

Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

SUMMER 2019 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)

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DECADE OF
PUBLISHING!**

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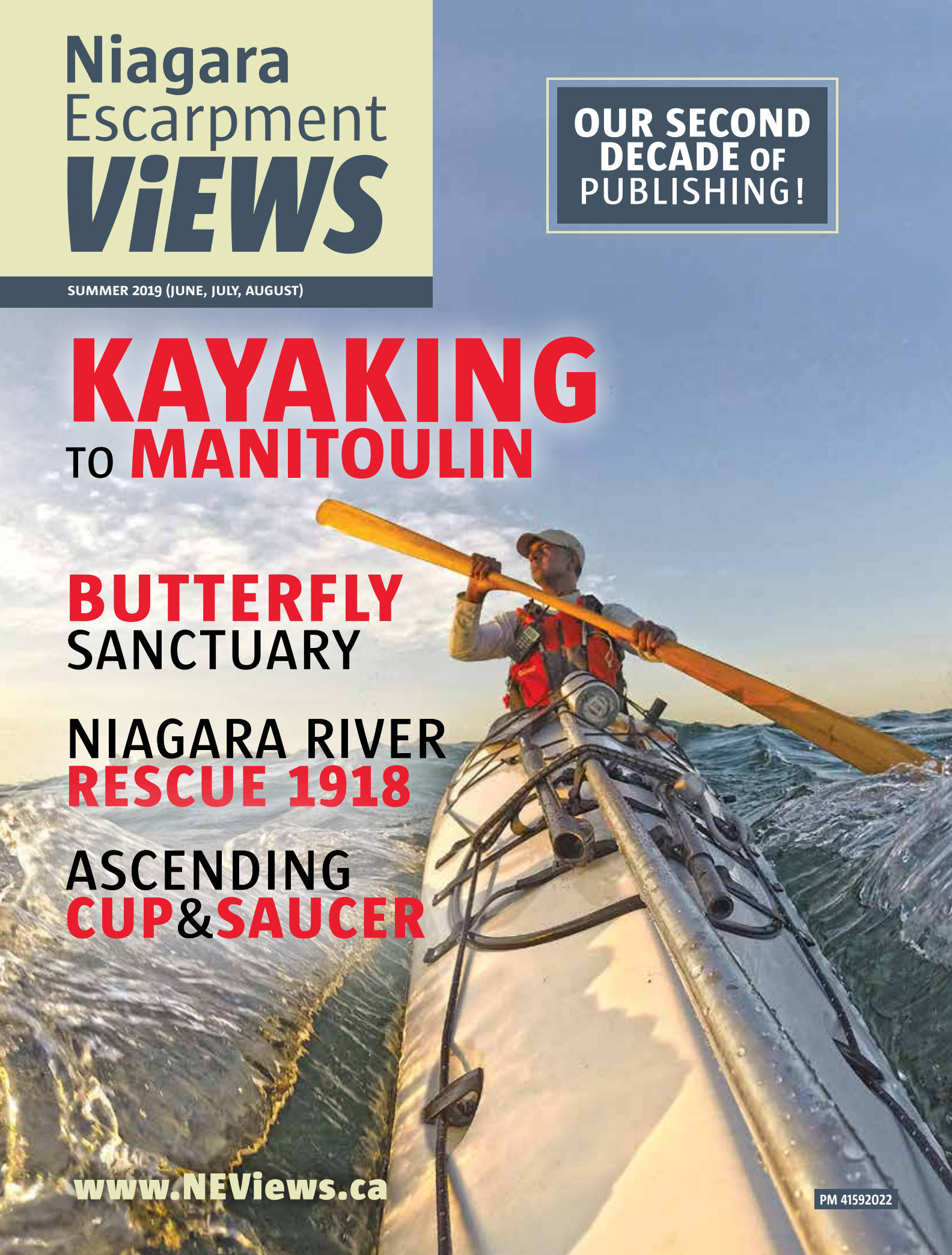
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Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



Summer 2019

(June, July, August)

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**OUR SECOND DECADE
OF PUBLISHING**



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



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When the Enemy is... Paper?

In March the City of Hamilton declared a climate emergency, joining other municipalities that have made this important symbolic gesture. Since then, the community organization Environment Hamilton has been suggesting actions to take. This is their list for Hamilton residents:

1. Leave car at home, even for just one day a week.
2. Eat no meat for one day a week.
3. Use reusable bags and containers.
4. Buy local products.
5. Tell others what you're doing.

No to Print

We recently had a business tell us that they won't support our magazine because it's print and they are trying to reduce their carbon footprint. It's a comment we also sometimes hear from younger people who prefer digital media. Ironically, they may have more than one electronic device and may regularly upgrade their cell phones to newer models, without thinking of the electronic waste they're creating. But hey, it's not paper!

We certainly applaud everyone who is trying to make a difference to climate change. It just seems odd to focus on paper when it is actually one of the more sustainable materials society produces.

What We Do

We ourselves try to be environmentally friendly in our business and personal lives:

1. We own electric vehicles and "drive them into the ground," getting the longest possible use out of them.
2. We heat our homes, which include our offices, at least partly with renewable energy from dead wood

from our forest.

3. We recycle everything possible in our municipality, including paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and more. We return liquor bottles.
4. We compost all food waste and garden debris.
5. We search for ways to let others reuse goods that we no longer want and can't recycle, in order to reduce waste.
6. Most of our office furnishings are reused items, some diverted from landfill! My huge executive desk has a scar on the edge where someone began to saw it into pieces for the garbage. Also, most of our trade show and display materials are salvaged and reused.
7. We print the magazine on paper containing recycled paper, we keep our page count modest, and we do not create immediate waste by distributing the magazine by unaddressed or "junk" mail. Our copies go only to people who want them, who pick them up from advertisers, get them at our community displays, buy them from a bookstore or by subscription.

Federal Election

If you're also concerned about climate change, we remind you that there will be a federal election this fall. On page 8 of this issue is our call for questions we can put to the political parties. We plan to share party responses in our Autumn issue, in time for your voting considerations.

Also In This Issue

Our cover story is of Albert Bedward and his fellow kayakers who test themselves

by paddling from Tobermory to Manitoulin Island. I have been on the bridge of the Chi Cheemaun ferry when it is in the middle of the vastness of the lake, and with no view of land in any direction, the idea of being in a small hand-powered vessel on the water is terrifying. These people do it for fun.

Another story of dangerous water is set at the other end of the Niagara Escarpment in Canada, on the Niagara River at the brink of the Horseshoe Falls, where a life-threatening rescue was performed more than 100 years ago. This achievement has recently been commemorated, and now everyone can understand the significance of a barge that is still stuck at Niagara Falls.

Anyone going to Manitoulin Island this summer should know about the Cup and Saucer Trail. Mike Davis shares his recent trip there to experience the new entrance to this famous natural attraction.

Gardeners and property owners might enjoy the variety of butterflies that Karen Root has at her place, Butternut Hill Farm. Uncommon and even rare butterflies visit her property, and she shares many photos of them with us. That's



▲ Karen Root, left, at Butternut Hill Farm, explaining her butterfly garden to Gloria.

Karen and me near one of her magical garden beds last summer, in the photo above.

And that business who objected to our print issues? When offered our online, website options, they said they didn't want that either. So perhaps the "print objection" is made by people who just have trouble saying no. We greatly appreciate the generous people who say yes to supporting this magazine through advertising or subscription, and encourage you to let all our advertisers know what you think of our little print magazine.

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.



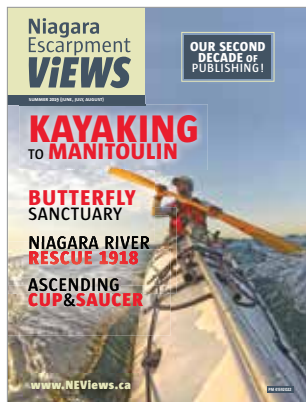
More Online!

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

■ READERS & VIEWERS



Over seven years ago, I was injured and faced the possibility of never paddling again. Then I met a sports doctor who thought otherwise, a friend who hand carved an Inuit paddle to reduce stress on the injured area, an editor who told me what I needed to publish in her magazine and referred me to another publisher — everything changed. I promised myself I would publish in her magazine. Thank you, Gloria. In following that dream, to publish in your magazine, I published three previous articles to show you my style. I had no idea it would result in meeting my fiancé and finding a conclusion to my film. Only when you follow your dreams will they follow you.

Albert Bedward,
Richmond Hill

The magazine is beautifully done, fantastic photography and very interesting articles! I never knew we had Bad Lands in Ont. Your article is something that strikes a cord in my heart. I'm so glad we have protected lands that make up the Bruce Trail and national parks.

Leila Duff, Mar



I just received the Spring issue but haven't had time to look at it yet, but will start tonight. I always read them cover to cover. You have a great magazine — the best of all those still around.

Bill Nyhof, Oakville

NE Views is a treasure. I accidentally came upon a copy at McDonald's in Acton while I was having a coffee with my father. The articles are well researched and written. I have already done business with one of your advertisers (would likely never have been aware of them without NE Views). I will also be taking out a subscription as I believe in supporting this local high quality work. May you continue to publish for many years to come.

Robert Kilby, Mississauga

Pictures by Joel Marshall are absolutely magnificent. This type of work can only be found in National Geographic. I was always wondering why the Badlands in Caledon were not protected somehow. Yes, it was fun to go there with kids, but the human-caused erosion was visible.

Marek Jakubczyk, Woodbridge



I enjoy your magazine immensely and found your article in the Winter issue on the Water Mills of the Plewes Family especially interesting. A couple of years ago in the autumn we had been to see the nearby Hogs Falls at Flesherton and were on our way home when we came across this beautiful old mill, now known as the Speeton Mill. I immediately stopped the car and just had to get out and take a few photos. It was appropriately decorated for Thanksgiving which made it all the more charming. [Below] is one of the photos I took. Learning the history of this and the other old mills was fascinating and I'm so pleased the Plewes family got to see this article in your magazine.

Lois McNaught, Hamilton



▲ Speeton Mill at Thanksgiving by Lois McNaught.

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 OR [www.Facebook.com/N.E.Views](https://www.facebook.com/N.E.Views)

I was recently delighted to find the spring issue of *Niagara Escarpment Views* at our Community Centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In the past I have found it at Penner's Home Hardware in Virgil, and at Evergreen Resort in Red Bay. What caught my attention was the article on the reopening of the Cheltenham Badlands. Co-incidentally I am currently reading Mark Zelinski's excellent book, *Heart of Turtle Island, the Niagara Escarpment*, which includes a photo of the badlands, as well as one of the handsome couple who publish *Niagara Escarpment Views*. My husband and I visited the Cheltenham Badlands a few years ago while hiking the Bruce Trail,

and were dismayed to see the numbers of people who disregarded signage and roamed freely over the rolling red hills of Queenston shale. I am relieved to learn it is now protected. That same Queenston shale is visible on the shore of the Niagara River in the Niagara Glen, near where I live. Other articles I have particularly enjoyed in the past were the delicate wildflower paintings of Irene McIlveen, and the article on crows by Bruce Mackenzie, both of whom I knew (know). There is so much that is familiar in your magazine that it is more like a family newsletter. May you continue to enjoy success throughout your second decade.

Win Laar, Niagara-on-the-Lake

I've received my Spring copy of NEV. I'm so honoured to be a part of this issue and have my photography published in such a fine magazine as yours. Thank you very much!

Joel Marshall, Hamilton

Love your mag. Please send a subscription to my dad... Esp. enjoyed "This way to the Rabbit Hole" – count me in!

Pat Hettinga, Maxwell



◀ Margie Eckert of Blenheim, Ont., reading the magazine in Cuba.



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Hidden Quarry, Another Potential Hole in the Water-Giving Paris Galt Moraine

By Linda Sword

On February 20, 2019 Green Party MPP Mike Schreiner introduced a Private Member's Bill, Bill 71, The Paris-Galt Moraine Conservation Act. In March, the Ontario Legislature voted unanimously to support further discussions of the bill in committee. On March 27, Halton Region voted unanimously to support Bill 71. Among the conservation measures is a protection against aggregate mining below the water table in the Paris-Galt Moraine.

The Hidden Quarry, an aggregate mine proposed by James Dick Construction Ltd., would blast into the Paris-Galt Moraine near Rockwood. The water-recharge capabilities of this location are among the highest in the moraine and in the Grand River Watershed. Locally, one municipal and dozens of private wells, as well as the wetlands and creeks contained in the curves of the moraine, are at risk. Cumulatively, this newest invasion of a moraine



already shocked by pits and quarries, adds to the threat to this essential water resource.

A local citizens group, Concerned Residents Coalition (CRC), began its assessment of the Hidden Quarry application in 2013. As their understanding of the issues deepened, their concern about the destruction of moraines, which are composed of the very stone, sand and gravel mined by aggregate companies, led them to publish in April 2018 a Call to Action: Protect Our Water: Stop aggregate mining in Ontario's moraines! Ontario policies force competition between water protection and aggregate mining in the moraines.

The tipping point has

arrived at which the need to preserve and protect the essential water-resources-related functions of the moraines must outweigh the benefits of extracting the readily accessible, close to market aggregates found in Ontario's moraines.

CRC concluded: "We therefore call on the Ontario government to: 1) Implement an immediate cessation of all new aggregate extraction licences in moraines, ...; and 2) Develop a new aggregate management strategy that gives full value to the natural capital that resides in all potential aggregate extraction sites in a thorough cost-benefit analysis of proposed aggregate extraction operations."



On May 21, the Hidden Quarry licence application began a multi-week hearing at the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal. Will the efficient, cost-free, life-giving services of the Paris-Galt Moraine be protected?

CRC is raising \$350,000 to bring scientific expertise to the hearing. To learn more or to make a donation to CRC Rockwood Inc., please visit www.hiddenquarry.org or www.facebook.com/crcrockwood.



A FEDERAL ELECTION IS COMING!

1

As of publication of this issue, the exact date of the election has not been announced, **but it must be held by Oct. 21.**

2

What question would you like to put to the political parties?

3

Send your most important question to us by June 15 and we'll forward a selection of questions to the parties.

4

Then watch for our Autumn issue where we'll share their responses.

Send your question by email to editor@NEViews.ca or by Canada Post to **Niagara Escarpment Views, 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2**

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■ EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

► Orangeville mayor Sandy Brown tries a new “Pound” form of exercise during the Jan. 31 opening ceremony for the Saputo Health and Lifestyle Centre inside Alder Recreation Centre. PHOTO PROVIDED.



◄ After his Feb. 5 presentation to the LATOW Photographers Guild at the Art Gallery of Burlington, Mark Zelinski sold copies of his books, including *Heart of Turtle Island: The Niagara Escarpment*.

► Premier Doug Ford and MPP Bill Walker were among the notable people celebrating the 63rd Warton Willie Festival on Feb. 2. Mr. Ford is said to be the first premier to attend the festival. PHOTO PROVIDED.



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■ EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Chris Miller of *Niagara Escarpment Views*, peering into the vehicle, was one of many visitors to the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto from Feb. 15 to 24.

◀ On March 1, Karina Gould, MP for Burlington, had the honour of drilling a hole in a Sugar Maple in order to attach a spile and bucket for sap as part of Maple Town, Conservation Halton's annual maple syrup festival at Mountsberg Conservation Area.

► Winners of the 40th PhotoArt competition in Halton Hills received their awards on March 7 at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre in Georgetown. PHOTO BY ALEX DOCKER.



EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK ■



▲ The exterior of Vinyland of Acton was the set on April 17 for a 20-minute film called *The Wake* by Mad Ruk Entertainment. PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER.



▲ These visitors on April 6 browsed the aisles of Under the Stars RV of Erin, during their multi-day open house. PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER.

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Manitoulin's "New"



▲ Nothing but wilderness seems to spread out before you from the high part of the "cup" of The Cup and Saucer Trail. In the centre is a ridge called the Saucer. This view looks toward M'Chigeeng First Nation and the water of West Bay, part of the North Channel. On the horizon is Billings.

Cup and Saucer Trail

The Cup and Saucer Trail is the highest point on Manitoulin Island and could be the highlight of any visit to the island for those who can make a challenging hike. The views from this part of the Niagara Escarpment have to be seen to be believed. Last year Mike Davis went for a walk on it with his camera.



▲ This way up: the new “ship’s ladder” or basic staircase offers a relatively easy climb to the top of the first cliff.

► Steep cliffs at the new entrance to the trail required a structure to let people get to the top. This feature is thought to be fairly dog friendly.

Readers of this magazine will know that The Cup and Saucer Trail was briefly closed to the public in May 2017 until Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC), which owns some of the land at the trail, offered a new access point to it from a bit further west on Hwy. 540 than the original entrance.

As Bob Barnett of EBC explained in his Autumn 2017 column in this magazine, the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) “agreed to allow parking right by the Town’s boundary road allowance with Billings.” A new parking lot was swiftly approved and

built in a few days. A new access to the trail had to be cleared and a wooden ladder was constructed to provide an easier way to get to the top of a large rock outcrop. Only three weeks after the trail had been closed, the trail with its new entrance features was reopened.

The reason that the different parties acted so quickly is because The Cup and Saucer Trail is regarded as “the fourth most important tourist attraction in northern Ontario and perhaps top of the bill for Manitoulin,” wrote Bob.

Some people are not aware that the Niagara Escarpment continues



► This sign near the parking lot maps out the trails on the Cup and Saucer.



► The Indigenous legend about this land formation is recorded on this sign on site. An Anishinaabe trickster is said to have created the formation by dropping his giant spearhead and handle. The spearhead became the lower bluff and the spear handle formed the high bluff.



▼ The dramatic beauty of the Cup and Saucer Trail shows why it is one of the top attractions in northern Ontario. More than 10,000 people use the trail each summer.



HOW TO GET HERE

From Little Current, go west on Hwy. 540 for roughly 20 km, just past Bidwell Road. A little further on Hwy. 540 is the new parking lot and trailhead on the east side of the highway.



▲ Sheer cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment rise up dramatically from the “saucer” land formation to suggest the higher “cup” portion.

from Tobermory, where the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and the Bruce Trail ends, and continues underwater, re-emerging on Manitoulin Island. While the whole island is actually part of the Escarpment, the characteristic cliffs are most dramatic on the Cup and Saucer Trail.

The trail is 12 km long, begins on EBC-owned land and continues on private

property owned by Meredith Chandler and Randy Noble. The land formation is made of ancient Silurian deposits with a hard dolostone cap and is called Cup and Saucer because the high land, or “Cup,” is located on a bigger, lower feature called the “Saucer.” The trail is steep in parts and winds through a mixed deciduous forest.

First Nations people have

a story about the formation of these lands, which they saw as a giant handle and spearhead with serrated edges for hunting fish. The story tells that the weapon was dropped by a giant mythical figure called Nenabozhoo, the Anishinaabe trickster. The main elements of the tale are recorded on a sign on the trail.

Be prepared for a hike of





▲ Thriving in the cracks of rocks are these delicate Bracken Ferns.



◀ The well-marked main trail passes interesting rock features such as these limestone/dolostone outcroppings.

▼ This section of the trail is an easy walk through a deciduous forest.

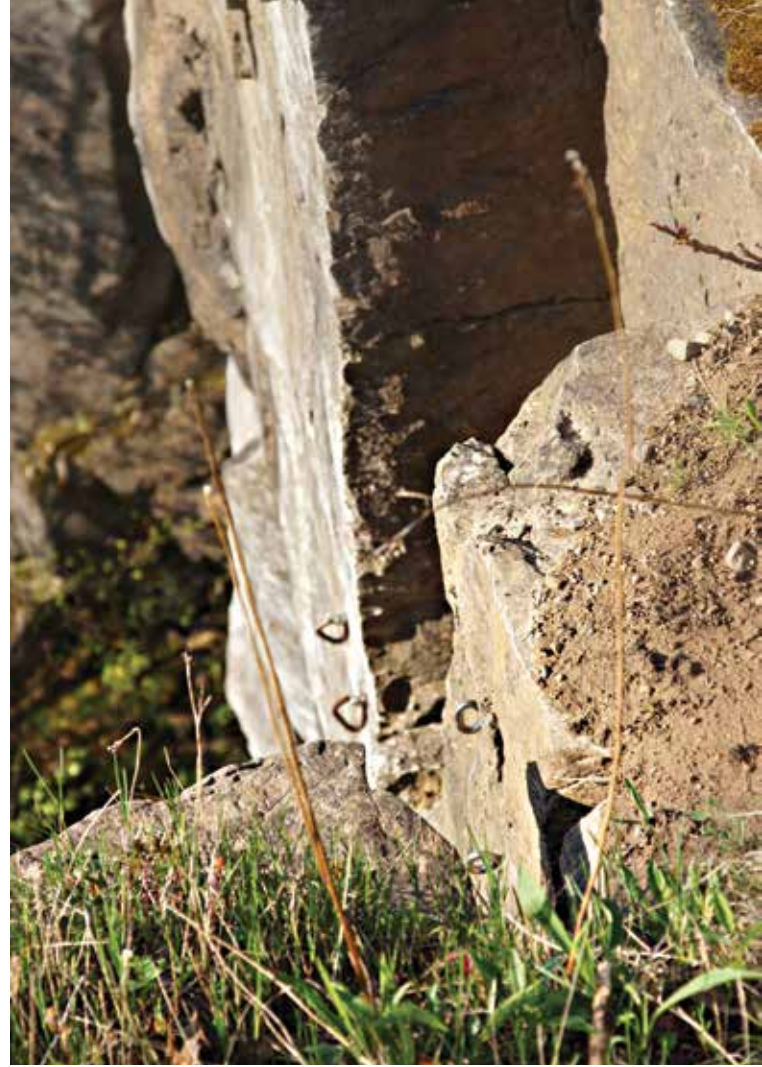


MANITOULIN ISLAND FAST FACTS

- ✓ *The largest freshwater island in the world*
- ✓ *2,766 sq. km in size*
- ✓ *There are 108 freshwater lakes on the Island*
- ✓ *"Manitoulin" means spirit*
- ✓ *Population of 12,000 permanent residents*
- ✓ *Highest point is on Cup and Saucer Trail, at an elevation of 1,155 ft.*
- ✓ *Cup and Saucer Trail is 12 km long*

a few hours. When you reach the breathtaking highest part of the Cup, be careful at the sheer edge, but take time to savour the view. You will not only be on top of the trail, you will be on the highest point of all of Manitoulin Island, the largest freshwater island in the world.

To contribute funds for the maintenance of this trail and the protection of other lands on the Niagara Escarpment, send your cheque to Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, 503 Davenport Road, Toronto ON, M4V 1B8 or call 888.815.9575. **NEV**



▲ Previously installed rock-climbing anchors can be seen along the cliff face.



▲ Not for the faint of heart: on the Blue Trail at the start of the loop is the Adventure Trail, a more strenuous section with a cave! This route below Saucer level is challenging and requires children to be watched carefully, according to Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy.



▲ The Cup formation is topped with hard dolostone.



▲ Red dots mark the main trail along inviting Escarpment features. Different coloured markers define the other trails.

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▲ Karen Root in one of her beautiful pollinator garden beds. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

THE *Butterflies* OF BUTTERNUT HILL FARM A MONARCH WAYSTATION

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▲ Monarch Butterflies cannot resist *Liatris Ligulistylis* or Meadow Blazing Star, not to be confused with other Blazing Stars that don't attract Monarchs the same way.
PHOTO IN KAREN'S GARDEN BY MIKE DAVIS.

Our beautiful Monarchs need our help! While their numbers this past season do show an increase over the previous year, this follows years of steady decreases, with their populations having dropped for the last two decades. Their threats still exist. The Monarch was once one of the most common butterflies, known not only for their beauty, but for their amazing migration of thousands of miles across Canada, the United States, and Mexico.



My butterfly garden or Monarch Waystation started with a magazine article about a butterfly garden. I had to have one! I added nectar rich plants throughout my garden. Any time I found anything at the garden centre with the “attracts butterflies” logo, I couldn’t leave it behind. At this point I had been planting all nectar plants not really understanding that although

I was feeding butterflies, I had no place in my garden for them to breed. When I read about the plight of the Monarchs, I started adding some Butterfly Weed, a well-behaved orange blooming perennial plant, and I started noticing a few caterpillars in my yard. One of my first Monarch experiences was when my husband and I were having our morning coffee in the yard the exact moment a Monarch eclosed, or hatched.

We watched the moment she pushed through ... all crinkled, then hung upside down drying her wings; shortly thereafter was the most beautiful fresh butterfly.

Monarchs have one of the longest migrations of most any insect in the world, an estimated 4,000 km to Mexico. As if their journey is not hard enough, they are very threatened by lack of habitat and their populations have plummeted so much

in the last two decades, they have been declared as Species of Special Concern on the Species at Risk list of Ontario.

While their problems may be many, one of their biggest threats is a lack of milkweed. So plant milkweed! Common Milkweed is probably the most familiar, but does tend to spread via rhizomes. Swamp Milkweed is well behaved and does very well in a regular garden. Some milkweed varieties are now becoming



◀ Karen's friend Julie Power of Georgetown has converted her front yard to wildlife habitat in order to inspire others to do the same. Julie has recorded 35 species of butterflies in her yard. There are five Monarch Butterflies in this August view of her garden.

PHOTO BY JULIE POWER.

► Part of Karen's butterfly garden at Butternut Hill Farm, showing the sign for a registered Monarch Waystation.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



▲ Two Monarch Butterfly caterpillars on Common Milkweed.

available at garden centres. You can tuck in a few milkweeds between the garden plants you already have. Monarchs will find them. And not just Monarchs, but lots of different butterflies love milkweed blooms for nectar!

Plant Milkweed

By planting habitat, I have watched my numbers go up every year, and now have



◀ The larva of a Monarch Butterfly about to eclose, or hatch.



◀ The Viceroy is often mistaken for a Monarch. It looks exactly like a Monarch except for an extra stripe all along the edges of the wings, which Monarchs do not have.

▼ (bottom left) The Tawny Emperor is one of the rare butterflies that has come to Karen's garden.



many Monarchs breeding here. I have had over 50 species of butterflies visit. Despite this, my experience has been that Monarchs are starved for habitat sometimes laying eggs on plants so small they can't sustain them and at times egg dumping. Due to lack of milkweed, females will dump

their eggs, which means leaving too many eggs on a plant that cannot support the caterpillars. They are desperate to lay their eggs and are searching for milkweed, but are having trouble finding it. On my farm in Campbellville, called Butternut Hill Farm, aside from gardens now

planted full of nectar plants, I have let areas that were previously lawn, uncut for years and nature has taken over, allowing native wildflowers to come back. Plants like various asters, goldenrods, and milkweed are now thriving, all good for pollinators. I have encouraged

**UNCOMMON
BUTTERFLIES I'VE HAD**

Acadian Hairstreak
Hickory Hairstreak
Striped Hairstreak
Silver Spotted Skipper
Little Glassywing
Delaware Skipper
Baltimore Checkerspot
Giant Swallowtail
Spicebush Swallowtail

RARE ONES I'VE HAD

Variegated Fritillary
Tawny Emperor

► The Acadian
Hairstreak, uncommon,
on Butterfly Weed.



milkweed to grow in pockets sprinkled over the farm and planted various host plants throughout the property.

In 2017 I took part of our property that was sub-marginal farmland, and working with Conservation Halton, my local authority, turned it back to nature. Our restoration area was planted with a diverse mix of native trees and shrubs with pollinators in mind, and we also cast locally native wildflower seed, including milkweed, amongst the trees to provide pollinator habitat for years while the trees mature. Native flowers like *Rudbeckia Hirta* are blossoming, and the wildlife and diversity of pollinators is amazing. I am seeing creatures I didn't even know existed!

Anyone Can Help

Although my Monarch Waystation is a farm, it doesn't matter how small your property is or where it is, anyone on any size lot can help Monarchs. You can start by planting milkweed. Small patches of milkweed are actually preferred as they help to deter predators and may actually give butterfly eggs and caterpillars a greater chance of survival. I have a friend on a town lot who ripped out all of her lawn and planted milkweed and nectar-rich flowers and she has now photographed 35 different species of butterflies in her yard.

The organization Monarch Watch likes to see at least 100 sq ft and a minimum of 10 milkweed plants to register as a Waystation. This is only a patch 10 ft x 10 ft or a border along the back of your property 3 ft x 33 ft. You will need at least six hours of sun a day. It's entirely possible to make a difference. If everyone did just a bit, think of how



▲ The uncommon Little Glassywing, on Karen's Common Milkweed.



►Another uncommon visitor to Butternut Hill Farm is the Hickory Hairstreak.



◀ The Giant Swallowtail, Ontario's largest butterfly, on *Dianthus* in Karen's garden.

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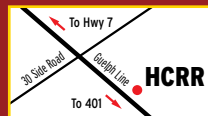


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◀ The uncommon Baltimore Checkerspot, which arrived after Karen planted native White Turtlehead in a wet area.



► The caterpillar of the Giant Swallowtail, Ontario's largest butterfly and uncommon in Karen's area, has the colour of "bird poop," which protects it from being eaten. It is on a Common Hop Tree which Karen planted just for Giant Swallowtails. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

much we could accomplish!

It's important that we provide nectar throughout the season, but it doesn't end at the end of summer. Monarchs need nectar all along their migratory route to ensure a successful migration which can extend late into fall. I've had Monarchs nectaring on clover in my hay field toward the end of October. Going into fall, please leave your blooming plants blooming, and perhaps have some annuals that bloom right through until



◀ An American Lady on one of the farm's dandelions, an early nectar plant in spring and therefore valuable for pollinators.



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frost. Tithonia and Zinnia are excellent for butterflies.

Some other rich nectar plants that are favourites, are Purple Cone Flower, Verbena, Mexican Sunflower and Butterfly Bush. Monarchs can't resist *Liatris Ligulistylis*, it's a magnet! Native plants include Joe Pye Weed, New England Asters, Wild Bergamot and *Rudbeckia Hirta*, to name a few. No pesticides or chemicals can be used in the garden, as caterpillars and butterflies cannot tolerate them. If you buy annuals, please be careful as some retailers sell plants

sprayed with insecticides. This kills butterflies. So plant milkweed and let's help our Monarchs get off the Species of Concern listing! As of January 30, 2019, there were 22,665 registered Monarch Waystations in North America, all providing habitat for Monarch butterflies. Further information concerning creating a Monarch Waystation is available at www.monarchwatch.org. **NEV**

Karen Root of Campbellville is passionate about animals and nature and lives on a farm with her husband, horses and cats.



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Hamilton from Bill Foley Parkette on "The Mountain."

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.





Big Canoe Run: **Paddling from Tobermory** **to Manitoulin Island**

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY ALBERT BEDWARD



The Big Canoe Run, as my friends and I term the kayak route, starts inside the shipwreck graveyard called Fathom Five National Marine Park off the tip of the Bruce Peninsula at Tobermory, crosses 35 km of open water past Fitzwilliam Island near Manitoulin Island, and ends in South Baymouth Marina. It can be one of the most treacherous runs as weather and water explode like fireworks. Consider the 22 sunken ships inside the Marine Park.

▲ Albert Bedward practising in a sea kayak in wind storm conditions on the Great Lakes.



▼ One of Albert's colleagues, Louise, paddling north from the southeast end of Cove Island toward the lighthouse, on the successful first crossing from Tobermory to Manitoulin Island.

I didn't believe I could be halfway between Cove and Fitzwilliam islands in a kayak, but I was. I knew if the wind kicked up an additional 10 km/h from the west, our only choice would be to follow the waves into the middle of Georgian Bay.

In July some years ago, I had joined a group of six daring kayakers to paddle the 50 km from Tobermory to Manitoulin Island – what we dubbed the Big Canoe Run, after the Chi Cheemaun Ferry.

I remember the previous year's first attempt: we stood on the Chi Cheemaun Ferry dock at Tobermory, watching one-metre waves crashing into whitecaps. Weather Channel forecasted a Lake Michigan storm could strike by noon tomorrow. We could wait the storm out, but we only had three days before

returning home. And there was a second storm rolling in from Lake Superior a day later. And a 280-km drive home is safer than bouncing around in the middle of Lake Huron or Georgian Bay praying for rescue.

On this, our second attempt, we paddled out of Lands End Park on the Bruce near Hay Bay, in smaller waves and under cloudless blue skies. The marine radio squawked: "Warning for western Lake Superior, extreme weather alert: winds blowing at 45 km an hour gusting to 65. Wave height: two metres increasing to three overnight..."

"That's only 700 km away!" our team leader John exclaimed.

Stranded on Cove Island

Paddling up the east coast of Cove Island, half-metre

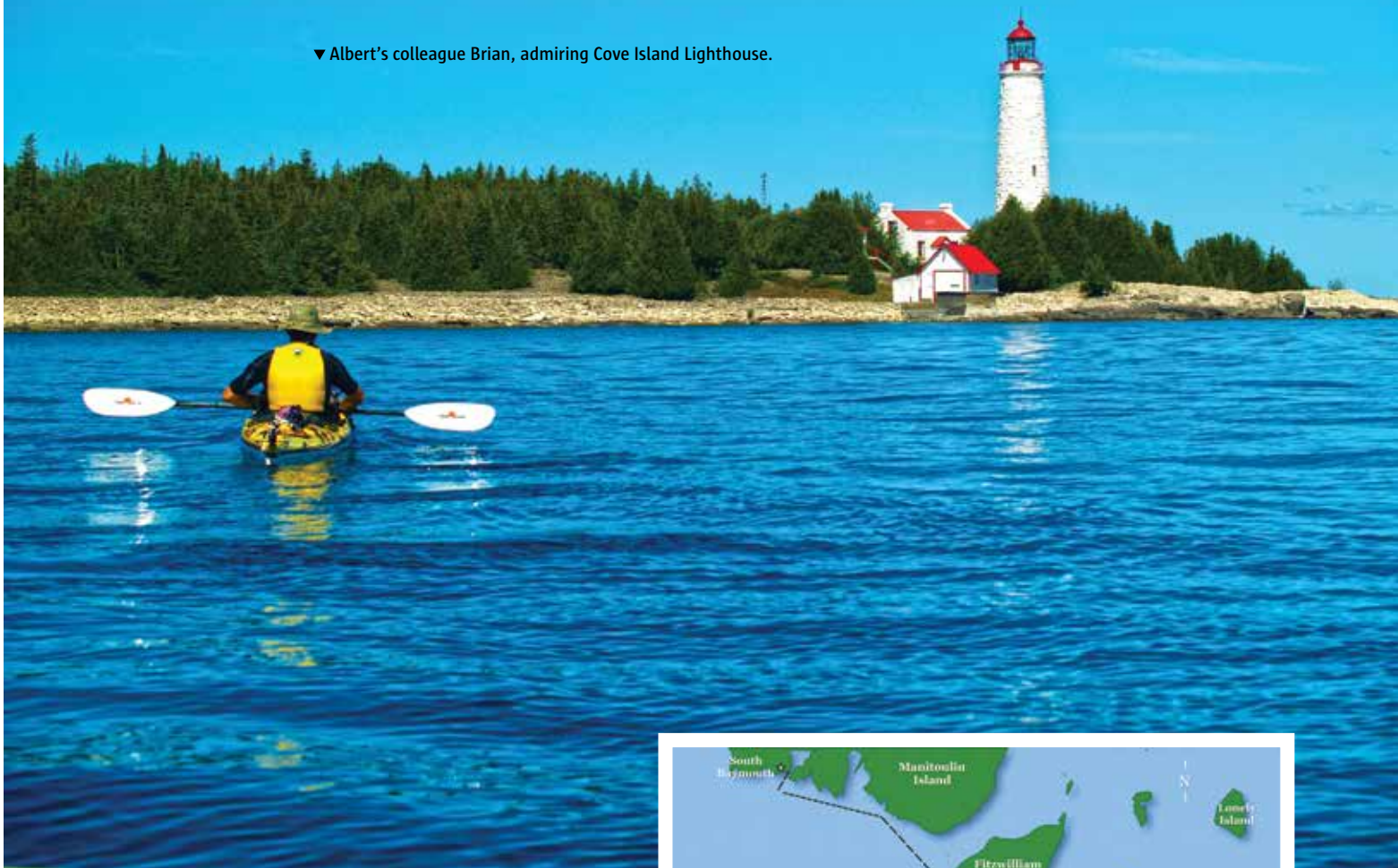
waves rose to a choppy metre. As we neared Cove Island Lighthouse at Gig Point, we saw one- and two-metre whitecaps in the 15 km open stretch north of us. John pointed towards the rocky shoreline below the lighthouse, and moments after we dragged the last kayak ashore, the shoreline exploded into whitecaps.

There was no turning back now. All eyes turned to John who said: "Raise your tents and break for lunch. Use heavy rocks to anchor your tent cords down. We may be here a while." At 12:30 we sat facing north, watching waves repeatedly crash into waves like pods of Orcas simultaneously breaking the surface and diving.

After lunch, we ran through the list of standard safety emergency gear: maps in



▼ Albert's colleague Brian, admiring Cove Island Lighthouse.



▲ Sketch map, not to scale, created by Albert Bedward, showing the successful route from Tobermory to Manitoulin Island.

◀ Team leader John inspecting his sea kayak during a rest at Cove Island Lighthouse to let one of the paddlers recover from slight dehydration. Everyone on this trip went on to complete the crossing to Manitoulin.





waterproof casing, compasses with a mirror, flare pistol with four unexpired flares, large orange plastic sheet with the letters SOS, waterproof LED flashlights, back-up batteries in waterproof containers, backup battery for the VHF radios, paddle float, second set of paddles fastened to the decks of each kayak, waterproof boat light.

Some would say the next two days were about being stranded on Cove Island, but

when the air temperature is 21 degrees C, you have hiking gear, food and water for three days, a good book to read and writing supplies, it feels more like a vacation. Some of us sunbathed by our tents, wondering why it took so long for the server to show up and ask for our bar order.

"This was nothing like last year's paddle," Helen reminisced. "It was calm blue everywhere, sky, water." Instead of paddling on to

South Baymouth from Cove Island, we had camped on Fitzwilliam island, three km south of Manitoulin island, because two of the paddlers had stiff backs from sitting in their kayaks for so long.

About 1:30 a.m., I had woken up to Elaine whispering outside my tent "Albert, you've got to see this!" The Milky Way was shimmering in a sky carpeted with a billion stars. From the east, two shooting stars had raced across the sky

to the northwest. "This is worth the paddle," I'd said to Elaine.

Then dawn had greeted us in gold, red, pink, still water, the sound of tent fabric brushing against sleepy bodies, pots and pans shuffling inside kayak hatches. We had slowly paddled out of Wild Bight to the ferry dock, taking deep breaths with each slow paddle stroke. We'd arrived before the Ferry departed; we had been lucky on that trip, as very few complete the paddle across.



▲ Location of overnight campsite on west side of Fitzwilliam Island during the first crossing.

◀ Leisured paddle from Fitzwilliam Island to South Baymouth Marina, Manitoulin Island, during the first, successful 30-hour crossing from Tobermory.



But today, on the third morning of our second attempt, we awoke to darkening grey skies from the northwest, whitecaps topping two metres, and a gale warning from Environment Canada stating that every boat should be off northern Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. The sheltered water on the east coast of Cove Island appeared calmer, with waves only a metre high. We had enough food and water for another day,

maybe two if rationed, but we didn't know if our tents could withstand the 65-km wind gusts forecasted. We thought of finding shelter in the lighthouse, but it was unsafe.

Safe Paddling

"Stick together from here to Lands End Park," John yelled. "No one paddles away on their own. Water's always cold. If you flip, need rescue, the closer you are to the group, the quicker the rescue, if you

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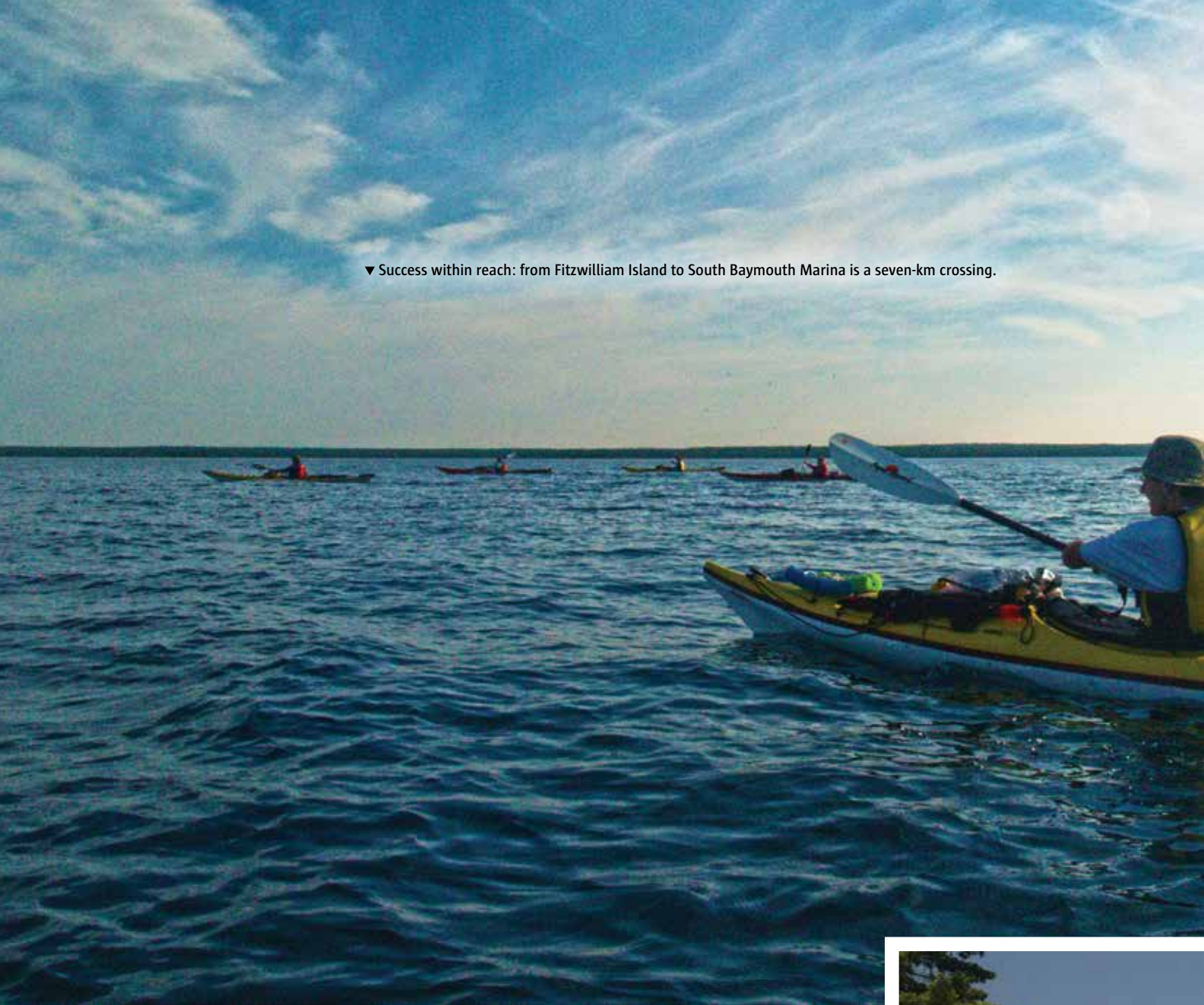
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▼ Success within reach: from Fitzwilliam Island to South Baymouth Marina is a seven-km crossing.

► Homeward bound: carrying sea kayaks to Chi Cheemaun Ferry at South Baymouth Marina, Manitoulin, after successfully crossing from Tobermory.

can be rescued. If we can't rescue you, hold onto your kayak, we'll call for help. And if help is not too busy saving someone else..." The group was silent. Even the wind stopped for a moment.

We hugged the southern coast, past South Otter island when Elaine announced she was in pain with carpal tunnel syndrome. "Which wrist?" I asked. "Both," she quietly responded. I blew three successive blasts on my whistle to catch John's attention. He

paddled over, clipped both our tow ropes to the bow of her kayak, had us arrange in V-formation with Elaine's boat at the bottom of the V, and paddled forward into the two-km unprotected stretch to Russell Island, then we towed Elaine to Lands End Park.

The Ojibway have been crossing the lake by canoe for hundreds of years. I don't know if I will ever be that level of paddler, but I have learned this much: that an adventure can be safe and

enjoyable if I live by a simple rule. Before a paddle, I will stand on the beach, observe the sky, water, boats; watch birds and other mammals' behaviour, and if it doesn't feel right, go somewhere else or go home. Alive, I can always tell the tale. **NEV**

Albert Bedward is a writer, videographer and avid paddler-explorer. He produced the film Clarity and is releasing a book of poetry, Odile, this fall on Amazon.






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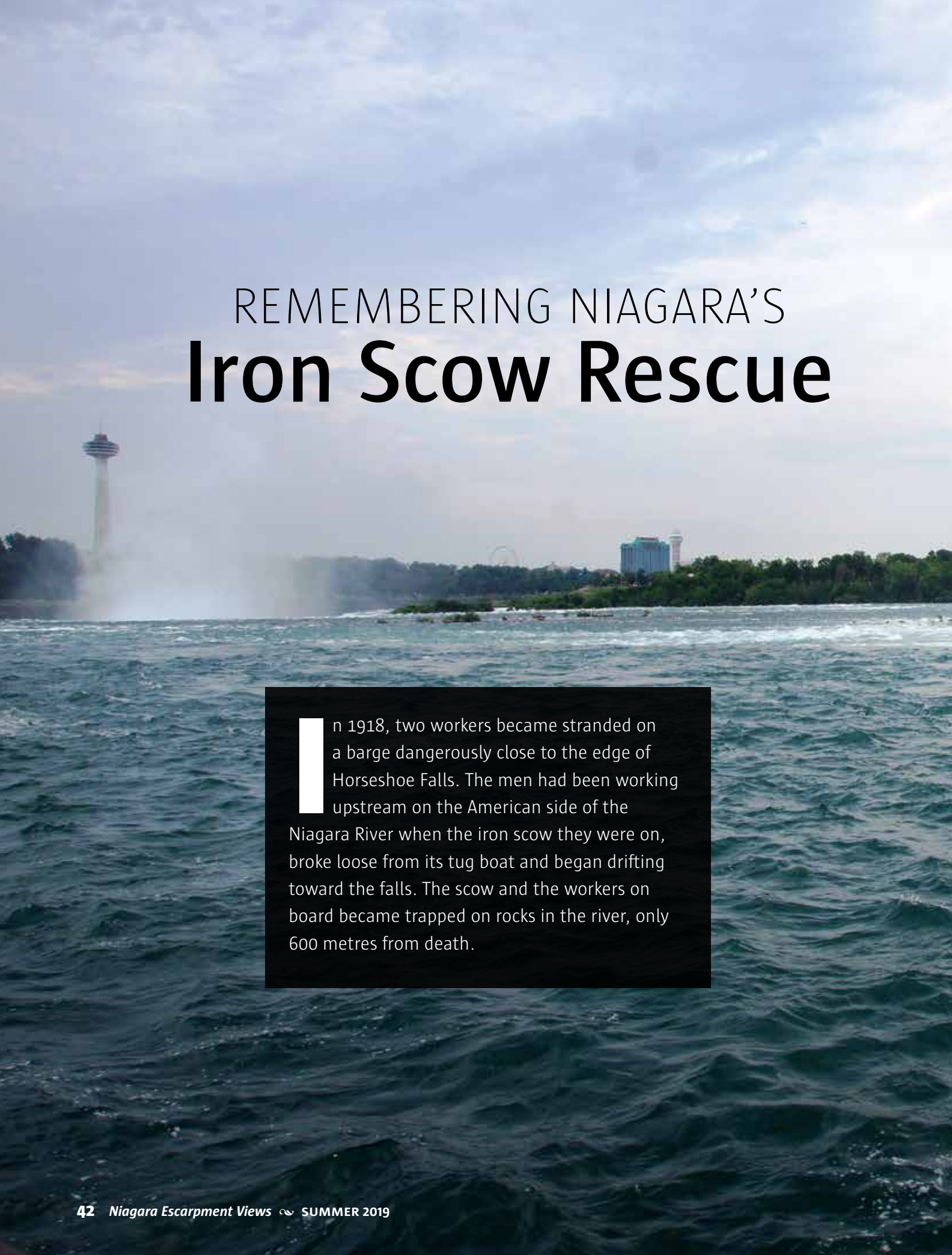
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A wide-angle photograph of the Niagara River. In the background, the Horseshoe Falls are visible, with a large plume of white water and mist rising from the base. To the left, the tall, white SkyWheel tower stands prominently. The river in the foreground is dark and turbulent, with white-capped waves. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

REMEMBERING NIAGARA'S **Iron Scow Rescue**

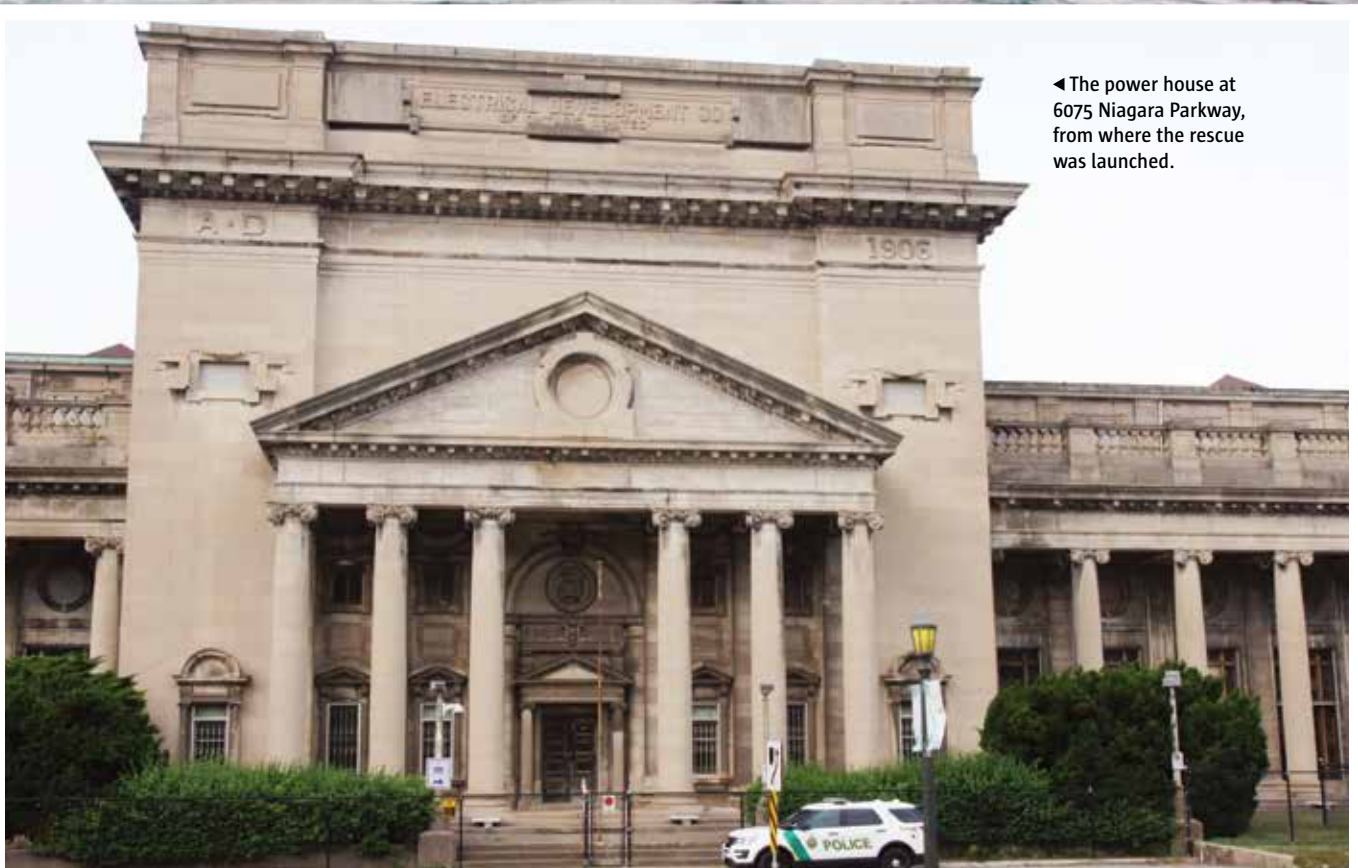
In 1918, two workers became stranded on a barge dangerously close to the edge of Horseshoe Falls. The men had been working upstream on the American side of the Niagara River when the iron scow they were on, broke loose from its tug boat and began drifting toward the falls. The scow and the workers on board became trapped on rocks in the river, only 600 metres from death.



▼ The old iron scow, below, has been grounded since 1918 on rocks not far from Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls. On the left is the mist rising from the edge of the falls.



▼ The iron scow remains in shallow rapids of the Niagara River.



◀ The power house at 6075 Niagara Parkway, from where the rescue was launched.



◀ A corner of the power house. In 1918, lines were sent from the roof over to the iron scow, lower right.

It was August 6, 1918 when the accident occurred. Two Americans working on a dredging operation upriver from Horseshoe Falls, were on the dumping scow when it became separated from its towing tug. The men, Gustav F. Lofberg, aged 51, and James H. Harris, aged 53, drifted dangerously toward the falls.

They were able to open the bottom dumping doors of the scow, causing the compartments to flood and slow the scow's drift, until it grounded on rocks in shallow rapids 600 metres from the brink.

There they remained stranded for 19 hours while a rescue was repeatedly attempted.

The U.S. Coast Guard brought a lifeline cannon from New York to the roof of the power house across from the scow's grounding location. The cannon shot a light line out to the two men, who secured it at their end. A heavy rope was then tied to the light line.

A canvas sling suspended from a pulley, known as a breeches buoy, and capable

of carrying a person, was attached to the heavy rope. Rescue personnel began sending the breeches buoy out to the men on the scow. Part way there, the buoy stopped because of a serious tangle in the rescue ropes.

Heroic Rescue

A resident of Niagara Falls, Ontario, William "Red" Hill,

HOW TO GET THERE

The iron scow can be seen from the edge of Niagara River at Toronto Power Park, 6075 Niagara Parkway, Niagara Falls. Parking is available across the street from the Park.



◀ A member of the Niagara Police High Angle Rescue Team is lowered from a Niagara Helicopter near the mist of Horseshoe Falls, demonstrating how stranded people are rescued today.

Sr., volunteered to make the highly dangerous attempt to swing over the Niagara River on the heavy rope, hand over hand, to untangle the lines. Hill was an experienced riverman and a soldier in the Great War who had recently been sent home after being wounded and gassed in battle.

In the night's darkness, with only searchlights for illumination, it took two attempts and the next morning's bright sunrise before Hill was successful in fixing the ropes.

Harris was the first to be rescued by the breeches buoy, and later Lofberg was also safely brought to the roof of the power house. The next day, the two men returned to work.

The iron scow could

not safely be moved, so it has remained grounded for more than 100 years. It can still be seen from Toronto Power Park, 6075 Niagara Parkway in Niagara Falls.

Commemoration

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the rescue and a commemoration ceremony was held at the site at Toronto Power Park. Niagara Parks unveiled new materials that share the history of the event. In addition, the scow was lit up for 16 nights as a reminder of the nighttime rescue effort by search lights.

Janice Thomson, chair of The Niagara Parks Commission, explained in her speech at the ceremony, "While Niagara Parks had previously erected a plaque



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▲ Niagara Parks staff unveiling new interpretive panels among the descendants of Red Hill.

◀ Kip Finn, left, the great grandson of Red Hill, who was crucial in saving the two stranded men, and Dan Hill, Red's grandson. Kip is wearing a T shirt with a photo of Red in uniform with medals, sitting in a vessel that reads, in part: "William Red Hill, master hero of Niagara." Dan holds a document noting a medal for bravery that was given to Red in 1920, but was lost, as well as a replacement medal that was presented in 2018.



on these grounds, signifying the rich history and important rescue efforts, no formal recognition was ever bestowed or afforded to those directly involved in the rescue of Gustav Lofberg and James Harris, the two American workers stranded on the scow. This evening we are pleased to be unveiling a new Niagara Parks plaque which commemorates the 100th anniversary of the grounding of the scow,

but more importantly, commemorates the rescue efforts of everyone involved."

Descendants of Red Hill were recognized with a surprise. Kip Finn, a great-grandson, had approached Niagara Parks about presenting a replacement for Red's lost medal for bravery which had been made in 1920 by the Royal Canadian Humane Association. Red's grandson Dan Hill was given the replacement.

In addition, a high angle rescue exercise was conducted to demonstrate how the scow rescue would be performed if it occurred today. The Niagara Parks Police HART, or high angle rescue team, and Niagara Helicopters showed the dramatic retrieval of a man on the ground. A helicopter flew overhead with another man on a cable, who descended to pick up the man on the ground and then fly safely away.

Finally, the iron scow was illuminated by searchlights for 16 nights, to commemorate Red's perilous nighttime efforts lit only by searchlight, when he dangled over the Niagara River, close to the falls, working to untangle two men's only lifeline. **NEV**

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▲ The dining room of Evergreen Lodge looks out over Lake Huron. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

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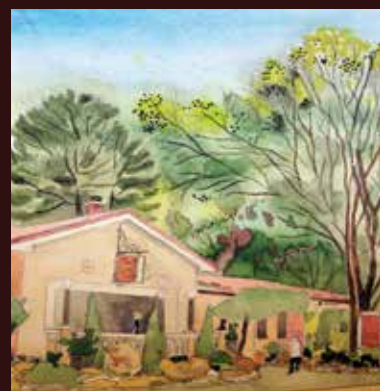
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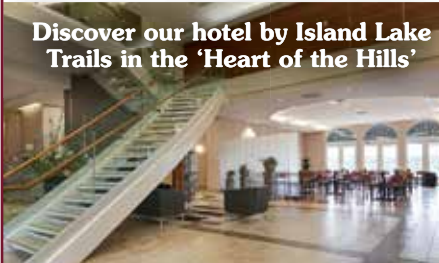


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Rick Grant's Photography



These photographs were taken by Rick Grant of Caledonia, at Royal Botanical Gardens of Burlington, except for the Bald Eagle which was taken along the Caledonia River.

"The Racoons were taken looking down at them from Grindstone Creek boardwalk, while people were feeding them beside a sign that reads 'Don't feed the wildlife,'" he says. **NEV**

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Your Local Nature Reserve: Parasite or Golden Goose?

By Bob Barnett

Some local politicians, typically in very rural municipalities, complain that nature reserves are just a drag on the local tax base because the Province has declared them exempt from taxation.

Then we have Friends of the Greenbelt and the David Suzuki Foundation who claim, in documents like “Nature Counts” and “Appreciating the Greenbelt’s Natural Capital,” that having nature generates almost two billion dollars worth of economic benefits, every year from hiking, biking and nature activities like birding.

Who is right? Let’s try to dig into the “real” economic factors.

Let’s start with the local municipal economy. In essence, a municipality provides local services and is given the power to tax its citizens. It can also charge user fees for such things as garbage collection and pool use. The Province has decided that a fair way to tax is based on property values. Maybe the thinking is that big, expensive houses hold people who use more garbage collection, fire protection, police, roads and sewers. More likely, the Province figures that people with an expensive house are better able to pay for services.

Should Land Earn its Keep?

Then it comes to land. Land doesn’t have any innate way to pay taxes. Maybe it should “earn its keep” by giving up its timber, crops or gravel for the right to exist in the municipality. Maybe they figure people who own the

lawns, ponds and trees should pay for that right. Anyway, if those lands have a market value they show up in the assessment and get taxed with or without a house.

What services do nature reserves use? Roads and fire protection are likely important, although they are seldom used. Police protection is rarely needed unless people misuse the reserve. I would argue that the service needs of nature are miniscule compared to a house, filled with people, of the same value.

Then we have the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund. The Province sends money to municipalities with low assessment to “subsidize” their operations. Despite municipal claims that such payments are inadequate, they should be more than sufficient to cover the miniscule costs of nature. School taxes come out of the tax base too and there is absolutely no need to educate the nature reserve. Nature is an educator.

Benefits of Nature

Having dealt with the costs, let’s consider the “revenues” or benefits of having a nature reserve. Municipalities may be correct in claiming the benefits are often regional, provincial or federal, but do enough of these benefits stay in town to offset the net cost of services after provincial subsidies?

I find the best study of the economic benefits of nature are found in *Estimating Ecosystem Services in Southern Ontario* published in 2008 by

Nature generates almost two billion dollars worth of economic benefits every year.

Ontario’s Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry based on research by SIG, an economic consulting group. They summarize the value of “non-urban” forests and wetland based on more than 100 previous studies.

Suzuki and others limit their work to areas like the Greenbelt or only study part of the range of benefits. It is, of course, hard to value rare species, and other things often called “externalities” by people who choose not to include them, but there are

ways. Researchers ask what people would be willing to pay to preserve species. Many of our politicians rightly value the species themselves as well as the health, science and educational value of having nature around us. They rightly regulate uses which disturb nature unduly. The “Estimating” study comes up with \$84 BILLION dollars a year of ecosystem benefits to people south of the Shield. That’s \$1,800 a year for every acre of forest and \$6,400 for an acre of wetland annually. Who benefits from rare species, tourism, good views, pollinators, less flooding, cleaner air and water and, maybe best of all, trees soaking up carbon dioxide and putting it into the soil?

Clearly the neighbours benefit. Their land values (and taxes) go up if they have nature around them. Community members get better health by spending time in or close to nature. Tourism helps local communities when restaurants and motels see increased business. Holding more water in the wetlands decreases local flooding. The local road crews have less work to do. Regions experience even more benefits and the province and country benefit from reduced health costs and more carbon in the ground. Municipalities claim they get all the cost and only some of the benefits of nature reserves, but upon closer examination, nature costs almost nothing, the benefits of having it are usually substantial and the real winners are the region, the Province and Canada.

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

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Battling Invasives

By Gloria Hildebrandt

Last June we had our local conservation authority send a staff member to evaluate the property for invasive plant species. We have been working on eliminating Garlic Mustard, *Vinca Minor* or Periwinkle, Buckthorn and *Multiflora* Rose, but the staff member walked the property with us and showed us some invasive species we weren't aware of.

We didn't know about Wild Chervil, Reed Canary Grass, Honeysuckle and non-native Bellflower, although we had noticed that they were growing in scattered abundance about the property.

The staff member sent us a proposed plan to manage the invasives, including her markings on a property map that Mike had created. It's easy to see where the problem areas are.

We have been focused on tackling Buckthorn, so I was surprised that the first recommendation was to work on Wild Chervil. I had thought Wild Chervil was a kind of early Queen Anne's Lace, and I had been letting it grow. Its white flowers are so pretty. But no, it has to go, and needs to be hand pulled out by the tap root or sprayed with a Roundup solution... for the next few years.

Why Invasives Succeed

One of the reasons that invasive species are so successful is that they are usually downright pretty or have other apparent benefits. Periwinkle has pretty blue flowers and is promoted as a good ground cover. Is it ever! I drive by Escarpment forests and see vast blankets of nothing but Periwinkle. They prevent everything else from growing and because of their

tough, waxy leaves and stems, don't seem to be set back by Roundup. They have to be hand weeded out. From three separate areas in our forest, we are now down to one patch that needs to be removed.

Multiflora roses bloom prolifically and smell heavenly but spread like mad, becoming huge stands.

Honeysuckle grow into big bushes that are covered with pretty little yellow flowers. But they too are thuggish spreaders. Even Buckthorn seems to have advantages, as they form an impenetrable barrier, keep their green leaves into the fall, and their female trees produce dark blue berries. Yet they will take out everything else from a forest.

We have a little Goutweed problem along the trail at the back of the property. But as anyone with Goutweed knows, there's no such thing as a small Goutweed problem. If you try to weed out Goutweed by hand, you'll be doing nothing else for a very long time. The next priority on the management plan is to spray that Goutweed with the Roundup solution.

Hand Weeding

Reed Canary Grass crept into our pond before we knew what it was. It grows so densely that it chokes out other plants and looks like it's difficult for fish and animals to get through. It



In front of the desirable yellow Marsh Marigolds growing in the swamp is the clump of Reed Canary Grass that we were able to pull out last year. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

grows both on dry land and in water. You can't spray Roundup near water, so Canary Grass is best cut short to prevent the spread of seeds, or if possible, it can be pulled out. This grass is not considered invasive in our area, but I don't like it and want to get rid of it.

Mike and I spent part of a summer morning last year when the swamp happened to have dried out, pulling out a big clump of Reed Canary Grass. It came out relatively easily, which likely means that it will bounce back this year. We'll have to see.

With the water out of the swamp, we were also able to pull out some of the Yellow Irises, about two wheelbarrows' worth. But I know we didn't get them all. There are plenty more where they came from.

My father had introduced Yellow Irises to the swamp before he knew they would be a problem. The swamp had been full of native Blue Flag Irises and he thought a few Yellow Irises would look good among

them. Disastrously, they spread, took over and completely eliminated the gorgeous and delicate native Blue Flags. If we ever get the yellow thugs out of the swamp, I hope to be able to re-introduce the Blue Flags.

We have some Honeysuckles scattered through the forest, and I learned that cutting them down is not the solution as they merely sucker from the stumps. They need to be treated with Roundup. Non-native Bellflower has to be treated the same way.

All the invasives that we uproot, cut or dig out, go to the fire pit to dry out for burning. I've accepted that it's a multi-year or perhaps even constant issue to deal with them.

And who knows, we may even learn of new invasive plant species that are trying to take over our land.

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

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JUNE 1

National Indigenous History Month

Opening Ceremonies
The Landscape of Nations,
Queenston Heights Park
www.niagaraparks.com

JUNE 1: 10 A.M.-10 P.M.

Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek and Fireworks

JUNE 2: 10 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

Re-enactment of the
Battle of Stoney Creek
Battlefield Park, 77 King St. W.,
Stoney Creek
www.battlefieldhouse.ca

JUNE 2

**2nd Annual Western
Manitoulin Community
Garden Kite Festival**
Gore Bay, 705.210.0422

JUNE 2

**Carnegie Gallery 26th Annual
Garden Tour**
Dundas, 905.627.4265,
info@carnegiegallery.org

TO JUNE 3

**Living Desert:
Robert Herman Exhibition**
Niagara PumpHouse Arts Centre
Niagara-on-the-Lake
www.niagarapumphouse.ca

JUNE 8

**Opening: Under the Canopy:
Animals of the Rainforest**
Grey Roots Museum,
Owen Sound
www.GreyRoots.com

JUNE 9

Raptors in Focus
Mountsberg Conservation Area,
Campbellville
www.conservationhalton.ca

JUNE 15

**DEADLINE to get your
election questions to us!**
editor@NEViews.ca or mail to
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JUNE 15

Grand Durand Garden Tour
Hamilton,
president@durandna.com

JUNE 20

National Indigenous Day
Niagara Falls History Museum
Niagara Falls
www.niagaraparks.com

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Adults, Families
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JULY 5-7

**Velo Niagara
Summer Cycling Festival**
Niagara College,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
www.VeloNiagara.com

JULY 6

**28th Annual
Niagara-on-the-Lake
Horticultural Society Garden Tour**
www.notlhortociety.com

JULY 13

Grimsby Garden Tour
905.975.5473
grimsbygardenclub@outlook.com

AUG. 3-5

**Wkwemikong 59th Annual
Cultural Festival**
Wkwemikong, Manitoulin Island
www.wkwemikongheritage.org

AUG. 16-18

**35th Annual
Neyaashiinigmiing
Traditional Pow Wow**
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www.capecrokerpark.caom

AUG. 24-25

**23rd Annual Bruce Peninsula
Society of Artists
Studio Tour**
[www.BrucePeninsulaArt.ca/
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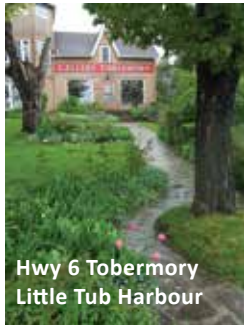
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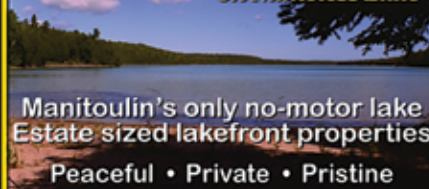
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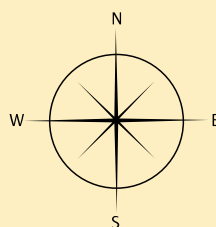
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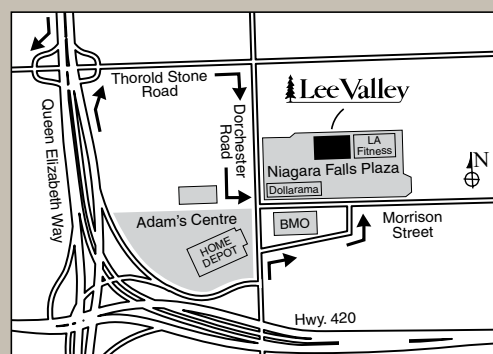
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