

Handling the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic hit us like a wrecking ball, shattering our routines and plans. Fortunately, we weren't affected medically/physically, either personally or in our families, and we grieve for those who have experienced the worst from it. Yet like practically all of you, our work and finances have been turned upside down. Almost nothing is as it was, or can be counted on to be the same going forward.

We had the beautiful editorial features for this issue almost completed when the strict lockdowns began. It soon became clear that the many small and medium-sized businesses that support our magazine would not be in a position to advertise. Instead of giving up, we wanted to publish the Summer issue as usual. Our content provides an astonishing window to the outdoors at a time when so many of us have been confined indoors. To reduce the financial hit this would cause, we had to reduce pages. This meant rearranging the positions of many of our usual components. We are determined to deliver the high quality and number of editorial features you expect, so they have not changed.

The advertisers whom you see in this issue firmly believe in the importance of continuing to communicate with their existing and potential followers. At this time, they have reduced the financial pressure on us and have been a great encouragement to continue. Their courage is admirable; to say we are grateful to them seems inadequate.

Summer Features

Our cover story shows the magnificent work of Richard Rallon, an expert at shooting birds of prey. Anyone who knows me will realize that I mean shooting with a camera, never a weapon. Richard shares technical tips on how to get past the screens and grids of cages, to get fantastic closeup portraits of the wonderful residents of Mountsberg Raptor Centre.

Another gifted photographer, Sylvain Champagne, shares his favourite views of the Bruce Peninsula. The colours, the shapes, the textures, show why this is such a perennial treasure for visitors.

A young man named Spencer Lipka is Georgetown's answer to Greta Thunberg. Jeannine d'Entremont brings us an

interview with this climate activist.

There are walking trails at South Baymouth on Manitoulin that people may not realize are available to the public – when stay-at-home orders are lifted. Joe D. Shorthouse takes us on an armchair tour of the trails and their builders.

Last but actually first in the issue, is an experience that Mike Davis had on the waterfront at Burlington and Hamilton, by bike. Let all these features take you away in your imagination if not in actuality.

The Future

No one knows when things will go back to normal. It will happen at some time, though. More than ever, people are keen to go outside in the fresh air and be able to exercise and move freely without restrictions. There is likely to be a greater appreciation than ever, for Escarpment land, attractions, holiday destinations, vacation resorts, cottages and cabins. If we can all hang on through the worst of this, there are sure to be good times ahead.

If it becomes unsustainable for us to publish our issues, we may have to go on hiatus until things improve. We have a newly revised website where we'll post news of what we're doing. We have no intention of folding this magazine. We still have far too many good ideas to share. If we're unable to come to you with Autumn, we'll be back for Winter or Spring 2021 or as soon as our valued advertisers can resume marketing their operations. If we have to take a pause, we will of course honour our subscribers by resuming their subscriptions with the next issue we create.

We sincerely hope that this pandemic and the financial difficulties of its aftermath don't devastate Escarpment businesses. If we can find our ways through the new and the unknown, I am confident that we will look back on this time of terrible challenge with pride in our strength and resilience.

We will get through this.

Gloria Hildebrandt

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

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OF PUBLISHING**



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

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