

Celebrating Spring

By Gloria Hildebrandt

How lovely is spring? Heavy snowfalls have done a good job of insulating plants against the sharp, extended cold of winter. After our long, COVID-dragging winter, getting outside as the weather warms up is delightful. Bright sun on your face feels like being on vacation. The smells of the earth awakening are tantalizing. Hearing the birds begin their territorial and mating calls is charming. Snow melting into seasonal streams, forming temporary pools in low parts of the ground, and filling waterfalls with rushing torrents is recharging our aquifers and replenishing our drinking water. Hikers are exploring new trails, birdwatchers are using binoculars, gardeners are getting out their shovels and cyclists are inspecting their bikes. There's a lot of outdoor living to enjoy in the Escarpment area, especially in this temperate time.

This is also the time to prepare for a provincial election. Think about what you value about the Niagara Escarpment and see which candidate aligns best with your beliefs and attitudes. Political parties are particularly receptive now, and are eager to represent you. We outline some useful information about voting this year, on page 8.

In This Issue

This issue celebrates the warmer weather of many people's favourite season. Our cover story features one of the most magnificent Escarpment views we've ever shown from a private garden. Cultivating and weeding here is probably very challenging due to the distracting scenery. John and



Mourning Doves on the nest in an open bird box, right outside the kitchen door.
PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.

Lilla Fodor were gracious in sharing their breath-taking back yard with our viewers.

A frequent contributor to the magazine, Dan O'Reilly, this time reveals a highly personal story, that of his family farm and how he has worked with Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy to protect and preserve the farmland in perpetuity. Most impressive is the real estate valuation that he and his

brother are willing to forego from this location on the Caledon/Brampton border. This speaks of a true and deep love of land, nature and water.

We welcome a new contributor to the magazine with a feature by Irene Bakaric of Toronto, who writes of her COVID-safe vacation on the south Bruce Peninsula with her husband last year. Full disclosure: Irene was a close friend in my year at university,

and has an impressive professional journalism background, along with her accomplished husband, whom many readers will recognize, so there was no doubt that she would provide a rich feature for us.

In addition to these captivating stories, we are providing a feast for the viewing: a selection of photographs by Ann Fraser of Georgetown, whose work frequently wins awards and impresses people. Her vision is quirky, her capture of birds and animals is impressive, and her creative process results in unusual works.

As always, let me know what you think of our content. Watch for us on the trails, roads and in the gardens of the Escarpment. We're looking forward to being out there again.


Gloria

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
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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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