

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 Hildebrandt



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