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Niagara Escarpment **Views**



Niagara Escarpment Views

Winter 2019-20 (Dec., Jan., Feb.)

ON THE COVER: BABY RED FOX NAMED TALITHA RECEIVING CARE.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY PROCYON WILDLIFE CENTRE.

FEATURES



14 Antiques for Sustainability

Written by Gloria Hildebrandt
Photos by Mike Davis



20 Hamilton's Waterfalls in Winter: Then & Now

By Joseph Hollick



30 Back to Nature: Rescuing Wildlife

Written by Gloria Hildebrandt



36 From Slavery to Freedom in Niagara

By Peter Meyler



44 Poems of the Niagara Escarpment

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 View from the Editor's Desk:
The Needs of Wild Animals
- 6 Readers & Viewers
- 9 Events Along the Rock
- 12 Federal Election Results
Along the Escarpment
- 13 Gazette

- 28 Featured View:
**Little Tub Harbour,
Tobermory**
Photo by Mike Davis



- 43 Subscription Form
- 45 Eat & Stay Along
the Niagara Escarpment

- 55 Where to Get Copies of
Niagara Escarpment Views
- 56 Map of Communities Near
the Niagara Escarpment

COLUMNS

- 50 View of Land Conservation
What is Land Worth?
By Bob Barnett
- 52 The Gift of Land
The Winter of Deer
By Gloria Hildebrandt



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Niagara Escarpment **Views**

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**OUR SECOND DECADE
OF PUBLISHING**



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

The Needs of Wild Animals

One of the most valuable aspects of the Niagara Escarpment is that it provides a magnificent variety of great habitats for animals and birds. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) lists the Escarpment's habitats as "Great Lakes coastlines, cliff edges, talus slopes, wetlands, woodlands, limestone alvar pavements, oak savannahs, conifer swamps and many others. These habitats collectively boast the highest level of species diversity among Canadian biosphere reserves, including more than 300 bird species, 55 mammals, 36 reptiles and amphibians, 90 fish and 100 varieties of special interest flora."

That the Niagara Escarpment continues to achieve this despite its location close to the most heavily populated and industrialized part of southern Ontario and in fact, all of Canada, is an important reason for its designation as a UNESCO biosphere reserve. UNESCO identifies conservation and development as important interconnected functions.

Yet proximity to and interactions with human activities can be harmful to animals. You would think that caring for hurt birds and animals would be a necessary aspect of UNESCO designation. If you came upon an injured or apparently orphaned

animal, would you know what to do? Where to go?

It turns out that there are many organizations in Ontario that care for wildlife, and a good number are close to the Niagara Escarpment. Yet they are independently run and supported, and sometimes struggle with a lack of resources. Although most are authorized by Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, wildlife rescue centres receive no government funding.

Our cover story in this issue looks at what some Escarpment-area wildlife rescue centres need, and easy ways that we can help, from learning what to do if we find an animal in trouble, to the kinds of support these centres can use: funds, volunteers and sometimes, goods like linens and food. We all may be able to help return wild animals where they belong: in natural wild spaces.

Also Featured

Rescues of another kind are featured in our article by Peter Meyler, who shares the history of Black people who escaped slavery in the U.S. by fleeing to Canada. Peter looks at several places in the Niagara Region that have connections to The Underground Railroad.

Photographer Joseph Hollick uses history to compare his contemporary photos of some of the many waterfalls in Hamilton, with images of those same falls from about 100 years ago.



The coyote named Samson in a carrier on his way to being released back on his home farm. Photo provided by Procyon Wildlife.

Joe has so many photos of waterfalls that he was easily able to provide wintry shots. Sit by a warm fire and look at his scenery!

With Christmas and other gift-giving celebrations fast approaching, we present a sustainable option for purchases: antique and vintage items from some antique shops along the Escarpment. The wealth of their treasures makes something old look highly desirable.

As a service to those who follow politics, we wrap up our federal election questions

to the parties, with a map of Escarpment ridings and the newly elected federal representatives. You may find it interesting to see at a glance, who is looking after our Escarpment at the national level.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt

P.S. The Niagara Escarpment provides what 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



Just received Autumn issue of NEV. Article of Butternut Hill Farm outstanding!! – last issue. I have seen more Monarchs this summer than past 3 or 4. Hopefully this continues. Great edition, a yummy recipe!! Wonderful articles and top notch photography.

Mary Hubert, Caledonia

Being an avid nature lover and serious amateur photographer, I enjoy reading your magazine immensely. I eagerly look forward to each new issue.

Lois McNaught, Hamilton

I enjoy your Niagara Escarpment magazine. Able to pick it up in Little Current. I was born and raised at Mount Nemo. So being north of Sudbury is a mega game changer. Nice to keep up with the south.

Ursula Hildebrandt, via text

Really enjoyed the magazine when we picked up a copy in Sauble Falls. Please start a 1-yr subscription.

Jill Shea, Lowbanks



Forgive my late response to the wonderful article on Paul and the gallery, incorporating all the great work by other artists in the area. You are a fantastic team, putting such a beautiful, informative magazine together. It has been a privilege to be part of such a fine edition.

Leila Duff, Mar



We were on the Grand River cruise yesterday and afterwards they put the NEV on display so I took one to read. Very interesting so I thought I would send you a couple of rare pictures that can never be seen again. They may be of interest to your readers.



You are welcome to use them in the magazine if you wish. Both pictures of CP freight train passing the Falls taken at the end of march 1996. As you know the track has gone now, casino in place!!!

Dennis Littler, St. Thomas



Niagara Parks sent this list of corrections to "The Challenging Beauty of Niagara Glen" in the Autumn 2019 issue:

P26: "In this area you will also discover...and huge mushroom-shaped rock called sea-lilies." and "Sea lilies are large limestone boulders having their bases eroded by the violent rapids below the Falls"

Sea lilies are actually a type of fossil, and are normally only preserved as little rings usually only a few millimeters across. To my knowledge, the mushroom-shaped

boulders in the Glen don't have special names at all.

The statement appears again at the next column. I haven't found any information on how these rocks acquired their shapes so I won't comment on that, but, to reiterate, they are not called sea lilies. The statement appears a third time captioning a picture on page 29.

P26: "It is believed the potholes were formed by small, very hard pebbles trapped in a small depression in the rock beneath the Falls and spun so rapidly..."

Though most of this sentence is true, the potholes

I am writing to thank you for the wonderful article about the Niagara Glen. I have hiked the Glen many times over the years and have great memories going back to our school field trips where we would bike from the old Victoria School. As students we learned so much and developed a deep appreciation for this place. The article really illustrates what an extraordinary living treasure the Glen is! Many thanks!

Marilyn Vann, Bird Kingdom, Niagara Falls

were formed by eddies spinning rocks directly into the river bottom that formed the upper Niagara River. These rocks then fell into the gorge due to the erosion caused by the Falls.

P28: "This history started approximately 12,000 years ago when the third version of the Wisconsin Glacier, which covered most of this area..."

I'm not really sure what the writer means by "third version" of a glacier. In any case, there is no such thing as the "Wisconsin Glacier." The Wisconsin *glaciation* refers to a global cooling event that resulted in the growth of multiple glaciers across North America. I would suggest replacing "the third version of the Wisconsin Glacier" with "the last advance of the Laurentide Ice Sheet".

P28: "There are numerous large fossils of Trilobites thought to be extinct..."

Although there are trilobites in the Glen, they're very uncommon and the largest known fossil barely exceeds 2 inches in length.

I'd suggest rewriting to something like: "There are many ancient marine fossils in the Glen, such as sea-lilies, lamp shells, and ancient coral species".

P30: "Cripp's Eddy is a small bay off the Niagara River at the south edge of the park and is a favourite spot for Blue Herons and human fishers. A swim in the Eddy on a hot day is very refreshing but even strong swimmers should never challenge the pull of the powerful river just a few kilometers away."

It is illegal and highly dangerous for anyone to swim in the river, even in the seemingly calm waters like the Eddy.

P31: "This Trilobite fossil, about 10 inches long..." This fossil is not a trilobite. The picture shows the fossilized remains of an ancient marine species of sea sponge. If you want specifics, it's likely from a Class of sponges called "Stromatoporoids".

Niagara Parks

Editor's note: It was not anyone's intention to encourage or recommend swimming in Cripp's Eddy or the Niagara River. We note that it is dangerous and illegal. Here are responses by the author Art Weaver:

Niagara Parks is essentially correct in the critique of my article, however any inaccuracy on my part was not intentional nor was this article meant for a geological publication. My comments to these corrections are as follows:

I cannot find my original reference to "sea-lily" boulders so perhaps "mushroom shaped rocks" is a better description. Regardless, they are very interesting.

The exact location of where the potholes were formed is not accurately known however the speculated process I described is the important aspect and we agree on that.

I apologize for my error in calling the fossil a Trilobite and thank you

for the correction but again they are still just as interesting to discover.

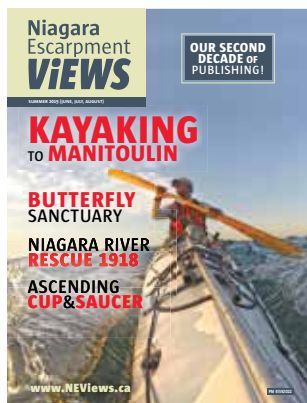
The "third version of the Wisconsin glacier" may be poorly worded. My understanding is that the last continental or intercontinental glaciation was the third to take place in this area. It was called the Wisconsin *glaciation* which to the non-geologist would imply the Wisconsin glacier. I can find several references to this name including the following: <http://www.niagarafontier.com/origins.html#d>.

The specific sheet of ice covering our area was called the Laurentide Ice Sheet and again thank you for that.

We agree that it is a very bad idea to swim anywhere in the Niagara River including a calm looking inlet.

Finally, I would like to thank you for adding more information to the original article.

Art Weaver



her article on killing the beautiful wild flowers with Roundup, one of the worst poisons of our time, I just couldn't believe it. Nature will care for the fields if left alone. Can you imagine the

I have never been so upset as when I read the article by Gloria of Battling Invasives. Having just read the beautiful story by Karen Root about Butternut Hill Farm and then

number of birds, butterflies, small animals and all the wildlife that live there who will die because of this action?? Perhaps Ms. Hildebrandt would be better advised to move to a more suitable location, she won't have to spend money, hiring someone to rip the invasives out, buy huge amounts of her favourite poison. I know a place, it's called the city!!!

Carol Bentall, by email

Editor's reply: We share your concern for native plants and wildlife. Much of our harmful invasive plants are eliminated by laborious and tedious hand work. When that is not effective, we follow the recommendation of our local conservation authority to use Roundup in spot treatments. We do not broadcast spray this chemical.

Just wanted to comment on how much I enjoyed reading NEViews magazine. Recently moving closer to Owen Sound my husband and I visited the Grey Roots Heritage museum and I picked up a copy of your summer issue. Seeing as I recently started the sport of kayaking the article by Albert Bedward was a much appreciated read! Thanks for publishing this magazine!

Terrilyn Henke, by email

Best magazine going! Enjoy very much when I can get it from my husband!

Marilyn Hyrnick, Ancaster

■ READERS & VIEWERS

I had 48 species here over this butterfly season, I added one more species this year which brings my total of all years' species to 53 I think it is. I'm pretty excited as I have a new uncommon butterfly now breeding here. I am still in the midst of planting habitat for it. It's the lovely Baltimore Checkerspot. I have a nest of babies that have settled in for the Winter as they take

2 seasons to mature. Thankfully! as I need to get my hands on more host plants... Still busy creating habitat here. I find it very rewarding.

Karen Root,
Campbellville



Re: No to Print –
Summer 2019

Unfortunately people who live in the city with unlimited access to Internet & cell phone service forget about seniors & those of us who live in outlying areas without.

We receive your excellent magazine, which is passed on from our daughter - Jenny Pearce of Sciensational Sssnakes!!! We read it from cover to cover, then pass it on to friends who live in your area.

The article on Forest Bathing is on the bulletin board of Land O'Lakes Emmanuel United Church in Northbrook ON as a guide to our own 1.4 km *Shin-rin Yoku* on the property. Thank you for remembering us.

Glen & Petty Pearce,
Cloyne



Cup and Saucer Experience - I had every intention to drop you a line after our return from Manitoulin Island two weeks ago. We decided to actually stop and spend 2 nights on the island as opposed to sticking to Hwy 6 for the north/south journey which we have done many times. Having read Mike's article and enjoying his photos....we decided to add this to our list of sight seeing possibilities. We arrived at the one of two parking lots on a beautiful sunny morning. Many people were already there. By the time we left both lots were full. We decided we would hike up to the Cup and drink in the spectacular views

and give the Saucer a pass. Met many people from all over the planet and many dogs... how brave they are as there are spots where

space is an issue and many families on vacation. Having accomplished our goal...we headed back down and arrived at the wooden staircase for our descent. It was there we just happened to meet Bob Barnett and his entire family who were out in full force to stabilize the staircase as it had become quite wobbly. We had a lovely chat with this man who is a most remarkable person for having a vision for land protection through acquisition and then making it accessible for us. It was a definitely a special moment for us to have actually met him on the trail with his bag of tools ready to get to work. Happy Trails.
Mary and Ray Shier, Limehouse

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EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



◀ A group of interested people met on July 30 at the Mono Community Centre in Dufferin County to discuss leadership of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve.

▼ On Aug. 1, World Long Drive Champion Maurice Allen became the first person to be successful in driving a golf ball over Niagara Falls from Niagara Parks' Table Rock Centre to the U.S. side. He had a ball carry of 393 yards. PHOTO PROVIDED.



▲ Bob Barnett of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy placed a newly-tagged Monarch Butterfly on a child's finger during the annual Monarch Butterfly Festival at Bruce Peninsula National Park on Aug. 25.

▼ Acton Leathertown Festival took place on Aug. 11 and featured a performance by Fred Penner. PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER.



EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.

▼ Gregory Stevens, executive director of the U.S. Niagara River Greenway Commission, left, shakes hands with Sandie Bellows, chair of the Canadian agency Niagara Parks, during the Aug. 27 ceremony to mark newly connected binational trail networks along the Niagara River. PHOTO PROVIDED.



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EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

◀ Spokes 'n' Slopes opened a location in Georgetown on Sept. 7. Cutting the ribbon are, from left, Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillor Jane Fogel, Ainsley Burger and her grandfather, owner Matt Burger.



◀ The first Riverdale Fitness Mill 5K Beer Run and Festival, held on Sept. 22 in Inglewood, raised \$4,353.47 for Kidz in Caledon, a Caledon Community Services campaign.



▲ As part of Celebration of Nations 2019, The Great Niagara Escarpment Indigenous Cultural Map at thegreatniagaraescarpment.ca was launched on Sept. 18 at FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines, by, from left, Mark Zelinski, Shaelyn Wabegijig, Larry McDermott, Deb Pella Keen and Tim Johnson.

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Penner Building Centre
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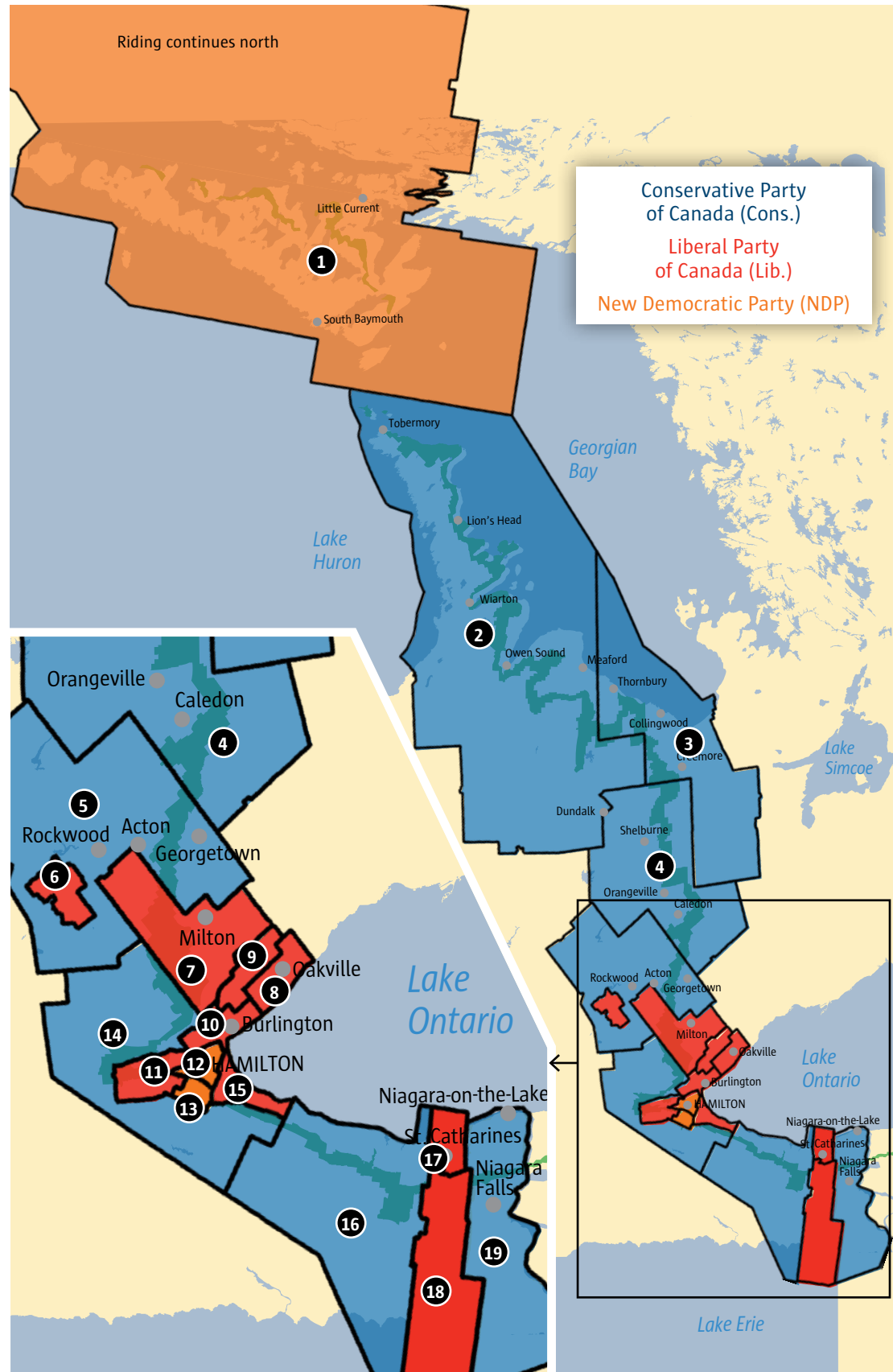
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ALONG THE ESCARPMENT: The 43rd Canadian Parliament Election Results, 2019

(UNOFFICIAL)

Here are the newly elected members of Parliament for ridings along the Niagara Escarpment, listed from north to south:

- 1 ALGOMA-MANITOULIN-KAPUSKASING**
Carol Hughes, NDP
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 2 BRUCE-GREY-OWEN SOUND**
Alex Ruff, Cons.
- 3 SIMCOE-GREY**
Terry Dowdall, Cons.
- 4 DUFFERIN-CALEDON**
Kyle Seebach, Cons.
- 5 WELLINGTON-HALTON HILLS**
Michael Chong, Cons.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 6 GUELPH**
Lloyd Longfield, Lib.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 7 MILTON**
Adam Van Koeverden, Lib.
- 8 OAKVILLE**
Anita Anand, Lib.
- 9 OAKVILLE NORTH-BURLINGTON**
Pam Damoff, Lib.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 10 BURLINGTON**
Karina Gould, Lib.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 11 HAMILTON WEST-ANCASTER-DUNDAS**
Filomena Tassi, Lib.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 12 HAMILTON CENTRE**
Matthew Green, NDP
- 13 HAMILTON MOUNTAIN**
Scott Duvall, NDP
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 14 FLAMBOROUGH-GLANBROOK**
David Sweet, Cons.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 15 HAMILTON EAST-STONEY CREEK**
Bob Bratina, Lib.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 16 NIAGARA WEST**
Dean Allison, Cons.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 17 ST. CATHARINES**
Chris Bittle, Lib.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 18 NIAGARA CENTRE**
Vance Badawey, Lib.
Incumbent Re-Elected
- 19 NIAGARA FALLS**
Tony Baldinelli, Cons.



Still Determined... After 25 Years Williams Mill Creative Arts Studios

By Bruce Madole

You could say it was stubbornness that saved the Williams Mill in Glen Williams.

Or maybe, determination. Doug and Mary-Lou Brock had bought the 1820s heritage complex, and though experts advised tearing it down, they began to renovate and re-purpose it, still not knowing what it might become. Then, 25 years ago, they launched the Williams Mill Creative Arts Studios, with working studios for a wildly diverse range of fine arts and craft.

The Williams Mill soon grew into something quite unexpected. They've had weavers, furniture makers, stained glass artists, wood and stone carvers, jewellers and



▲ Then: the original Williams Mill sawmill in Glen Williams, circa the winter of 1988. PHOTO PROVIDED BY ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

much more. Some artists have even evolved and changed media, reinventing themselves with their artistic practice.

There have been more than 75 working artists who maintained studio practice here through the years. Internal spaces have been redesigned, on occasion. There is a well-equipped event



Now: the same building 25 years later, with studio spaces and The Glen Tavern in the lower level. This is only one building in the Williams Mill complex, which also includes Main Street Studios, Glen Williams Glass, Courtyard & Stone Building, and Parkside Studios. PHOTO BY MARLENE MADOLE.

space at the parkside level where the Credit River runs.

Still, 25 years later, four of those original artists are still making art at the Mill: Carol Nesbitt and Andy Kuntz (glass-blowers), Marlene Madole (painter, art instruction), and Carol-Ann Michaelson (was a potter, now a jeweller and painter). Even with change, and

the passage of time, the Mill has always sustained a quiet current of creative energy. It's a vibe. Infectious. And 25 years on, if you talk with the artists, watch them work, creating, taking care of a business in the arts, you can detect a second current, like the hum of creativity. Call it determination. Making something.

Indoor Orchids

The Niagara peninsula between the Escarpment and Lake Ontario has become prime orchid-growing land. From here, thousands of orchids are shipped each week to markets all over northeastern North America. CosMic Plants in Beamsville manages a 200,000-sq.-ft. greenhouse that grows the widest selection of Phalaenopsis Orchids, a subspecies that can produce blooming plants year-round, and are stronger, easier to care for and have very long bloom times.

Care

Don't place the orchid in direct sunlight, but put it near a south window with moderate light. Water well once a week

but then empty the saucer or pot so that the orchid never sits in water for more than 15 minutes. Don't put the orchid near ripening fruit, which gives off a hormone that causes the blooms to age and wilt

quickly. To get an orchid to rebloom, stress it by cutting off the bloom's stalk above a thick node, moving the plant to a cool location and reducing watering. After a few months, it should rebloom.

Showroom

Orchids can be seen and bought by the public at The Art of Orchids Retail Boutique, 4665 Bartlett Road, Beamsville. Call 905.562.9389 or see www.cosmicplants.com.



Inside The Art of Orchids Retail Boutique. PHOTO PROVIDED.

ANTIQUE

FOR SUSTAINABILITY



▲ Czech It Out of Meaford carries an enormous selection of antiques, vintage items, collectibles, nostalgic toys and Indigenous works of art in many media.



▲ Antiques and collectibles including glass, pottery, paintings, primitives, clocks and militaria fill the 6,000-sq.-ft. Lakeshore Antiques & Treasures building in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

UES

BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT | PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

Step into an antiques shop and you may be amazed at the selection of goods on offer. It can be overwhelming. There are so many items that you might wonder why there is still a manufacturing industry for small goods.

“A lot of people don’t want to buy brand new,” says Stefani Pelowich, general manager of The Freelton Antique Mall. “It’s about sustainability.”

Here’s a personal confession: I recently decided I did not want to buy and throw out watch batteries about every year or so. I don’t want to contribute to more unnecessary electronic waste, despite or even because of its tiny size. And I prefer a wristwatch to digging out my cellphone to see what time it is. Yet I couldn’t find a new watch that didn’t need a battery. A friend suggested an antique store, and there I found the exact kind of wind-up wristwatch I want, with a bonus second-hand inset dial, and a brand name that has meaning to me.

With the gift-giving season upon us, you might get inspiration from these three antique markets close to the Niagara Escarpment.

▲ At 20,000 sq. ft. on two floors, with 255 vendors, The Freelton Antique Mall has an enormous selection.





▲ Stefani Pelowich, general manager of The Freelon Antique Mall, can help customers find the perfect items.



The Freelon Antique Mall

Located in the small village of Freelon, near Hamilton, this mall is huge: 20,000 sq. ft. on two floors. With about 255 vendors, there is truly something for everyone here.

"It's always a good idea to go around a place like this twice, in different directions," says Stefani. "You'll see different things. And if you



▲ The Freelon mall showcased Edwardian glitter with this early-1900s platinum and diamond necklace.

◀ This handsome Caldwell grandfather clock was available at the Freelon mall.

► Decorative and useful: this vintage kitchen booth in Freelon sparks good feelings of home, cooking, and meals with loved ones.



see something you like, take it to the front desk to hold it for you, as you may never find it again. If you don't want it later, they'll put it back."

Locked glass display cabinets hold valuable small items, but staff are happy to unlock them and let you examine items. Large open spaces are stocked with vendors' items, and

reflect their particular interests and passions.

At the upper end of the mall's price range recently was a long case grandfather clock with "Wm. Caldwell" and "Gorbals Glasgow" on the face, marked at \$2,495. Even higher priced was an early-1900s platinum-and-diamond Lavalier handmade necklace, appraised at \$13,850



▲ This area in the Freelon mall is packed with charming primitives of all kinds.

► Heart-warming primitives like crocks, bowls and milk cans are displayed in this booth of a Lakeshore Antiques' vendor.



but offered for sale for \$3,850.

Most items cost much less, fitting into the categories of vintage kitchen items, primitives, small furniture, costume jewellery, toys, tools, vinyl records, sports memorabilia and much more.

"Everyone's got \$20 to spend," observes Stefani, and indeed many pieces are from \$5 to \$25.

Lakeshore Antiques & Treasures

Margaret Caswell is one of the 16 dealers in the 6,000-sq.-ft. building that houses Lakeshore Antiques & Treasures in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Run as a co-op, all of its vendors help manage and maintain the shop. Marg's own large area is filled with everything from antique oil lamps to vintage tools.



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One of the highest priced treasures in the store is a roughly five-ft.-tall hand carved wooden crane with a bronze head and neck and iron legs, at \$2,400. Another valuable item is a set of two carved Butler's Rangers uniform buttons from at least the War of 1812, found in Queenston. Military dealer Graham Bennett has the set marked at \$1,600.

Another piece of note is a large art nouveau-style chandelier from the 1950s, with gold-toned brass and glass straw and beaded fringe. This regal find is \$895.

Pre-used and pre-loved, the items here change frequently as dealers constantly add affordable and unique discoveries. Primitive crocks and milk cans are tucked in next to crystal goblets while rhinestones sparkle beside old hats.



▲ Marg Caswell indicates a favourite antique oil lamp hanging in her area inside Lakeshore Antiques & Treasures.



▲ Lakeshore's treasures include these tiny and rare historical uniform buttons that were found in Queenston. The left button has "Butler's Rangers" carved on it; the right one bears a crown.

Selling

If you would like to become a vendor at either of these locations, be prepared to fill out an application and get put on a waiting list.

Should you have one or more antiques or items to sell, you are welcome to contact the store directly. Individual vendors would get back to you if there's interest in buying your pieces from you.

If you're having trouble finding something specific, The Freelton Antique Mall keeps a "want" list. If a vendor comes across an item that could be of interest, you will be contacted.



▲ Part of the impressive collection of Indigenous art at Czech It Out.

Czech It Out

The eight small rooms packed with finds are "not big enough!" says Susan Bazant, owner of Meaford's Czech It Out. As Susan is the sole vendor, she knows the entire inventory of antiques, vintage items, collectibles, toys and Indigenous art.

The most valuable piece in the store recently was a tall, slender Narwhal tusk, scrimshaw and serpentine

► This rare, key-wound Breitling Laederich pocket watch from 1840-1860, in working order, was marked \$6,000 at Czech It Out.

carving by Moses Tuka Quinujua. The art is signed and dated 1979 and carries a price of \$12,000.

Susan will take some items on consignment. One example is a 14-carat gold-filled pocket watch and key, that still works, and was priced at \$6,000.

Displayed prominently are the works of many First Nations artists, including paintings and prints by Charmaine Jenner, beadwork by Nia Jones of Cape Croker, and pottery from Six Nations near Brantford. **NEV**





▲ A magnificent wooden, bronze and iron crane stands guard behind a fine chair in Lakeshore Antiques.

CZECH IT OUT

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519.377.7990
czechitoutantiques.ca

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Hamilton's Waterfalls in Winter: Then & Now

BY JOSEPH HOLLICK

Thanks to the Niagara Escarpment that runs through the entire length of Hamilton, more than 100 waterfalls have been counted in the city, although many of them are small. A few years ago, this led to the nickname “The City of Waterfalls.” Many of these waterfalls were known and photographed over a century ago. To date, 18 Hamilton waterfalls have been found featured on postcards dating back to the early 1900s. Seven of those waterfalls were photographed in winter. Here are those winter waterfall scenes displayed near my own photographs showing how those falls look now. As a bonus, an eighth winter waterfall in St. Catharines is included as it had a connection to Hamilton a century ago.

Logie's Falls/Upper Sydenham Falls

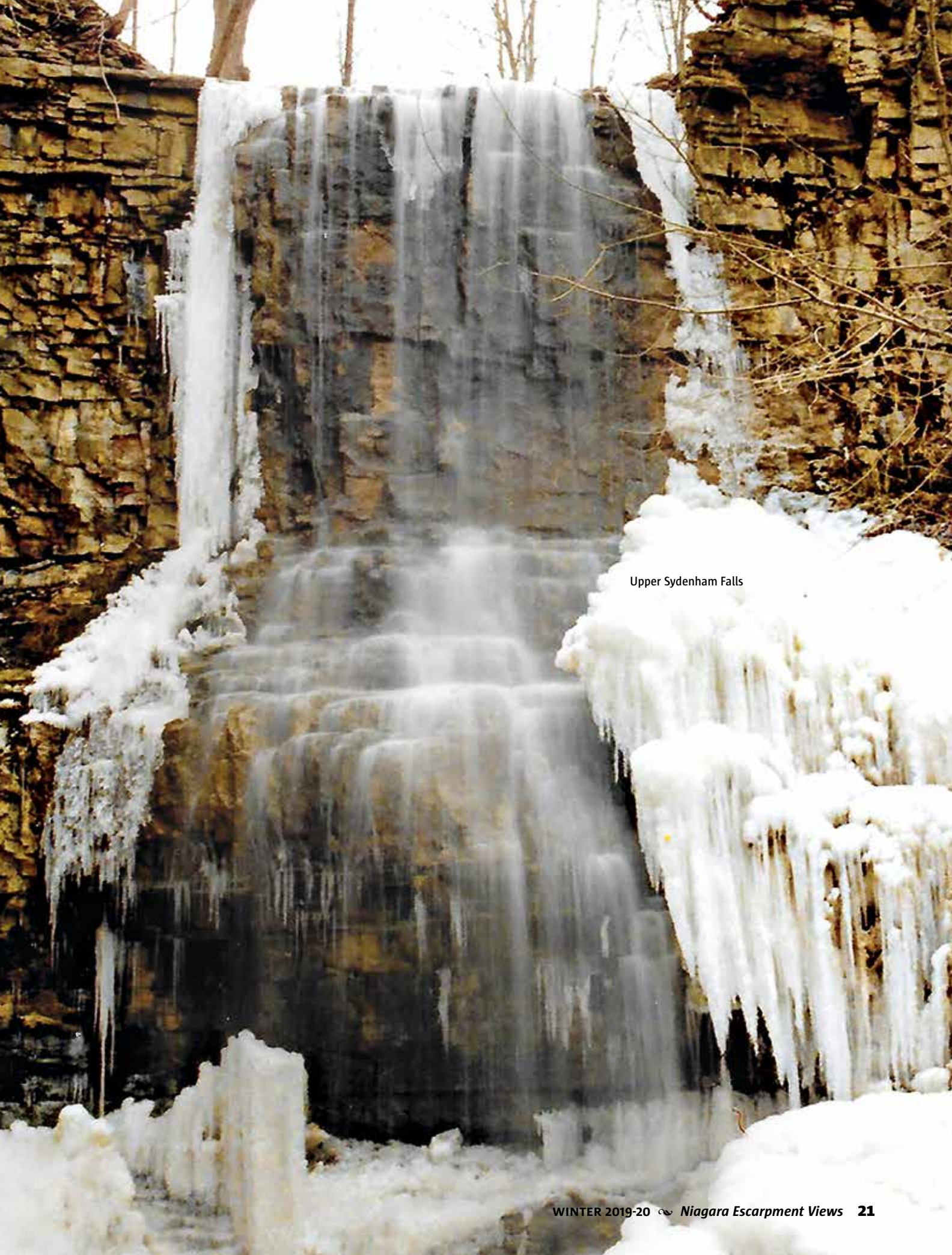
My collection contains a vintage postcard, of Logie's Falls in winter from the early 1900s. It states that Logie's Falls is in Dundas, which now is part of Hamilton. In the early 1900s, the Logie family owned this land, thus the name.

Beside it is a current picture of this waterfall which I took in March 2007, on 35mm film. The name now has been changed to Upper Sydenham

Falls, because this waterfall is located on the Sydenham Creek, which runs through the Dundas section of Hamilton, where there actually are three waterfalls. This waterfall is the uppermost. Both pictures were taken from the same location in winter and it appears that not too much has changed over a century on the actual waterfall, however in the postcard at the top on the left side, there appears to be a fence which is not present in the current photo.



► Logie's Falls



Upper Sydenham Falls

It's very important to emphasize safety regarding waterfalls, which can be dangerous at any time, but more so in winter, with snow and ice. Therefore, if you plan to visit some of Hamilton's waterfalls, please stay on the marked trails, dress accordingly and be aware of your surroundings, as numerous accidents and rope rescues have occurred at Hamilton's waterfalls every year. There have even been fatalities. No one wants the statistics to increase.



Chedoke Falls

The vintage postcard showing Chedoke Falls in winter from the early 1900s is courtesy of Janet Forjan-Freedman. In this picture the creek above the waterfall originates from a natural creek; there is no man-made structure.

The photo that I took on February 20, 2003 using 35mm print film, is from nearly the same position as the postcard. The big change is at the top of the waterfall

where the creek has been enclosed into a large concrete storm sewer and the water flows out of this large pipe. As the "mountain" or Niagara Escarpment area of Hamilton was being developed into roads and housing, the creek above the waterfall had been entirely enclosed into a large storm sewer system collecting rainwater from the new roads in the area, which then flowed into this large concrete pipe. In

addition, a road and bridge have been built over this pipe near the top of the waterfall, just out of the picture.

Thus, in this case and many other Hamilton waterfalls, I have coined the term "Urban Waterfall" whereby a portion of the natural creek, either above or below that particular waterfall, has been channelled into a man-made structure, due to urbanization. In this case and most of the other "Urban

Waterfalls" in Hamilton, however, the waterfall itself remains natural.

Sanatorium Falls

Sanatorium Falls is also known as Upper Sanatorium Falls. Again courtesy of Janet Forjan-Freedman, is the vintage postcard showing Sanatorium Ravine in winter from the early 1900s. This postcard is very interesting from a few standpoints. First, the name of the creek or ravine





▲ ► Sanatorium Falls

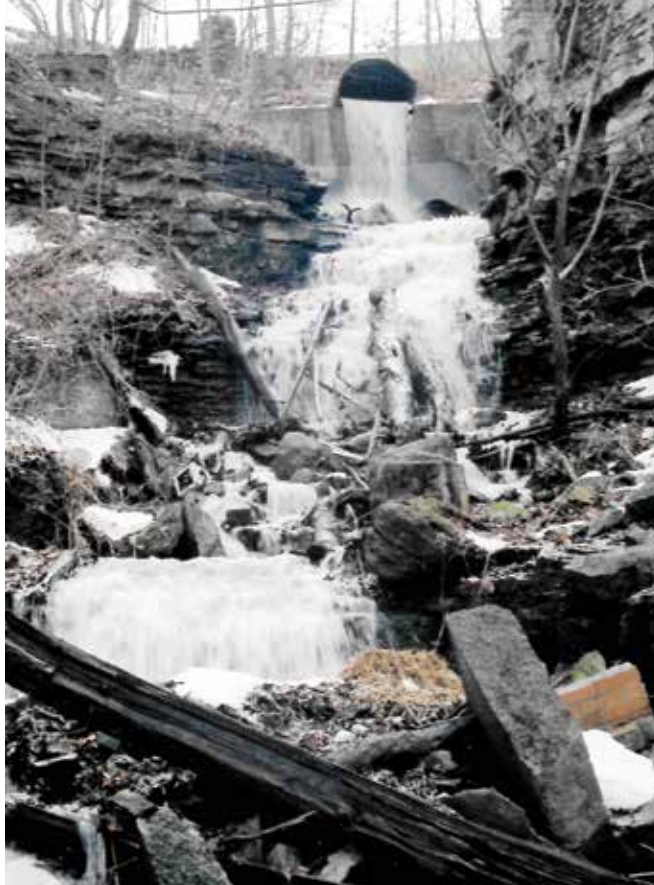
is taken from the Mountain Sanatorium which was built on top of Hamilton's mountain at this location. Second, why would there be a new staircase built beside a ravine? Well, the Hamilton Brantford Electric Railway opened in June 1908 and it ran along what is now known as the Chedoke Radial Trail which is situated part way down the Niagara Escarpment. One of the stops was the Hamilton Sanatorium and a staircase had to be built for people to climb up the top section of the Niagara Escarpment to reach the hospital. Thus, I am guessing that this postcard is from the winter of 1909 or 1910. Third, the creek or ravine appears to be natural with no visible storm sewer pipes.

My photo of Sanatorium Falls was taken in winter on January 1, 2005 on 35mm colour film. It is not exactly the same location as the postcard, as my photo only shows the top of the ravine beside the staircase. There are obvious changes between the two pictures.



First, the name still uses "sanatorium," however the upper section now is called Upper Sanatorium Falls with a lower section farther down the ravine, not shown in either picture, known as Lower Sanatorium Cascade. Second, the staircase is gone because the electric railway is gone and the hospital also is gone. Thus there is no need for people

to climb up the Escarpment at this location. Third, the water flowing at the top into the ravine which forms the waterfall, now emanates



from an ugly storm sewer pipe. In addition, the entire ravine has much debris and garbage in it. Not a pretty sight.

Webster's Falls

Janet Forjan-Freedman's postcard showing Webster's Falls in winter from the early 1900s, taken from the bottom of the falls, is quite beautiful. It is amazing that someone a century ago was able to reach the bottom of the waterfall to take this picture. Nowadays it is very difficult to reach the bottom of Webster's Falls as the staircase beside the falls has been closed and it is a long journey up the creek to this location. The staircase to the bottom was still open in 2002, thus I was able to reach the bottom and take my photograph on Dec. 27, on 35mm

colour film. Although not from the exact location as the postcard, it shows the base of the waterfall, some ice build-up and the low water flow.



◀ ▲ Webster Falls



▲ ► Tews Falls



Tews Falls

In the early 1900s this waterfall near Dundas was called Hopkins Falls because this land was owned by the Hopkins family. This vintage postcard from 1907 is courtesy of Russ Powers. It shows the ice build-up at the waterfall which is significant as this waterfall is 41m in height, the highest waterfall in Hamilton. Also impressive is that the photo was taken from the bottom of the falls which would have required a hike up the creek in winter. Some time afterwards, the land was acquired by the Tew

family and now is known as Tews Falls or Tew's Falls.

My photo of Tews Falls, reflecting the name change, was taken in winter on March 9, 2011 from a viewing platform at the top. Again, it shows the massive ice build-up on this tall waterfall. Other than the name change, this waterfall has not changed much over a century except for two new viewing platforms located across the gorge from the actual falls.

Lower Sydenham Falls

The vintage postcard showing Sydenham Ravine

in late winter, showing some snow still on the sides of the ravine, dated 1909, is also courtesy of Russ Powers. This postcard photo was taken from an old wooden bridge used by the railway to cross this creek. This bridge is still there, but much has changed in the ravine since 1909.

My photo from January 23, 2012, was taken from the same wooden bridge, which now is used by the Bruce Trail to cross the same creek. However, a new railway bridge, for two railway tracks, has been

built in front of the old wooden bridge as seen by the graffitied bridge columns. In addition, the creek bottom was reconstructed with concrete to slow the flow of water beside the columns, and then a manmade stone wall was constructed to rejoin the natural creek elevation. This is a totally urban waterfall as the water flow in the creek is still natural, but almost everything has been urbanized.

This is the third and lowest waterfall on Sydenham Creek, which has Upper Sydenham Falls further upstream.



▼ ► Lower
Sydenham Falls




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◀ Spring Falls

▼ Upper Grindstone Falls



De Cew's Falls St. Catharines Ont.

▲ ▶ Decew's Falls

Spring Falls/ Upper Grindstone Falls

The vintage postcard showing Arnolds Falls in winter, dated 1926, is courtesy of Sylvia Wray of Flamborough Archives. If you look closely in this postcard, you can see two people standing on a wooden bridge above the falls. We are not sure why this is called Arnolds Falls, but an earlier postcard from 1910 also calls this Arnolds Falls.

This waterfall now is called Spring Falls, or Upper Grindstone Falls, and my winter photo was taken from a similar location as the postcard on January 10, 2015. I prefer the name of Spring Falls as it is on a branch of the Grindstone Creek called Spring Creek. It is located above the larger waterfall in Waterdown, known as Great Falls or Smokey Hollow Falls

or Grindstone Falls, and thus has the alternate name of Upper Grindstone Falls. In my photo a bridge is still located above the falls, however it was rebuilt to accommodate vehicular traffic, due to a few homes that were built on the other side. The bridge is on a private road and still does not appear to meet current roadway bridge code.

Upper Decew Falls

The vintage postcard showing De Cew's Falls in winter, dated 1907, is courtesy of Janet Forjan-Freedman. In this and other vintage postcards, this waterfall is called De Cew Falls or De Cew's Falls. This waterfall is located in St. Catharines, however a hydroelectric power generating station was built there in 1898 to supply electricity to Hamilton.



It is still operating, making it the oldest continually running hydroelectric power generating station in Canada. This image was taken from the top of the bank on the other side of the ravine.

My winter photo of DeCew Falls was taken on March 14, 2015 from the bottom of the gorge. Not too much has changed in over a century as both then and now, this waterfall is producing electricity, although not directly to Hamilton anymore. **NEV**

Joseph Hollick of Dundas is a professional engineer whose

hobby is photography. He was a director of The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre and produced four posters of photographs of the waterfalls of Hamilton through the seasons. In 2009 he received the Via Rail Canada Tourism Award for Volunteer of the Year for his 10 years involvement in locating, photographing and promoting Hamilton's waterfalls.

Janet Forjan-Freedman has a large collection of postcards of Hamilton. Russ Powers of Dundas is interested in historical postcards of Dundas.

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Little Tub Harbour, Tobermory.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.







BACK TO NATURE:

Rescuing Wildlife

As a world biosphere reserve, the Niagara Escarpment is meant to be a place where native plants and animals can thrive in natural, wild settings, despite human communities, industry, agriculture, development, vehicles and recreational activities. Yet human pressures can lead to harm for wild birds and animals. Wildlife rescue centres help by nursing them to health and ideally, eventual release back into the wild.



◀ The Coyote Samson being released at his home farm after being treated for mange at Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre. The owner of this property wanted the Coyote returned because Coyotes keep mice down, and the horses here are more disturbed by mice than Coyotes. Procyon always aims to release animals back in the area where they were found, according to Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry regulations. Procyon is celebrating its 10th anniversary.
PHOTO BY JENNIFER HOWARD.



▲ Two of the many orphaned Raccoons being raised at Procyon Wildlife until they are old enough for release to the wild. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



◀ One of the orphaned White-tailed Deer fawns being raised at Procyon for release at age 5 ½ months. Fawns can become imprinted on humans, so contact with them must be minimal.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

No government funding. Centres that rescue wildlife receive no government funding. They operate year-round, providing medical and nursing care, shelter, food, enrichment, and then transporting them for release, all thanks to volunteers, donations and grants. They do this for both orphans and mature birds and animals. Some centres focus on a specialty. Some may not be able to care for certain species, especially large carnivores or bears. Each organization may treat hundreds of animals a year, providing services free of charge.

“We receive calls

from people desperate for a solution to the many human/wildlife situations that arise,” explains Debra Spilar, director of Procyon Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre in Beeton. “They call about orphaned animals they’ve found, injured animals, diseased or disoriented animals.”

What To Do

If you find an injured or orphaned bird or animal, be aware that some animal control and humane centres will euthanize wild animals because they are not prepared or equipped to provide the specialized, ongoing



▲ A Snowy Owl being fed meat at Procyon.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY PROCYON WILDLIFE.



▲ This orphaned Red Fox was raised at Procyon Wildlife until she was safely released to the wild. She was given the name Talitha. Procyon is rare in being able to accept eyes-closed babies.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY PROCYON WILDLIFE.

care that may be needed to bring them to safe release.

If you come upon an injured animal, call a wildlife centre. Don't email, as staff are usually busy caring for animals and not always able to monitor their inboxes. Staff will give instructions on first aid and help you get the animal to the right place for care. Generally, small animals can be placed in a deep cardboard box and kept quiet until brought to help. Large animals and birds of prey need special care.

Any young animal found near a dead mature female should be regarded as orphaned. Things are a little

more complicated for birds and animals that seem to be on their own. White-tailed Deer fawns are left alone by their mothers who return to them every four hours or so to nurse them. Solo fawns usually aren't orphaned or abandoned.

Other baby mammals can be returned to their nest or den, if known. Otherwise, they can be placed in a warm shallow box close to where they were found.

Young birds that are out of their nest or on the ground but can't fly, may also have watchful parents nearby. It is a myth that once touched by a human, baby birds are rejected by their adults. You can return

a fallen hatchling into its nest. If you can't find the nest, you can place it in a warm shallow box where it was discovered.

Mammals and birds that seem to be orphaned should be watched for four to six hours for the return of their mother. If they have not been cared for by their mother in that time, it's safe to consider them an orphan.

When in doubt, call an expert. To find a wildlife centre near you, look online at OntarioWildlifeRescue.ca or call them at 416.436.9892. This umbrella organization exists to help support a network of rehabilitators who work at saving wild animals. Their

website can direct you to the right centre which can care for the animal or bird you found.

How To Help

Financial donations are needed to keep wildlife rescue centres operating. Some can use volunteers on site or as drivers to pick up or transport animals for release. Medical supplies, food, bedding materials and other goods can be given. It's best to check their website or contact the centre to find out how you could help. Here are some needs from some centres near the Escarpment.



▲ Cottontail Rabbit being sheltered at Procyon. "We try to make the cages as natural as possible," says Debra Spilar. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



▲ Two Opossums hiding in their enclosure. The open mouth is meant to intimidate, but if that doesn't work, Opossums will play dead in the hope of being ignored by predators. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

▼ White-tailed Deer fawn being released. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PROCYON WILDLIFE.



Procyon Wildlife

6441 7th Line, Beeton
ON L0G 1A0
905.729.0033
procyonwildlife.com
Cheques payable to Procyon Wildlife. Donate online by PayPal or Canada Helps. Links are on their website. Wish list items: drivers for animal transfers and produce pickup; carpenters, maintenance and work-day helpers; sponsors for animals; shovels, rakes, brooms; bottles for returnable deposits; medical supplies; cleaning supplies, used Christmas trees, used Halloween pumpkins.

The Owl Foundation

4117 Twenty first St.,
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905.562.5986
theowlfoundation.ca
Provides help for owls but can also care for other birds of prey like hawks and falcons. "Injured raptors need immediate attention by people trained and authorized to care for raptors," explains

Rod MacFadyen, chair and manager. "Some permanently disabled owls are accepted as residents and become parents or foster parents of young birds that are releasable."

Prefers cheques payable to The Owl Foundation but also accepts donations through Canada Helps and from direct credit card donations.

Sometimes needs towels, cleaning supplies, medical supplies and office supplies.

"Check with us before bringing them, in case we can't accept what is being offered," says Rod. "Send inquiries to owlmail@sympatico.ca."

Bear Creek Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary

8633 10th Line of Essa
Township, Barrie ON L4M 4S4
705.721.4730
bearcreeksanctuary.com
Can care for coyote, fox, groundhog, porcupine, possum, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, turtle, weasel, wolf. "Aside from our rehabilitation facility, our sanctuary has

been home for permanent placement of native and exotic species for 30 years," explains Mary Barros.

Needed are donations of supplies and materials such as lumber, fencing, towels, linens, gift cards for building materials, dog and cat food, vehicles for animal transports. Financial donations are appreciated, especially cheques. Electronic donations are easy but Mary notes that organizations providing this service take a percentage of the donation. "Direct donations are the best way for the full amount to be used."

Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge

1226 Concession 4 Walpole,
Jarvis ON N0A 1J0
519.587.2980 hobbitstee.com
Cheques made out to Hobbitstee Wildlife Refuge. E-transfers to chantal@hobbitstee.com. Wish list items are on their website and on Amazon.



▲ A Raccoon being released to the wild.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY PROCYON WILDLIFE.

Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge

P.O. Box 87, Pepperlaw ON L0E 1N0
705.437.4654 shadesofhope.ca
Cheques payable to Shades of Hope.
Donations available through their website.
They have a wish list on Amazon.

National Wildlife Centre

P.O. Box 192 Caledon East, ON L7C 3L9
416.577.4372 nationalwildlifecentre.ca
Currently operate an accredited
mobile wildlife clinic to help other

wildlife rehabilitators. Recently
acquired 100 acres of land.

"Our vision is to build a Centre
of Excellence for wildlife medicine,
surgery, rehabilitation, and education in
Caledon," declares Sherri Cox, a wildlife
veterinarian. Fundraising goal is \$5
million. Cheques payable to National
Wildlife Centre or donate through
their website or Canada Helps. Will
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to help build the hospital. **NEV**

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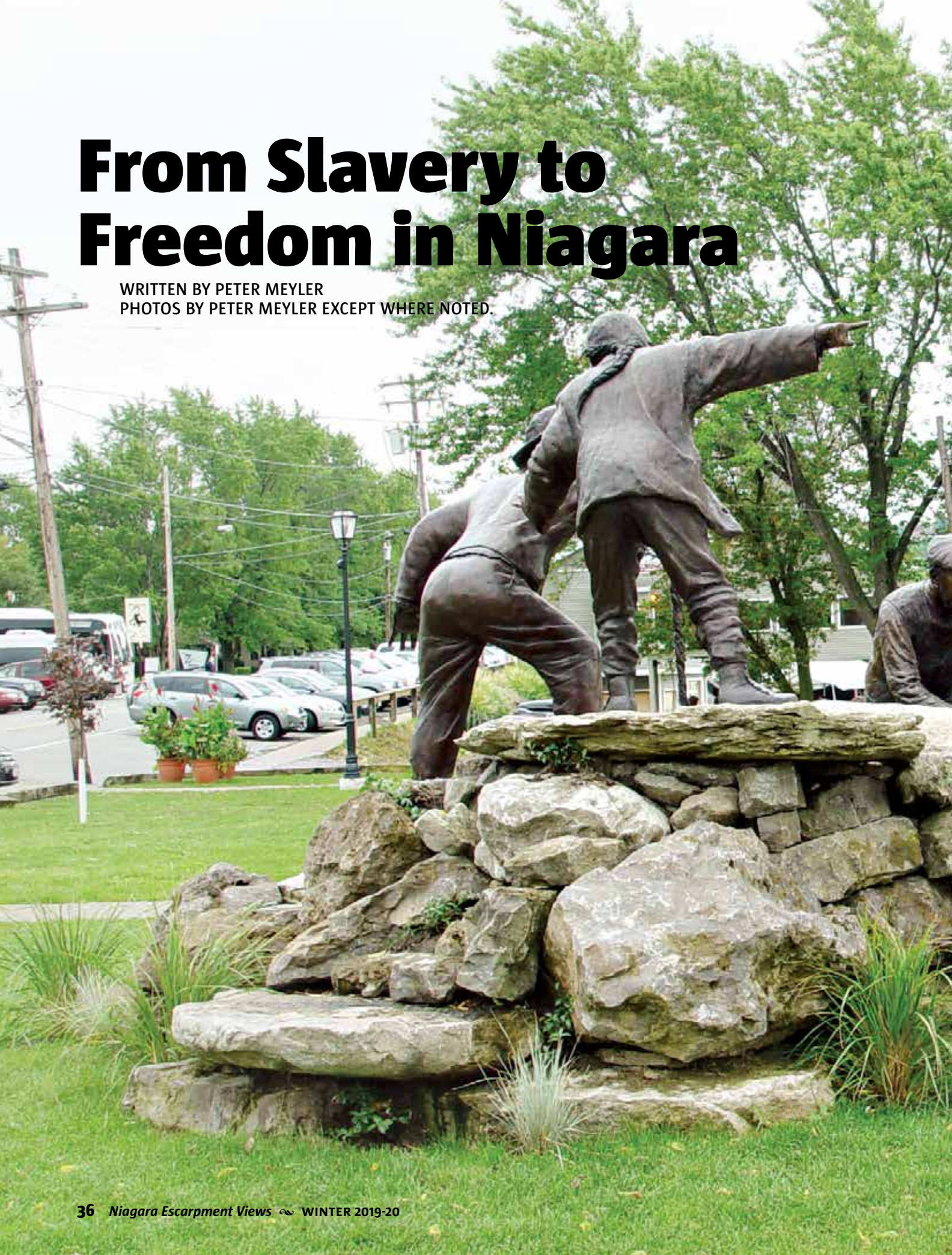
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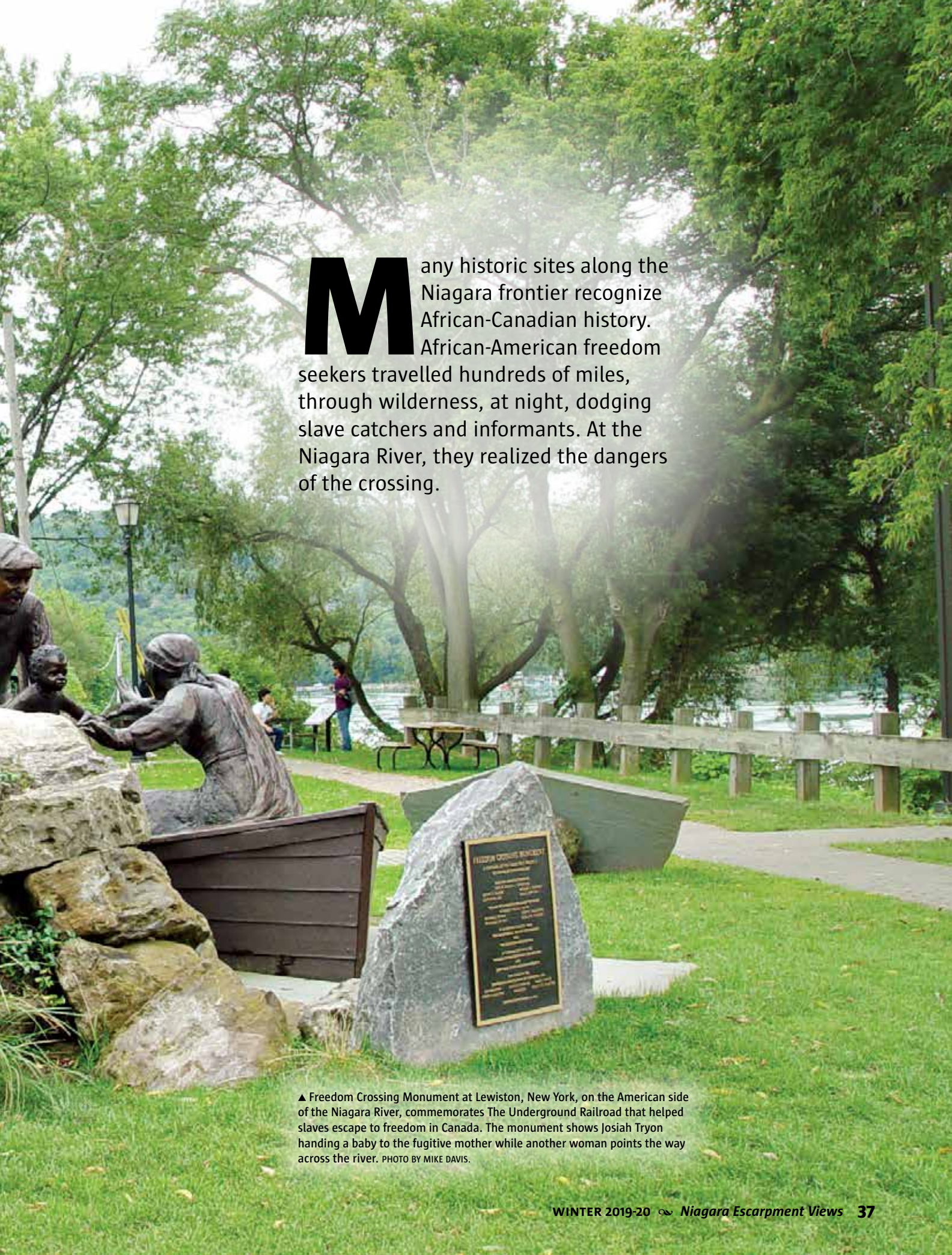
E:wisecracks@bell.net

From Slavery to Freedom in Niagara

WRITTEN BY PETER MEYLER

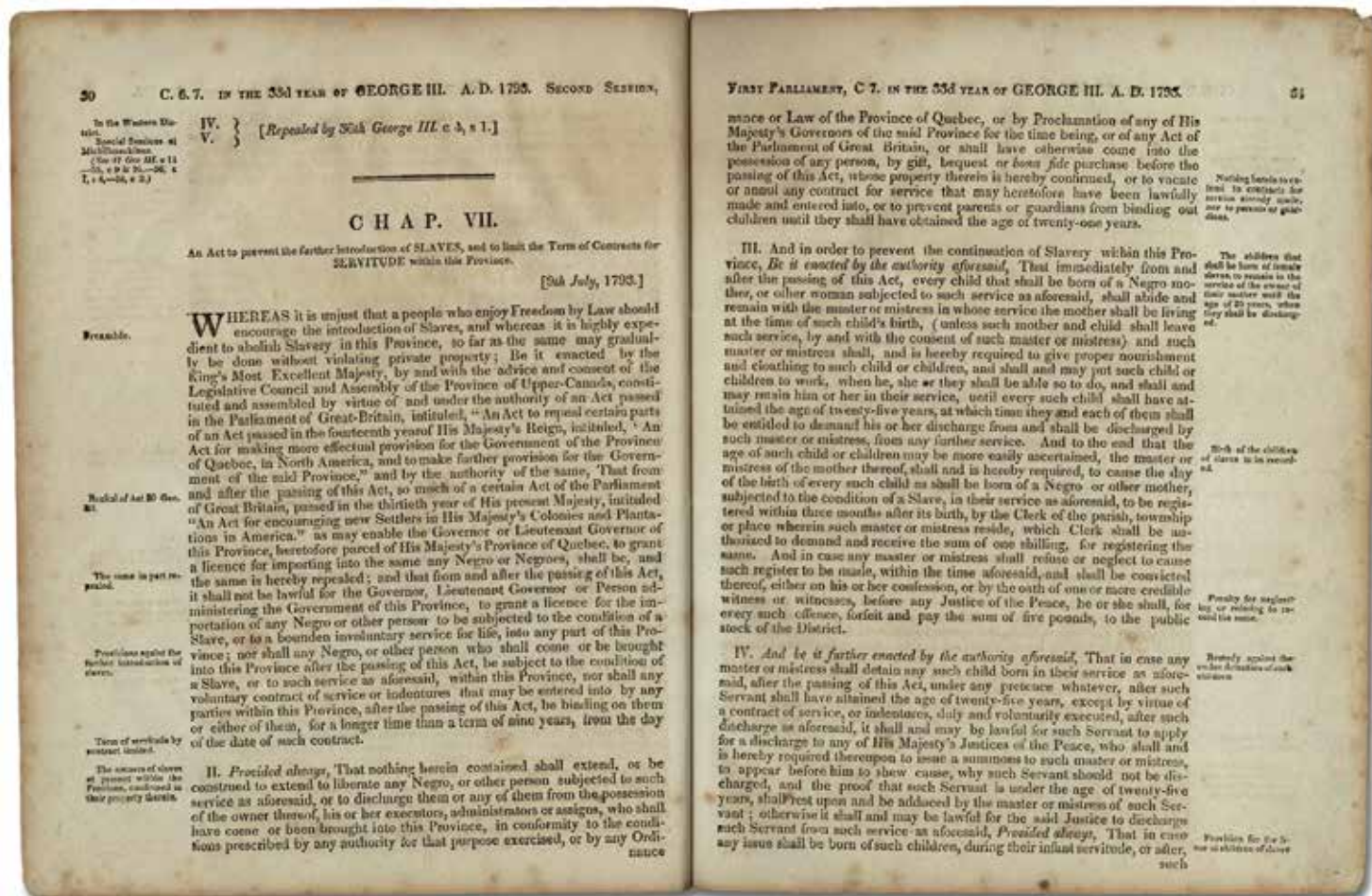
PHOTOS BY PETER MEYLER EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.





Many historic sites along the Niagara frontier recognize African-Canadian history. African-American freedom seekers travelled hundreds of miles, through wilderness, at night, dodging slave catchers and informants. At the Niagara River, they realized the dangers of the crossing.

▲ Freedom Crossing Monument at Lewiston, New York, on the American side of the Niagara River, commemorates The Underground Railroad that helped slaves escape to freedom in Canada. The monument shows Josiah Tryon handing a baby to the fugitive mother while another woman points the way across the river. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



▲ Opening text of Lieutenant John Graves Simcoe's act to limit slavery, entitled "An Act to Prevent the further Introduction of Slaves and to limit the Term of Contracts for Servitude within this Province." Available from the Archives of Ontario. Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

"It was the 28 of October, 1830, in the morning, when my feet first touched the Canada shore. I threw myself on the ground, rolled in the sand, seized handfuls of it and kissed them, and danced round till, in the eyes of several who were present, I passed for a madman." So wrote Josiah Henson, who with his wife Charlotte and their four young children, had escaped enslavement in Maryland and

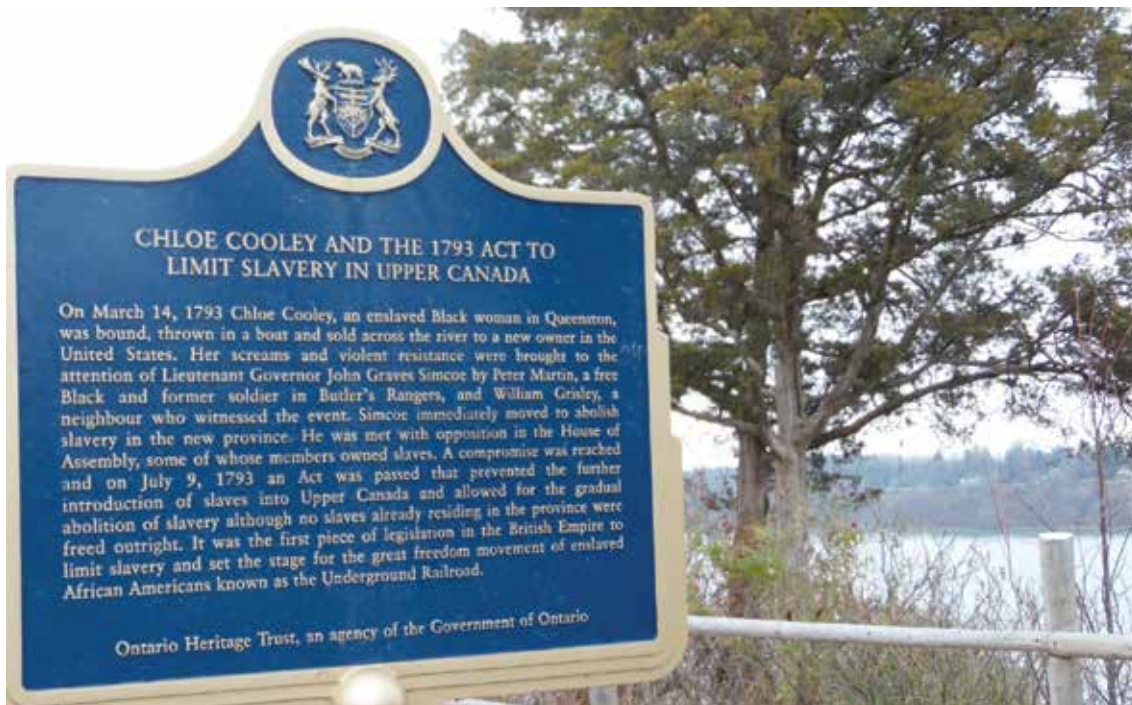
crossed the dark waters of the Niagara River into freedom. In 1793 Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe had signed into law an act to limit slavery in Upper Canada. This set free any enslaved person when they entered the colony. But it was a tragic event that triggered this law. On the evening of Friday, March 14, 1793, screaming caught the attention of Peter Martin. He was a Black

Loyalist who was working near Queenston. Looking towards the Niagara River, he saw Chloe Cooley bound and struggling with three men as she was dumped into a boat and transported across the river. She was an enslaved servant of William Vrooman who had sold her to someone in New York State. Martin and another witness reported this action to Simcoe and Upper Canada's Executive

Council. The result was the first anti-slavery law in the British Empire. Ironically, the law would not have freed Chloe since it allowed Ontario slave owners to keep those enslaved as property. Today a provincial plaque beside the Niagara Parkway tells of Chloe's abduction and sale. It is one of many sites along the Niagara frontier that recalls African American freedom seekers and chattel



◀ Voices of Freedom Park at 244 Regent St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake was opened in late 2018 to feature significant members of Niagara's early Black community. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS



◀ The plaque beside the Niagara River, commemorating Chloe Cooley, whose capture and sale to a person in the U.S. led to a 1793 act to limit slavery in Upper Canada.

slavery, both integral parts of North American history.

Voices of Freedom

Niagara-on-the-Lake has just added another memorial to African Canadian history. On November 2, 2018, the Voices of Freedom park was officially opened in the heart of the town. The park features an art installation called Rite of Passage which features four stories, including Chloe's.

Also featured is Solomon Moseby. He was arrested and found guilty of stealing his master's horse which he had used to escape from slavery in Kentucky. He was in the Niagara Court House awaiting return to the U.S. when a riot broke out by members of the Black community who had surrounded the building. Moseby escaped and remained in Niagara, a free man.

The Waters family, who

had settled here by 1794, is also mentioned on the art installation. Members of the family received land grants, built houses and farms, took part in the War of 1812 and served in local government. They also attended St. Mark's Church, the iconic Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The other person commemorated was one of the earliest and most important African Canadians to settle

here, Richard Pierpoint.

Pierpoint had been captured as a 16-year-old around 1760, bought by an American officer serving with the British during the French and Indian War. During the American Revolution Pierpoint managed to escape, join Butler's Rangers and gain his freedom. He came to Niagara in 1780 as a member of the Rangers. One of only a handful of Black



▲ Richard Pierpoint was captured in Africa as a slave but became free fighting the American Revolution. After further military service, he eventually became an early Black settler of his own land. This provincial plaque is located in Centennial Gardens, St. Catharines, near Dick's Creek which is named after him.

United Empire Loyalists, he received 200 acres in what is now St. Catharines. A provincial plaque is situated in Centennial Gardens near Dick's Creek which is named after him.

Another provincial plaque relates to Pierpoint although

he is not mentioned. This plaque sits atop Queenston Heights in the shadow of Brock's Monument. It recognizes the Coloured Corps, an all-Black militia unit formed at Pierpoint's suggestion. The Corps took part in many important

battles, including Queenston Heights, Fort George and Stoney Creek. The Corps also built Fort Mississauga along Lake Ontario. Today the only shots heard here are from golfers because the remains of the fort sit in the middle of the Niagara-on-

the-Lake Golf Club. A path leads visitors to the remaining star-shaped earthworks and square brick tower.

Many more historic sites along the Niagara frontier recognize African Canadian history and culture. Oliver Parnall of Virginia survived



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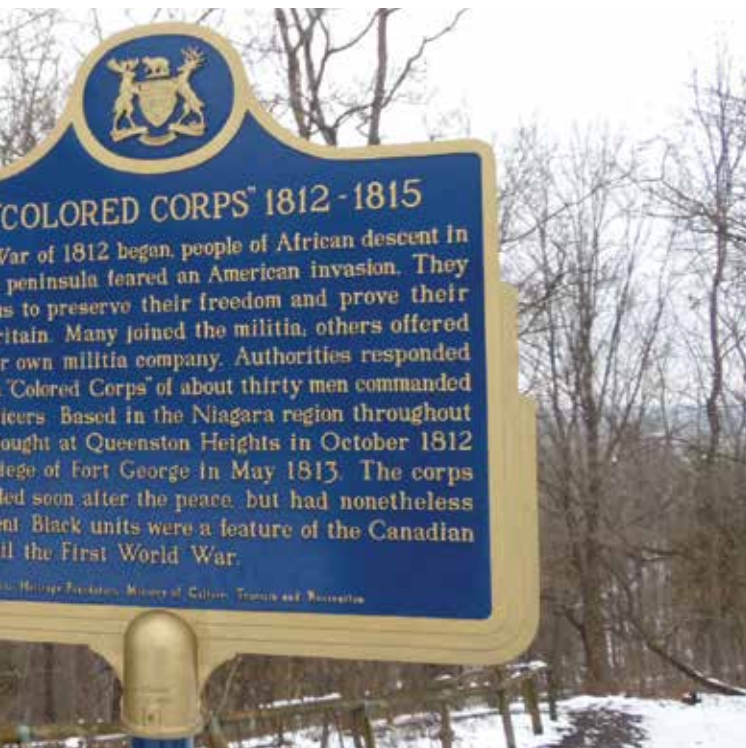
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◀ In Voices of Freedom Park, the art installation Rite of Passage has curved walls of rusted metal with historical details carved into them.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

▼ The Coloured Corps was an all-Black militia unit that was formed at the suggestion of Richard Pierpoint. The Corps took part in many important battles, including Queenston Heights, Fort George and Stoney Creek. This plaque is located on Queenston Heights in the shadow of Brock's Monument.



the swim across the mighty Niagara River, entering the cold water and pushing a small crate containing all his possessions. Parnall prospered in his adopted homeland and eventually had enough wealth to donate land for the British Methodist Episcopal

Church, an African-Canadian church that still exists as a national historic site at 5674 Peer Street in Niagara Falls.

Harriet Tubman

Another important church is found in St. Catharines and is nicknamed the Harriet



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The all-Black militia The Coloured Corps built Fort Mississauga near Lake Ontario with a view of Niagara River. Earthworks and the original central brick tower are all that remain at Niagara-on-the-Lake today.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Tubman Church after its most famous congregant. Officially it is the Salem Chapel British Methodist Episcopal Church. Tubman lived in St. Catharines from 1851 to 1861. She is the most famous Underground Railroad “conductor” and became its public face. She led many of her rescue missions from and to St. Catharines. There is a campaign for the preservation of this important church.

The stories of these freedom seekers inspire Lezlie Harper Wells, a tour leader with her company Niagara Bound

Tours and the recipient of the 2018 Underground Railroad Free Press Prize for the Advancement of Knowledge. Lezlie is a descendant of a freedom seeker. Her great-great-grandfather Jack Bright escaped from Kentucky and arrived in Ontario in 1851 with his brother and nine-year-old sister. Like many others, they had travelled hundreds of miles, much through unknown wilderness, much at nighttime, all the while dodging slave catchers and their informants. An estimated 40,000 African

Americans escaped slavery by crossing the Niagara River.

A permanent exhibit at the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canals Centre, “Follow the North Star,” gives an insight into the African Canadian people and places that were part of Niagara’s development. **NEV**

Peter Meyler’s research focuses on Ontario’s Black history. He is co-author of A Stolen Life: Searching for Richard Pierpoint and editor of Broken Shackles: Old Man Henson From Slavery to Freedom.

► At Salem Chapel British Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Catharines, nicknamed the Harriet Tubman Church, a sculpture and plaque commemorate the value of Tubman to the cause of freedom. On the plinth is carved “After the passing of the USA 1850 Fugitive Slave Law she said ‘I wouldn’t trust Uncle Sam with my people no longer. I brought them all clear off to Canada.’”

For our feature on Owen Sound’s role in the Underground Railroad, see “Freedom Celebration! Owen Sound’s 150th Emancipation Day Picnic,” Summer 2012.

The Underground Railroad was a secret organization of trails, safe hiding places and people helping slaves escape the U.S. for Canada.



▲ Harriet Tubman is the best-known conductor on The Underground Railroad and led many of her rescue missions from and to St. Catharines. She helped hundreds of slaves reach freedom.



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Three pieces from The Bruce, by Lorraine Campbell

The Fox

Hiding in the shadow
of the reeds,
the fox waits as the first wrens
sing to the early dawn that
ushers in the newborn sun
rising
slipping shafts of liquid light
between the feathered trees
where the first breezes fill
the air with fluid sound

Muzzle to the wind he tests
the braid of scent borne on
the gentle wind that wafts
up from the waking marsh
carrying with it songs of frogs
and the promise of food

He waits motionless
for the perfect time
to pad on silent feet
through slender grasses
to pounce and catch in
mid leap and mid song
while untouched
singers fall silent

One
and then one
and then another,
green-backed peepers start up
until the air throbs with the
resonant breath of spring

Soft round eggs safely
buried in the gravel, the
armoured red-ear slider
scrabbles her way back
to the edge of the mud
Clumsy on land, she is
elegance in the water
No ripple marks her passage
as she glides through
the tannin realm –

Beneath the surface of the
marsh her back reflects the
golden light of the morning
and above
there is the shimmer of
a thousand iridescent
wings - insects take flight

Soon the air is pierced
with knife-edged shrieks
Gulls wheel and dive and
feast, wings silver blades in the
sun that throws heat down
to blanket the still
waters of the marsh
to hold the rich dark scent
of life close to the ground
and close to the fox
hidden once more in the
shadow of the reeds

Four Haiku, by Robert Piotrowski

the stones I bring back
from the shore -- beautiful
until they dry

burned
into every autumn leaf
a sunset

a sprinkling
of December snow
pizzelle moon

awake in the tent
I mistake a warbler's song
for a ringing phone

*Robert Piotrowski's poetry
has been published in
Frogpond, Haiku Canada
Review, and GUSTS.*

Above the Niagara Escarpment

by Jennifer L. Foster

Raucous crows at dusk
alight on bare oak branches
rising gibbous moon

*Jennifer L. Foster of Hamilton
has had poems published in
Tamaracks: Canadian Poetry
for the 21st Century (LUMMOX
Press), the LUMMOX, and
Cats Cats Cats and More
Cats (Mini Mocho Press)
anthologies, as well as Quills
Canadian Poetry Magazine
and Tower Poetry. Her short
stories have been published in
Perspectives Magazine (online).*

HOME

Solid rock beneath
my feet, rugged plants
that grow therein
With roots that twist and wind
and weave and seek the cracks
Wherein
To anchor there and
drink the dew
And nourish life above

Trees soar to grace the
earth with dappled light
from feathered leaves
They touch the sun
and change the heat to
cedar sweet perfume
That floats and drifts upon
the breeze, to cloak the earth
And settle
On the grey rocks
Split with passing years,
exposing ancient lives

Thick moss blankets
forest floor to shelter
new-dropped seeds
Pale sedge and grass at
water's edge bow and
ripple in the breeze
Orchids spring abundantly
the colour of the sun
Bear-walker scattered
by the roads, and mint
and columbine
Waves pulse or crash
upon the shore in tune
with shrill birdsong
There's rhythm in the
land and lake
In colour and in sound

This solid rock beneath my feet
The richness of the land
The Bruce is bedded
deep within
It binds me
I am home

Water Song

There's music in the water
The lake sings against
the shore
Fine spume is carried
in the wind
As breakers crash and roar
Their fury hurled against
the rock that's stood so
long through time
Then quietly all is drawn back
To rest
Regroup
Then surge anew
To play upon the stone

Huron is a mighty lake
bounded by the land
–Sweet Water Sea –
The shores were forged
By Nature's gifted hand
Rock strewn beaches
Soaring cliffs
Flat shelves of limestone grey
Boulders hurled by Manitou
Broad arcs of yellow sand

The ceaseless churning
of the waves
Makes lace of countless bays
Where cedars bow
at water's edge
To show where fossils lay
The lake brings music
to the shore
An everchanging song
There's magic deep
within this land
Where Huron makes a home

*Lorraine Campbell of Cape
Hurd is part of the global
movement 100 Thousand
Poets for Change and has a
book of poetry entitled From
the Bruce and Beyond.*



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Ray's 3rd Generation Bistro Bakery in the village of Alton, Caledon, is a warm and cosy place in winter to dine in, take out or stock up on fresh baked goods. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

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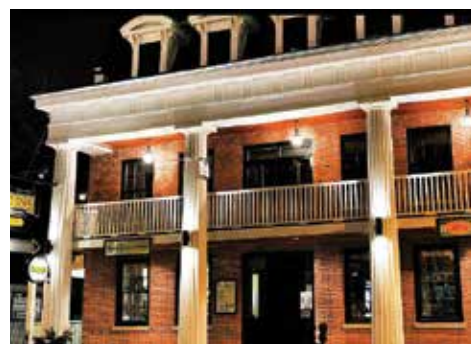
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What is Land Worth?

By Bob Barnett

In June I helped a group of botanists visit the shore of Lake Huron west of Miller Lake in Bruce County and about 20 km south of Tobermory. We spent the day looking at Hill's Thistle and other botanical rarities on a property owned by Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC). Among the finds were a Massasauga Rattlesnake and a rare dragonfly.

Only a week later I found that there is an application to build a house right beside the very nature reserve we had visited, right on a globally rare type of land called an alvar, within metres of our reserve and the Hill's Thistle. I let my new botanical friends and EBC contacts know and 22 letters flooded in to the municipality to object to the rezoning. We objected that the land was rated a provincially significant (PS) Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) and that such a development would erode EBC's nature reserve next door and the alvar on the subject property through physical destruction, invasive species, human recreational use and domestic pets.

Just Another ANSI

The applicant's consultant reported there would be no negative impact on the ANSI, that there were plenty of similar alvars and that neither the Hill's Thistle on our property nor the Massasauga nor the Wood Thrush on the applicant's property would be affected. The applicant pointed out that this was just one of 225,000 hectares of PS ANSI. I countered that PS ANSIs

were rare enough to represent only one of 1700 equal parts of southern Ontario.

I contacted Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry but they stated that such decisions, despite the provincial designation, were to be made locally. Ultimately a decision was delayed until the Saugeen Ojibway Nation could weigh in with their thoughts about the desirability of the project.

right beside a PS wetland. Unfortunately, biology is an unregulated profession.

Value of Land a Failure

Also unfortunately, with our system of a market economy, land has become a commodity, like labour and manufactured goods. Even the concept of private land is relatively recent and supports our economy's real

protection, clean air, water, carbon sequestration, recreation, tourism and biological diversity.

Instead, we value land and tax it based on its highest and best commercial use. Just as in the example in Bruce County, it's often zoned "planned development", not "environmental protection" the way it should be. Development of such lands should be strictly prohibited and not need to rely on the efforts of poorly funded community groups to fight development.

It's hard to rely on wise municipal decisions when they depend on tax dollars from development. Given that ten years ago the province reported that ecological services from nature brought \$85 BILLION worth of benefits to southern Ontario, there should be a designation called "environmental services" and we should revert to the old system where a landowner was rewarded for leaving those services alone. Incidentally, EBC provides \$25 million of services every year, but we have only been able to turn about \$100,000/year into revenue by selling carbon offsets.

The jury is still out on both the Bruce County and Hidden Quarry decisions. In the meantime, I hope we can afford to keep protecting a property a month to keep them out of the clutches of quarries and houses. It's a lot less expensive than fighting developers.

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

Development of
[provincially significant]
lands should be
strictly prohibited
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poorly funded
community groups to
fight development.

Only last month, right next door to another EBC reserve near Rockwood, I found out at the Hidden Quarry hearing that the developer's and community's biologists' opinions on the acceptability of the proposed quarry seem to vary almost diametrically. The developer's experts felt there would be virtually no negative impact from a 30-m deep hole

estate market. By comparison, First Nations land today is owned communally and supposed to be governed for the best outcome over seven generations.

The whole idea that land is only valuable if it makes a living is a great failure of our society. We do not value most of the components of ecological services that land provides like flood

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The Winter of Deer

By Gloria Hildebrandt

Photos by Mike Davis

We began calling them The Gang of Five. Last winter we began seeing five or six deer in the woods almost every day. We saw them run away from us, we saw where they browsed, we even saw where they slept. We learned the sounds they make.

Their Sounds

I can't remember the first time I heard the deer, but I must have been astonished. I'd always thought of deer as being quiet. I have heard them stamp their feet in defence – in fact I saw a doe do that in front of my first dog, decades ago. Moments later, I saw a very young, tiny fawn, so the mother had been protecting her young. But last year we came to learn The Gang of Five's vocal repertoire.

They sneeze. They snort in what sounds like obvious disgust. They combine the two into a sneeze-snort. They will give this sound repeatedly, more than once. It got so that I'd hear them before I saw them, moving away from my little dog Thomas and me. I learned to freeze when I hear the sound, and look for them among the trees. I don't usually see them until they move. Sometimes they don't move far away, and once I see them I can continue to watch them for a while. Sometimes I have become tired of watching them, and have moved on while they remain standing still among the trees. I think they're not too alarmed by us, as we wouldn't hurt them. Even Thomas, who has an underbite and can't get most of his teeth to make contact with each other, couldn't do much harm to them if he were ever to catch up to them.

Their Food

On my daily walk I sometimes saw deer tracks in the cedar forest leading to a scuffed-up area where brown leaves were churned up above the snow. Later in the winter I saw cedar saplings with branches that had been nibbled, and small green cedar leaves were lying on the snow. I also saw clear nibble marks on the narrow trunks of Dogwood bushes. The marks left large V shapes where the bark had been removed down to the pale bare trunks.

Their Beds

Mike discovered the beds first. Out with his camera, he had followed a lot of deer tracks to clear, round depressions in the snow. To our surprise, they were very close, between one of my neighbours' house and mine. It was strange to think that the gang had slept within sight of my bedroom window. We came to recognize deer beds in the snow as round circles about three feet across, with edges higher than the undisturbed snow, often melted right to the ground. I even was able to spot the melted traces of past beds, as just bare circles on the ground surrounded by the faintest ring of snow.

Their Scratches

One day in mid December I noticed mysterious, new scratches in the bark of a Spruce tree on the edge of a path I often take. The scratches stood out because they revealed the bare tree trunk beneath the bark. They looked alarmingly like claw marks from a large animal. I showed photos of the scratches to members of the naturalists' club that we belong to, and they said all the scratches, even the very narrow ones, were from deer antlers.

I began taking my cell phone on my walks in the



▲ The morning after a fresh snowfall is a good time to see clear tracks. These deer tracks led to what we learned were their beds in the snow.



▲ We couldn't count the number of deer from their tracks but we could count the individual deer-sized round depressions in the snow that were clearly their beds for the night. Astonishingly, these beds are close fairly close to the road, between our own and our neighbours' houses.

hope of getting good photos, even videos, of the gang. But I was always so excited to see them that it was very difficult to get a photo before they moved out of range. Once I got a poor video of a couple of tails waving as they vanished.

Our best photos were of the evidence they left behind, our own private Gang of Five.

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

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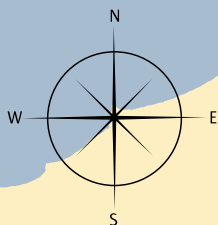
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