issue and this year we feature the Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society garden tour from last year. Be sure to check the ad on page 21 for tours near you this year.

Spring is also favoured by bird watchers and lovers of wildlife, as migratory and hibernating animals may come back into view. Joel Marshall of Hamilton is an active wildlife photographer, going beyond the normal range by hiking or paddling to come upon some breathtaking sightings. We're lucky to feature his exquisite compositions in this issue.

For those who want to experience nature in a new way, Sarah Earley shows us what it's like to go forest



▲ Renovating and remodelling: grass nesting material plus wood chips at the base of a large dead tree suggest that animals have been spring cleaning and perhaps enlarging their shelter.

bathing. Nudity is not required! It's an intriguing way to sharpen your senses and perceptions of the outdoors, and there are certified guides practising this all along the Niagara Escarpment.

This spring, specifically late April, is also when the Cheltenham Badlands open for the year. There have been significant changes and educational improvements to this strange landscape and we take a look at it in this issue. Its popularity may mean that a weekday visit will be easier than seeking parking there on a weekend. We regard this as a place that's certainly worth the visit.

Second Decade

We celebrated our 10th anniversary of publishing this magazine all through 2018. Reaching that is a significant achievement for any business, but for a publication that makes its biggest impact in print, it's almost miraculous

these days. Never mind that it's not a town or municipal publication going to every household in its distribution area. This magazine covers a much bigger area than just one town, city or even region. Yet it's not province-wide, making it of no interest to the largest brands that advertise through ad agencies. They don't "get" it. Fortunately for us, many advertisers, subscribers and readers do. We have identified a unique audience of like-minded spirits who are valued by the many brands,

businesses and organizations who do advertise. Our reach keeps increasing and we treasure everyone's support as we move through our second decade of discovering the wonders of the Escarpment.

Keep letting us know what we're doing right – and wrong!

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.



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