

## EVENTS ALONG THE ROCK

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ On Sept. 18, the Town of Orangeville announced the selection of four art submissions to be added to the public art that adorns utility boxes throughout town. One of the works is a view of Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail at Island Lake Conservation Area, painted by Judi Island of Orangeville, left. PHOTO PROVIDED.

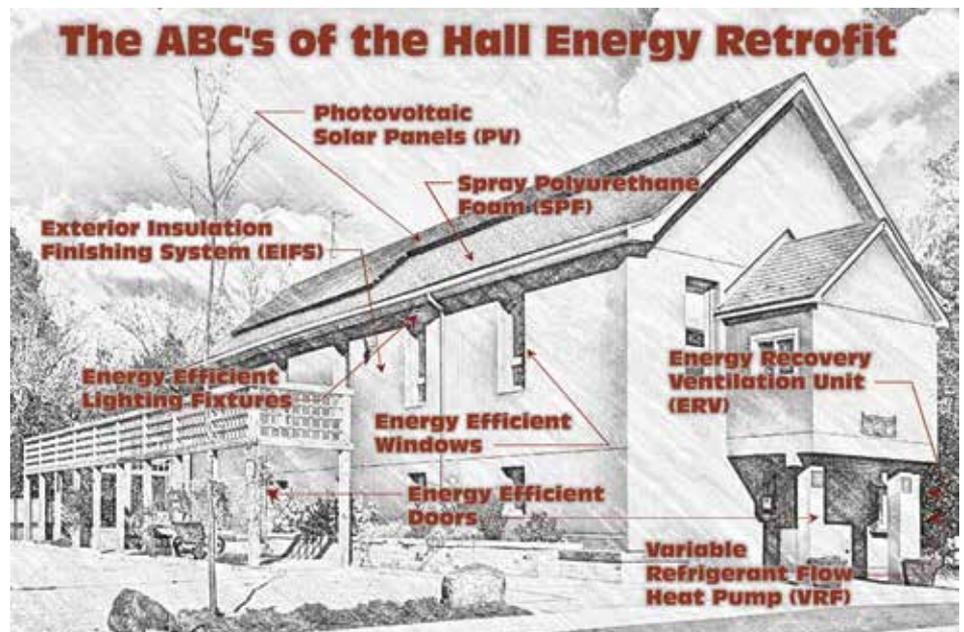


▲ Canadian Raptor Conservancy held an owl talk and presentation at Niagara Glen Nature Centre on Nov. 1. The Barn Owl was one of the featured owls. The evening concluded with an outdoor “owl howl” by visitors. PHOTO PROVIDED.



◀ The 1905 Canadian Niagara Power Generating Station, located just above the brink of the Canadian Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls, was available for the public to visit as part of Doors Open Ontario on Oct. 26. Access in the decommissioned power plant extended to the interior generator room housing 11 original generators, marble-lined offices, the original control room, balconies and more. PHOTO PROVIDED.

► The project called Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral won one of the Canada’s Clean50 Top Project Awards on Oct. 3. The award recognizes Eden Mills’ Carbon Neutral Heritage Energy Retrofit as one of 20 best sustainability projects completed in Canada over the last two years. In 2017, the Community Hall was renovated to achieve 94 per cent carbon neutrality. IMAGE OF HALL PROVIDED.



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◀ Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens won the Garden of the Year award at the North American Garden Tourism Conference in Victoria, B.C. on Nov. 5. The Botanical Gardens include a glass-enclosed butterfly conservatory that shelters more than 2,000 butterflies. PHOTO PROVIDED.



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◀ Sarah Doney, an apprentice cook at Queen Victoria Place Restaurant in Niagara Falls, won a \$1,000 scholarship award at the Nov. 7 Apprentice Cooks and Chefs Showcase Dinner at Queenston Heights Restaurant. At centre is Gary Torraville, associate dean, Canadian Food and Wine Institute at Niagara College. Right, Paul Pennock, director of culinary services for Niagara Parks. PHOTO PROVIDED.



▲ Concerned Residents Coalition held their fundraising Christmas market on Nov. 17 at St. John's Anglican Church in Rockwood. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

◀ The Town of Orangeville launched an online tool on Jan. 16 that shows residents when snowplows are out and how recently they were active in an area. PHOTO PROVIDED.

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▲ Niagara Parks Floral Showhouse in Niagara Falls opened the annual Cyclamen Display on Jan. 18. The display runs to March 4. PHOTO PROVIDED.



▲ Mary Dagg, daughter of Anne Innis Dagg, subject of the film *The Woman Who Loves Giraffes*, answered questions after the Jan. 22 screening at Halton Hills Eco Film Fest in Georgetown. The film's executive producer Paul Zimic looks on.

## GAZETTE

# Growing Canada's Biggest

By Kate McGowan

**A**s evidence of damaging climate change grows across the world, we all feel the sense of urgency to act. What can we do to help in Niagara, the Escarpment and beyond? One simple answer is: grow native plants. Native plants are beautiful, hardy, low-maintenance species that can support up to 100 times more wildlife than “traditional” exotic plants. By selecting native plants for your yard or even a balcony container, you can take the first steps in restoring the

Southern Flying Squirrel, Rusty-patched Bumblebee and Monarch Butterfly. Not only is the Carolinian Zone home to one-third of Canada's at-risk plants and animals, it's also home to a quarter of our human population. With the region's population projected to grow significantly, so will our impact on nature and the health of wildlife.

Carolinian Canada and WWF-Canada have therefore launched [www.inthezonegardens.ca](http://www.inthezonegardens.ca), with free native garden guides for easy access to expert advice and an online tool to help track your efforts and impact for wildlife.

The Carolinian zone in southern Ontario includes the southern part of the Niagara Escarpment. With the warmest climate in Canada, the Carolinian zone is the northernmost reach of plants and animals whose ranges extend south to the Carolinas in the U.S.



landscape in your area.

Landscape restoration is one of the first building blocks of reversing climate change. Its role is important in areas where biodiversity is rich and in need of protection, and those threatened by development. Situated at the southeastern end of the Carolinian Zone, Niagara faces both challenges.

The Carolinian Zone stretches west to Windsor and north beyond Toronto. It is a hotspot for biodiversity, with more species of rare plants and animals than anywhere else in Canada, including Blanding's Turtle,

As your native plant garden grows, you'll see a diversity of caterpillars, butterflies, birds and bees return to help rebuild a resilient ecosystem. As gardeners track their progress, the tracker aggregates the size and type of restored landscapes across the zone, giving a big picture of the difference homeowners are making. Together we really can grow Canada's biggest wildlife garden.

### Portrait of a Garden

David Bannister and his family live just north of Pinery Provincial Park on Lake Huron. Their home is in a