

Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

SPRING 2021 (MARCH, APRIL, MAY)

COVID ESCAPE **TO THE BRUCE TRAIL**

GEORGETOWN'S
GORGEIOUS
**Old Seed House
Garden**

**WETLANDS
OF GRIMSBY**

**CYCLING CALEDON'S
Terrific Trailway**

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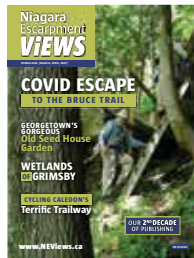
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Spring 2021
(March, April, May)

ON THE COVER: DOUG SLOAN ON THE BRUCE TRAIL.
Photo permission of Doug Sloan.

FEATURES



10 Outings by Bike with Mike: Caledon Trailway
By Mike Davis



16 The Grimsby Wetlands
Written by Bruce Mackenzie



26 Completing the Bruce Trail During COVID
Written by Sue Horner



34 Georgetown's Old Seed House Garden
Written by Gloria Hildebrandt
Photos by Mike Davis

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 View from the Editor's Desk: **What COVID-19 Has Taught**
- 6 Readers & Viewers

- 24 Featured View: **Harbour of Little Current**
Photo by Mike Davis



- 40 Subscription Form
- 40 Gazette: Andy Lowe's Manitoulin Yodel
- 48 Where to Get Copies of *Niagara Escarpment Views*

COLUMNS

- 42 The Gift of Land: **Hildebrandt & Davis Nature Park**
By Gloria Hildebrandt
- 44 View of Land Conservation: **Do Profits Trump Nature?**
By Bob Barnett

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OUR SECOND DECADE OF PUBLISHING



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

What COVID-19 Has Taught

Coming out of a COVID winter, we can be forgiven for being weary. Even for those of us who have it good and have remained well, there's a toll on us from the relentless news of case numbers, deaths, vaccines given, vaccines delayed, constant reminders to wear masks, keep social distance, wash hands, stay home as much as possible. When will this end?

Whenever I've felt particularly low by the sameness of every day, it's always helped me to take stock, appreciate what I have, count my blessings. The worse I feel, which is often as the sun sets, the smaller my focus needs to be. I am grateful for having the basic necessities of life. First, and no small thing during this terrible pandemic, I can breathe. It's hard to think that breathing would seem a luxury, but you only need to imagine having it difficult to do, in order to know how sweet it is to be able to.

I have safe and cozy shelter. I have a roof over my head, walls to keep out the wind, a furnace and woodstove to keep me warm. I have electricity and hot and cold running water! I have food and beverages. I have a comfy bed, a comfy armchair, soft blankets, TV and books. I can get outside for walks. You get the idea.

Counting my blessings and imagining their absence, puts things in perspective for me. Things could be so much worse. For many people in other places around the world, who don't have these basics of life, things are miserable. I'm OK. I have nothing to worry about today.

This Spring issue is the first of 2021, a year that we hope and expect will end much better than 2020. With warm weather approaching, people will be more eager than ever, to get out again. To give you some ideas to consider, we're celebrating some outdoor activities in areas across the Escarpment. Provided local lockdowns are lifted, you might want to try some of these. If lockdowns are present, at least you can get a taste of them in these pages.

In This Issue

Escaping COVID-19 by tackling the entire Bruce Trail in what hikers call an end-to-end is our cover story this time. Writer Sue Horner has herself been exploring the trail, and she shares the accomplishments of hikers who have dedicated themselves to finishing the complete trail from Queenston Heights to Tobermory. Getting out in nature has never been appreciated more by so many.

Our Spring issue is usually a celebration of gardening

along the Escarpment, and we're pleased to feature a community garden with history behind it, the Old Seed House Garden in Georgetown. Despite or perhaps because of the pandemic, volunteer gardeners and helpers regularly gave their time to maintain and even improve the garden for the benefit of the public.

In Niagara Region,

cautious steps toward doing more of the things we enjoy outside our homes. It will be so great to feel comfortable again, visiting the towns along the Escarpment.

So many small businesses have been suffering financially from the forced closures or a general decline in customer traffic. Don't we all look forward to browsing freely in actual stores, making impulse

"Counting my blessings and imagining their absence, puts things in perspective for me. Things could be so much worse."

between the Escarpment and Lake Ontario, accomplished naturalist Bruce Mackenzie has fulfilled a dream to preserve lakeshore wetlands in Grimsby. Migrating waterbirds depend on these habitats, which are open to the public for bird watching and nature appreciation. Bruce's feature article shows us some of the wonders of these wetlands.

Mike Davis, my co-publisher, shares a favourite cycling route through words and photos of the Caledon Trailway. A multi-use trail, this serves walkers, horse riders as well as cyclists and other people using wheels, whether under chairs, strollers or skateboards. It is also part of The Great Trail which reaches all across Canada.

purchases, stopping for a meal in a quaint restaurant again? If we hold tight until we're on top of this virus, we'll get there again soon.

We at the magazine owe more thanks again to our kind readers who have surprised us with gifts and donations. We don't ask for them but they are signs of the generosity and kindness of people we have brought together through this magazine, those who, like us, live, work or play near the Niagara Escarpment in Canada, or are among our hundreds of armchair travellers. We are strong people who will get through and beyond these trying times.

That's what I've learned from the COVID pandemic.

Alonia

Gloria Hildebrandt

P.S. 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 <https://NEViews.ca>.



Niagara Escarpment Views is on Facebook as: www.facebook.com/N.E.Views

Moving Forward

We might not be out of danger yet, but increasing numbers of us will become vaccinated against COVID-19. As infection rates decline, we should be able to take

READERS & VIEWERS



I just finished reading Winter issue. I loved Jennifer Howard's Wildlife Photography piece! Amazing pics! I was deeply moved by the Red Dress story and pics; I keep this issue in my prayers regularly. I enjoyed Albert Bedward's kayaking to Nottawasaga Lighthouse story but would have liked a bit more on the Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society's great work in wrapping and protecting our lighthouse heritage. Thanks for great reading!

Sandra J. Howe,
Southampton

I'm looking to pick up a copy of the winter 2020 issue in Barrie. The "friend" in the cover article, is the guy who taught me to kayak, years ago :) The map shows Barrie as a source, but it's not listed on the pickup locations. Where can I get a copy in Barrie?

Brill Pappin, by email

You've created a fine publication. For the last several years a friend has sporadically passed his copy to me and I've enjoyed a great many articles. However, only last weekend, the Badlands feature caught my eye and having time to sit in a comfortable chair on a sunny afternoon I devoured every word in the copy my friend had just given me. Right then, I decided I needed to subscribe to ensure arrival of

every issue. You now have received my request for a two year subscription. When the opportunity presents itself you may want to remind potential advertisers that your publication is not only good public relations but works for them economically. The Badlands feature caused me to not only buy the book "Slag" but also three other books from brucetrail.org.

Gary McNally, Toronto

Love your magazine! Hope you are staying safe and keeping well. Please consider the extra [in addition to a subscription renewal] a donation. It must be challenging to keep publishing under these circumstances. Here's hoping that 2021 is ALOT better.

Helen Pinchen, Acton

Tip Top Views. Greatly enjoyed. Thanks to all your team.

Clare Johnston, Fergus

I am so pleased I renewed a fantastic magazine!

Bev Savich, St. Catharines

The Rainbow is coming down the road to Georgetown – better get ready for "good" times – Hang in there – we're nearly at the Finish Line. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year. Keep Healthy.

Ed, Carol & Jeanine Naftolin,
Burlington

Your magazine is a delight to behold and read. Thank you for publishing such a fine magazine.

Mary Houston, Niagara Falls

We have just been introduced to your beautiful magazine via Kim Viney who left copies of the winter copy in



Although your article states painted rocks shouldn't be placed in natural wild areas, your photographs are along a rail trail. This is public property and is somewhat natural. Placing painted rocks on any trail other than your own property is not a good idea environmentally. I would not like readers to get the idea that it is acceptable to place painted rocks along our public walking trails.

Robert Knapp, Georgian Bluffs



I received my... copy of the magazine in the mail yesterday and I was surprised and delighted to see your centre spread. We actually purchased and moved into that condo on the Sydenham River a year ago and have thoroughly enjoyed making use of it... this past year. [Here's a] photo I took this summer from one of my paddles in the river.

Kim Viney, by email

our condo lobby. BTW, we both live in the Sydenham, the building in the background of the centerfold photo of the Sydenham river. I have a connection with Niagara as my mother was born at Stamford Centre on her uncle's farm. My great-grandfather was awarded a medal for his participation in the Fenian raids. He was a member of the Thorold

company and we donated his double-barreled shotgun along with the medal to the museum at lock 7 of the Welland canal. It looks like a novel! I plan on subscribing but I am a phone person so I will call when you are open. BTW, Jennifer's photos are wonderful and I have been through the article several times.

Gord Calder, Owen Sound


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READERS & VIEWERS



I got my magazine. Thank you so much. I'm about to read the article with my coffee. I love it. You did an amazing job thank you. What a great way to start my day. Well I'm going to go read it and thank you for putting my book in there. I glanced through and noticed that. On my end it's selling really well. The zoo is introducing it Sat. on their virtual appreciation day for the turtle and frog talliers.

Jennifer Howard, photographer



Just wanted to say thank you. What a stunningly beautiful magazine, yours. And the photography... You must be proud. How do I pay to be a subscriber?

David Kendall, Belfountain

I have been enjoying your magazine for years, but only one or 2 a year because that is all I could get. Keep up the good work and stay safe.

Jeffrey Nagy, Orangeville

My husband and I were passing through Erin Ontario and picked up a copy of your beautiful Niagara Escarpment Views. We think you should be aware that the concept of systemic racism is revealed through magazines such as yours when there are no images of people of colour.

Lynda Pogue, by email



I want the Summer 2017 which was issued in May. Thank you. I was volunteering with Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy in 2016. When I was there, Bob showed me your magazine. There is an article about the Monarch butterfly festival that I participated in on the Summer 2017 issue. So I wanted to keep it for a memory.

Yuki Yamazaki, Fukuyaminami, Japan



PHOTO BY DAVE DORMAN

I live in the urban portion of the Town of Erin. One sunny morning we were surprised to see 2 coyotes in our backyard at about 9:15 AM. I grabbed the camera and took pictures of these coyotes as they hung around for about 20 minutes. They seemed very comfortable. My initial interest turned to concern as we own a dog. Our female Lab has been attacked by coyotes. In subsequent conversations with our neighbours, we found out that they have also had frequent sightings of these animals. I spoke to a biologist with the MNR&F and shared some of my photos with him. His opinion was to enjoy the wildlife but realize that the habituation of these coyotes might pose safety concerns in households with either pets or small children. We hope that no one is feeding these animals. Seeing their tracks and seeing these coyotes many times since the initial visit, we have concerns. In our opinion the "best" coyote is the one that is very afraid of humans. I share some of the pictures of these visitors.

Dave Dorman, Town of Erin



Mountains, nestled below the Niagara Escarpment. We are currently creating an online exhibit about Indigenous History and Culture connected to this region. I recently came across your 2011 issue and the digitized article "Mysteries of Ekarenniondi" written by Ken Haigh. We are seeking the publisher's permission to include a PDF of this article in an educational online exhibit – may we have your permission to do so?

Allison Brown, Museum Technician

I work with the Craigleith Heritage Depot – a museum and library branch located in the Town of the Blue

■ READERS & VIEWERS

There are organizations that purport to take in southern Niagara Region (e.g. Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and Niagara Land Trust Foundation), but there appears to be little actual activity. For example, the Niagara Land Trust owns 8 acres and has 50 acres under easement. This after 16 years in operation! Might a review of how best to support conservancy, especially in Niagara Region, be worthy of a future article. Would you at least be able to offer any advice? Thanks for any help you may be able to offer.

Garry, by email

[Response from Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy:]

EBC has always been interested in conserving land in Niagara. We are currently working on a 45 acre fee simple donation. If you have ideas about potential reserves, please let me know.

Bob Barnett, Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy



Katelynn Baksa wearing the fandana as a head scarf.

Re: Clearview Side Road 26/27 Proposed Reconstruction and the Closing of County Road 91
For over 5 years the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust (BMWT) has been opposing the proposed reconstruction of Clearview Side Road 26/27, the closing of a section of former Simcoe Country Road 91 and its transfer to Walker's Industry Ltd. It impacts the Escarpment's environment and the transportation network in the north west corner of Clearview Township. It is a flawed decision and needs to be stopped.

Clearview made their first application to the Niagara Escarpment Commission for approval to reconstruct Side Road 26/27 in January of 2014. This application was refused by the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) on November 27, 2015 by a vote of 12 to 1 and appealed by Clearview.

In preparing for the appeal of their development application their consultants discovered additional wetlands within the Side Road 26/27 road allowance requiring an amendment of the Niagara

Escarpment Plan (NEP) to allow construction of the road.

The following are the reasons the BMWT feels Clearview's appeals should be denied:

1. The road project does not meet the test of "essential" as alternatives were not taken into consideration, a requirement of lands zoned as Escarpment Natural Area and a requirement of amending the Niagara Escarpment Plan.
2. A tunnel under County Road 91 has been provided making the case for reconstructing Side Road 26/27 as "essential" not the case and County Rd 91 can remain in service.
3. Further development of Side Road 26/27 would offend the objectives of the Niagara Escarpment's two most sensitive land use designations i.e., Escarpment Natural and Escarpment Protection Areas.
4. Further development of the road would cause environmental harm to cold-water streams and steep Escarpment slopes and the endangered species known to be present.
5. This summer Clearview repaved County Rd 91.
6. The proposed reconstruction of Side Road 26/27 does not allow commercial vehicles over 5 tonnes to use it.
7. Large farm equipment will need to find alternate routes in moving to fields up or down the Escarpment.
8. Aggregate suppliers other than Walker will be made less competitive because of the added distance to their customers.
9. If County Road 91 is not closed, Side Road 26/27 can remain as a seasonal rural road and the environmental

impact of reconstructing the road eliminated.

10. The cost to reconstruct the road initially was proposed as \$500,000 and is now estimated at over \$4,000,000.
11. The need to amend the Niagara Escarpment Plan by Clearview has not been supported by the NEC staff.

With respect to alternatives, they need to be studied, as there are other viable options available that should have been considered if a proper schedule of Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) had been followed in the first place. This is the purpose of the MCEA process and would have required Clearview to properly consult with the public and address the issues in a far more fair, timely and cost-effective manner. It is also a requirement of a NEP amendment.

We submit what Clearview is proposing is seriously flawed and in no way comparable to former Simcoe County Rd. 91, a major intercounty road that has served the area for over 100 years. It only benefits Clearview and Walker Industries Ltd. It ignores the impact on the adjacent municipalities of the Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey Highlands and traffic up and down the Bruce Peninsula. It is a questionable transfer of public land to the private sector.

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust needs the support of your readership in opposing what Clearview is proposing and where to find additional funding to continue this important effort.

George Powell, Vice Chair
Watershed Action Group,
Blue Mountain Watershed
Trust Foundation

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Outings by Bike with Mike:

BY MIKE DAVIS

One of my favourite cycling routes, mostly because it's close to my home, is the Caledon Trailway, a multi-use trail for walking, peddle bikes and horses. It is a former rail line built in 1877 by the Hamilton & North Western Railway, which was abandoned and is now owned and maintained by the Town of Caledon. No doubt there was a lot of

CALEDON TRAILWAY



The Caledon Trailway passes through all of Caledon, starting at the border of Halton Hills and connecting with a rail trail in the next town, New Tecumseth.

environmental disruption at the time of the rail line construction over 140 years ago, but it is now a real gem, a fantastic corridor. It runs 35 km from the border with the Town of Halton Hills to the border with New Tecumseth at Highway 9 where it continues north. It is part of the Greenbelt Cycling Route and part of it is The Great Trail, formerly called the Trans Canada Trail.



▲ At Inglewood the trail crosses the active rail line, the Orangeville Brampton Railway.



▲ View from the prominent blue bridge that spans busy Highway 10.



► Great Blue Heron with fish caught in the wetland off the trail.

◀ The distinctive looking gates at road crossings are multi-purpose, allowing walking and cycling through one end without barrier and letting horses step over the low section, while keeping out large motor vehicles.



▲ Painted Turtles basking on a tree trunk in the wetland.

At the western end of the Trail, you can start at the mile zero marker at the border of The Town of Halton Hills. There is parking for cars at the end of Brick Lane, adjacent to the marker. Most road crossings have parking right at the trail crossing. At the Winston Churchill Road or Isabella Street crossings in Terra Cotta, just a short trip south to King Road, brings you into the village, with the Terra Cotta Inn for a nice meal at the end of the ride.

On the trail, approaching Mississauga Road, ruins of the Cheltenham Brickworks can be seen. The kiln

operation ran for 50 years from 1914 to 1964, and is now designated as a Heritage Resource Area. Just beyond, Brampton Brick Limited currently mines clay for use in their Brampton location.

When you cross Creditview Road, the Cheltenham General Store is just south of the Trail, where you can enjoy a break overlooking the Credit River. There is an interesting dip in the trail at Olde Baseline Road, where the Trail grade abruptly lowers to the road, the result of past road works. The abrupt drop can be a bit of a concern, because if you lose control you might end up in the middle

of the road! Fortunately, a warning light activates for trail users if road traffic is coming.

Inglewood

The next town is Inglewood, with McLaughlin Road running through the middle. The shop Caledon Hills Cycling is conveniently located just north of the trail. Interestingly, an operating rail line, Orangeville Brampton Railway, that runs between the two towns, crosses here too. There is infrequent train traffic, but you should always be aware. Also, pay attention when crossing the track and don't go at a shallow angle, or the wheel might get caught

in the rut and you'll go over.

The Great Trail connects from the north along McLaughlin from another rail trail in Cataract and continues east on the Rail Trail.

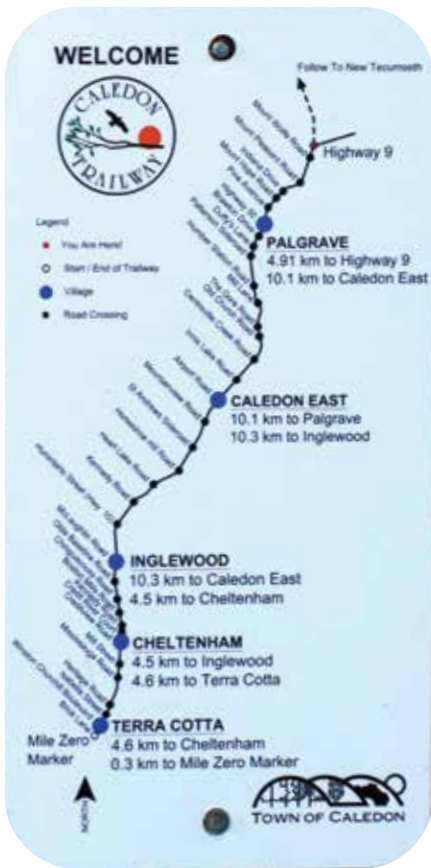
Next is an impressive blue-coloured bridge over the very busy and fast-moving four-lane Hwy 10. The bridge is distinctive from the road. From above, it offers a great elevated view for trail users.

Caledon East

About 10 km of pleasant rural and wetland scenery bring you toward the village of Caledon East at Airport Road. An impressive kiosk and parkette for The Great Trail are located



▲ Yellowlegs Sandpiper spotted from the trail, wading in the wetland east of Gore Road.



◀ Useful signs at every crossing give your location and distances to towns.

on the south side of the Trail, providing information about the trail and honouring its many donors.

You feel a little special at the Airport Road crossing, which has a “bike” crossing button with “bike” cross lights. Another spot to take a break for perhaps a cappuccino and gelato, is

the Four Corners Bakery Eatery, right next to the Trail. It is well worth the wander in the village to experience other retail establishments.

Continuing on the Trail you pass the Caledon municipal buildings and sports park, before getting back into more rural areas. There are many wetland

complexes along the trail, but my favorite is just east of the Gore Road crossing. The Trail provides an elevated platform to view an abundance of showy and unafraid wildlife, including the water birds Yellowlegs, Egrets, Blue Herons and Painted Turtles. This is definitely a good place to catch your breath and

take it all in. It is just like a big screen high-def TV showing a nature channel!

Palgrave

Next comes the village of Palgrave at Hwy 50, again with interesting village shops. After a few more road crossings you reach the end of the Trail at the Caledon



▲ The Caledon Trailway approaching Four Corners Bakery Eatery on Airport Road. The intersection has bike-friendly crossing lights.



◀ A Bailey Bridge crosses a stream on the trail. Used by the military, Bailey Bridges are easily and quickly constructed.

border under a bridge at Hwy 9, where the Great Trail continues into the next town on the New Tecumseth Trail.

At a leisurely 15 km per hour average ride speed, the end-to-end trip through Caledon and back should run about 4.5 hours plus breaks. For me, from my house, end to end and back, it is 6 hours and

88 km with breaks. The trail is well signed, giving the location at every road crossing and distances to villages, which is helpful should anyone need emergency response. **NEV**

Mike Davis is co-founder, co-publisher and accounts manager of Niagara Escarpment Views.



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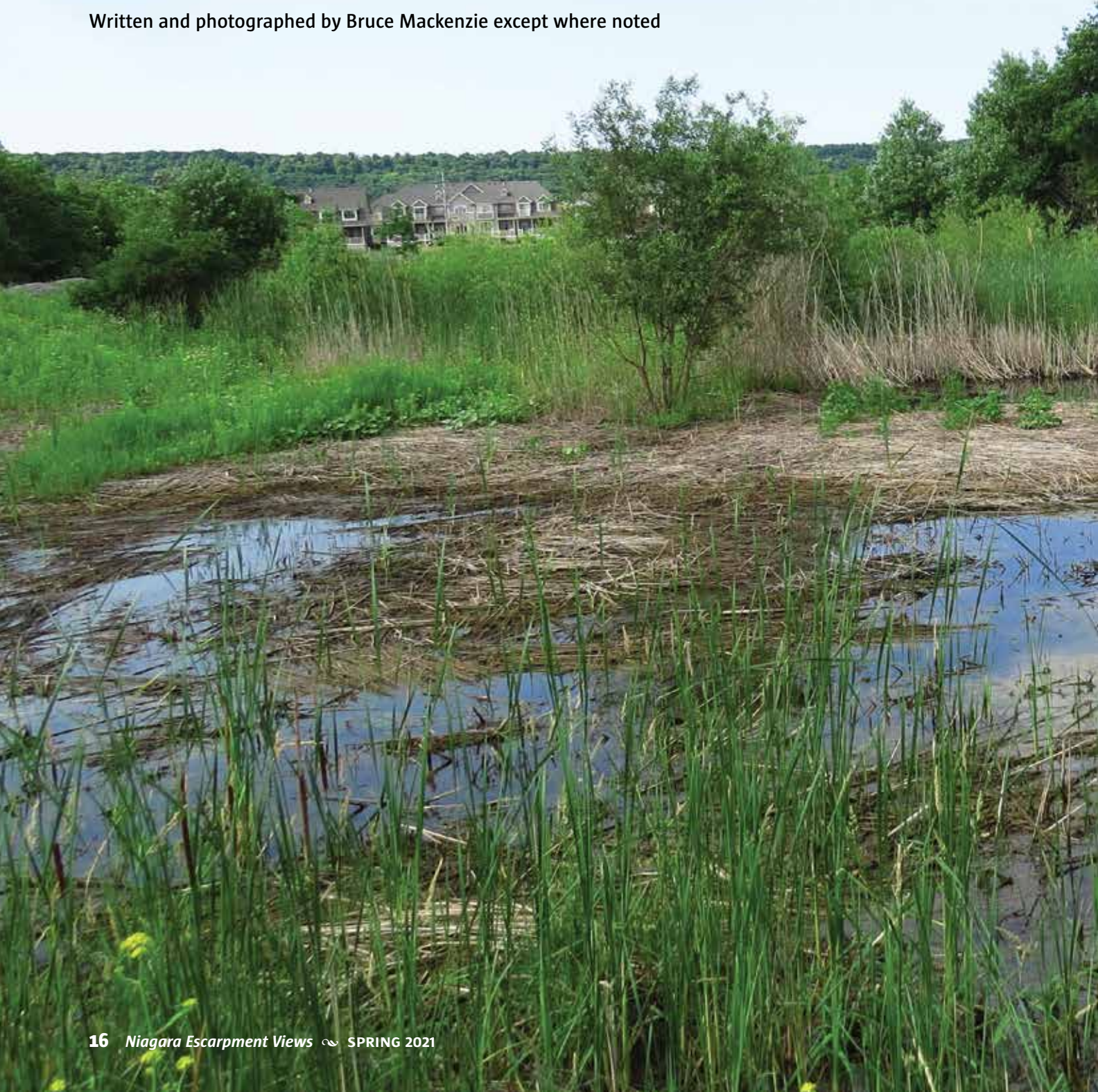



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SIGNIFICANT, IMPORTANT: **The Grimsby Wetlands**

Written and photographed by Bruce Mackenzie except where noted





The largest green space on the south shore of Lake Ontario is the Fifty Point Complex, a 420-acre significant site for breeding and migrating birds. These special lands include Fifty Point Conservation Area, the Winona Rifle Range, the former Biggar Sewage Lagoon and the radio tower lands. They straddle the border of Hamilton and Grimsby.

One of the Grimsby Wetlands, which form a refuge for marsh birds, amphibians, reptiles and plants, between the south shore of Lake Ontario and the Niagara Escarpment.

Aerial view of Grimsby Wetlands with the wildlife observation tower in the centre. PHOTO BY DRONE'S EYE PHOTOGRAPHY.



The Niagara Escarpment parallels the shore of Lake Ontario and lies closest to the lake at Grimsby, leaving a narrow tract of precious land that is turning more and more from fruit lands to urban developments.

In the midst of this urbanization the Fifty Point Complex reaches out into Lake Ontario by about 1.6 km. Its location makes it a significant “green island” for wildlife to live and people to enjoy in the centre of

the Greenbelt surrounding western Lake Ontario.

Today the former Biggar Lagoon property is referred to as the “Grimsby Wetlands.” They rank among the province’s most important wetlands on the south shore of Lake Ontario and they could have easily been lost while the lagoons were being decommissioned in 2001. But it was saved with a citizen-led conservation effort spearheaded by the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club

(HNC). They have become an integral piece in the centre of the Fifty Point Complex.

Saving Lagoons

The 29-acre site was originally the Biggar family farm until 1959 when Grimsby purchased the farm for the future Biggar Sewage Lagoons. The Regional Municipality of Niagara now owns the southern 20 acres and the Department of National Defence owns the northern nine acres.

The decommissioning

plans called for the removal of the lagoons and the return of the property to open fields. In 2002 HNC presented a proposal to the landowners that would allow for these constructed wetlands to remain.

The original goal of the proposal was to maintain and then enhance the substantial public investment in the original lagoons and parlay it into natural wetlands at minimal cost. The potential was great. Creating these



▲ The “Marsh Master” was critical to eliminating invasive Phragmites and creating life-sustaining wetland habitat.

► The completed two-storey wildlife observation structure has a radio tracking tower that uses the specialized Motus program to collect data on migrating creatures.



wetlands is so important today when so many other wetlands have been lost and or are threatened.

Saving the Biggar Sewage Lagoons took some out-of-the-box thinking and a lot of patience for the sometimes-difficult discussions ahead. The proposal was not well received. It took four years of negotiations and assistance from supportive politicians at the municipal and federal level to make it all work.

By 2006, an agreement

was reached. The two biggest lagoons would be left as wetlands and four new water bodies would be created, each one designed to be different to give wildlife a choice.

Keeping this as a group of wetlands and in public ownership, adds tremendously to the stability of this collection of lands. From 2006 through 2015, nothing much happened around the lagoons. Nature had a



▲ The wetlands are a birdwatcher's dream. Kevin McLaughlin scans for shorebirds in Watcher's Pond.



▲ Lesser Yellowlegs, sandpipers on migration. PHOTO BY TED BUCK.

free hand in naturalization. In 2016, a part of Grimsby's new waterfront trail was built into the wetlands. The trail featured interpretive signage and a two-storey wildlife observation tower. The public was finally welcomed to visit.

Nature Projects

In 2016 the HNC approached the Region for permission to start working on the Regional lands with its wildlife enhancement projects. The club was allowed to begin work in 2017.

The next step was to do what naturalization could not. Most of the site had no natural structure for wildlife because it was formed in some ways by

the blade of a bulldozer. The HNC started simply, putting in rocks, logs, and brush piles, as well as Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow boxes. Projects were designed to be visible from the trail so the public could easily experience the wildlife attracted by them. When families enjoy nature close to home it significantly adds to their quality of life.

Support from HNC members, local community foundations, private businesses and individuals all provided the capital and materials for the projects. Successes are a result of the partnerships made in the community.

► The marsh bird Sora is secretive, wades in shallow wetlands and can be identified by its bright yellow bill. PHOTO BY TED BUCK.

Killing Phragmites

Since 2006 invasive Phragmites grass began to take hold over much of the land. By 2016 it had to be dealt with because it covered three of the new wetlands completely and ringed the other three. It was a severe threat to the ecosystem here. In 2017 a control plan for Phragmites was developed with the assistance of experienced experts and specialists in invasive species removal and control.

Fortunately, with the generosity of the Lois Evans Natural Heritage Fund of the Hamilton Community Foundation, funds were received to carry out the plan. The Phragmites were sprayed





PHOTO BY KEVIN MCLAUGHLIN.




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▲ Painted Turtles frequent the specially designed floating platforms.



◀ A brightly coloured male Wood Duck in the wetland.

▶ The Common Gallinule needs good marsh habitat in order to thrive. It has long toes that let it walk on floating vegetation.
PHOTO BY CAROLYN BUCK.



in August 2018. With about a 95 per cent success rate it will now be possible to keep ahead of the Phragmites.

Since knocking back the Phragmites there has been a resurgence of marsh life. Marsh birds like Sora, Virginia Rails and Gallinules are nesting now. Bullfrogs

have moved in with many other marsh species. Cattails, one of the preferred marsh plant species, are thriving around the wetlands. It is simply amazing how fast marsh species of plants and animals moved in after the Phragmites were gone.

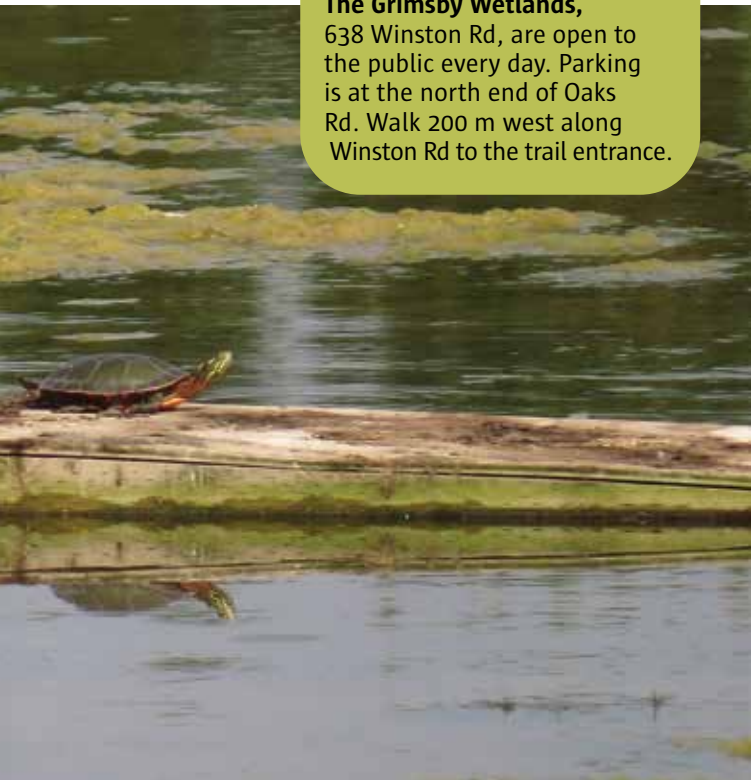
Other projects include

nesting structures for Purple Martins, Wood Ducks, Mallards, Canada Geese and Barn Swallows. Sites have been prepared for turtle nesting and snake hibernation. A beach-like area was made for Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper nesting sites.

In 2020 a wildlife radio tracking tower that uses the Motus scientific program was installed by Birds Canada. This tower will add data to a western hemisphere biological database on migrating birds, bats and insects.

A Children's Reflections

The Grimsby Wetlands, 638 Winston Rd, are open to the public every day. Parking is at the north end of Oaks Rd. Walk 200 m west along Winston Rd to the trail entrance.



wall was created for their artwork to be displayed. With each project and day, new friends are made in the community, whether they be human or with fur, scale, feather or leaf. **NEV**

Bruce Mackenzie's last article in Niagara Escarpment Views

was "Crows vs. Ravens: A Tale of Two Birds" in Summer 2018. Bruce resides in Grimsby and is a commissioner on the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the vice chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and a past president of the Hamilton Naturalists' Club.

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Edward Jones

The cruise ship *Victory I* docked at Little Current, Manitoulin Island,
May 2019, before the pandemic stopped all cruising.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.





A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, khaki pants, and a tan hat, is climbing a wooden ladder in a forest. He is holding a long wooden pole. The ladder is leaning against a large rock. In the background, another person is visible on a higher part of the ladder. The forest is lush with green trees and foliage. A large tree trunk is in the foreground on the left.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Completing
the Bruce Trail
During COVID

BY SUE HORNER



◀ Doug Sloan climbs down a ladder from a rock face on what he calls his “champagne” hike in 2015, when he finished his 50th end-to-end. Photo permission of Doug Sloan.

The Bruce Trail is Canada’s oldest and longest marked footpath, stretching 900 km along the Niagara Escarpment, from Queenston Heights to Tobermory. The Escarpment itself continues through Manitoulin Island. From the trail’s creation, the idea of hiking its entire length, known as an “end-to-end,” has caught the imagination of hikers.



▲ Robyn Phillips, far right, and her golfing buddies Diane Ruygrok and Jen Van Tiggelen tackle the last hike of the Niagara section in their first end-to-end. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEN VAN TIGGELEN.



For Robyn Phillips, golf was a lifeline during the pandemic restrictions of 2020. As she finished a round in September with the regular partners in her bubble, Diane Ruygrok and Jen Van Tiggelen, they looked to the looming winter with dismay. What would they do without golf, travel and dinners out? Phillips had always loved

hiking, and when she heard about someone who had walked the entire Bruce Trail, the idea struck a chord. None of the three had done extensive hiking, but all were active, fit and adventurous. Tackling the trail section by section seemed doable spread over two years.

When golf season ended, the three invested in good

hiking boots and headed for the southern terminus at Queenston Heights. Between November 3 and December 3 last fall, they logged 83 km over weekly hikes to complete the Niagara section. Their end-to-end was underway.

A Hare-Brained Scheme?

Phillips and her friends are among many who flocked to

the Bruce Trail in 2020. “More than ever, people have been seeking a connection to the natural world, to find solace and rejuvenation,” said Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) CEO Michael McDonald in *Bruce Trail Magazine*.

Finding solace in nature is one thing. But the trail is often physically demanding and weather can make it



▲ Cin Johnston loves all the moss and greenery of the crevices found along the Bruce Trail, here in the Sydenham section. PHOTO BY CALVIN SNOW.



▲ Diane Ruygrok and Robyn Phillips take a breath before a steep set of stairs near Ball's Falls Conservation Area. PHOTO BY JEN VAN TIGGELEN.

treacherous. You might encounter bugs, poison ivy, rattlesnakes and other hazards. And who starts a journey that takes several weeks to several years?

Walter Soroka was the first, and he didn't waste any time; he set off right after the ribbon-cutting ceremony that officially opened the trail on June 10, 1967. At the time,

the trail covered 643 km, and the journey took him 14 days. When he finished, his comment says much about the experience: "I would like to make a public apology to my wife, Laurie, for charging off on a hare-brained scheme in the first place," he told *Bruce Trail Magazine*. Hare-brained or not, many have followed Soroka's footsteps.

In 2019, BTC gave a record 218 official numbers to members who completed an end-to-end, more than in any of previous 10 years. In total, BTC has recognized 3,885 end-to-ends over its 51 years of operation. They did not issue any numbers this year for those who began during the lockdown, since the trail was closed for part

of the year. No doubt, many more people have completed the trail without fanfare.

BTC doesn't track speed for safety reasons, and "completing the entire 900-km Bruce Trail in a single trip is a major endeavour requiring significant physical, mental and logistic preparation," warns the BTC website. Still, there's always someone

who is all about speed.

Self-described “veteran endurance athlete” John Harrison Pockler had no races in 2020 due to COVID-19 and was looking for a challenge and a way to keep training. Pockler broke the record for the fastest end-to-end, finishing his in September 2020 in nine days, 17 hours, two minutes and 25 seconds. The venture involved two and half months of planning, a base crew of six support people, and an RV.

More typically, hikers will take about two years. That’s the plan for runner Cin Johnston, whose first end-to-end is part of her bucket list.

Once Cin retired in 2017, she decided to hike the entire trail, sparked by taking part in a 30K “Survival Run” through parts of the Iroquoia section. Cin and her husband had become good friends with Calvin Snow and his wife through a running club in Milton. Calvin, too, had recently retired and wanted another adventure. With both spouses still working, he and Cin joined forces that fall and started in Niagara. After a delay due to knee surgery, Calvin still has the Bruce Peninsula to cover. The plan is to finish in spring 2021, with their spouses joining in for the final leg.

Once is Not Enough

As for the most end-to-ends, the record is 50 times, set by Doug Sloan, a lifetime member since about 1995. He started hiking seriously in 1990 and was smitten, completing his first end-to-end three years later at age 52.

“Hiking has a quality akin to meditation, among other things,” Sloan explains. “You can devote one part of your mind to the actual hiking whilst pondering the

COVID-19 CAUSES CHANGE

The pandemic forced serious changes to BTC’s hiking program in the early months of 2020 and beyond, including support for end-to-ends.

In March and April, CEO Michael McDonald urged people to stay home, stay safe and stay away from the Bruce Trail. BTC cancelled organized hikes and in-person events in March, as well as the Trail Angels transportation program that supported end-to-ends. Many partner organizations such as conservation areas closed or limited access to parking and trails.

By mid-May, BTC coordinated trail re-openings with its partners, urging hikers to keep two metres away from others, move aside to allow others to pass and stick to local areas. Most of the Bruce Trail was open by early September, and BTC updated guidelines in November to limit group hikes to 10, suggest masks and advise checking for closures. At this writing, organized hikes through local clubs remained suspended.



▲ This stone cairn marks the southern end of the Bruce Trail in Queenston Heights. A matching one marks the northern end in Tobermory. PHOTO BY SUE HORNER.



▲ Jen Van Tiggelen's Golden Retriever, Gracie, recovers after the first 20-km hike of their end-to-end in November 2020.
PHOTO BY JEN VAN TIGGELEN.



► Calvin Snow enjoys a wintry moment on the Bruce Trail in Beaver Valley. He left home on a clear day, but was prepared for changing conditions.
PHOTO BY CIN JOHNSTON.

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◀ Webster's Falls are among many beautiful waterfalls in the Iroquoia section. In the early 1800s, Joseph Webster built the Ashbourne Flour Mill just above the falls that now bear his family's name. PHOTO BY SUE HORNER.

▶ Water tumbles along 30 Mile Creek near the 73.2 km mark of the trail in the Niagara section. PHOTO BY JEN VAN TIGGELEN.

▼ A white blaze clearly marks the main paths along the Bruce Trail. This one is near where hikers first enter the forest after touching the Southern Cairn to start the end-to-end journey. PHOTO BY SUE HORNER.



great and small questions of life. Or have lively conversations. It's also a great community of hikers."

Over the years, he's mixed up how he tackled the challenge, doing the trail in 12 Saturday hikes in 2004 and a "double-double" (four end-to-ends) in 2005. That meant hiking out and back to his car every day to finish two end-to-ends in 31 days. At the end of this first double, he took eight days off and did it again, this time in 29 days.

Sloan finished his 50th end-to-end on July 18, 2015, which he figures brings his total to the equivalent of

walking around the world. He's still doing regular 16 km- to 28 km-hikes, although stopped doing official end-to-ends. "Had to give all those friends of mine trying to catch up something to shoot for, you know!"

As for Robyn Phillips and her friends, their eyes are firmly set on finishing one end-to-end.

To Make It Official:

- 1) You must be a member of the Bruce Trail Conservancy.
- 2) Log when and where you start and end each day; a separate page for each of the nine club sections helps.

- 3) Submit the log for each club as you go to get a badge then, or request all badges at the end. Submit your trail log to BTC with the date you completed your end-to-end, with \$15 plus shipping to cover your badge, certificate and processing. If you want all badges at once, the cost is \$75 plus shipping. **NEV**

Sue Horner wrote "Risky Roads: Road ecology measures step in when animal instincts and urban sprawl collide," for Niagara Escarpment Views, Winter 2016-2017. She has hiked about 10 km of the Bruce Trail.



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DECADES OF HISTORY

Georgetown's Old Seed House Garden



The Sunken Garden has been created within old barn foundations that were used when the distinctive Tudor-style building of Dominion Seed House was expanded.

The Old Seed House Garden in Georgetown exists thanks to volunteers and honours the legacy of a former Georgetown-based mail-order business, Dominion Seed House.



▲ The garden is located at 135 Maple Avenue with free parking near the entrance.



▲ Dramatic Weeping Purple Beeches have been closely planted to form a curving border and backdrop to the formal garden beds.



◀ In late spring many varieties of peonies border the formal gardens, offering a fitting tribute to the history of Dominion Seed House.

► This stunning colour combination from these irises and peonies is always a favourite.



In Georgetown on a Tuesday morning last spring, The Old Seed House Garden was busy with women and men weeding, planting annuals, and adding compost to beds. Because of COVID, these volunteers were spread

out, keeping a safe distance from each other. Yet in spite of or perhaps because of the pandemic, they were maintaining and improving the garden for all to enjoy.

Located at 135 Maple Avenue north of Guelph St., the garden is completely free.

There is no admission fee, and parking is free in a lot next to the entrance. At just under two acres in size, the garden consists of a sunken garden within old foundations that were part of the famous Dominion Seed House Tudor-style building, formal

gardens that lead to a gazebo, a drystone riverbed, a pond and lawns with sculptures.

Plantings

One unusual element is the use of Weeping Purple Beech trees to form a curving border that defines the



▲ A close look at the Weeping Purple Beech reveals a variety of colour in the leaves. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

formal gardens. The tall, stately yet contorted trees form patterns in the sky while their dark leaves add distinct drama to the normal green of plants. Usually a single accent tree, this beech planting in multiples is a creative stroke of brilliance.

“At one time the purple beech trees circled the whole formal garden,” says Diane Crawford, co-chair of The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden, adding that what remains “is what has survived over the years.”

Peonies are a big part of

the formal gardens in spring and are appropriate for this site because Dominion Seed House, which used to trial and plant on the original roughly 60-acre farm, grew many different peonies, including heritage varieties that were imported from

France around 1930. Some of these remained in the fields until the property was developed by new owners: the light pink Germaine Bigot, rose red Eclataine, deep pink edged with silver Octavie Demay, white tinged pink Tourengelle,



▲ A walk along flowering shrubs with Weeping Purple Beeches towering darkly beyond. New paving stones have been laid since this photo was taken.



◀ One of two bronze sculptures depicting boys with animals. Created by John Robinson, they are dedicated to the owners of Dominion Seed House.

▶ Beverly de Jong's "Fantasy Gate" hints at elements from the rural past.



light pink La France, and the pink Marechal Vaillant and Modeste Guerin.

Paths through the formal gardens lead to a gazebo. Last summer there was a significant structural change to the fine gravel paths.

"New interlocking walkways have made the garden more accessible for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers," says Diane.

Art in the Garden

Sculpture adds further interest to the garden. At the gazebo end of the formal gardens, small bronzes of young boys with animals, perch on stone pillars. A sign identifies the artist as John Robinson and acknowledges the former owners of Dominion Seed House.

The lawns of the garden are punctuated by large metal

sculptures. Three large leaves standing upright, entitled "Trio," are the work of Soul Metal. "Fantasy Gate" by Beverly de Jong is a tribute to the agricultural and rural past of the Georgetown area.

Get Involved

Volunteers are welcome. Gardening work is done every Tuesday morning, 9 a.m. to noon in the season.

"No experience is necessary, and all ages are welcome," says Diane. "Volunteer because you like to garden, or want to learn more about gardening, or make new friends. It feels good being part of the community."

To donate to the gardens, mail cheques payable to The Friends of the Old Seed House Garden, c/o 113 Rexway Drive, Georgetown ON, L7G 1R3. **NEV**



▲ Soul Metal created this installation entitled "Trio."

History of the Garden

By 1928 — The mail-order seed company Dominion Seed House was established by Bill Bradley.

1936 — The distinctive Tudor-style building was built on the roughly 60-acre farm along Guelph St. at the edge of Georgetown.

1952 — Bill Bradley died and the business was given to his wife Alexandrina Bradley and daughter Margaret Harding.

1993 — Dominion Seed House was sold to a Quebec firm and the business was relocated.

1995 — Members of the Georgetown chapter of Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) decided to create a public garden on the site as a reminder of the history of Dominion Seed House. It is interesting to note that 2021 is the 50th anniversary of the Georgetown chapter of CFUW.


1996 — A fundraising "Dig-Your-Own Plant" sale was held on the site to let people buy peonies, irises and daylilies. \$40,000 was raised.

1997 — The property was sold for development. The eight-acre park portion would include the public garden.

1999 — The Tudor-style building was demolished, leaving fieldstone foundations that were originally under a barn and were used when the Tudor-style building had been expanded. These foundations are visible in the Sunken Garden today.

2002 — Friends of the Old Seed House Garden was formed, work began on the infrastructure of the garden, planting began in the fall.

June 2003 — Old Seed House Garden was officially opened.



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GAZETTE

Andy Lowe's Manitoulin Yodel Celebrates the Cup and Saucer

Andy Lowe of Sudbury is a singer, songwriter and entertainer whose live performances have been silenced by the pandemic. He's gaining more visibility, however, from music videos he has been recording and posting on You Tube recently. One of the songs he has added, is "The Manitoulin Yodel," a fun number that was inspired by Manitoulin Island's most spectacular Niagara

Escarpment view, that from the top of the Cup and Saucer Trail. Andy relates how he was moved to give a Tarzan yell from the summit on his first hike there, which made him think that this was the ideal place for a Manitoulin yodeller.

To watch Andy talk about and perform this piece, go to YouTube.com and search for Andy Lowe, Sudbury. Meanwhile, with his permission, here are the lyrics.

The Manitoulin Yodel

*He came from Mindemoya, they called him Lonesome Jim
 He said he was born to yodel and the locals laughed at him
 He climbed the Cup and Saucer, stood high atop the bluffs
 And from Gore Bay to Sheguiandah you could here him sure enough*



▲ Andy Lowe was the resident entertainer at Killarney Mountain Lodge for 20 years. He has written more than 30 songs about Manitoulin, Sudbury and Killarney, including "The Manitoulin Yodel," which he composed in 2014. PHOTO BY STACY KING.

*Idle iddle addy-yoo ,
 let your spirit fly
 Oddle iddle ooh-e-yah,
 all across the sky
 Hoiee-yawee awee-
 hee far and wide
 Oddle diddle dee, do the
 Manitoulin Yodel*

*He went to Little Current to the Country Jamboree
 Entered in the competition at the karaok-ayee
 Some folks was disappointed 'cause he didn't sing country
 But he won a nice porketta with his yodel-ee-aye-yay*

*Now Jimmy liked to yodel at functions and events
 At funerals and weddings, in fact every where he went
 As far as Espanola Jimmy's fame had spread
 As the Haweater who's yodel was enough to wake the dead*

*Poor Jimmy was a drinker and he smoked three packs a day
 When he could no longer yodel the poor man past away
 But as you cross that swinging bridge you'll hear it on the wind
 Jimmy standing up on high a yodel-ee-aye-in*



◀ View from the top of the Cup and Saucer Trail on Manitoulin Island. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

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Hildebrandt & Davis Nature Park

By Gloria Hildebrandt

It's official. I have achieved one of the most important goals of my life. I have completed the process of placing a conservation easement on my family's property.

Now, the 14 acres of trails, pond, wetland, karst, hill, cedar and deciduous forests, which were given to me by my father in his will, are protected for perpetuity. That means that no matter who owns the property in future, it can't be subdivided, developed, clear cut, misused or have many other specific wrongs done to it. It will remain habitat for wildlife and plants, at least until evil politicians destroy land trusts, eliminate protective restrictions or expropriate the land, although that would be fought by the conservation agency I deal with.

I still own the land, and can sell or give it away as I like. The protections remain on the land regardless. It is still private property, and people are only allowed on it by invitation.

My father bequeathed the land to me because he knew that my love for it was similar to his. He registered the property with the provincial government as a Managed Forest and maintained it according to an approved plan, which I have also taken over. He was a naturalist, conservationist, gardener, hiker, wilderness explorer and excursion leader. He, Charles Hildebrandt, has a Bruce Trail Side Trail named after him. He used to talk of his property as a nature reserve, and to have it officially recognized as such, would have given him great pride.

The Process

It has required patience and quite a bit of time, years actually, to get to this point. COVID-19 delayed things somewhat. The first step was hammering out the specific conditions in the conservation agreement with Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC), a land conservation agency and a regular, long-time advertiser in this magazine. Bob Barnett of EBC, who regularly writes a column on land conservation for us, steered me through the process. Several reports were required after I was happy with the conservation agreement.

An ecological sensitivity report was prepared after experts came for a tour and exploration of the property. The report listed these at-risk species that have been observed on the land by various people: Western Chorus Frog, Eastern Milksnake, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Monarch Butterfly and the Butternut tree.

The report also gave the summary "The property contributes to Canada's environmental heritage due to the fact that the property contains forest, wetland and stream which provide habitat for a variety of flora and fauna such as those listed as at risk species and the numerous species identified in the species inventory. Additionally, having these multiple ecosystem features on the property contributes to the maintenance of ecosystem health and landscape biodiversity."

Another necessary report was the valuation of the conservation agreement on the property, or how much the restrictions on



▲ Part of one of the Escarpment outcroppings on the property, with Mayapples growing in spring. My father referred to this area as a natural rock garden. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

the property might lower its real estate value.

Environment Canada reviewed the appraisal of the property, and then sent me a notice of determination of fair market value of this ecological gift. I will benefit from an income tax receipt because of the agreement.

Finally, the lawyers registered the conservation agreement on the property title.

According to EBC, it is their 189th reserve, their first to be established in Halton Region and at the time of this writing, also their southernmost reserve.

What's in a Name

Hildebrandt & Davis Nature Park recognizes my birth family and the steadfast contributions of Mike Davis, whose relentless pursuit of invasive plant species on the land is matched by his appreciation and enjoyment of the land.

The word "park" is an acknowledgement of my mother who said that her

property was so pretty it seemed like a city park. This was a high compliment from someone who would have preferred to live in a downtown area, but who came to enjoy daily walks on her rural property, feeding chickadees from her hand, and sitting on a bench on the hill. A commemorative bench with her name on it now stands in that spot.

How We Got Here

It's worth noting that when my parents bought the property in 1963, it was a rocky piece of farmland used to graze beef cattle. Natural springs in one part of the land were a muddy watering hole. My father let the land regenerate naturally while planting some specimen trees. He had the muddy area enlarged, letting the spring water form a pond. Now, 57 years later, this land has become a plant and wildlife refuge forever.

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

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Do Profits Trump Nature?

By Bob Barnett

Nature is defenceless against bulldozers, chainsaws and industrial fishing. Our capitalist system rewards those who make the greatest use of natural resources and spew pollutants like CO₂ into the air. There is a fundamental battle in our politics between people who believe less regulation is better and others who think business and industry ought to be regulated to provide both a high standard of living for people and the least harm to nature.

As a charity trying to protect nature for future generations, we walk a fine line by depending on both generous donors and government regulation. Laws and bylaws prevent loss of important natural areas before we have a chance to protect them. Sometimes developers give us the edges of properties they can't develop.

Many of us blanched when we heard about oil exploration in the Alaskan wildlife refuge or opening Indigenous lands in the Amazon to development without the residents' consent.

Conservation Changes

Here in Ontario, the latest budget took away the regulatory powers of conservation authorities (CAs) including their capacity to stop unauthorized work and to present evidence at Ontario's environmental tribunal. It also denies municipal members of the CAs' boards the right to evaluate applications according to the CA's mission and instead ONLY allows them to represent the interests of their municipality. This is far from the powers granted the CAs after Hurricane Hazel in 1954 killed 82 people

by sweeping away houses built in flood plains. Every spring we read of flooding in Manitoba and Quebec. Having an authority to regulate land use in Ontario's watersheds and flood plains has been recognized as a world-leading approach. Yet developers dislike such regulation which reduces profits from wetlands.

As David Crombie, chair of the Greenbelt Council before he resigned, and former mayor of Toronto says, "This is not policy and institutional reform. This is high-level bombing and needs to be resisted."

The provincial government has decided to trump watershed, municipal or provincial land use restrictions by issuing municipal zoning orders (MZOs) to sweep aside objections, cut red tape, give development priority over nature and, I would argue, common sense. This reduces the role of citizens in the established procedures for evaluating environmental impacts. These MZOs, now in frequent use, have been used to approve a huge casino and housing project in the previously protected wetland where Duffins Creek joins Lake Ontario south of the 401 and Ajax.

Projects turned down years ago are re-emerging. The quarry Sarah Harmer fought on the Escarpment at Mount Nemo, the housing on Silver Creek in Collingwood and the GTA West expressway through the Greenbelt in Caledon and Halton have all been brought back to life.

To start this chain of deregulation, the present government fired the environmental commissioner, supposedly an independent officer of the legislature. The commissioner's reports have helped keep

three governments on track for 25 years.

Save Nature

At another scale, Grey County's draft climate adaptation strategy highlighted reduction of fossil fuel use, but ignored the fact that Grey County houses a huge forest which could contribute substantially to the absorption of carbon

paper, use them for heating or heave them into landfill as old furniture. That's where 85 per cent of our harvested wood goes. I've suggested Grey County should add forests to the climate-action plan and start selling carbon offsets like EBC.

Nature needs help! We need to save important natural features from development not only for safety from floods, but



Only some of the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. These ruins were along Humber River east of Woodbridge. PHOTO BY JAMES VICTOR SALMON, COURTESY WIKIMEDIA.

into trees and ultimately the soil. Conventionally harvested forests absorb three tonnes of CO₂ per acre annually while mature, unharvested forests absorb more than five tonnes. Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) alone absorbs 63,000 tonnes a year, much of it in Grey. Grey County and Grey Sauble Conservation Authority could easily absorb 200,000 tonnes every year. That would offset a lot of gasoline, fuel oil and natural gas. But the county is keen to cut and sell its trees rather than collect carbon offset revenue.

We must not ignore reduction of fossil fuels, but we should be using all the tools at our disposal and encouraging landowners to keep their trees, not flush them as toilet

also to protect biodiversity, to provide the oxygen we breathe, help us fight climate change and provide landscapes for relief from stress.

Saving nature needs rules. Free enterprise won't do it alone. We need to elect politicians who make sound rules and enforce them. We can't just let business do what comes "naturally." Until economists include externalities like nature and human health in their models, we will have to keep firm reins on what they suggest we do to make more money.

Bob Barnett of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy can be reached through www.escarpment.ca, rbarnett@escarpment.ca or 888.815.9575.

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lemon poppy seed loaf

Prep Time: 10 min. | Total Time: 70 min. | Makes: 1 loaf (12 slices)

Ingredients

½ cup	Unsalted butter, room temperature (125 mL)
1 cup + 3 tbsp	Sugar, divided (250 mL + 45 mL)
3	Eggs
5 tsp	Finely grated lemon zest, divided (25 mL)
1 ¾ cups	All-purpose flour (425 mL)
3 tbsp	Poppy seeds (45 mL)
1 tsp	Baking powder (5 mL)
½ tsp	Salt (2 mL)
⅓ cup	Milk (75 mL)
3 tbsp	Lemon Juice (45 mL)

Directions

1. Beat butter with 1 cup (250 mL) sugar. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat in 4 tsp (20 mL) lemon zest.
2. In separate bowl, whisk flour with poppy seeds, baking powder and salt.
3. Into butter mixture, gradually add flour mixture, alternating with additions of milk, starting and ending with flour mixture, and mix just until combined. Scrape batter into greased and parchment paper-lined 5 x 9-inch (13 x 23 cm) loaf pan. Smooth top.
4. Bake in preheated 350°F (180°C) oven 45 to 50 min. or until tester inserted into centre comes out clean. Set pan on rack to cool. Meanwhile, bring remaining sugar and lemon juice to a boil, just until sugar dissolves. Stir in remaining lemon zest. Remove loaf from pan. While loaf is still warm, use a toothpick or wooden skewer to poke holes 1 in. (2.5 cm) apart, 2 in. (5 cm) deep, into top of loaf. Brush syrup onto top of loaf. Cool completely. Wrap and store at room temperature up to 2 days or wrap in heavy-duty foil and freeze up to 2 weeks.

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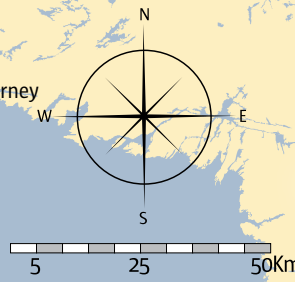
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