

Niagara Escarpment ***Vi*IEWS**

AUTUMN 2020 (SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER)

OUR 2ND
DECADE

THE RETURN OF THE NATIVE MAPLE

ART INSPIRED BY
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SAFE VIEWS
OF EUGENIA FALLS

MEMORIES
OF FALL FAIRS

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Autumn 2020
(September, October, November)

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Photo by Mike Davis.

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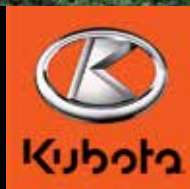


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Mike Davis and Gloria Hildebrandt

EDITOR

Gloria Hildebrandt, editor@NEViews.ca

GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT

Nicholl Spence
nsGraphic Design
www.nsgraphicdesign.com

ADVERTISING/ACCOUNTS MANAGER

Mike Davis, ads@NEViews.ca
905.866.7888

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Miller
Suzanne Mulligan-Born

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OUR SECOND DECADE OF PUBLISHING



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

Escarpment Falls

It's dangerous out there. And this time, we're not talking about COVID-19. In the last few months there has been a surge all right, but in serious, even deadly accidents on the Escarpment. Here's what's been happening according to news reports.

A 19-year-old male from Oakville apparently jumped into the water at Ball's Falls Conservation Area in Niagara Region. It's not clear from where he jumped, but he did not survive. Police found his body at the bottom of the falls.

A woman at Mount Nemo in Halton Region fell off the Escarpment into a crevasse, injuring her shoulder so she couldn't climb out, and spent the night there. She was found by a hiker who heard her calling for help. This suggests she had been hiking alone, and hadn't told anyone of her plans, itself a dangerous thing to do.

A 12-year-old boy fell from a cliff in an out-of-bounds area at Eugenia Falls in Grey County, and broke both legs. He required a technical, high-angle rescue. Not long after this, a man suffered a similar accident at the same falls. He ignored a road barrier, a locked gate, several no-entry signs and entered a closed area, before falling off a cliff and becoming injured. He too, had to be rescued by a technical team and air lifted to hospital.

People are being dangerously foolish. In some cases they are flouting landowners' signs. They're trespassing. Their injuries are adding burdens to our healthcare system that is stressed enough with the pandemic. Everyone

needs to obey signs.

Our feature article on Eugenia Falls has been in the works at least since last autumn, when Juanita Metzger did her research and photography. We're publishing her lovely piece now, not as encouragement to go to a risky part of the Niagara Escarpment, but as a way to experience it from the safety of your armchair.

Our cover story traces the impressive charitable work of Ken Jewett, who is donating significant funds and energy to the survival of native maple trees in Ontario. When we learned that his lovely dog Amy had died, we had to make them both cover stars.

We also present tours of two fall fairs, in Dundalk and Milton. Once this pandemic is under control, we hope it'll be safe to resume enjoying all the fairs, festivals, gatherings and groups we've been missing.

Another Donation!

Finally, we have to note the kindness and generosity of a subscriber who, in response to my last editor's letter in which I explained that our ad revenue was down due to COVID-19, made a financial contribution to the magazine. This is not the first gift we have received for the magazine, but it's just as surprising and moving. The community we have identified through this magazine is special. Now if we can only stay safe.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt

Let us know what you think!

Write us at editor@NEViews.ca or *Niagara Escarpment Views*, 50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2.

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READERS & VIEWERS



I have a book that I write quotes & poems in! Pieces I go back to for inspiration & pleasure! I have just added "Sometimes you look after the land, & sometimes your land looks after you!" I love that! And so true right now! Stay safe & well & thank you for your beautiful magazine!

Isabel Cruise, Limehouse

I love your magazine and would like to pick up a copy of the summer issue. Could you tell me where I can pick one up in Georgetown? It must be challenging with so many stores doing curb side only right now. Thanks for your help and keep up the great work!

Jane Coutts, by email

Editor's note: for a list of locations that have copies to give out, see our website page <https://neviews.ca/get-free-copies/>.



Subscriber **Grant Jennings**, Medicine Hat



Several years ago, we picked up several sample issues of NEV at an Eco Fest at Glen Abbey Community Centre in Oakville. We have been subscribers ever since. In the Summer 2020 issue, the "Shooting Birds of Prey" article has lots of photos and tips on how to photograph these beautiful birds. Thanks for a wonderful and informative magazine!

Ross Wark, Oakville



Eagle enjoying our back yard in Grimsby on Lake Ontario shores! EH! First time, grabbed my pocket Canon SX620 HS 25X optical. Lucky photo. The eagle approximately 50 feet away and 30 feet up. The wingspan looked 7 feet across.

Andrew Kebalo, Grimsby



Thanks to Covid-19 I had lots of time to read the winter issue I picked up ... and enjoyed it so much I wanted to subscribe... I'm glad Covid-19 hasn't prevented you from continuing publishing this excellent magazine.

Bette-Ann Goldstein, Brampton



Dick and Eunice Bowerman, South Baymouth, featured in Summer 2020, looking at the article "Bowermans' Public Walking Trails in South Baymouth."

PHOTO BY JOE D. SHORTHOUSE.

First time subscriber, the experience was business like and fast. Thanks, looking forward to see our first edition.

Susan Coulter, Milton

I always enjoy your classy magazine even though it makes me homesick for ON and Halton Hills.

Aileen Mair, Bedford, NS

Love this magazine.

What a beautiful world we live in, in nature!

Katrina Tabet, Toronto



Subscriber **Brit Jennings**, Toronto, wearing the fandana as a face covering.





easy ^{as} pie

APPLE PIE COOKIES

Prep Time: 10 min. | Total Time: 120 min. | Makes: 16 cookies

Ingredients

2 ½ cups	All-purpose flour, plus more for filling and dusting (625 mL)
3 tbsp	Sugar (45 mL)
1 ½ tsp	Ground cinnamon, divided (7 mL)
¾ tsp	Salt divided (4 mL)
1 tbsp	Ground Cinnamon (15 mL)
1 cup	Cold unsalted butter, cut into small cubes (250 mL)
4 cups	Peeled, cored, finely diced apples (about 4 apples) (1 L)
3 tbsp	Firmly packed light brown sugar (45 mL)
1 tbsp	Lemon juice (15 mL)
1	Egg, beaten

Directions

1. In food processor, combine 2 ½-cups flour, sugar, ½-tsp cinnamon and ½-tsp salt. Pulse until blended. Add butter and pulse until mixture is coarse. Add ¼-cup cold water and pulse until dough holds together when squeezed between fingers. Mixture too crumbly? Pulse in 1-tbsp cold water at a time to moisten. Transfer to lightly floured surface. Shape into two large discs; wrap in plastic. Chill 30 min.
2. Meanwhile, in large saucepan, combine apples, 2-tbsp flour, ¼-cup water, brown sugar, lemon juice, 1-tsp cinnamon and ¼-tsp salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, 8 to 10 min. until apples are tender and juices are thickened. Transfer mixture into bowl; cool slightly, cover and chill.
3. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. On lightly floured surface, roll out 1 disc of dough ⅛-in. thick. Using 2 ½-in. cutter, cut 16 dough rounds. Place on baking sheets. Cover and chill. Roll out second dough disc into 1/8-in. thick rectangle. Using sharp knife, slice 96 strips of dough, each 4-in. X ¼-in. -- 6 strips per cookie. Grab dough rounds from fridge; brush edges with beaten egg. Top each round with 1-tbsp apple mixture, leaving thin border around edges. Weave strips under and over each other to create lattice. Firmly press down strips at edges of cookie. Trim off excess dough. Make 16 cookies.

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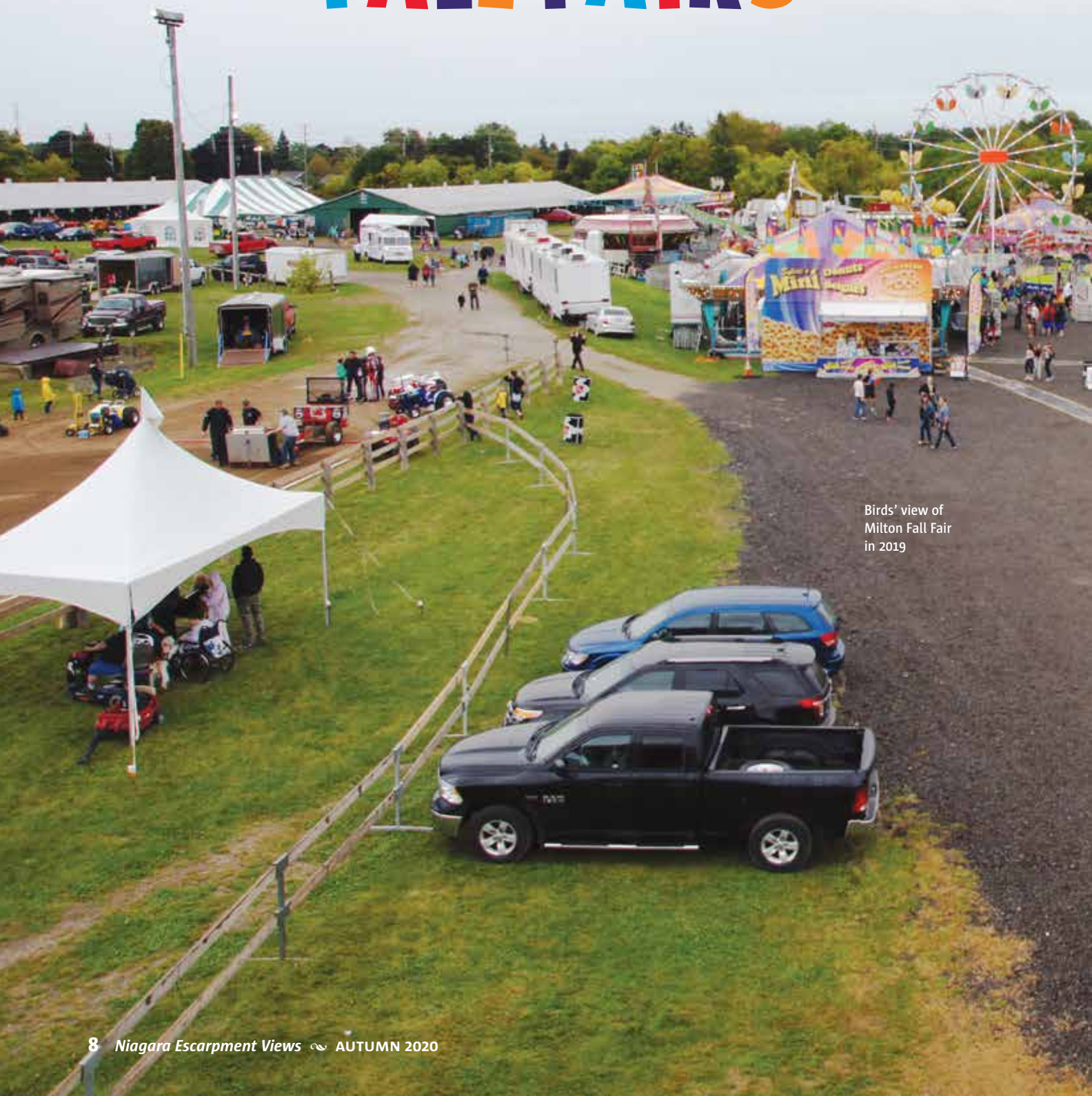
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AGRICULTURAL GATHERINGS: **Memories of Dundalk AND Milton FALL FAIRS**



Birds' view of
Milton Fall Fair
in 2019

Although most fall fairs have been cancelled this year, they remain the source of favourite memories. One year they are likely to return, perhaps better than ever. Since you probably can't get out to them this year in person, enjoy this tour of two fairs that took place last year.



The beauty of fall fairs in small towns is how they keep agricultural and rural traditions alive. The best fairs are simple and unpretentious. People want to see the pet show, the crafts demonstrations, the various beautiful, unusual, loud and smelly livestock.

There has to be a midway. Indeed, for many young people, the fair is only about the midway. For teens, it's especially in the evenings when the lights on the rides come on and everything looks a little dangerous.

For adults, there's something quaint and lovely about the exhibit halls full of prized vegetables, baking, pickles, quilts, photography, flower arrangements and more, some of them awarded with red, blue, white and yellow ribbons.

Then there's food: burgers, fries, hot dogs, cotton candy, candy apples, perhaps corn on the cob. Not usually the finest cuisine, the options are nevertheless fun and special, especially when bought from the window in the side of a gaily painted vehicle.

Dundalk Fall Fair

Last year was the 164th Dundalk Fall Fair. Held Sept. 6 to 8, its theme was "It's So Sweet". Dundalk is located on Grey Road 9 just southwest of Hwy. 10, halfway between Shelburne and Flesherton.

It featured the traditional elements of livestock shows, competitions, dog demonstrations, handmade or hand-grown exhibits, and the crowning of the senior and junior fair ambassadors. Serving as ambassador is a big deal.

Fair ambassador Rebecca Henderson shared that "In February I was one among many other ambassadors to spend the weekend at the OAAS [Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies]



▲ Starting young, this boy competed in the Dundalk pedal tractor pull, a mini version of the grownup challenge.



◀ A young driver in the Dundalk tractor pull pushes the vehicle to its limit, with it going nowhere with front wheels off the earth. The heavy sled behind bears the triumphant name of "Humiliator."



▲ The Halton 4H rabbit hopping competition in Milton had young people gently guiding their bunnies over low obstacles.



◀ A pygmy goat takes advantage of a sheep's soft and gentle nature in the Milton petting zoo.



▲ Milton's horse and pony competitions are beautiful displays of riding abilities.

▼ For many people the fair is a reason to indulge in fun food.

Convention and partake in activities that would help promote and express the importance of fairs in communities like Dundalk... I'm excited to see what the last few months as the 2018-2019 Fair Ambassador will bring me as I compete in the Miss Midwestern Ontario Competition and represent the Dundalk Agricultural society at the CNE in August."

Junior fair ambassador Chloe Watson remembered specific details from her busy year: "I met many members of our community and welcomed them to our fair. Then I handed out ribbons to the 4-H club, baby show, dolly show and chip off the old block. Rebecca and I were also entertained by the bouncy castles, truck and tractor pulls, as well as having front row seats to the derby. After an exhausting weekend we brought greetings to fairs within the area, and attended events

such as the Fall and Spring District 10 meeting, 4-H awards ceremony, Christmas parade and annual dinner."

Regular members of the public had even more to choose from. Last year the antique tractor pull was a good draw, with various brands of tractor giving various results. For those unsophisticated about tractors, it was amazing to see the range of performance in dragging a heavy sled whose weight increased with the distance pulled. Many tractors stopped only when the front wheels lifted high off the track.

Milton Fall Fair

For a town that has in recent years boomed in population and suburban development right up to the edge of the Niagara Escarpment, Milton had a surprising number of animals starring at the fair. Calves, cows, sheep, ponies, mini donkeys and alpacas filled the livestock display





▲ Dundalk takes food seriously. Stalks of corn with first, second and third prize ribbons. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.




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▲ Milton's livestock display barn was immensely popular.

▼ An elegant lady drives a carriage horse in competition in Milton.



barn. Cuddly exotic animals like llamas, mini goats and relatives of rabbits displayed themselves near porcupine-like creatures and glamorous chickens. Some of these could be petted by children. Birds of prey were shown. Beef cattle, horses and ponies competed for prizes. There was even a rabbit hopping competition.

You could watch a

blacksmith create a nail out of a lump of iron. Ladies from the Guelph Guild of Handweavers demonstrated spinning. There was a garden tractor pull competition. The crafts barn was full of impressive vegetables, needle work, antiques and floral decorations, some in the fair's theme "Pumpkins and Scarecrows."

There were entertainment

performances on an outdoor stage although one dog who was supposed to do tricks just wasn't feeling it that day. No matter, its owner calmly led it off stage.

Fair organizers are aware of the old charm of what they offer. In the 2019 booklet, they wrote "With roots reaching back to 1853, the concept of the Milton Fall Fair has

remained relatively unchanged despite massive changes in the community and society in general. The annual event has been held on the same 26-acre parcel of land off Robert Street since 1864, when the fair turned a profit of \$427."

Milton is in the centre of Halton Region and is still run by Halton Agricultural Society. The fair booklet

▼ A treasure trove of quilts in the Dundalk exhibit hall.
PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.



traces the Victorian history, and mentions now-forgotten names, explaining “Fall Fairs had been held in the four townships of Esquesing, Nassagaweya, Trafalgar and Nelson, but there was a feeling a County Fair was needed to provide an opportunity to compete at a larger scale.”

Surely, part of the draw of a fall fair is its reliable

sameness. You may know in general what you’ll see when you go, although the specific details may differ. In a world of unknowns and uncertainty, the traditional fall fair can provide comforting fun. **NEV**

For news and information about future fairs, see dundalkfair.com and miltonfair.com



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Spring on the Bruce trail between Grimsby and Stoney Creek. A wonderful time to study the structures of the trail using my watercolours, probing for composition possibilities that can be worked up in the studio.

Tangled Mysteries

BY DUANE NICKERSON

As an artist who has been living beside the Escarpment for 15 years, I spend much of my time walking the Bruce Trail between Grimsby and Hamilton. I am drawn to the enormous visual complexity of the old stone, the mature trees and the moss and fungus that keeps the cycle of life, death and rebirth in motion.



▲ “Albion Falls.” Late October afternoon moment beside the gentle murmur of Albion Falls. In fall, the flow of water over the stepped layers of limestone slows to reveal the texture of the ancient surface. OIL ON LINEN, 42 X 52 INCHES, 2017

My practice as an artist has always been centred on the belief that an artwork can conjure up new meaning in the present, very much like a piece of music or a reflective moment in a silent forest. I see the Niagara Escarpment as a very old geological formation that retains a sense of the mystery of deep time that extends beyond human culture. For 15 years now, the source of my conjuring has been the land, specifically, the trees and textures offered up by the Niagara Escarpment.

I am a Canadian artist who has exhibited my work in galleries from Singapore to Toronto, and my work resides in prominent collections around the world, from Korea to New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada. I am the recipient of a Governor General's Gold Medal award and numerous Ontario Arts Council exhibition grants.

In what could be called my “emerged state” as an artist, I continue to probe the potential of oil painting as a medium for expression. As a graduate student studying fine art at the University of

Calgary in the early 1990s, my focus was on language and using a wide range of materials to support the theories behind my work.

Beyond Language

When I finished grad school and established my own studio in Toronto, I quickly discovered that viewers and patrons were more interested in the visual dynamics of my work and less interested in the language with which it was described. I now believe that images, particularly paintings, can generate meaning that is not *of* language.

In addition to leaving behind graduate school art theory, I also delved into the craft of painting. Engaging with oil paint is like picking up a violin; you soon realize that there is a serious investment in learning required to master the medium. I feel that my work has now matured and my studio practice has a slow rhythm, but I am productive enough to regularly hold solo exhibitions.

My most recent solo exhibitions in 2019 featured almost exclusively trees that seem to float untethered from the ground. I associate my



▲ “Monument.” An old cedar stump remains long after the tree is gone. A monument to perpetual transformation. Subtle colours of green and brown illuminate the dance of organisms bringing new life from an old form.

OIL ON CANVAS, 52 X 40 INCHES, 2020



◀ “Witch.” A wild tangle of roots that once fed a majestic maple tree. The steep slope of the Escarpment combined with the ever-moving layers of limestone leads to premature collapse. The labyrinth of lines draws me in to thoughts of mystery and magic power. OIL ON CANVAS, 36 X 48 INCHES, 2020



▲ “Night.” A group of cedar trees planted in memory of a loved one suggest in their shape eternal sorrow. In the light of the moon, eternity comes alive. OIL ON CANVAS, 44 X 54 INCHES, 2018

current paintings to the long tradition of landscape painting in Western art. I admire those artists who had a special attraction to the beautiful forms of trees, and who took the time to work up the layers of paint to capture the subtlety of light on natural forms.

Artists like Ruisdael, Corot, Church and some of Canada’s earlier painters such as Vernet and O’Brien all demonstrated an engagement

with complex forms and surfaces that, to me, attests to a profound love of the visual dynamics that the natural world presents. Of course, they were also masters of their craft – they understood paint and composition.

Revealing Process

People often ask why I leave the bottom of the paintings unresolved. I feel the need to reveal the process of painting

in my work, to maintain the tension between the delicate illusion of a tree and the coarse reality of coloured, viscous substances on a canvas surface. This tension for me suggests a balance between coherence and chaos, between substance and emptiness. I guess this is my visual metaphor for life, something that requires a complex balance of forces and is therefore fragile.

My current studio work involves the continued exploration of the forms of trees. Two of my recent works feature up-ended tree stumps on a dark background. These are beautiful forms that appear all along the Escarpment trails and conjure thoughts of tangled mysteries, of complex paths of cellular growth that moved into the soil and through cracks in the limestone that



◀ "Pine Sky." A mature pine tree alone on a carefully mowed field. A hot August afternoon with wisps of clouds slowly undulating in an electric sky. OIL ON CANVAS, 34 X 26 INCHES, 2018

▲ "Lost Oak, Morning." A lone towering oak has lost its vigor after decades as a sentinel for cows seeking shade. The farm also looks deserted, the barn frail and shedding its shingles along with the once mighty oak. OIL ON LINEN, 46 X 54 INCHES, 2018

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► “Dusk.” A tall maple towers over a well-tended Niagara orchard at the end of day. A strong central trunk suggests a past crowded with competitors for light.
OIL ON LINEN, 40 X 20 INCHES, 2018

makes up the Escarpment ridges. These are forms that draw me in and speak of time, growth and decay.

The painting process is time consuming. I begin a composition with an encounter, a visual experience that makes me pause. During my walks I capture these many encounters with a camera and then return with my watercolours and study more closely the forms that caught my attention. The process of sketching the image allows me to discover the visual structure of the image through careful observation. Once I find this structure, I know I am ready to proceed to work up the image as a studio painting. It usually takes between two and four months for me to complete a work; some take longer. Sometimes the structure never materializes, and I abandon the project after the sketch.

My work is represented by Gallery on the Bay in Hamilton, Abbozzo Gallery in Toronto, and is available online at artsy.net. **NEV**





◀ "Heaven."
A summer day on the banks of the Elora Gorge. A centuries old cedar tree clings to stone, yet appears to defy gravity. If time were sky, this tree would float in the clouds. OIL ON LINEN, 36 X 28 INCHES, 2018



◀ "Lost Pine."
The shell of an ancient pine tree clings to the earth. I am humbled by the endurance, of so many seasons of heat and cold. PASTEL AND WATERCOLOUR ON PAPER, 21 X 28 INCHES, 2019





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Mallard Ducks on Island Lake, Orangeville.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.







Three Autumn Hikes

Sitting high in the Niagara Escarpment above the Cuckoo Valley, Eugenia Falls' straight-drop limestone cliffs and tumbling waters of the Beaver River have drawn Indigenous people living on the land, European settlers with economic interests and outdoor enthusiasts like me, enjoying nature and a place to hike.



to Eugenia Falls

WORDS & PHOTOS BY JUANITA METZGER

The Beaver River plunges 30 metres over the limestone cliff Eugenia Falls, seen from a lookout along the Bruce Trail. Walking out on the rocks above the falls is extremely unsafe and signs indicate that it is strictly prohibited.



As a perpetual wanderer and traveller, I often ask people about their favourite day trips or excursions around Ontario as inspiration for my next adventure. In one summer, four different friends mentioned their love of Eugenia Falls, a picturesque cascade at the southern edge of the Beaver Valley in Grey County. I was persuaded to put Eugenia Falls on my destination list, as clearly, this natural gem had somehow escaped my radar.

It was October when I finally made the trip to Eugenia. Before the season drifted into winter, I squeezed in three hikes. Each day on the trail taught me to notice something distinctive about its natural, historic and cultural significance.

The 30-metre waterfall is accessed at Eugenia Falls Conservation Area, located in the town of Eugenia and

managed by Grey Sauble Conservation Authority since 1968. Hikers on the Bruce Trail pass the falls at km 56.2 when traversing the Beaver Valley section of the trail. Access to the base of the falls is strictly prohibited.

My first hike, on a warm fall day that still felt like summer, began at km 54 of the Bruce Trail, accessed via North Street, just north of the town of Eugenia. I passed open meadows before the trail turned left into the forest and began a steady climb. Bright yellow fluttering aspen leaves and red maples framed the blue sky like a painter's palette of primary colours.

I reached the heights above Eugenia Falls and took in the vista looking south over the Cuckoo Valley before descending a steep section towards the falls. Here, the path follows the Beaver River, and moss-covered rocks and cedar roots demand attention.

Built Structures

I spotted the man-made stone arches and a stone building along the trail, reminders of attempts by early settlers to harness the energy of the falls. The small stone building, now covered in graffiti, sitting on the downstream side of the trail, was built by William Hogg in the early 1890s. He saw the potential for hydro-electric power along the Beaver River and engineered enough to supply the growing town of Eugenia, its small mills and the town of Flesherton to the southwest. Hogg had big plans to supply power to Toronto but was outbid by the Niagara Electric Plant.

Two stone arches mark the ends of a tunnel dug by a second power company in the early 1900s with big plans to divert the river through a tunnel and over the falls. The tunnel was blown up not long after it was built when the government

▲ The Bruce Trail rises and falls, just like the Beaver River and Eugenia Falls, which it follows. The higher points of the trail make perfect lookouts over the Beaver Valley and Cuckoo Valley filled with vibrant colours of fall.





▲ North of Eugenia Falls Conservation Area, the Beaver Valley Lookout on Grey Road 13 is a worthwhile stop on a bright fall day.

▼ The Beaver River tumbles over limestone rocks before it descends over the 30-metre drop at Eugenia Falls.



▼ This stone arch is the remnant of a 1905 plan to build a diversion tunnel for the Beaver River, leading to power generation at the bottom of the falls.





▲ The first snowfall of the season creates a hushed and peaceful landscape for a late fall hike. It also makes the trail extra slippery.

▼ Walkers pass this stone building above the falls, which was built in 1895 by William Hogg. It was the power house containing two turbines that generated enough power to provide electricity to the town of Eugenia and nearby Flesherton. It sits in poor condition.

gained control of rivers and streams and set up the Hydro Electric Commission to build the infrastructure for a growing population. By 1915, the commission constructed a dam east of Eugenia Falls and the water flowing over the falls is a fraction of what it once was.

I took my second hike on a crisp, clear autumn day. The smell of dry leaves and damp ground lingered with every step. I started at Eugenia Falls Conservation Area (km 56.2) and headed south. Here, the Bruce Trail skirts the cliff top overlooking the Cuckoo Valley and the Beaver River below and offers a glimpse back to the falls, which from this distance, is silent.

First Nations

As I wandered the short out-and-back route through cedars and towering deciduous

trees to the Lower Valley Rd, returning to Eugenia Falls, I wondered about this area before settlers arrived. Other than one sentence on the conservation area information board that reads, “When first discovered, Eugenia Falls had more water rushing over the edge and the native people called the falls *Ke-waid-dun-dot*, meaning Sparkling Waters”, one could be led to think that settlers “discovered” Eugenia Falls in the 1850s.

The Anishnaabe, however, (also called Ojibwe by European first contacts) populated almost two million acres around Georgian Bay and Lake Superior. Their territory would have included all of present-day Grey and Bruce counties. Communities moved according to the hunting seasons so it’s highly likely the rich ecology of the river would have attracted

Anishnaabe families year round. Grey Roots Museum & Archives lists dozens of First Nations archaeological artifacts in its collection such as potsherds, pipes, and tools that were plowed up in area farmers’ fields, indicating the area has a much deeper cultural history than we know.

I took my third hike on a November morning after the first snow of the season blanketed the trees and ground. I hiked with Sonya and Ron Ward, volunteers with the Beaver Valley Club, which maintains almost 114 km of the Bruce Trail. Together they are trail captains for 1.5 kms of trail around Eugenia Falls. For more than 10 years the Wards have been hiking it regularly to keep it safe.

They became volunteers shortly after 29 kms of trail were added by the Beaver Valley Club, now

known as the Falling Water section. Opened in 2008, the additional trails were a result of the club’s efforts to secure new landowner agreements, purchase new parcels of land and physically construct new connections on the trail.

We followed their regular route from the pedestrian bridge on the side of Grey Road 13, downstream past the falls, along the Escarpment edge and down the gentle rocky slope to Lower Valley Rd, the same route I hiked before. We walked quietly through the insulated hush, feeling the occasional updraft from the valley to our right as the wind shook drips and plops of wet snow on our jackets.

The Wards assured me they don’t get bored hiking this trail. Instead, they love the familiarity of knowing where to look for Trilliums in the spring and where to find a



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Sonya and Ron Ward are trail captains for the 1.5-km section of Bruce Trail beside Eugenia Falls. They have been volunteers for more than ten years with the Beaver Valley Club whose members maintain and support 114 km of the trail in the Beaver Valley.



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▲ Walking out on the rocks above Eugenia Falls is extremely unsafe and signs indicate that it is strictly prohibited.

▼ Wild apples from old trees can be found along this section of the Bruce Trail.

The Bruce Trail was closed in Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency enacted by the Province of Ontario. At the time of writing, 85 per cent of the trail has re-opened and the Bruce Trail Conservancy is in the process of a staged re-opening of the remaining sections. Check the Bruce Trail website www.bruce-trail.org or their app for any closures before setting out. Please hike responsibly and never cross “Closure” barriers.



snack of wild apples in the fall. They believe being on the trail is the perfect combination of nature conservancy, protecting a place for people to explore and sharing what they have learned with

others. They particularly love to see young families venture farther down the trail for more than a 15-minute view of the falls before they hop back in the car. Three visits and many

hours on a four-km section of trail feel like I’m just scratching the surface. I am developing a connection to this place. Soon I’ll be the one telling everyone how much I love Eugenia Falls. **NEV**

***Juanita Metzger** is a freelance travel writer based in Kitchener with a passion for slow travel and hyper local adventures. When not travelling, she hosts guided walking tours in Waterloo Region.*

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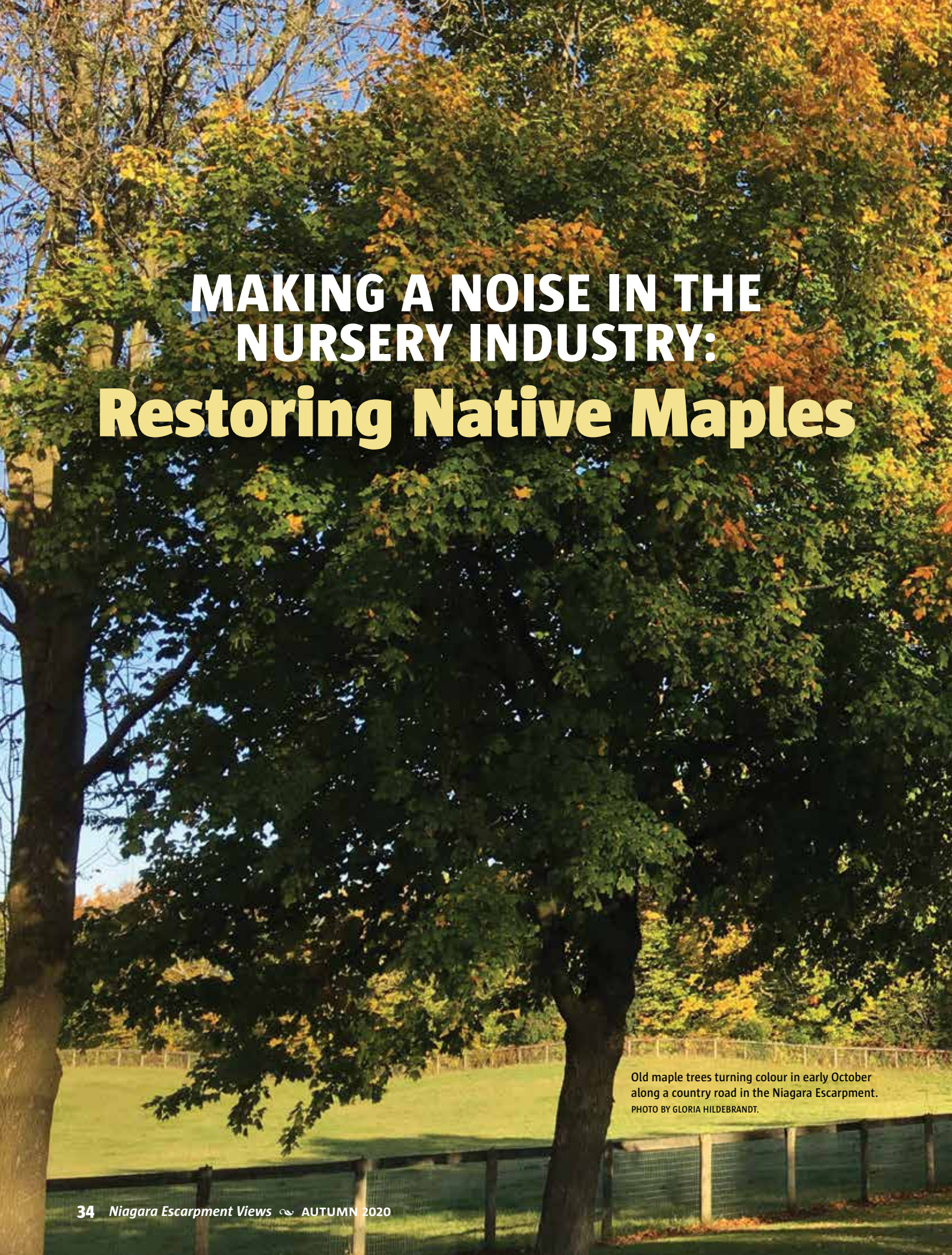


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MAKING A NOISE IN THE NURSERY INDUSTRY:

Restoring Native Maples

Old maple trees turning colour in early October
along a country road in the Niagara Escarpment.
PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.



Native maple trees are gradually disappearing from the countryside. Niagara Escarpment resident Ken Jewett founded Maple Leaves Forever (MLF) with the goal of restoring mighty native maples to the Canadian landscape.

Have you noticed how country roads are lined with big old hardwood trees about 40 feet apart? It's as if long-ago farmers and landowners were following a landscaping style guide. Yet these trees are not just the result of fashion. There was a financial benefit to planting them. In 1883 the Ontario Tree Planting Act gave 25 cents per tree that was still alive three years after planting.

"But the subsidy applied to roadways, where wind and snow interrupted traffic," writes Patricia Bowley in her academic paper on farm forestry, published in 2015 in *Scientia Canadensis*, 38.

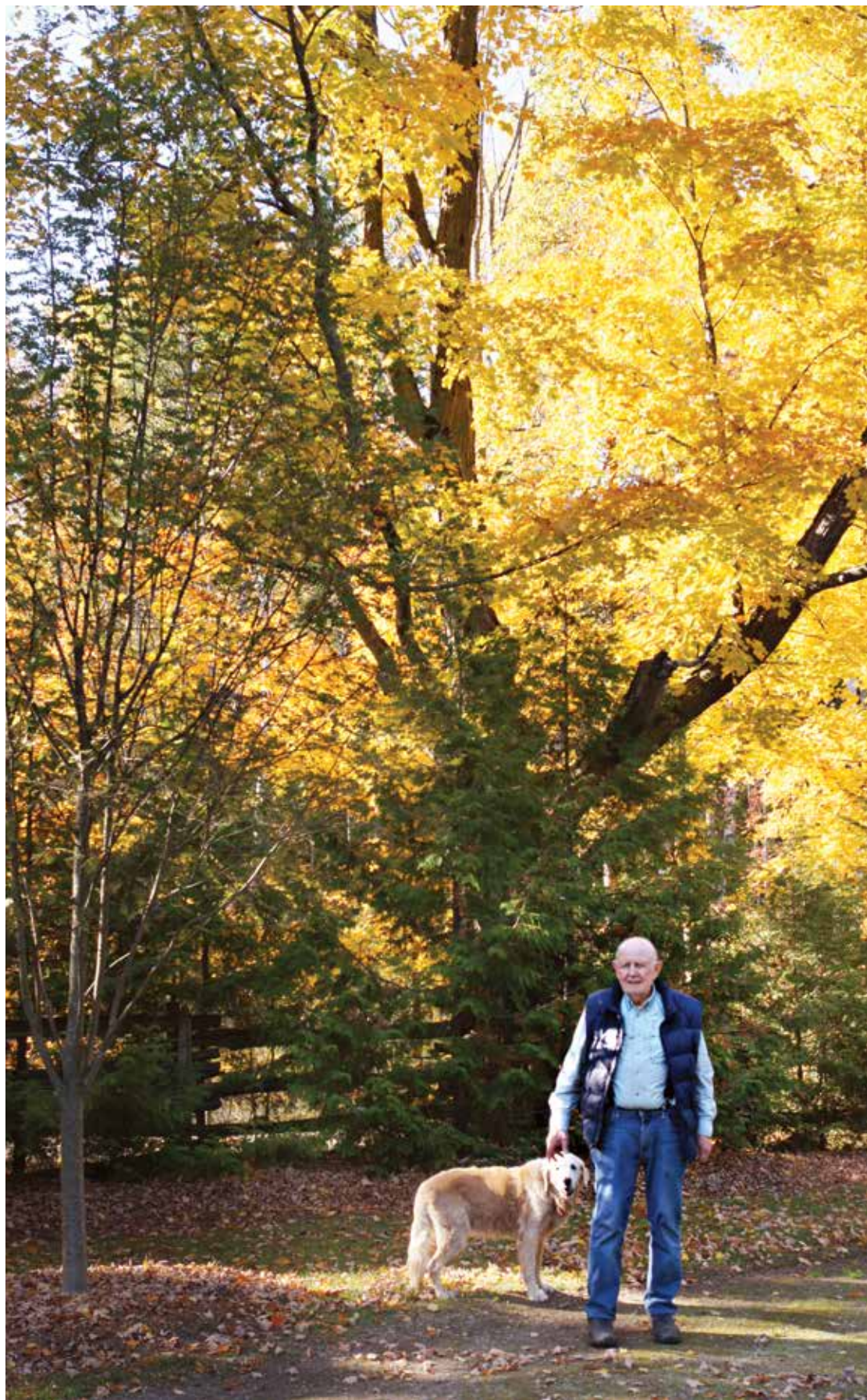
It was an influential piece of legislation. According to the 2018 Environmental Protection Report by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, that Act resulted in the planting of 75,000 new trees. Often, these trees were transplanted from interior forests and given space to grow large on the edges of properties.

The Problem

After 130 years of serving as wind and snow breaks, these majestic trees, many of which are native maples, are gradually dying out and not always being replaced. Cultivars and invasive species are increasingly being chosen. Norway Maples and Manitoba Maples are less than ideal.

"Our advice to landowners is to plant the right maple for the right place," says Deb Pella Keen, executive director of MLE. "The Norway Maple is non-native. We should be encouraging native species that have grown and adapted to local conditions over millennia. That's good ecological management. If people are going to plant trees, they should plant native species."

Ken, who is 90 years old this autumn, declares "The Sugar Maple is the most desirable," he says. "Respect



▲ Ken Jewett and his beloved Amy in front of a favourite maple on the driveway of his Larch Hill estate in the Niagara Escarpment. Amy was his loyal companion until she passed away this spring.



▲ The view from a room: a vast panorama of spectacular maples turning colour in autumn, plus Scottish Highland cows at left and in the shade at right, make an impressive picture from a window at Larch Hill near Mulmur. The cows are pets, with Lucy being the mother and Erica, the daughter.

▼ Fiery maples line the laneway and are reflected in the lake at Larch Hill.





▲ Native maples glow in the afternoon light along a road in Mulmur.

the Canadian native maple. It's our emblem, it's on the flag, on our currency. Plant a Sugar Maple, not a Manitoba Maple or one from Oregon."

It's Personal

Ken's commitment to native maples extends to Larch Hill, his country home in the Mulmur area of the Niagara Escarpment. Largely forested, the property offers peaceful privacy, long walks or drives by utility vehicle along laneways and paths, and a clear lake to swim in or boat on. Everywhere are the maples he loves.

On entering the house, the most powerful element is a large picture window with a view to the massive,

rolling Escarpment hills and valleys, dense with trees that in autumn are stunning in their colours. Opposite the huge window, maple syrup making is honoured with a large painting of a late-winter sugaring-off scene from horse-and-sled days. From this cherished room Ken and his wife Edie can observe the annual magical cycle of the seasons and the change to the forest scape. This love of the maple led to MLF.

The Program

The MLF program gives a rebate on purchase. After buying native maples from an authorized nursery and a partner with MLF, you can apply for a 25 per cent rebate

on the cost of the trees. MLF provides a list of nursery partners who help ensure that certified, native, seed zone specific Sugar, Red and Silver Maple seedlings are available to be grown into trees. They must be grown in Ontario from seed of known genetic sources.

The maples must be planted in single rows along rural roads in Ontario, laneways, property boundaries or along the edges of fields. At least 10 and no more than 50 trees per person per year, may qualify for a rebate. Trees must be at least five feet in height. Either bare-root stock or container-grown saplings are eligible. There are two planting periods each year, spring and fall.

▲ (Top right) Ken prefers the Sugar Maple over all others.

► A bench beckons on the maple-edged laneway at Larch Hill.



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▲ Ken treasures this painting by Armand Tatossian, entitled “Sugaring Party”.



► Maples at Larch Hill at the height of their fall colour

The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused nurseries to change their procedures for purchases. It's best to check with your chosen nursery. For details about fall 2020 and spring 2021 planting, see the website www.mapleleavesforever.ca.

Accomplishments

Ken founded MLF in 1997, because, as he says in a video on the website, “I saw that native maples were disappearing from the landscape. I wanted to reintroduce and restore the native Canadian maple tree to its rightful place on Canada’s

rural landscape. The maple leaf is Canada’s national and arboreal symbol. As such we should encourage the planting of native maples in this country as a symbol of national pride and identity.”

Ken counts as a big success, getting the National Capital Commission in Ottawa to commit to planting native Canadian maple trees when maples are wanted.

“Ottawa is showing leadership in planting native maples,” he says.

As a partner with Forests Ontario, which shares the vision of restoring native trees, MLF is a supporter

of Ontario Envirothon, an environmental competition for high school students. MLF is also a founding member of the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute.

Millions Spent

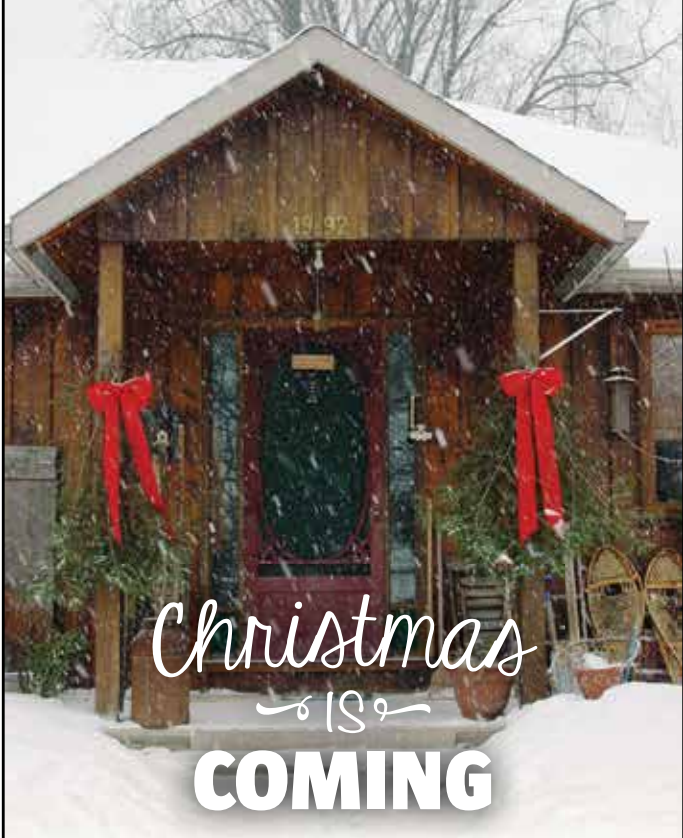
By the end of 2019, MLF has financially supported the planting of 127,599 native Canadian maples, which is estimated to equal more than 730 miles of Ontario roads that are lined with maples.

“That money comes from me,” says Ken. “We put \$2 million into this. Small as we are, we’re making a noise in the nursery industry.”





▲ A red maple leaf in the fall. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

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Battling Buckthorn

By Gloria Hildebrandt

This year I haven't been good about working on our Buckthorn problem. The only two seasons that are suitable for eliminating them are spring and fall, when it's not so hot out and the earth is damp enough for the roots to be pulled out. It's also helpful that they're easily visible in the late fall, as they keep their green leaves longer than most other trees. I was preoccupied in spring with my garden.

Merely cutting down Buckthorn is not ideal. While it will stop the "mother trees" from producing berries, the trees will sucker into a bush that will make uprooting them later, almost impossible. If you cut down a Buckthorn, there are only two ways of permanently dealing with it. One is to smother the stump with thick black plastic that will prevent it from regrowing. You have to put the plastic on very securely, and you may have to keep it on for a few years. The other option is to apply a strong herbicide carefully to the cut surfaces. This may kill it or set back its growth, but you have to keep an eye on it for a few years as it too, can sucker and regrow.

The solution that Mike and I prefer is to uproot Buckthorn. I mean pull the whole plant out of the ground with its roots. Whatever its size! What we call baby Buckthorn, little seedlings no more than about two feet high, can often be pulled by hand. Sometimes they break off leaving roots in the ground, but I usually pull them out, until my gloved hand hurts so much that I have to rest it.

Heavy-duty Tools

Bigger saplings can be levered out of the ground by a weed



Tools for removing Buckthorn. Left, the Extractigator. Attached to the tree, the cable puller. Mike is using the farm jack.

wrench. We use a strong one from a B.C. company, that's called the Extractigator, which we learned about at Willow Park Ecology Centre in Norval. It usually works well to pull the tree out by its roots although it too, sometimes snaps the tree off without getting the roots. I can successfully work the Extractigator except for the bigger, more stubborn plants.

Full-grown Buckthorn trees are another story. For these Mike uses his tractor and a chain to pull them out. Sometimes they come out relatively easily with a few good tugs. Sometimes Mike will use the front bucket to push the tree forward and back, loosening it in the ground, and then pulling it out. The front bucket has limitations on how much it can pull. Also, if the shrub is in the forest, a lot of damage can be done to the surrounding grounds and

plants that we want to keep.

Other times call for a heavy-duty jack that Mike uses to force the tree straight up out of the ground. He assembled a farm jack, a ground plate to distribute the load over a wider area, a piece of timber as an angled upright support and a heavy chain to connect the shrub to the jack.

A third method is to use a cable puller. Mike attaches it to a nearby tree as an anchor, using a wrap-around tow strap to protect the tree, and a chain around the shrub. He ratchets it out of the ground. Further in the forest, the cable-puller and farm jack methods seem to work the best.

It's awesome to see a Buckthorn slowly being ripped out of the ground, swinging high from a chain. Mike then bashes the root ball by hand with a shovel or a 4x4 piece of wood to get soil and rocks to fall off, making the tree lighter to move.

But even after being uprooted from the ground, the places where Buckthorn grew, need to be monitored for a few years, in case any roots that have broken off and remain in the ground, start to regrow.

Discarding Buckthorn is another concern. We have seen uprooted Buckthorns that were left lying on the ground, take root and grow. We pile them in a massive pile close to the barn and deal with them later. The thick trunks of Buckthorn can be cut up for firewood, generating good heat from its extreme hardness and density. The smaller, annoyingly thorny branches and sapling stems can be left to dry and then be chipped or burned in a fire pit.

Even should we ever finish battling Buckthorn, we have a list of other invasives to deal with. And we dread learning about new enemies on the land.

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Spotted Turtles Need YOU

By Bob Barnett

Everyone loves to see turtles basking on a log. Spotted Turtles must be very shy. They only come out of the water in the spring to find a nice mate, then they return to their pond. The only one I've ever seen was pulled out of a pond by John Urquhart who knew exactly where to look. John runs Blazing Star Environmental and has had years of experience with Ontario Nature and recently as a consultant studying reptiles.

Spotted Turtles are one of Ontario's 113 endangered species among 234 species considered at risk. In 1990 there were 130 known sites where they'd been identified. By 2008 that number had dropped to only 30 sites. This is a very rare animal. So rare that researchers keep extremely quiet about those 30 sites.

When John and I found the turtle, we were out to inventory a vacant shoreline property that Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) had been offered at half price. Fortunately, we had John with us that day! The owner and his sister are willing to give half the value as a donation if we can raise the other half. Right now we need \$115,000 to seal the deal. Our planner, Don Scott, has confirmed that a cottage could be built on the three-acre property, so the value is \$250,000 according to our appraiser, Dan Laven.

Why Nature Reserves?

Some people wonder why we create nature reserves. My father, an architect, kept

asking, "What are you going to do with all that land?" I try to explain that we don't do much with the land, but the land does a lot for us. It provides a whole spectrum of "ecosystem" services. The wetlands on our 180 nature reserves prevent floods and purify water before it gets into the fishing streams and aquifers which provide drinking water for Ontario towns. I mention that our millions of trees strip carbon molecules from the air and put pure oxygen back out for us to breathe. I say that those trees, shrubs and plants absorb 70,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. Tens of thousands of people visit our reserves annually to experience the improved health you get in nature while contributing millions to local economies. EBC lands protect \$26 million of ecosystem services every year. No one pays us to do that. It may be that our efforts are sometimes undervalued by governments.

Economic Value

The hard part is explaining why providing habitat for 60 species of conservation concern has economic

value. Economists have studied this and found, by survey, that people would be willing to spend money to ensure that elephants, tigers, Polar Bears and even Spotted Turtles continue to share the earth with them.

This is your own opportunity to share the earth with a Spotted Turtle and protect one of Ontario's endangered species. We feel loss if our natural heritage goes extinct. Spotted Turtles are harmless and cute.

Make a Difference

We know that people like something they can purchase, touch and care for. We have sourced endangered Wood Poppy seeds and are offering those seeds to donors to our turtle campaign. You get to protect two species in tandem. You can have Wood Poppies in your own garden or if you prefer, Milkweed to attract Monarch Butterflies. Donors who would like them, can ask for Milkweed seeds to attract, feed and house Monarch

Butterflies for planting this fall or Wood Poppy seeds for delivery and planting in the spring. Sorry, but we can't give you a Spotted Turtle. They are protected by the most stringent Ontario regulations. If you become a core donor and ensure we get to purchase the property, we can show you the pond and give you more of the details.

This is your chance to make a real difference. You can help Spotted Turtles on line at www.escarpment.ca, by sending a cheque payable to Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, 503 Davenport Road, Toronto, M4V 1B8, by requesting a securities donation form or, best of all, just give me a call at 888.815.9575 to discuss it or contribute using your credit card. You will get a charitable tax receipt.

Bob Barnett and Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy can be reached online at www.escarpment.ca, by Facebook or telephone at 888.815.9575 or email rbarnett@escarpment.ca.

Pond where the Spotted Turtle was found. PHOTO BY BOB BARNETT.



▲ Endangered Spotted Turtle. PHOTO BY JOE CROWLEY, ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY.

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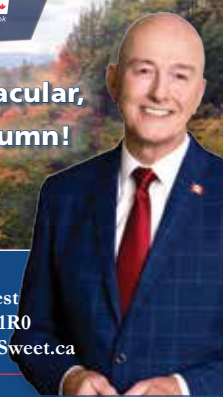
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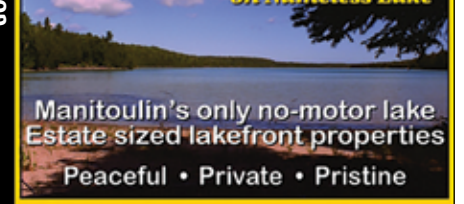
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