



The Fodors' Garden *in the* Sky

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT | PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

When you think of an Escarpment view, the Beaver Valley provides plenty of options. John and Lilla Fodor of Grey Highlands have a private backyard that drops off dramatically and provides a gasp-creating view across the whole width of the valley to the forested horizon. John's vegetable plot is literally on the edge and looks like a garden in the sky.



Yard with a view: John and Lilla Fodor's property looks across a slice of Beaver Valley, an enormous green space stretching from Flesherton at the south end to Thornbury on Georgian Bay. Beaver River runs through the valley.



“It’s like an infinity pool,” says John of the vegetable patch. Small, with raised beds that keep the soil surface level despite the steep slope, the garden is full of lush plants. The Fodors bought the property a few

years ago, gardening there for three years and improving the existing vegetable plot.

“We remade the garden structure,” says John, “and do high-intensity farming. It will take a few years to figure out what will grow here.”

▲ From these lounge chairs John and Lilla enjoy the vast view of the valley.





◀ The vegetable garden seems to jut out into space. “It’s like an infinity pool,” says John.



◀ Side view of the vegetable garden. Raised beds keep the soil level even though the slope is steep.

► Stakes mark the two types of eggplant grown in the garden.



► Plastic toy snakes placed in the vegetable garden deter some pests. The snakes have to be moved frequently to remain effective.



LILLA AND THE BRUCE TRAIL

John and Lilla are members of the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and Lilla is especially active, not only as a frequent hiker, but as a volunteer. She administers and photographs for the Instagram page of the Beaver Valley chapter of the Bruce Trail. She and John are land stewards, helping with trail maintenance, and Lilla takes part in the annual Garlic Mustard pull. She has completed hiking the entire Bruce Trail from end to end, served as a “trail angel” dispatcher who aids hikers in returning to their cars, and she has managed local Bruce Trail Day events. Her dedication was recognized in 2019 with the Beaver

Valley Trail Club’s volunteer-of-the-year award. “Last summer I also had the opportunity of welcoming, orienting and liaising with our Bruce Trail Conservancy summer trail ambassadors and on a personal level we occasionally host through-hikers, providing lodging or backyard camping as we’re close to the trail,” she adds. “Other than that I’m just an active local hiker trying to do my part by picking up garbage, educating and orienting hikers, reporting issues such as fallen and unsafe trees back to the club, and just generally try to promote membership, responsible use, and conservation of this amazing trail.”



▲ Cherry tomatoes ripening on the vine.

Last year's crops, which are seen in the photographs of the whole patch, are purple, yellow, green and scarlet runner beans, indeterminate tomatoes from cherry to larger types, two types of eggplant, carrots, onions, radishes and beets, plus several kinds of peppers.

"He likes to try different things each year," says Lilla, whose responsibility is the flowers all around the house.

An organic garden, its

two compost bins feed the soil as does one of John's secret additives.

"Banana peel mash helps tomatoes with flowering and setting seeds," he reveals. His expertise was likely founded on his parents' knowledge, as both of them worked in Holland Marsh. John grows from seeds as well as seedlings.

John also grows vegetables in decorative planters.

Crookneck and other kinds

Come and Explore A Nursery for Avid and New Gardeners

- Specializing in Dwarf & Unusual Evergreens, Japanese Maples, Rhododendrons, Bamboos
- A Gallery of Rare & Unusual Trees, Shrubs & Perennials
- Large array of plants for your landscape needs
- Many Specimen Plants



Over 40 years of plant expertise

VINELAND NURSERIES

4540 Martin Rd., Beamsville • 905-562-4836
(Just West of Victoria Avenue) • www.vinelandnurseries.com

QEW		N
Greenlane		
	★ Martin	Victoria
John		



DAVEY 
Proven Solutions for a Growing World

Apply Davey's patented Arbor Green PRO® fertilizer to help keep your trees healthy.



TREE & SHRUB PRUNING



EMERGENCY STORM WORK



TREE & SHRUB FERTILIZATION



REMOVALS & STUMP GRINDING



INSECT & DISEASE MANAGEMENT



PLANTING

(866) 303-8161 | www.daveytree.ca



TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU!

**Apples are our business.
Pies are our passion!**

Come visit us today. Try our pies. Shop our extensive selection of Ontario & Canadian made goodies.

Hwy 26, East of Meaford.
Open 8am - 6pm, 362 days a year
Hwy 6/10, North of Chatsworth,
at Grandma Lambe Dr. Opens May 2022





▲ John and Lilla on a bench in front of an Escarpment cliff face. Although the huge outcropping is on the neighbours' land, Lilla says that on first viewing the house for sale, as soon as she saw the cliff, she told John that they were buying the property.



► A chair lift at Beaver Valley Ski Club ends just below the Fodors' property but does not diminish their enjoyment of their piece of paradise.



▲ John successfully grows huge zucchini plants in decorative pots on the deck. To prevent winds from blowing them over, the pots are completely filled with soil.

of zucchini thrive in large pots on the deck of the house. In case the insects don't find the flowers in the planters, he pollinates them himself.

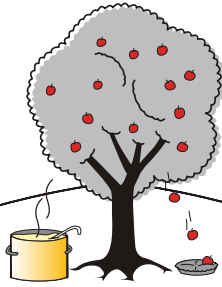
"I'm really proud of John for taking on the vegetable garden," says Lilla. "Now he's way more proficient of a vegetable gardener."

Although their property is situated at the top of Beaver Valley Ski Club's southernmost chair lift, it is very quiet there, they say. Lilla adds "This is our little paradise." **NEV**





▲ Lilla looks after the pockets of flower beds that surround the house and property.



A popular destination for coffee, lunch, hot homemade soup, sandwiches, delicious entrees

- Gluten-free and vegan frozen entrees
- Gluten-free baked goods

Ravenna Country Market
Fresh, Local, Homemade!

New community corner patio with views of Georgian Bay
 519-599-2796 | www.ravennacountrymarket.ca

Rural Gardens of Grey & Bruce Counties



Tour Rural Gardens of Grey & Bruce Counties
 May 1 – Sept. 30.
 Open, self-guided tours.



Details at www.ruralgardens.ca



J.M. Davis and Associates Limited
Environmental Engineering Since 1994



Environmental Engineering
Services we provide:

- Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments
- Remediation Plans
- Clean-up monitoring of contaminated areas
- Record of Site Condition

J.M. (Mike) Davis, P. Eng., QP_{RSC}
 905 866 7888
mike@jmdavis.ca
www.jmdavis.ca

We are bank approved.



EXQUISITE FRENCH CUISINE

Restaurant Open:
 Wednesday to Sunday
 11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Chef's table, Catering, Event planning, Cooking classes

150 Mill Street, Creemore
 705-466-3331
www.chezmichel.ca
[@chez_michel_creemore](https://www.facebook.com/chez_michel_creemore)