

Green Practices

By Gloria Hildebrandt



COVID lockdowns and restrictions have led to people going out in droves to public green spaces, the Bruce Trail and Escarpment waterfalls. Especially on weekends, roads near these spaces are lined with cars parked on both sides. People are pushing themselves beyond their physical limits, resulting in accidents, drownings and deaths. It seems that people are starving for nature and willing to take great risks to immerse themselves in it. The solution may be to provide more natural space, more easily accessible. The pandemic has revealed the stress that people feel, and one preferred way of dealing with it, by getting outside among greenery.

We know the other benefits of nature, how forests store carbon dioxide, and wetlands retain stormwater for later use and limit flooding. We are part of nature, not separate from it, and need it to survive. Literally as well as psychologically.

Our Green Practices

As the pandemic finally appears to be coming under control, global attention is shifting to addressing climate change. We can all take action to help. We, the publishers of this magazine, have long had green practices. We run a lean, efficient business, working from home offices with primarily previously used furniture and fixtures. We try to avoid air conditioning by managing our houses for natural cooling. We reduce our consumption of heating fuel by burning dead wood from our forest. We have used LED lightbulbs for many years. We do not print thick, oversized issues and print very little more than we distribute. We recycle everything possible, first reusing blank sides of printed paper. We regularly donate office and household discards to reuse shops or give them away, instead of seeing them as waste. Our wardrobes are minimalist. When possible, we shop in person instead of ordering by truck delivery. We try to repair things instead of instantly replacing them with new ones. We often eat vegetarian meals, one of us exclusively. We drive hybrid electric vehicles and own them for their life span. Solar panels on the barn power lights, tools and our golf car. One of us chooses to ride a bike for some errands.

Our concern for nature extends to financial donations to wildlife rehabilitation centres. We grow native plants and have our properties counted as providing pollinator habitats. We work hard to eliminate invasive plant species on our country property, which we have had designated a nature reserve, the first registered with Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy in Halton Region.

We continue to look for ways to help nature remain healthy and helpful. Now imagine if we all did. Tell us what you're doing to fight climate change. We'd love to share your good news.

In This Issue

Manitoulin Island in winter has a rare beauty that photographer Peter Baumgarten has captured in several photos that are almost otherworldly. Specializing in landscape photography, he has won prestigious awards and recognition, and also teaches. His work in this issue shows the rewards of exploring the island in the off-season.

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy impresses us again with their achievements in nature preservation. A donation of 160 acres of land near Meaford, with historic ties to conservationist John Muir, has resulted in Trout

Hollow Nature Reserve. Ashley Brown gives a tour of some of this special land.

Further north on the Escarpment, Sandra Howe invites us to a tea party at Kemble's spectacular lookout before taking us on some winter walks through Bruce Trail Conservancy properties. Vanished farms and a mysterious structure are included.

Historian Joachim Brouwer shares his ideas about where First Nations people climbed the "mountain" at present-day Hamilton, creating trails up and down the Escarpment, which settlers went on to develop into early roads. Old and new photographs give interesting comparisons.

Winter has also inspired Winston Uytendogaart, who has used frosty mornings and silent spaces to create poetry. His expressive imaginings let the spirit soar while remaining cozy inside.


Pour a cup of your favourite beverage and take a look at our Winter pages.

Gloria Hildebrandt

P.S. Wild animals need wild spaces.

The offices of *Niagara Escarpment Views* are located on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, specifically The Ajetance Treaty No. 19, of 1818, when Chief Ajetance sold the lands to the Indian Department of the government.

Let us know what you think!

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

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