

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.



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