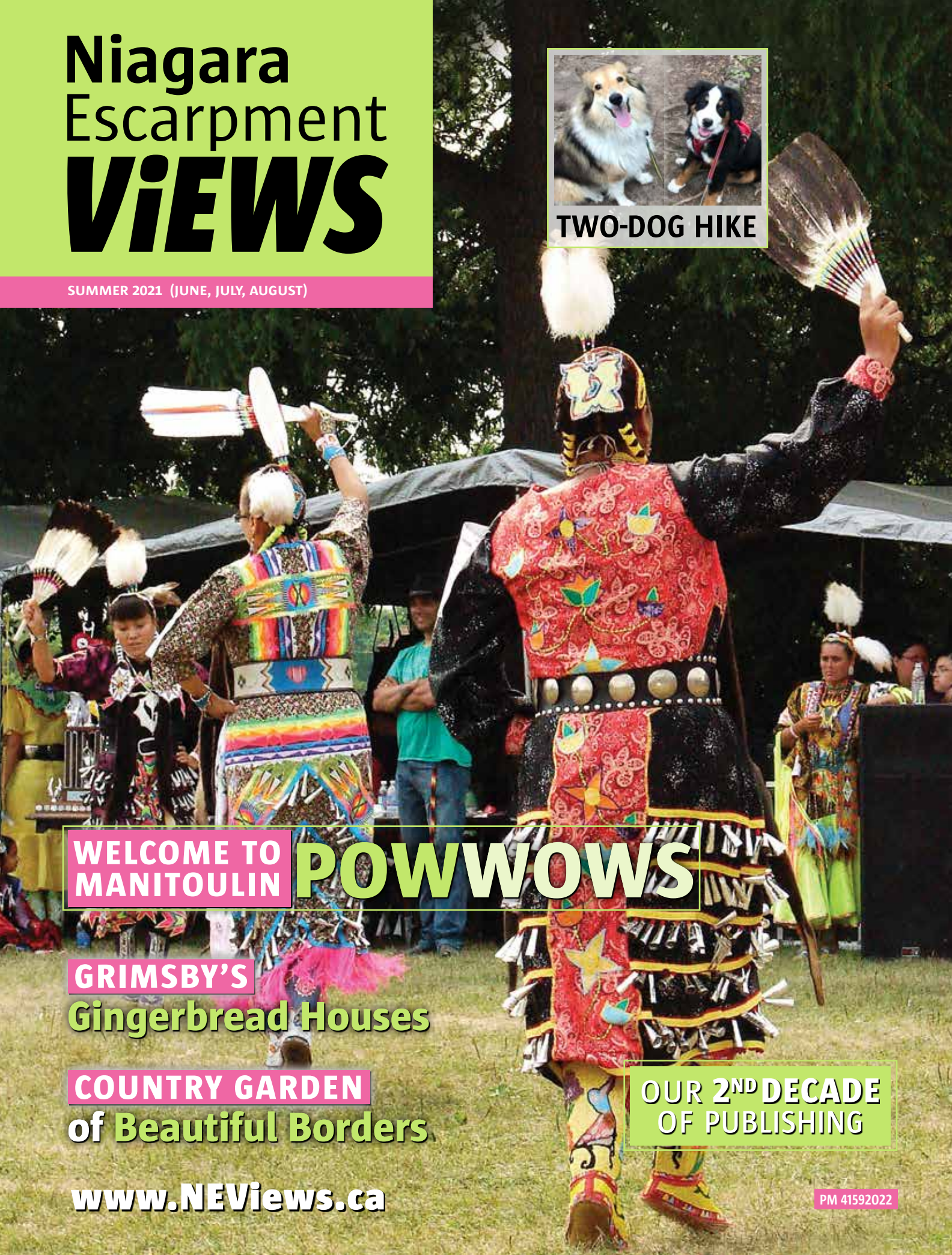


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SUMMER 2021 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)



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

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Thank You for Getting Vaccinated

I was very relieved to get my first vaccination against COVID-19 in April. It gives me some protection against the virus, even the troubling new variants. It also helps to protect you, because according to the World Health Organization, if I'm protected from getting infected, I am less likely to infect someone else.

It works in reverse too, of course. If you are vaccinated and less likely to get the disease, you're less likely to spread it to others. To me. So, thank you to everyone who has been able to, or will soon get vaccinated. Together, we can protect each other.

This doesn't get us off the hook of public health measures such as wearing masks and keeping physical distances. We must continue to follow the guidelines of local authorities. Yet it seems that we have a way forward out of this pandemic.

Let's hope that we'll be able to get out in public a bit more this summer. We need to have a break, enjoy warm weather, the natural world and some outdoor socializing.



In This Issue

Our issue for summer has some ideas for outings: powwows, if they can be held, a visit to Grimsby Beach to admire the beautiful historic houses, another section of the ever-popular Bruce Trail, and appreciating the creative dedication of gardeners. If we still can't take part in these activities this year, they will keep as good destinations for the future. Meanwhile, the "armchair experience" will help your imagination take flight.

In addition for this issue, Mike Davis has written the column for The Gift of Land, about his enjoyment of the pond. I have taken a risk myself, by publishing a new short work of fiction. A few months ago, I had mentioned to friends that I had an idea for a piece of fiction, and one of them urged me to write the story. I didn't think I would, but the next day I found myself doing so. Do let me know what you think of it, and whether you'd like to see more fiction in the magazine.

Letters to the Editor

Judging by the wonderful volume of letters to the editor we receive, we expect you will let us know. Our Readers & Viewers department in the magazine seems to keep growing with each issue. That's fine with us, because readers who are engaged with what they see in the magazine are a strong community. And a strong community cares about what happens to it.

This brings us back to the COVID vaccine. Members of a caring community look after themselves and for each other. So again, thank you for caring to get beyond this pandemic by taking the vaccine. Here's to happier, healthier days.


Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt


P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

Let us know what you think!

Write us at editor@NEViews.ca or

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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 www.NEViews.ca.

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READERS AND VIEWERS



I was recently picking up a package from Food Stuffs and discovered your magazine -- congrats on an excellent issue. In this current business climate it is encouraging to see a mag doing well. And based in Georgetown too. Great to see -- may the future bring you continued success. The effort required to compete in this industry is understood since I spent 30 years in it before retiring.

Reg Finlayson,
(Formerly Director of Sales & Marketing for *Chatelaine*)

I am writing with respect to your front page article entitled COVID ESCAPE TO THE BRUCE TRAIL I am a resident of Georgian Bluffs and surrounding areas to that - as you may or may not know we have ZERO deaths from COVID-19 and very few outbreaks due to careful, compassionate and diligent work on the part of all residents in the area. When you write an article like this telling people we are an escape from COVID-19 - you set the tone to make us into a hot spot. I was standing in line at the grocery store when I heard the cashier and a man from Cape Croaker [*sic*] wondering why you would do that to us? Until more people are vaccinated and red zones disappear - encouraging

people in those zones to come into ours is just selfish. We have high number of senior and immuno compromised people up here and many long term care facilities. I know you need to sell advertising bc your magazine is free - however - not on the backs of our residents please. Thank you and I bet the folks up here would love an apology for putting them at risk.

Marianne Jacobsen,
Georgian Bluffs

Well done on another edition of NE Views. I enjoyed your article "What Covid 19 has Taught" in the Spring Issue. Your first paragraph on the "tolls of the Relentless News of case numbers, ... to stay home" was bang on. On another note, might I suggest that future contributors featuring a specific biking or hiking trail or phenomena, include a situation map, at the beginning of their article to "orientate" the reader. Then, more detailed smaller scale site/trail maps could be used, intertwined within the article, to compliment and augment the specifics.

Nicholas David Holmes, Retired History and Geography teacher,
Ridley College, St. Catharines

I have finished reading & enjoying "every page" of the Spring 2021 NEV. A close friend introduced me to this amazing & unique magazine a few years ago. I have since enjoyed & appreciated it so very much. We have a multi-layered interest in NEV, since we met while starting our careers in publishing; we both worked for a daily newspaper in the 1970s, so we do appreciate all that you put into this unique publication. Thank you. It is time to renew

our subscriptions: mine & the gift subs. I always give to this friend. I would like to add a second gift for my brother; also an extra single copy of Spring 2021 for him...

Karen Hartung, Brantford

I wanted to say how much I appreciated your editorial comments in the front of the magazine about the stress we are all experiencing with this present virus. I have had to close down our B&B for now and given that I am not a candidate for the vaccine, it may be that our B&B will be closed permanently, now, after twenty-nine years of sharing our home with so many wonderful guests over the years. Your focus on the Bruce Trail and Niagara Escarpment hiking brought to mind the many Bruce Trail guests we've had stay with us, some of whom, stand out in my mind... So many memories of our guests and so regretful in having to close down because of this virus hanging over all our heads. Thank you for reminding us of what we are grateful for. It echoed how I've felt too...frustrated some days but always mindful of the fact that I am still alive.

Sandy Small Proudfoot, Mono

Just finished reading Spring 2021 niagara escarpment views. Great magazine and I share the appreciation for nature and conservation and particularly enjoy the photography. I was greatly saddened to read viewers comments from Lynda Pogue who felt the magazine was racist because there were no coloured people in the articles. 99% of the magazine articles are given to photos of nature walks, birds, turtles and animals. In this issue

there are three photos of white people in different articles. Perhaps "Lynda" could submit an article worth publishing with colored people, not that it would make any difference to anyone. I am afraid this "poor me" attitude has created for me an animosity that did not previously exist. Just my opinion.

Connie Sawyers, Shelburne

I recently picked up the latest copy of your magazine. I was appalled and outraged by the letter from Lynda Pogue, wherein she accuses the magazine of racism. She mentions passing through Erin. I am sure her hobby or mission is to do just that: pass through, pick up little local publishings and check for black content...She is giving black people and Black Lives Matter a "black eye".

Margaret Haynes, Georgetown

I found the letter from Lynda Pogue, published in the Spring 2021 issue of NEV, a cheap shot at a fine publication. Actual systemic racism is a serious problem. A person using "systemic racism" as their default position is very disturbing. Most of the photos in NEV are of wildlife. There were only a handful of identifiable people in articles in the Winter 2020-2021 issue (previous to the letter) and the Spring 2021 issue (which contained the letter). This hardly warrants or justifies such condemnation. In the interest of being consistent, I found it odd that no mention was made of the two and one-half page spread on the serious matter of missing Indigenous women titled "Missing and Murdered Females".

Garry Tate, via email

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I'm writing to say how very moved I was to learn of the Hildebrandt & Davis Nature Park in the Spring 2021 issue of *Niagara Escarpment Views*. I well remember the visits George and I made years ago to your home and property, and also a hike we took with you and Mike. You both helped to open my eyes to the beauty of our escarpment area and to how important it is for us to maintain natural environments for the future. I didn't realize how extensive the process is for placing a conservation easement on a piece of property. You are to be commended for persevering, and congratulated for being the first EBC reserve in Halton Region.

Trudi Down, Hamilton

I am very happy with the opportunity of receiving the Views. It has been so many years and I always enjoy it. Congratulations for the first 10 years. And what a magnificent story with the land donation. The 14 acres of land donated back to nature? Wow. Not many people would be willing to do this. This is really outstanding.

Marek Jakubczyk, Woodbridge



I was delighted to get my Spring copy of *Niagara Escarpment News* [sic] from our local Foodland. I was over the moon seeing "Cycling Caledon's Terrific Trailway" on the cover! Mike Davis' article on the Caledon Trailway was excellent. The Caledon Trailway is an unknown gem to many and I suspect Mike's article will encourage them to come out to Caledon and see for themselves the beauty of the Trailway. Mike's choice of photos was fantastic and his mention of the so many local businesses along the way very much appreciated. Hopefully it will draw folks to walk or bike the Trailway and support our local

businesses. Albeit I enjoyed reading all the articles Mike's resonated with me because I have had the privilege of chairing a volunteer book writing committee since 2017. Our group assisted the author Diane Allengame and editor Donna Davies to produce the incredible book *The Caledon Trailway: Building the Dream*. All book sales go back to Trailway enhancements. I encourage Mike and your readers to go to caledontrailwaybook.ca to see more photos and get information on the book and on the Caledon Trailway. Thanks to you and all the supporters and contributors to your amazing publication.

Cheri Cowan, Caledon

"Do Profits Trump Nature" [Spring 2021] by Bob Barnett reveals how developers are paving over nature. One obvious solution would be to reduce the massive immigration (more than 350,000) annually, half of it into Toronto, the GTA and surrounding towns. The vast overcrowding produces air, noise and traffic pollution. Also, the high demand for housing has created a dangerous house bubble as individual debt skyrockets. To accommodate the need for housing, municipal leaders are pressured into giving developers approval for large, treeless subdivisions, which increasingly make inroads into our natural system and farmlands. What is the endgame? To turn Southern Ontario into a megacity horror like Los Angeles? It's time for responsible leadership rather than cynical opportunism.

Nick Sopinka, Kimberley



We always enjoy reading your issues, they bring much-needed respite through nature into our home. We also look forward to finding new treasures close to home, definitely going to visit Georgetown's gorgeous Old Seed House Garden this spring. Thank you for sharing your passion with us.

Bernadette and Bob Cordingley, Brampton

Our volunteer group at Friends of the Old Seed House were happy to see your article about our organization in the NEV Spring 2021 edition. It was a delight to read. Last year the garden was a hive of activity with so many people visiting. We hope many more will come to participate in the beautiful surroundings this year. So a big thank you on helping to spread this joy to a wider community.

Sue Cunningham, secretary



Disposed Rocks, Friendship Rocks, Rocking Rocks, Peaceful Rocks. Whatever you call them, they're small stones that have been painted with encouraging, inspirational or good fun messages. What are you up to? You can find them in public places where others can enjoy them. This activity has become a bit of a craze in parks in the US and Canada. There is a short red trail in George Park in Woodstock, Ont. that carries the name. The Town of Hamilton has been promoting it for some time. The Ontario Parks website says that leaving painted rocks in wild places are bad ideas!



PHOTO BY SANDRA FLORES

I got your Niagara Escarpment Views (Winter 2020-21) issue. I really enjoyed reading your magazine. All the articles presented in this magazine are really interesting, but one in particular caught my eye “Little Rocks that stand out”. These rocks were left by people along the short rail trail in Georgetown, even though I did not paint any of them, I would love to share what I do with you... I started painting rocks in 2019 and I have painted almost 1200 rocks and sold 200 rocks. People love them as presents and of course for a variety of special occasions... Thank you... for the beautiful article you published.

Sandra Flores, email

I very much enjoy & appreciate your magazine. Even though I was disappointed to see the article on painted rocks! Since as stated in the side bar of one of the photos “Ontario Parks (states)...leaving painted rocks in wild places are bad ideas!”

Mary Ransom, Vineland



PHOTO BY DORA JEFFRIES

Ever since we saw the recipe for Apple Pie cookies in your magazine my grandchildren, Madeleine and Mitchell Wallace and I have had so much fun making them and eating them. At first we cut pastry strips and formed a lattice to look like your photo. This proved to be too much work so we started using cookie cutters to make the top pastry. The two teddy bears holding hands is their favourite. We all enjoy your wonderful magazine, thank you.

Dora Jeffries, Acton

Editor's note: Actually, this recipe in the Autumn 2020 issue is thanks to our advertiser, Foodland.

Featured View

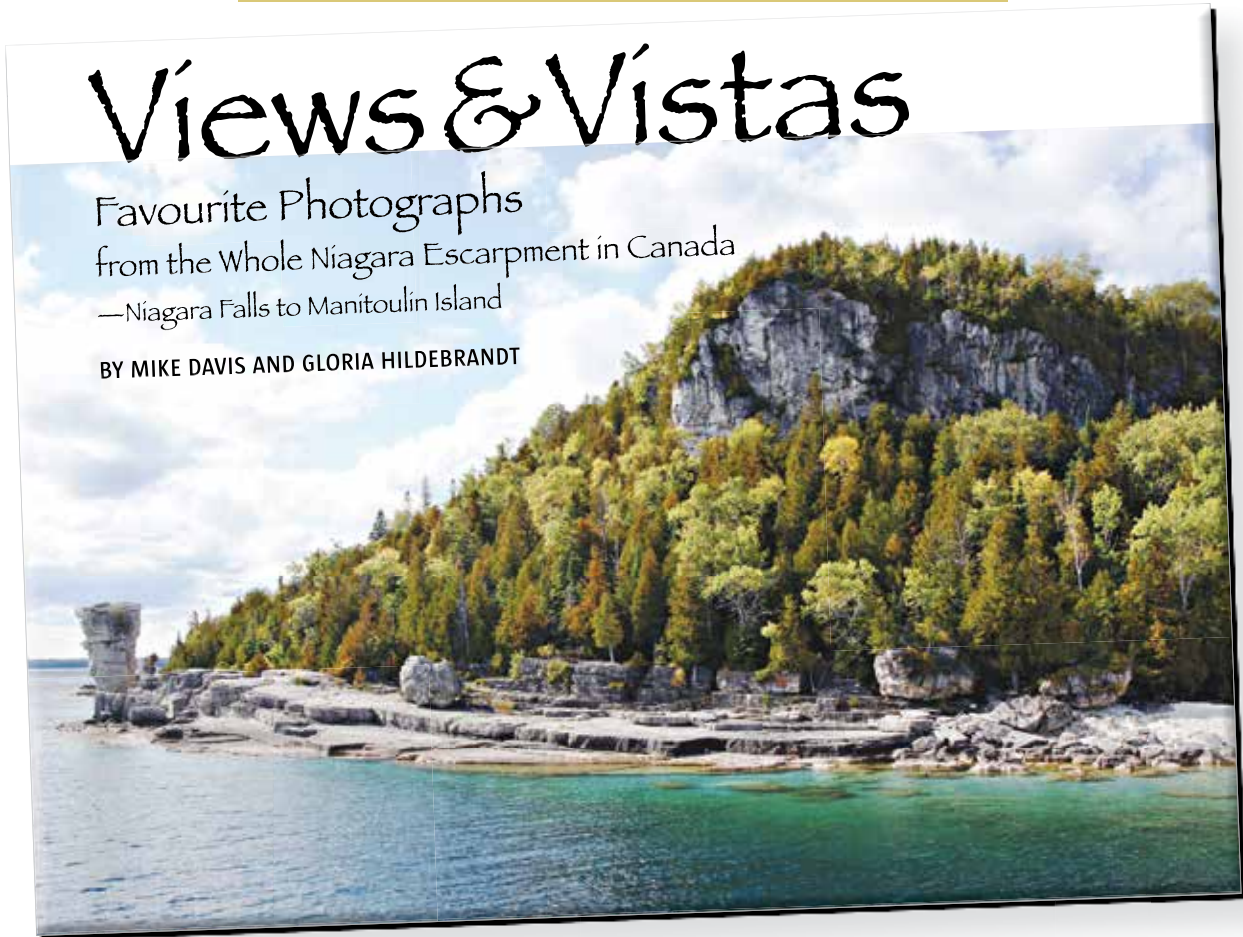
Every woman who serves as a sailor, soldier, or aviator should have the same opportunity to succeed in their careers as the men they serve with, without fear of sexual exploitation by their peers or superiors. Further, when they have experienced sexual misconduct, they must feel safe coming forward without fear of any reprisal. For any of the talented, gifted, hard-working women I've had the fortune of leading or serving with during my career: If you have experienced any sexual harassment, misconduct or worse, I regret not doing more to eradicate this unethical, immoral behaviour while I served. I will use my voice as a parliamentarian to ensure we make this right.

Alex Ruff,

MP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

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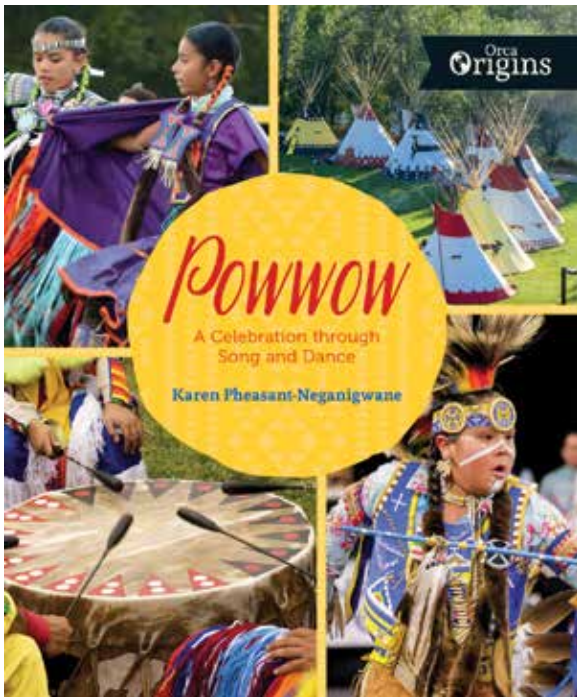
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Powwows Explained



For “middle readers,” this small book is full of beautiful, colourful photographs that celebrate powwows. Author Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane is an Anishinaabe educator with roots in Wiikwemkoong, Manitoulin Island where she spent summer holidays with her grandparents and other relatives, and enjoyed the annual powwow.

Not just about powwows, this volume details the author’s personal history as well as the history of First Nations people from colonial days. Once forbidden as expressions

of identity and culture that governments worked to eliminate, powwows have been revived and are celebrations of Indigenous people. Descriptions and meanings of the many different types of dances are given. Differences in powwow traditions in various parts of North America are also explained. This is an enriching introduction to the wide spectrum of powwows.

Powwow: A Celebration through Song and Dance, by Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane, Orca Book Publishers, 2020, \$24.95.



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A photograph of a forest trail. The foreground is filled with large, moss-covered rocks and dense green foliage, including large-leafed plants. The background shows a dense forest of tall trees with green leaves. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

TWO-DOG TREK: Other-Worldly Sights on Silver Creek's Bruce Trail

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY KATELYNN BAKSA-WILTSHIRE

A late summer hike on the Bruce Trail in Silver Creek Conservation Area in north Halton, was a two-dog experience: one, my energetic herder always eager to go further, and the other, my puppy working hard to tough it out.



▲ The natural arrangement of these stones on the trail gives the feeling of a medieval stairway.



◀ August, left, and Milo the puppy, are ready to start the hike.



▲ Light coming through the trees gives this well-worn part of the Bruce Trail, with its protruding roots, a magical, mystical feeling. The blue blazes mark the Roberts Side Trail.

Last summer I hiked in Silver Creek Conservation Area in north Halton, with my two dogs, Milo, a Bernese Mountain Dog who was four months old at the time, and August, who was seven and seems to be an Australian Shepherd-Lab cross. Both dogs, being true to their breeds, can be a hassle to walk. The “Berner” is a winter breed and not very energetic, while the Shepherd is an energy-filled herding dog.

Walking the two has Milo lagging behind or flopping down whenever he gets the chance, while August loves to lead the pack or herd us ahead. This being Milo’s first hike, it was interesting to see how he reacted.

We commenced our journey on a late summer’s day, the mid-afternoon air cool with the approach of autumn on our heels. The start was at 27 Side Road and 9th Line north of Georgetown. The hike followed the main

white Bruce Trail until we took a loop back to the car on the Roberts Blue Side Trail. Speaking from experience, if you take this trail, don’t hike alone but bring along a friend for safety, as the terrain is fairly rocky and I twisted my previously-injured ankle a couple of times during the trek. It wasn’t serious and I was hiking with two others, so I was in no danger.

At the trail entrance there’s a big sign for Silver Creek Conservation Area, plus a

structure displaying a map of the trails and a bench that is much lower to the ground than it seems. Once you sit down you don’t come back up easily. Past the map structure, the trail starts.

The ground turns rocky and gets even more so up the steady incline. Approaching the entrance to the Irwin Quarry Side Trail, we stuck to the left, where stones grow into boulders and deepen into crevices. Towards the cliff edge the rocks become

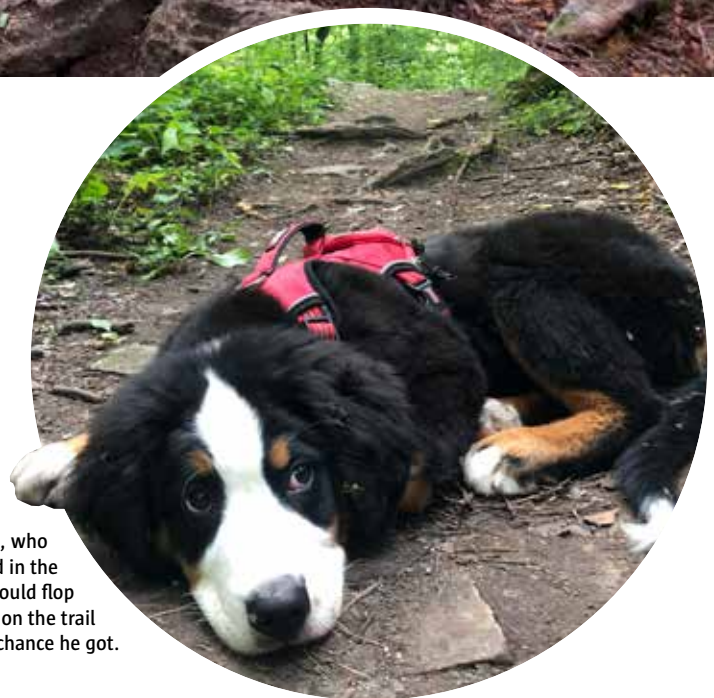


▲ The trail leads up toward the cliff edge, with this large boulder marking the beginning of the dramatic Escarpment outcropping.

more confident, standing out proudly from the soil, acting like medieval stepping stones. Some rocks are so big that walking on them is like boulder hopping. Climbing to the top of one you can have a look at the way you came.

Puppy-Dog Tired

Above the boulders, at the high part of the trail, is a big view over the Escarpment edge. In front of my face were the tops of towering deciduous trees, many climbing up the



► Milo, who tired in the heat, would flop down on the trail every chance he got.



▲ A lookout protected by a barrier keeps onlookers back from the Escarpment edge where the view of a forest stretches to the horizon.

► Protruding stones filling the trail make a challenging walk for both humans and dogs.

edge of the Escarpment, some intruding on the view of the chasm below. Their leaves were just getting ready to turn as the late summer day was nearing into fall. In a couple of weeks, the leaves would be decked out in their autumn apparel. We continued parallel to the cliff face along the narrow path which nears the daunting drop into the chasm below, with trees acting as a buffer between us and the edge.

We came to a lookout protected by a metal barrier, but you have to be careful

with your dogs here. The view is staggering and better than the previous one, as my eyes were not in line with the trees but above the canopies that are blanketing the horizon.

The trek downhill is just as rocky as the climb upwards. My puppy, Milo, gave up halfway, making a dramatic doggie flop to the ground and looking up at me with practised puppy eyes as if to say “Must we continue? I am tired, human.” We trudged along the steady descent, reaching an

interesting tree with a large branch that bent towards the trail before sloping upwards, creating the shape of the letter “L”. I thought it was the perfect place to do a little climb. In the midst of my dismount, while I was bent over the branch upside down, I was interrupted by Milo and August, looking up at me with curiosity in their eyes.

Mythical Scenes

The hike from then on was moderately rocky, facing some inclines and declines, reaching big crevices in the cliff face,

perfect for a little cave trek. There are multiple crevices along the hike, where those brave and limber enough could take a close look at the rock formations. Some crevices are so imposing that it was as if they were leading me into the depths of the earth, reminding me of the myth of Hades and Persephone in the underworld.

Further on the trail, the boulders and rocks sink into the earth, but Milo was timid walking between them as he was too small to walk across the tops of them. Yet



▲ The darkness in the crevices in the rock at the edge of the Escarpment is spooky and mysterious.



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▲ This view from the Escarpment edge, of grapevines cloaking the trees, looks like a rainforest.

► Milo, a tired pup at the end of his gruelling first hike.

my Shepherd August was pulling me on ahead. The scenery became less rocky as we came among slender trees, but here was where I twisted my ankle. You'd think that once we had gotten past the rocky bit we'd be in the clear, but no, there are more causes of potential injury than simply rocks. Be careful of roots protruding in the path.

Gradually sloping down the Escarpment edge, thick foliage filled the forest floor, reminiscent of a rainforest. There were some interesting

trees, including a deformed one that looks as if it's growing lopsided and one that looks like it has an open wound. I found a hollow at the base of a tree that looks straight out of *Lord of the Rings* or Narnia. I half expected a little hobgoblin to come out and start yelling at me to get off his property.

We veered from the main Bruce Trail to return to the car on the Roberts Blue Side Trail. At this point the dogs were hot and looking for water as we came across a little creek with low water levels

under a small footbridge. We followed the thin narrow trail bordered by tall skinny trees where Milo decided it was a nice place to take a nap, while August was ready for more.

A couple hundred of metres past the creek lies the boardwalk. When I was in elementary school, we made a field trip here to Silver Creek Outdoor Education Centre, where we ended up at this same place. The large new boardwalk looks out to a stunning pond ripe with toads and water lilies.

We came back to the place we started, completing the loop. The dogs were happy to jump back into the car and I didn't hear a peep from them the rest of the day. They slept soundly that night, probably dreaming of frolicking through the rocks or maybe a nice juicy sausage. **NEV**

Katelynn Baksa-Wiltshire's last piece for Niagara Escarpment Views was "View from a Summer Student: Suburban Girl Takes on the Escarpment Forest," Winter 2020-21.



▲ A hollow at the base of a tree is reminiscent of the homes of mythical creatures like hobbits or elves.



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NITOULIN POWWOWS: yone Welcome

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY RAYMOND JOHNS

A powwow is a celebration of First Nations and is open to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Manitoulin Island consists of six First Nation reservations and there are traditional and competition powwows from spring to fall. Powwows have been part of the history of First Nations and each reserve hosts its own powwow. Powwows can take all weekend long with dinner breaks and some can last just for the day.

◀ A female Fancy Dancer with flying regalia, overlooking the drums at a powwow.



A male Fancy Dancer in full, colourful regalia.

I am of the Ojibway First Nation Tribe and am still amazed at the assortment of colours of the regalia, different dances and the sound of the drum and drummers. Non-Indigenous people are encouraged to attend powwows on Manitoulin Island in order to experience the traditions and learn more about the Ojibway tribe. My wife, who is non-Indigenous, always feels welcome and has been attending powwows for over 20 years.

Europeans, Canadians and Americans make up a large contingent of tourists who enjoy the traditional regalia, dancing, food, arts and crafts and jewellery along with the powerful pounding of the drum, which is the

centre of all powwows.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, all powwows of the 2020 season were cancelled. The 100-year anniversary of the Jingle Dress, which was invented by Ojibway women, could not be celebrated either.

There are two kinds of powwows, the traditional and the competitive. The only difference between the two is that competitive powwows pay money to winners in the various categories. The competitors travel to many powwows across North America.

Sacred Fire

There is always a Sacred Fire and a Fire Keeper at every powwow. Most dancers

will individually smudge themselves along with their regalia prior to the festivities. People offer tobacco, sage, cedar and sweetgrass to carry their prayers up to the creator. Everyone is encouraged to go to the fire because it is a place to pray and is the symbol of the spirit of the powwow.

The Dances

All powwows have a master of ceremony who is usually male and introduces all the upcoming dances along with a joke to keep the crowd entertained and also will notify you when you can and cannot take photos.

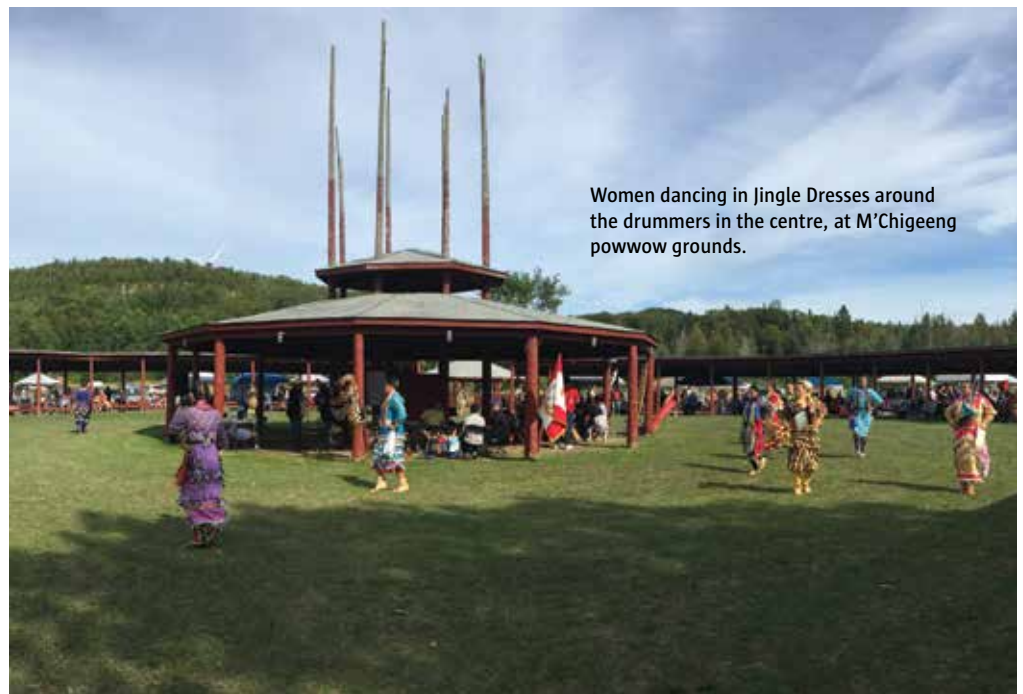
The Grand Entry starts every powwow procession. Photos are not allowed during the Grand Entry because



Symbolizing the spirit of the powwow, the Sacred Fire is a place for everyone to go and offer prayers to the creator.



▲ Talon White-Eye, a male Traditional dancer in action.



Women dancing in Jingle Dresses around the drummers in the centre, at M'Chigeeng powwow grounds.



it is a solemn, cultural and respectful ceremony. Aside from the Grand Entry, people can click away with their cameras and cellphones to memorialize the spectacular, colourful regalia being introduced by all the participants.

Categories of dances usually involve The Fancy Shawl, Chicken Dance, Jingle Dress and Traditional. The men also have a Fancy Dress, Smoke Dance, Sneak-up Dance and Traditional. There are also Hoop Dances, which are not always at every powwow.

There are also Round Dances, which include all in attendance taking part in dancing in the Circle. The dance is very easy to

learn for non-Indigenous individuals and after a step or two, you are on your way to dancing with everyone around the Sacred Circle in the middle of the grounds where the drums are located.

There are many categories and divisions that specify who dances, ranging from youth to elders. The Men's Traditional and Fancy Dress are always great for photographs and videos when you want to capture colour and fast action. The Women's Shawl Dance and Jingle Dance are faster paced while the Feather and Medicinal Dances are slower and regal.

"The purpose of the Jingle Dress is to represent healing and they will explain why they do things the way

they do," says Lisa Ense of M'Chigeeng First Nation, who operates the Youth Centre in M'Chigeeng. It is said that each jingle on the dress, which has 365 jingles, represents one day of the year.

Crafts, Food

Powwows have vendors who display arts and crafts, aboriginal services, and traditional aboriginal food. Arts and crafts vendors offer all authentic handmade items, which vary from dreamcatchers, beaded earrings, to rings, paintings and much more. The services offered range from education to independently-owned businesses.

'Indian Tacos' and 'Scone Dogs' are very popular

at powwows along with a non-alcoholic beverage of your choice, as alcohol is strictly prohibited on all powwow grounds. There is a listed menu at every vendor along with prices.

There is always a designated place to eat but you can enjoy your meal next to the sacred circle while watching the dancers. There is a community feast offered at some powwows at no cost to all who attend.

The sacred circle is where the dancing takes place.

The Drums

The drums are also located in the centre. Depending on the powwow, there could be many drummers from many tribes. The pounding of the drum

Handmade crafts like these beaded adornments are available for sale at powwows.



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◀ Female Jingle Dancers with feathers held high.

▶ A very young participant in the Youth Jingle Dance category.

▼ The powwow drum with decorated sticks provides the sound of the earth's heartbeat.

can be heard throughout the powwow grounds, which is a welcoming sound that simply states the celebration has now begun. The drums are the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

Powwow Schedules

The tourist information building in Little Current has information on powwows on Manitoulin. The magazine *Pow Wow Trail* has listings of dates and locations of all the powwows in Ontario. This resource is also available online.

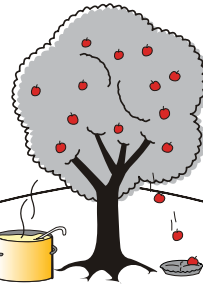
In Toronto, TTC subway and transit stops have brochures about powwows and the times and locations of each one. Indian Friendship Centres, which are located in every major city and also in the small towns farther north, also have information on powwows.

“The majority of the people that come here for powwows and stay at the motel are already aware of the powwows,” says Betty Anne MacDougall, who with her husband Wayne, operates

My Friend’s Inn located in Manitowaning. “There is a little chart that gets printed out every year by Manitoulin Tourism which has all the dates and locations of all the powwows that are occurring during the season.” **NEV**

Raymond Johns, a member of the Ojibway First Nation Tribe, is a photographer, artist and graphic designer with a 3-year Advanced Graphic Design Diploma who lives in Manitowaning, Manitoulin Island.





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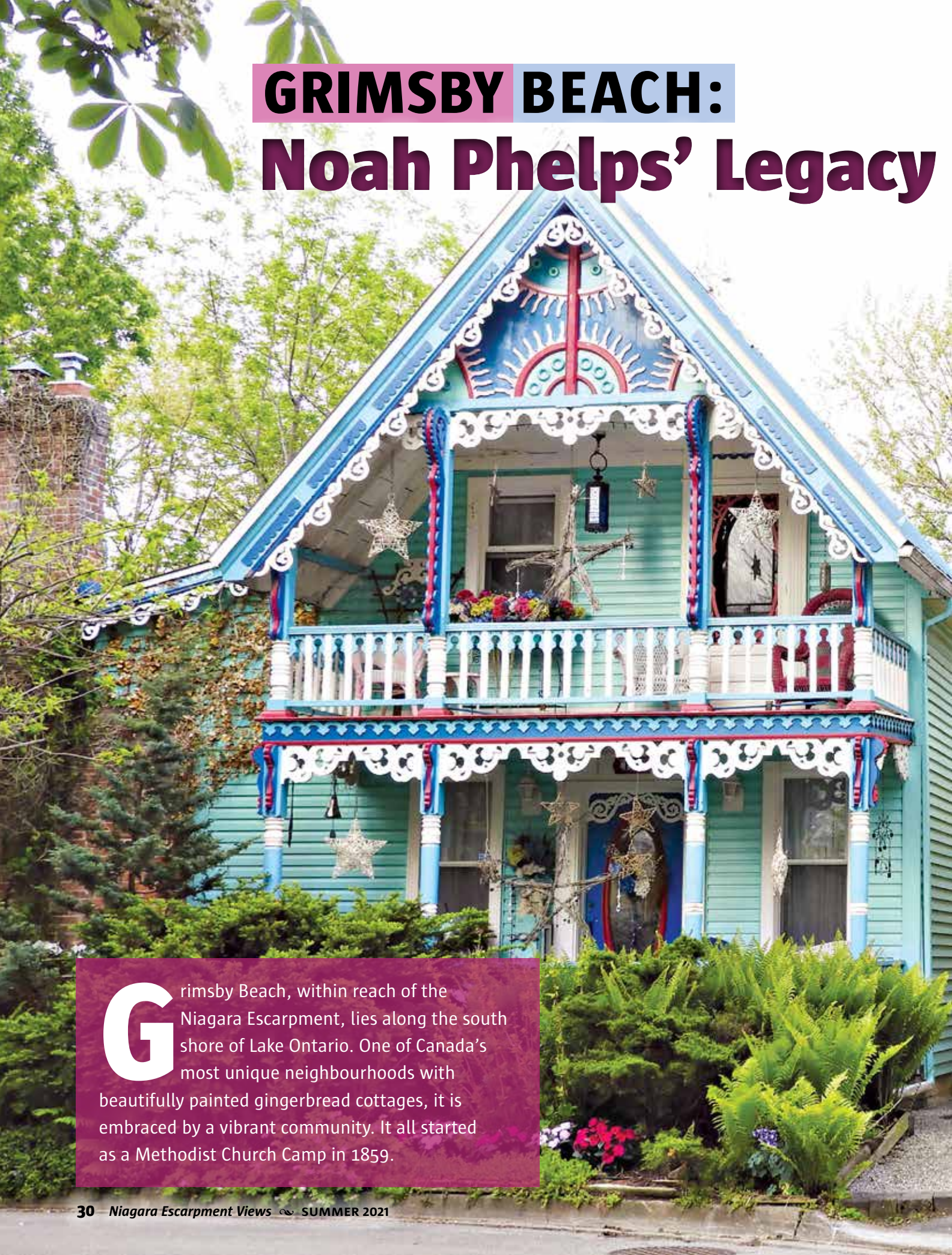



Pottawatomi River just upstream of Jones Falls,
with the Sid Pearce Bridge in the background,
at Springmount, west of Owen Sound.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE DAVIS.



GRIMSBY BEACH: Noah Phelps' Legacy



Grimsbey Beach, within reach of the Niagara Escarpment, lies along the south shore of Lake Ontario. One of Canada's most unique neighbourhoods with beautifully painted gingerbread cottages, it is embraced by a vibrant community. It all started as a Methodist Church Camp in 1859.

in GINGERBREAD

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED
BY BRUCE MACKENZIE
EXCEPT WHERE NOTED



▲ The colourful gingerbread cottages of Grimsby Beach have been brought back to life from a decline in the 1930s.



◀ The “sunburst” feature of gingerbread under the peak is common and found in both refurbished and historic houses.



Today’s beautiful cottages replaced decorative tents that were the first accommodations for the members of the Methodist revival events known as “Chautauquas,” referring to a cultural movement that began in New York State. Leaders like Noah Phelps steered this community through an incredible journey.

If not for the collective efforts of dedicated homeowners, Phelps might not recognize what he knew as the Ontario Methodist Camp Meeting Ground on Grimsby’s Lake Ontario shoreline.

Phelps first visited the property in the mid 1800s and the first church meeting here was in 1859. After the inaugural meeting the property grew into a large campground and meeting place for churchgoers. By 1875 the annual weeklong meetings had turned into summers full of events.

In 1874 the Ontario Methodist Church Camp Company was formed, and Phelps became its first and only president until his death in 1900. It is doubtful anybody could imagine

what would transpire during his 26 years of leadership.

The campground was first surveyed in 1875 and the tent plots were identified. Not long after, the tents gave way to a unique and colourful cottage community and even today the deeds for homes refer to the tent plots that they sit on.

The church camp became a booming tourist attraction. Steam-powered ferries started to arrive at the newly built dock in 1876 bringing visitors from Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara. Trains and vehicles would bring others from as far away as the U.S.

Rules were firm: no alcohol, no foul language and lights out at 10:30 pm. Sunday was a day of rest and guests were expected to attend church services. An immense open-air pavilion, the “Temple” was built in 1888. It could hold 7,000 people and stood 100 feet high with a cupola at the top with windows in it for natural light. It was used day and night for lectures and entertainment.

Stores, a post office and two large hotels, The Park and Lakeview, were built. With cottages replacing tents and a wide variety of visitor attractions being added, the season for tourists went from spring until fall.



▲ The Friesen family and their house, showing a flair for fashion and heritage.



► One of the ferries from across Lake Ontario at the dock of Grimsby Beach. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIMSBY ARCHIVES.



▲ An 1890 view of the Lakeview Hotel which burned down in 1918. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIMSBY ARCHIVES.

Grimsby Beach

In 1900, with the passing of Phelps, the church camp became the Grimsby Park Company. It continued as a successful resort attraction and by 1907 there were 180 cottages. In 1916 the property was sold to the Canada Steamship Lines and became known as Grimsby Beach. With each new owner, the church morals and values were diluted, and more investments were made in amusements with a midway, merry-go-round, roller coaster, casino, dance hall and theatre. In 1924 the Grimsby Cottagers Association purchased the property from the steamship line and sold the lots to the cottagers.

The steamships stopped in 1929 after almost a 50-year run. After 1930 the resort started to lose its lustre and became a place for residents to find more affordable housing. Many cottages with open porches and verandahs had walls built to enclose them to make for larger living spaces.

Fires took their toll. In 1914 one fire took 34 cottages and another in 1927 took almost 30 more. The Park Hotel likely burned in 1914 and the Lakeview Hotel was lost to fire in 1918.

The architecture was unmistakable. Front porches, second-level balconies and gingerbread adornments to the narrow cottages came into fashion and craftsmen were strongly sought after by the cottage owners. Built on narrow tent lots, the cottages were typically one-and-a-half storeys with living areas on the first floor, bedrooms on the second, with kitchens in the rear. A distinctive feature was a small balcony off the bedrooms at the front with a sunburst design on the gable end above the balcony.

Today, there is a small but significant collection of cottages that have been rebuilt to reflect the original designs. It has been a labour of love and often at great expense for the homeowners to bring a



▲ Camp visitors from the early days in front of one of the tents. PHOTO BY J.H. FORD COURTESY OF GRIMSBY ARCHIVES.



▲ Sue Anderson at her house, reborn from the 1920s.



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▲ Camp crowd in front of Park Hotel and the post office. Note the overflow crowd on the balconies. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIMSBY ARCHIVES.



▲ Camp visitors waiting for the ferry to arrive. PHOTO BY J.H. FORD COURTESY OF GRIMSBY ARCHIVES.

cottage built in the late 1800s, meant for summer use only, to being year-round homes today. They are beautifully cared for inside and out.

Preserving History

Today we are fortunate to have many photos of this unique

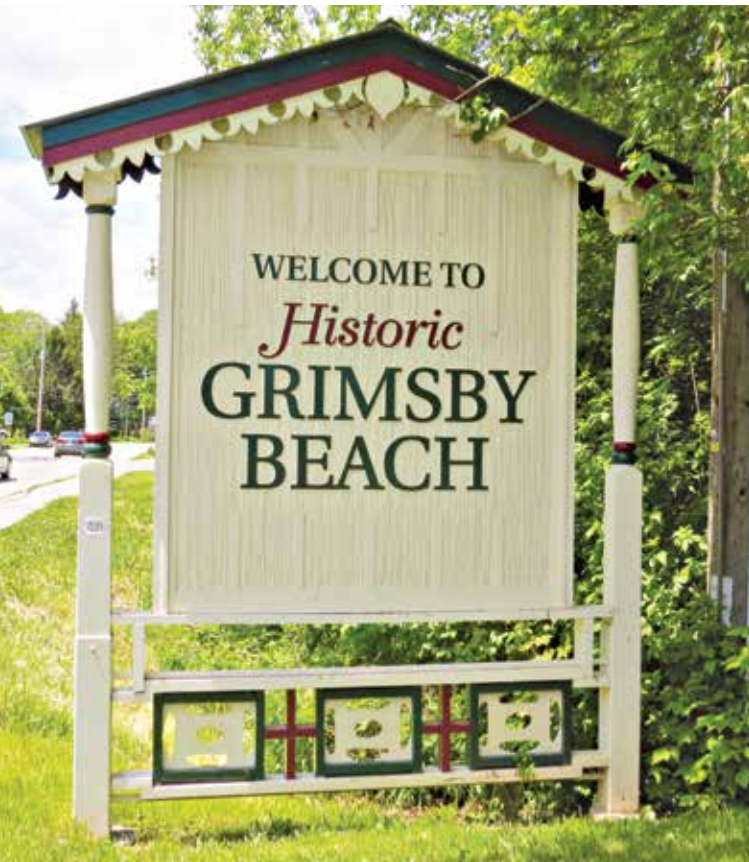
history. Many were taken by J.H. Ford who operated a photographic studio in the park. His residence still exists and is now called “Bellview” by its owners, the Mackays. It exquisitely illustrates the flair and distinction of Grimsby Beach cottages.

Every inch of change on the home and beautiful garden receives creative energy and a passion for the past.

Sue Anderson moved into her home in 2011. She visited Grimsby Beach as a child with her father, involving long boat rides from Hamilton in

the 1950s but wasn’t quite sure of her memories until her feet took her down the old path she used as a child. Then the memories came rushing back. She feels she is really at home now.

Speaking to homeowners like Bob Friesen, you hear



▲ Grimsby Beach can be reached along Lake St. west of Bartlett Ave., south of the QEW.

personal stories of what attracted them to the neighbourhood and the surprises they found in the houses when refurbishing was carried out. His beautifully restored cottage which has been moved from one lot to another, appears to have had a section added on that may well have come from another cottage. When you tear down walls, secrets are revealed.

There is limited parking for visitors on the outskirts of Grimsby Beach. Please respect the owners and their properties; look but don't touch. They have spent so much energy in preserving the past. Lake St. runs through Grimsby Beach from west of Bartlett Ave off the QEW.

Today's cottage owners are concerned about what tomorrow will bring. Recently the Town of Grimsby passed an interim control bylaw to allow time for a new planning study to be completed. Residents hope the plan will recognize the Grimsby Beach history and bring zoning parameters to reflect it. **NEV**

Bruce Mackenzie's last article in Niagara Escarpment Views was "The Grimsby Wetlands," Spring 2021. Bruce resides in Grimsby and is a commissioner on the Niagara Escarpment Commission, vice chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and is a member of the stakeholders committee for the Grimsby Beach Land Use Planning Study.

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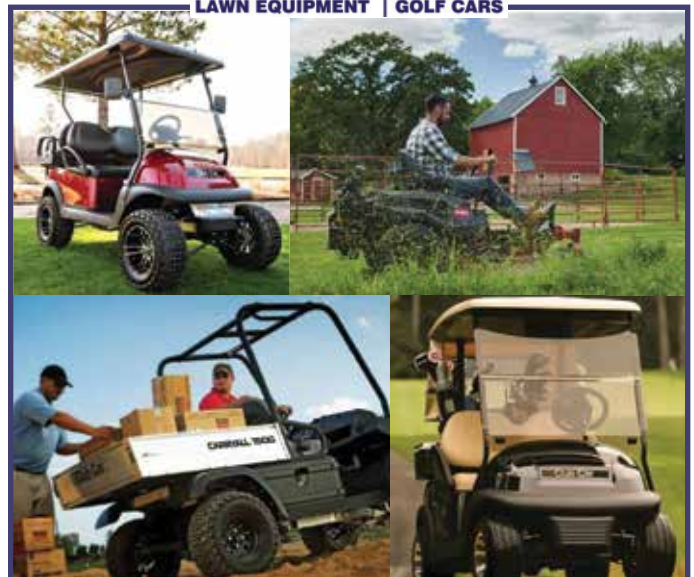
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The Bailey BORDERS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE DAVIS AND GLORIA HILDEBRANDT
WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

A long, impressive flower-filled border stretches from the road to the house in Maureen Bailey's country garden.



▲ Within walking distance of the north side of the Niagara Escarpment near Georgetown, Maureen Bailey has created a lush, colour-filled garden that blooms throughout the seasons.



▲ Hollyhocks, clipped evergreens, hostas and creeping bellflowers are among the noticeable plants growing well among the Escarpment rocks of the long border. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

Maureen describes her garden as “an informal country garden, where self-seeding lupins and hollyhocks pop up wherever they feel like it. Lots of colour from daffodils and tulips in spring to mums in the fall. An ancient hemlock tree surrounded by Lily of the Valley in season is an interesting focal point.”

This doesn't capture the entirety of her achievement. While the most dramatic element is the long border that reaches 75 feet long and 15 feet wide, there are also borders along the front of the property and the opposite property line, with some smaller beds punctuating the large front lawn. Maureen's garden completely frames the front yard. A few years ago, it was part of a Georgetown Horticultural Society garden tour. Like all gardens, this one has grown and changed over the years since its beginning.

“I moved here in 1985,” she says, “and would have put in some flowers somewhere on the property.” Her interest in gardening has deeper roots.

“My grandfather loved gardening and especially flowers, and my first garden was at my first house when I got married, which was in England. We emigrated in 1963.”

She makes it look easy to create and keep this English cottage-style garden, saying that she doesn't work to get her fabulous colour combinations, and makes plans for only some areas of the garden.



▲ Pink roses and wild pink mallows beautifully light up the dark blue delphiniums. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.



◀ A wood-chip pathway edged with cobblestones winds through the centre of the 15-foot-wide long border, providing access for planting and weeding.



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▲ The long border in summer, showing Black-eyed Susans growing near steps among Escarpment rocks.



▲ Volunteers like this strong, healthy hollyhock, are allowed to grow where they pop up. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

“If something appears that I like, I just leave it,” she says. Like many other good gardeners, she claims she doesn’t have many secrets to success.

“I try to buy good plants and I use Miracle-Gro,” she says, adding “When the weather permits, I spend lots of time gardening, or should I say weeding!”

As for favourite plants, she doesn’t think she has any, but every year, she buys chrysanthemums, impatiens, Sweet William and geraniums.

“I enjoy the seasons,” she emphasizes, “in the spring

► The large front lawn is punctuated by lushly planted garden beds.





▲ Day lilies and hollyhocks stand out in this part of the long border.



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▲ Closeup of red bee balm. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

► Large growths of these bee balm, day lilies and phlox provide another strong colour combination in the border along the garden's north property line. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.

the daffodils and tulips, then the Lily of the Valley and Forget-me-Not and so on.”

These photographs were taken in July. As for keeping such a large garden looking great, and not being damaged despite owning a dog, Maureen has no problem, saying “Chanel likes being in the garden with me and just sits and enjoys the scenery.”

Maureen's final thought is “My garden is an enjoyable place, not just to smell the roses, but to appreciate nature and to feel so good at the end of the day when I look back and a weedy area is now looking so inviting!” **NEV**





▲ Maureen Bailey and Chanel near part of the front border.

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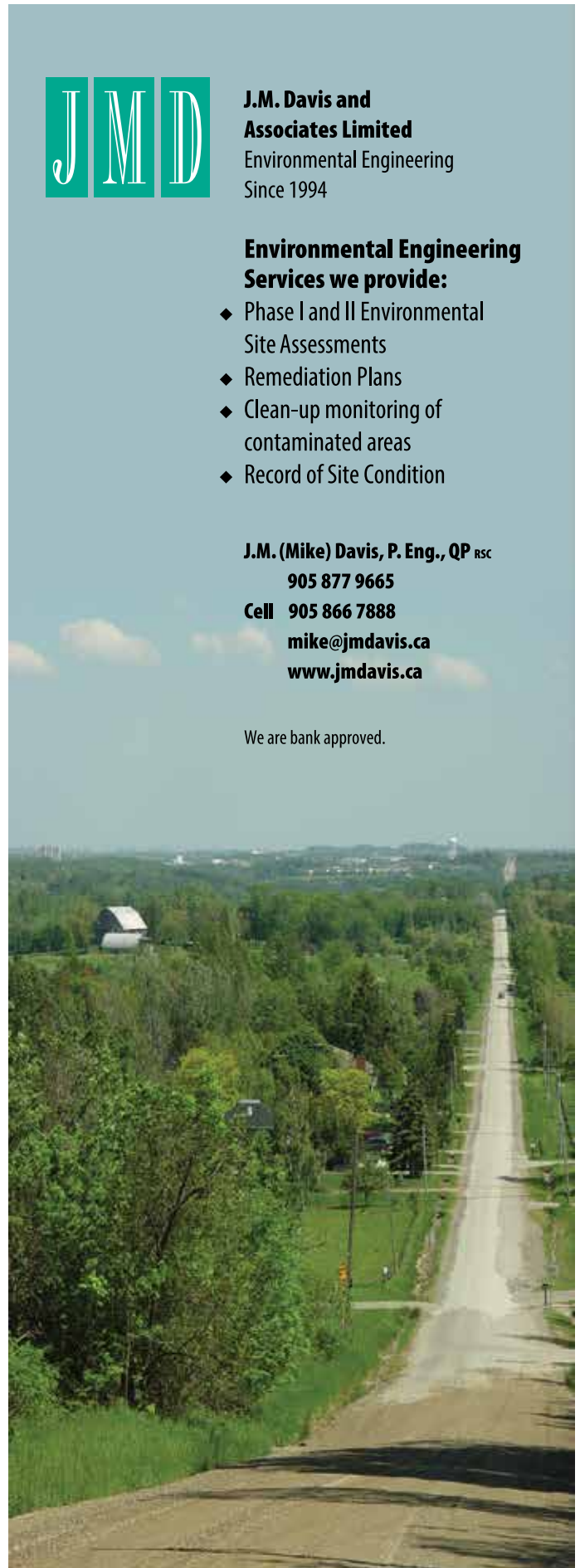
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One Way to Leave Your Lover

By Gloria Hildebrandt

It had been a usual Friday night. Mrs. Jacks was home alone, watching TV, enjoying her cigarettes and a good slug of rye and ginger. She hid her bottle of whiskey from Mr. Jacks so that he didn't finish it off in one go as he did with all the others. She had a right to a drink of her own now and then.

Mr. Jacks was down at the bar again, as he was every Friday night. If he'd had a good night he'd come home and fall right into bed and sleep. The bad nights were when he came home, ready for bed but not for sleep. If he was angry it got really bad. Roaring and snoring was how Mrs. Jacks thought of Friday nights. That was another reason for Mrs. Jacks to have a drink or two before he came back. It helped.

This morning Mrs. Jacks had her coffee and cigarette and stared out the window. As far as she could see, was a field of weeds and grass, dried out and yellow from weeks of no rain. She hated the view of nothingness, the farm field abandoned for years, the land meant for a subdivision development some day. Mr. Jacks was hoping to sell the four-room wooden house to developers for a lot of money. But their house on a back road in the middle of nowhere wasn't getting any offers yet.

Mrs. Jacks hated the house now, too. Kitchen, living room, bedroom, spare room used to store stuff, tiny bathroom. That was it. It all

smelled of cigarette smoke when she came in from outside, before she got used to the smell again. The old windows were jammed shut and didn't open, couldn't bring in any fresh air. Those were the only rooms in the house, plus the dark basement with a packed-earth floor. She dreamed of a

bit and ending up in bed. Mr. Jacks' family house was a little love nest at first.

Mrs. Jacks stubbed out her cigarette and rubbed her bruised elbow. She hadn't been quick enough last night to get out of the way of his rough lurching. It was time to do the grocery shopping. Mr. Jacks would sleep it off

burning the dry field even more. A tiny wisp of smoke caught her eye. She checked the chipped ash plate but her cigs were all stubbed out. Another puff of smoke at the window drew her eye to the little glass pyramid ornament on the windowsill. A little good-luck trinket from their sweetheart days, it was kept on the sill to cheer her up.

This morning, the bright sunlight was passing through the pyramid in such a way that a blazing star was shining at the base, focusing the light like a magnifying glass. And right beside, a small black spot was forming on the bare wood windowsill. Mrs. Jacks touched the spot and it was hot.

A sound came from the bedroom but it was only a snore and Mr. Jacks rolling over. He might sleep for a couple of hours more. Mrs. Jacks looked back at the scorch mark on the windowsill. Another small curl of smoke, just like a smouldering cigarette butt, rose into the hot sunshine.

Mrs. Jacks thoughtfully tapped her lighter and cigarette pack. She looked around the shabby kitchen and didn't see anything she liked. Nothing except the lucky, bright, shining glass pyramid on the windowsill. Slowly and quietly, Mrs. Jacks pulled the plastic-lined curtains against the bright sunshine, picked up her cigs, lighter, purse and the car keys and left the house for the grocery store.

“The bright sunlight was passing through the pyramid in such a way that a blazing star was shining at the base, focusing the light like a magnifying glass.”

kitchen with matching fridge and stove and a countertop that wasn't just on one side of the sink, and more rooms on a second storey, but what would they use them for?

At first it was great to have a house of any kind to live in. When things were sparkly between them, it was fun to turn the radio up loud and dance before falling onto the couch for

for a few more hours and she hated having to pussy foot around the house. He liked a big fry up when he woke up on Saturday, if he wasn't too hung over, and she felt like maybe she didn't have enough bacon. And shopping for groceries was her main weekly outing, a bit of a treat.

It was getting hot already. It looked like it was going to be another day of drought,

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Protecting Heaven's Gate

By Bob Barnett

Just got home after a long walk in the rain and my friend Susan phoned to offer Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) a \$20,000 gift toward the protection of the spectacular Heaven's Gate property. Roy and Cathy Jeffery of Manitoulin Island are matching that to bring us \$40,000 closer to our \$1,700,000 goal. That's a huge step forward! Heaven's Gate is part of the LaCloche Ridge, just west of famous Killarney Park. Our new reserve is only a few km north of the Escarpment near Little Current on Manitoulin. Great Cloche Island is escarpment alvar, then igneous rocks rise steeply up to LaCloche Ridge with the famous silica/quartz that stopped the inland sea which

formed the Escarpment four hundred million years ago.

Three crystalline "mountains" and two turquoise lakes form the start of the Heaven's Gate Trail. 2,000 acres of bald outcrops will join three EBC reserves to the LaCloche Ridge Provincial Nature Reserve and LaCloche Provincial Park to the west and through Whitefish River First Nation to Killarney Provincial Park to the east. This 80 km of continuous quartzite hills so inspired the Group of Seven that they, in turn, convinced Canadians our north was so iconic 100 years ago.

Unprecedented Support

This project to protect eight square km has stirred enthusiasm unprecedented in our 23-year history. Hundreds of people have seen the pictures and chipped in with

big and small gifts. With Ted Cowan as our spokesman, Bay of Islands supporters north of Manitoulin stepped forward to ensure it remains their pristine horizon.

I came in from shovelling snow to get a phone call from Kay and Derek Coleman who donated \$200,000 in shares toward our goal. As owners of a neighbouring property, they want to ensure our natural heritage is safe. These silica-rich vistas contain the special ingredient required for smelting at Copper Cliff. Derek's book, *La Cloche Country - Its History, Art and People*, describes the gold and copper mines which were started right here on Heaven's Gate. Fortunately, miners only found a few thousand ounces.. not enough for a viable mine in the 21st century. That has allowed us to buy what were called the

Wallace Mine Locations.

I am encouraged that our suggestion about protecting this property has been embraced so enthusiastically. For 23 years we've been trying to unlock what inspires people. I've pictured myself as a barker outside the circus tent encouraging passers-by to hear about ecological services, rare species, carbon sequestration and all the health that time in nature brings. We've had a hard core of attendees, but the tent has only been partly full. A lot of people were scared off by talk of biodiversity or doubts that protecting nature was a top priority. With Heaven's Gate as the prime act, the tent is now suddenly full and the audience is clapping. With your help, EBC has reached a whole new plateau as a land protector.

New Nature Reserve

Our new Heaven's Gate Nature Reserve will remain a living, breathing reason for hope for the future of this planet. Thank you to all of the individuals, foundations and corporations that helped. Special thanks to the Jeffery family who matched those donations and offered us a loan to complete the project. Thank you to Gary Albrecht and his family, who had a cottage at McGregor Bay, protecting the property for 20 years and who allowed us to continue that legacy.

Victory! We acquired this amazing property on April 28. See the pictures and video at escarpment.ca. We are working on 40 more projects and hope to keep up the pace of protecting a property a month. Every donation helps us protect more land.

Contact Bob Barnett at rbarnett@escarpment.ca, 888.815.9575 or through www.escarpment.ca



An inspiration to the Group of Seven, Mount Ararat will be protected as part of Heaven's Gate Nature Reserve. PHOTO BY TODD CLEMENT.

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Swimming in a Natural Pond on the Escarpment

By Mike Davis

It is a privilege to swim in a natural pond that is teeming with life. I swim there often on a warm summer or fall day, slipping into the refreshing waters and thoroughly enjoying the experience. It is a bit of a sprint to get to the pond during the dead of summer with no wind and feeding lots of mosquitoes along the way! They seem to be less interested in me after my swim. Am I less stinky, am I a little cooler, or do I not notice them as much?

Where I go into the pond, there is a bit of a ledge followed by a drop-off. When the water is a bit cooler than the surrounding air, I slowly get accustomed by splashing water onto myself, then jumping in. Sometimes it's a bit of a screamer, but it always feels better after the plunge.

Escarpment Water

The water is pure, fresh and clear from the Escarpment, with no pollution and no bad odours. We are so lucky to have access to a spring-fed small pond on the Escarpment, with slightly warmer and colder sections because of the temperatures of the springs that flow up from the bottom. The warmer springs are likely from aquifers near the surface that are more quickly warmed by the sun, with the cold springs coming from deeper aquifers that stay cool for longer in the season.

The pond was created about 57 years ago by Charles Hildebrandt, who had a small depression enlarged where the previous farmer had watered his cattle. It is about 40 by 20

metres in size and under two metres deep, like a mid-sized municipal or hotel pool, clear with no chlorine. The pond is generally saucer-shaped, sloping up to the shore with more aquatic plants there.

As I prepare to step in, frogs make a mad dash into the cover of the water, in case I am a giant frog-eating predator. Small fish swim near and look at me as I go in, perhaps curiously, but at a distance. I can do the breast stroke or sculling to make my way around the pond. I like swimming with the whirligig beetles, who are busily spinning around looking like a fast-forward bumper-cars attraction at the fair, but are not slamming into each other, in pursuit of their next meal. They are wary of their surroundings, keeping a safe

distance from the great big swimming human. The dragon and damsel flies zip back and forth overhead, and light on a pond plant leaf to rest and bask in the sun.

I've seen nature in gory action with an unfortunate butterfly succumbing to a dragonfly attack. First it was merrily in a floating coordinated flight until the scud-missile-like attack, then it fell to the pond dead, like an autumn leaf, after being released by the attacker. If I swim at dusk, seeing the local bats out is a joy, as they swoop and suddenly change direction

following their echolocation sound as they zero in and feed on the insect population.

Mud to Flowers

There is the "ick" factor with pond swimming. There is about a foot of pond scunge or muck at the bottom in the centre. Scunge is more of a derogatory term, as

water. The unknown factor can increase anxiety, but is countered by the joy of being part of nature, of sharing the pond with the local residents for a few minutes.

Swimming among the flowering pickerelweed, cat tail and pond lily is relaxing. The breeding season and its continuous song and



Mike Davis up to his neck in a fresh-water Escarpment pond.

it is almost exclusively decomposing vegetation matter and certainly beneficial to nature. When standing in it, it feels gooey like pudding with some twigs interspersed within, a bit of an acquired taste, but harmless.

There is always the possibility of me feeding a leech, which has not happened yet. I tend to think that any leeches there may be, like to hang out in the vegetation around the edge of the pond so as not to be someone else's meal. I skip over the edge quickly when entering or exiting the

territorial disputes are mostly over in the summer and autumn, but the birds still hang out around the pond. Seeing the birds perching and feeding, with a few calls thrown in, is calming. The sounds of nature are quiet but interesting when you stop to listen to the different bird calls, and insects buzzing overhead. These are the small pleasures that I look forward to enjoying each summer.

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

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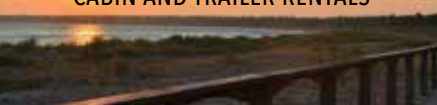
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Prep Time: 15 min. | Total Time: 1 hr. 25 min. | Serves: 10

Ingredients

1 cup	all-purpose flour	2 tsp	finely grated orange zest
1/2 cup	packed brown sugar, divided	1/4 cup	butter, plus more for brushing
2 tsp	baking powder	3 lb	strawberries, hulled and sliced
1/4 tsp	baking soda	3 tbsp	orange juice
1/4 tsp	salt	1/3 cup	cornstarch, sifted
1/2 cup	cold unsalted butter, cubed, divided		

Directions

- Preheat oven to 190°C (375°F). In bowl, whisk together flour, 2 tbsp (30 mL) brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Reserve 4 tsp (20 mL) butter; set aside. Cut remaining butter into flour mixture with a pastry-blender or 2 knives to coarse crumbs. Using a fork, stir in orange zest and 1/4 cup (60 mL) buttermilk just until mixture forms a crumbly dough. Turn out onto floured work surface. Pat into 1/2-in. (1 cm) thick slab. Using 2.5-in. (6 cm) round cookie-cutter, cut out 6 biscuits. Re-roll scraps to cut out more if you have enough dough. Place biscuits on baking sheet; chill 15 min.
- Meanwhile, in bowl, toss strawberries with remaining brown sugar, orange juice and cornstarch. Scrape into greased 11 x 7-in. (2 L) baking dish. Cut reserved 4 tsp (20 mL) butter into small pieces; dot on filling.
- Arrange chilled biscuits on top of filling, brushing tops with buttermilk. Bake about 20 min. until biscuits are golden. Cover with aluminum foil (to prevent overbrowning) and bake another 20 to 25 min. until filling is thickened. Cool a few min. before serving warm or at room temperature.



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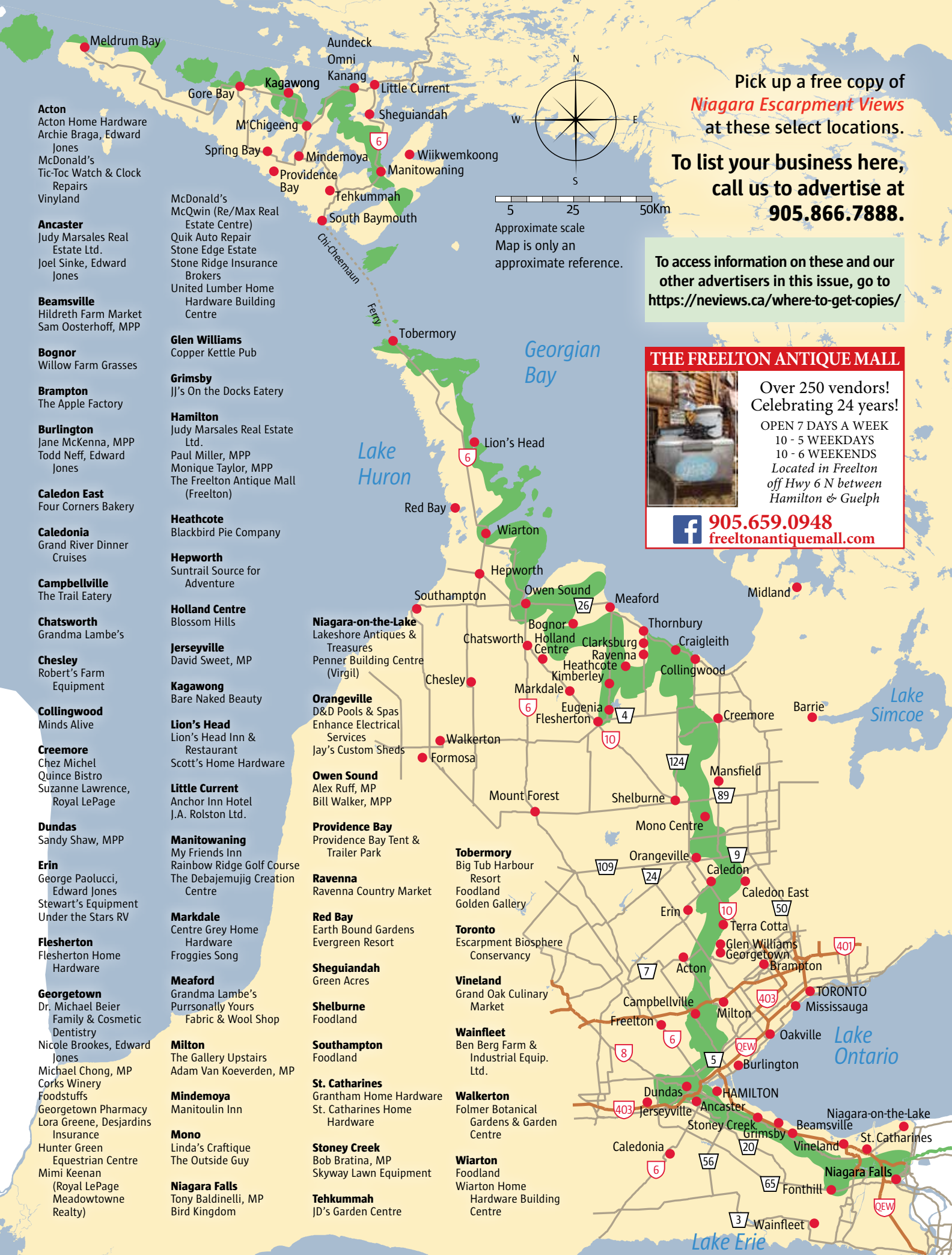
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Approximate scale
Map is only an approximate reference.

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