

OUR **2ND DECADE**OF PUBLISHING

www.NEViews.ca

PM 41592022



Banana Bread

Prep Time: 10 min. | Total Time: 1 hour 10 minutes | Serves: 12

Ingredients

1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour baking powder 1 tsp baking soda 1 tsp

1/2 tsp salt 2 eggs 1 cup sugar

1/2 cup plain Greek vogourt

canola oil 1/2 cup vanilla extract 1 tsp

3 ripe bananas, mashed

Directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C). In large bowl, whisk flour with baking powder, baking soda and salt. In medium bowl, whisk together eggs, sugar, yogourt, oil and vanilla. Whisk in bananas until combined.
- 2. Fold wet ingredients into dry ingredients until just combined. Scrape into greased, parchment paper-lined 5 x 9-in. (13 x 23-cm) loaf pan. Smooth top.
- 3. Bake 60 to 65 min., or until tester inserted into centre comes out clean. Set pan on rack to cool. Remove loaf from pan. 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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Spring 2022 (March, April, May)

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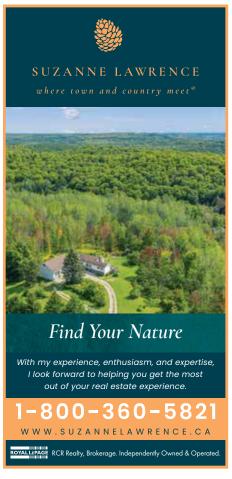
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PUBLISHERS

Mike Davis and Gloria Hildebrandt

Gloria Hildebrandt, editor@NEViews.ca

ADVERTISING/ACCOUNTS MANAGER Mike Davis, ads@NEViews.ca 905.866.7888

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Pamela Bowen, 905.979.1997 Chris Miller, 905.460.6606

GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT

Nicholl Spence, nsGraphic Design nsgdfreelance@gmail.com

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

OUR SECOND DECADE OF PUBLISHING

VIEW FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Celebrating Spring

By Gloria Hildebrandt

ow 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 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.

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.



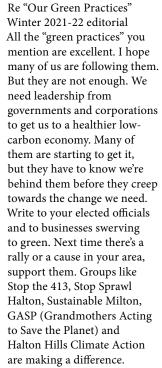
Niagara Escarpment Views is on Facebook as: www.facebook.com/N.E.Views

READERS & VIEWERS



Now I had plenty of time to read the fall and winter magazine. The photographs and stories from all the different contributors are excellent and informative. The Niagara Escarpment is for me totally tied to the Bruce Trail, as I have hiked more in the northern parts and very little 'down south'. I very much appreciate articles about and from Indigenous People, and their way of looking at and taking care of The Earth. This is a good preparation for me to one day visit Manitoulin Island. Thank you for publishing the Niagara Escarpment Views magazine. Best wishes for continued success!!!

Gisela Knappe, Collingwood



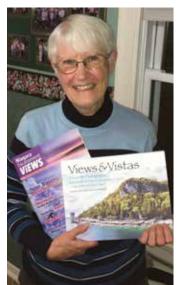
Janet Duval, Georgetown

I really like your article in the NEV: Death as a Motivator. I find that I can really relate to the message. I too ponder what I will be leaving behind and how I can achieve my life goals.

Marcus Buck, Hamilton

I just read your article about the park sign. It was sad to read about Thomas' last moments. Thanks for the mention. It's nice to be written about since the texts will long survive after our passing.

Brit Jennings, Toronto



Elizabeth Andrews of Georgetown bought a twoyear subscription and the last copy of the first print run of the book Views & Vistas. A second print run of the book is available.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.



Re "Winter journey through time @ Kemble." Hello I wanted to let you know that this article had no mention of the artists'

work. Kemble Women's Institute Lookout/Parkette. Marnie Cheyne & Dick Davidson. My name is Rory Cheyne (son and fellow artist). I grew up in the Bruce and would love to see more art like this and see artists credited for their work. Rory Chevne, by email

Editor's note: Thank you for providing this information which I agree would have been good to include in our feature.

Thank you for a copy of the Niagara Escarpment Views magazine. I am not much of a "magazine" reader (except for the occasional Lee Valley magazine) but your recent NEV issue is outstanding. All of your contributors have amazing talent. I treated myself to a main article each evening, and then felt the familiar sadness that often comes with finishing a great book. What a treat!

Bill Clarke, Manitoulin Eco Park, Tehkummah



Editor's note: This letter has been edited for space.

As a former professional photographer (at Hamilton Spectator and

a Sears Studio), I found your winter issue center spread image of Georgian Bay rather boresome and yawny... Just because your photographer has a monopoly on the middle of the magazine doesn't mean he can set his bar low. And enlarging the image doesn't make it better... Always autograph your published work with excellence! In short, your photographer must aim for higher standards. Jürgen Müller, Hillsburgh

Reply from Mike Davis, co-publisher & principal photographer: While I have been very fortunate to have some photos hit the mark, many have come up short. Thank you, Jürgen, for your criticism. I will strive to set the bar to the highest level in my future photographic endeavours. And we are always interested in other contributors, including submissions for the centre photograph.

READERS & VIEWERS



I very much enjoy NEV, and pour over each edition. but the Trout Hollow Nature Reserve lost me before I got past the first page, in fact it was

the fifth page of the article before there was any hint of its location. By Googling later in the day I not only situated the area but also found a map locating the mentioned trails and artifacts, something that would have been a most helpful addition to the article.

Julie Rossall, Georgetown

Editor's note: This was my editing mistake.

I am a subscriber to your magazine and was delighted with the Winter copy. The photography in it is spectacular. Thank you for the hard work that goes into it and the articles. I am looking forward to receiving the Views & Vistas book.

Valerie McAvoy, Burlington



I have picked up the last 2 issues at Centre Grey Builders in Markdale, Ontario. Living in the Owen Sound area in close proximity to the Niagara Escarpment and the Bruce Trail I have read about areas that I know and have visited. Also the new book Views and Vistas caught my interest and probably soon will be added to our coffee table. As a side note

I do own another coffee table book - The Niagara Escarpment A Portfolio Volume 3 1990 in which I am pictured spraying a field of spring grain near Bognor, Ontario.

Gary Shute, Bognor

Thank you for starting to make past issues available in PDF. I find it much easier to find old articles. Do not like that flip book method.

Paul Toffoletti, by email

Editor's note: PDF versions of the content in our past issues have been available for free at https:NEViews.ca for years, and go back to our premier issue of Winter 2008.



Provincial Election 2022

et ready! The next provincial election must be held on or before Thursday, June 2, 2022.

To have an informed say in who and which political party represents your riding's interests in the Legislative Assembly at Queen's Park, you may want to educate yourself on issues that concern you. It's always good to prepare questions of candidates so you're ready when they are on the campaign trail, asking for your vote. You can read their campaign literature and online info, phone them, email them, go to their campaign offices, pin them down when they are at your door or out canvassing in the neighbourhood. We recommend that you strive to make an informed choice with your ballot, based on credible sources.

These Are the Ways You Can Vote. Official instructions for each situation are available at elections.on.ca or your local returning office once the election is called.

- On Election Day
- At an advance voting time and location
- · Before Election Day at your returning office
- By mail
- · By home visit
- · In hospital
- If you're a student
- If you're away as a member of the Canadian Forces
- If you're away in the service of the government



▲ The official flower of Ontario, a White Trillium growing wild along a Halton Hills walking trail.

Electoral Districts Along the Niagara Escarpment From North to South

- Algoma-Manitoulin
- · Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
- · Simcoe-Grev
- Dufferin-Caledon
- Wellington-Halton Hills
- Milton
- · Oakville North-Burlington
- Oakville
- Burlington
- · Flamborough-Glanbrook
- Hamilton Centre
- · Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas
- · Hamilton Mountain
- · Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
- Niagara West
- · St. Catharines
- · Niagara Centre
- Niagara Falls

Identification (ID) You'll Need

If you're on the voters list, you'll be mailed a voter information card, or VIC. When you go to vote, show the VIC and one piece of ID showing your name.

If you don't get a VIC, you may have to register to vote by showing one piece of ID with your name and current residential address.

There are MANY forms of ID that are acceptable for voting. See the website for specifics.

Deliciously Sweet Celebration

Maple Weekend, April 2-3, 2022

Hosted by the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers' Association Find a producer near you at https://mapleweekend.ca.

Follow on Facebook at Ontario Maple Syrup



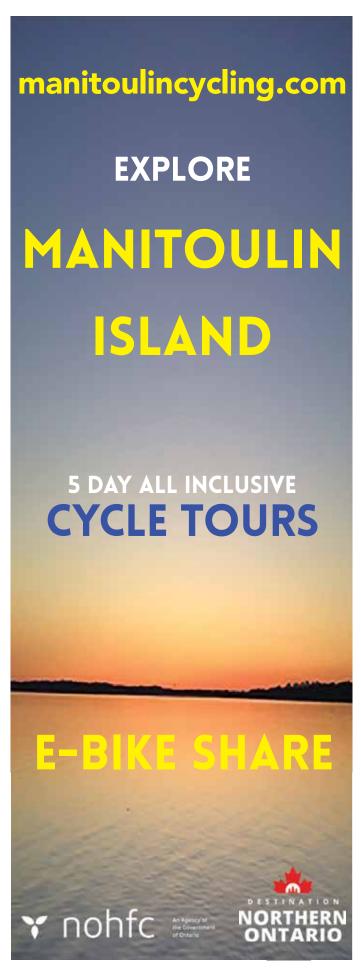
Helping Wild Felines



eral Cat Rescue is a non-profit organization that cares for feral, or wild cats and kittens. Since 2011 volunteers have been helping feral cats in the Shelburne area by providing spay and neutering services for cats living in people's barns or on their properties. Safe homes are sought

for suitable cats. Now, the group has moved to land in Riverview, Melancthon and funds are being raised to build the needed infrastructure for buildings and shelter.

To help with funding or volunteering, see https:// feralcatrescue.ca or email info@feralcatrescue.ca or call 519.278.0707.



Treaty Rights: Seeking Increased **Payments to First Nations**

irst Nations on and near Manitoulin Island are part of a group of 21 communities located on Lake Huron that is in litigation with the government of Ontario, concerning the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.

The 1850 Treaty is an agreement between First Nations and the Crown, that gives access to the north shores of Lake Huron and Lake Superior for settlement and mineral extraction. Part of the exchange is an annuity or annual payment, that in 1874 was increased to \$4.00 per person. The agreement includes increases to this payment if the Crown can make them without loss.

The lack of payment increases since 1874 has led to a court claim that goes back to 2012. The First Nations want an annuity increase and retroactive payments from the government. In 2018, the ruling found in favour of the First Nations. In 2019 the government of Ontario appealed the decision to the Ontario Court of Appeal. This appeal was heard in 2021 and was dismissed. The government of Canada has not made an appeal. Now, the Ontario government is appealing to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Participating First Nations of Manitoulin Island

Aundeck Omni Kaning M'Chigeeng First Nation Sheshegwaning First Nation Shequiandah First Nation Whitefish River First Nation Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory Zhiibaahaasing First Nation

From the actual text of the Robinson Huron Treaty 1850, italics added:

"THAT for, and in consideration of the sum of two thousand pounds of good and lawful money of Upper Canada, to them in hand paid, and for the further perpetual annuity of six hundred pounds of like money, the same to be paid and delivered to the said Chiefs and their Tribes at a convenient season of each year, of which due notice will be given, at such places as may be appointed for that purpose, they the said Chiefs and Principal men, on behalf of their respective Tribes or Bands, do hereby fully, freely, and voluntarily surrender, cede, grant, and convey unto Her Majesty, her heirs and successors for ever, all their right, title, and interest to, and in the whole of, the territory above described, save and except the reservations set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed; which reservations shall be held and occupied by the said Chiefs and their Tribes in common, for their own use and benefit...

"The said William Benjamin Robinson, on behalf of Her Majesty, who desires to deal liberally and justly with all her subjects, further promises and agrees, that should the Territory hereby ceded by the parties of the second part at any future period produce such an amount as will enable the Government of this Province, without incurring loss, to increase the annuity hereby secured to them, then and in that case the same shall be augmented from time to time, provided that the amount paid to each individual shall not exceed the sum of one pound Provincial Currency in any one year, or such further sum as Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to order; and provided further that the number of Indians entitled to the benefit of this treaty shall amount to two-thirds of their present number, which is fourteen hundred and twenty-two, to entitle them to claim the full benefit thereof. And should they not at any future period amount to two-thirds of fourteen hundred and twenty-two, then the said annuity shall be diminished in proportion to their actual numbers."

GAZETTE

Free Pass to Hamilton Conservation Areas



amilton Conservation Authority (HCA) has joined the movement of providing free passes to conservation areas through local public libraries. Instead of just borrowing reading, listening and viewing materials, you can check out a pass to get into the great outdoors!

HCA joins other conservation authorities in developing this kind of partnership. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, Credit Valley Conservation and Toronto Region Conservation Authority already have this program established. A pass may be used for one week, for up to six people in a vehicle, year round, seven days a week, from sunrise to sunset.

The libraries offering passes to Hamilton's conservation parks are Hamilton Public Library, Grimsby Public Library and Wellington County Library's Puslinch Branch. Passes are available to these Hamilton conservation areas:

> Christie Lake Crooks' Hollow Devil's Punchbowl **Dundas Valley** Eramosa Karst Fifty Point Spencer Gorge* Tiffany Falls Valens Lake Westfield Heritage Village

*A reservation is needed in peak season in order to visit Spencer Gorge.

To see about passes to conservation areas near you, ask at your local library.

For more information about HCA, see conservation hamilton.ca.

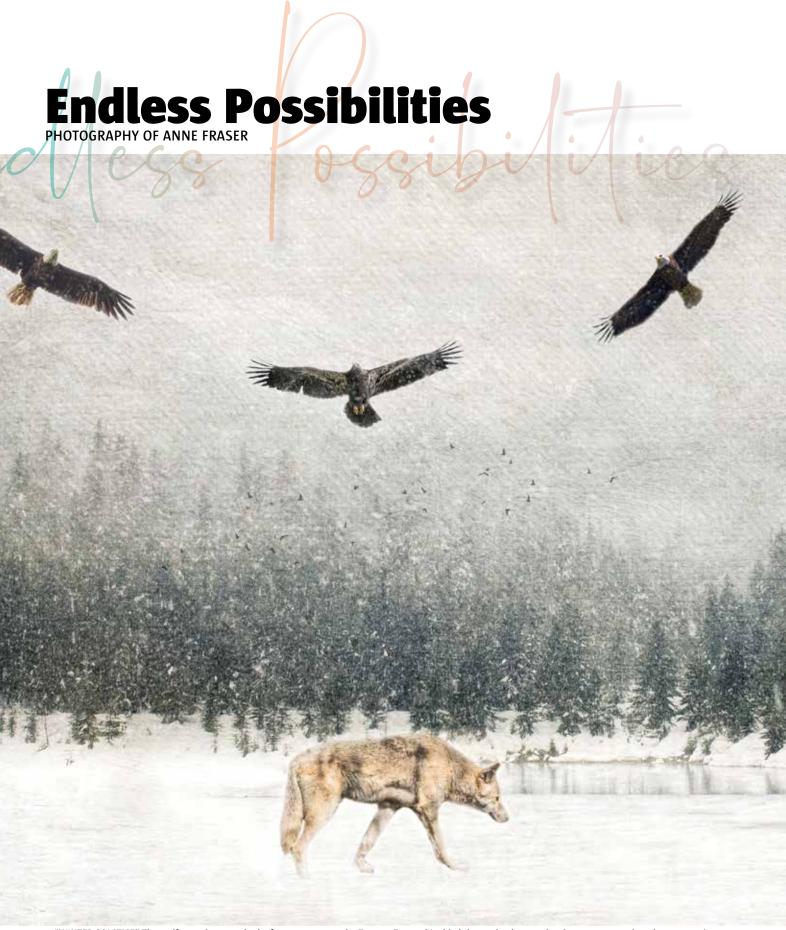




▲ "HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!" The moment I saw this piece of rusty metal, I saw two eyes peering at me and the leaves and wires at the top of the photo looked like hair. I played with different filters and enhanced the colours to strengthen the beauty of the rust. This photo was a prize winner in PhotoArt, the competition sponsored by Halton Hills Camera Club.



▲ "CATCH OF THE DAY" Ospreys are my favourite raptor to photograph. I have been shooting in the Burlington area for a few years now. For me, it is so awesome to see the way they circle for the fish, hover, then dive and exit with a fish. I am amazed how they can spot fish from so far away. Unfortunately, the carp fish is an invasive species that has moved into the Great Lakes. There are some nests in the surrounding area and sadly some of them were removed so the number of Osprey diving in the location has dwindled and they have moved on to other spots.



▲ "WINTER SOLSTICE" The wolf was photographed a few years ago at the Toronto Zoo and I added the eagle photos taken last summer and made a composite photo to show the cold of winter. The two Bald Eagles and the juvenile are three different photos added to this composite, but the adults are the parents of the juvenile, just photographed at different times during the summer. The additional layers were added to capture the winter cold.



▲ BABY OWLETS. These Great Horned Owl owlets were at a public park in London, Ontario a few years ago. Apparently, the nest has been there for a few years and the owls come back every year to nest and are not disturbed by people in the park. I just loved how they were peering out of the nest and their gorgeous yellow eyes were staring right at me.



▲ "PEEPING FOX PUPS" Fox pups have to be the cutest and funniest thing to watch and photograph. These were in Erin and there was a total of seven although I never saw all of them. They are so curious and I felt so lucky to have observed them in nature. I always try to respect nature and keep a distance from animals and birds and also to respect private property and to always stay on trails.



▲ "OLD FACTORY DOOR" The old Harvey Woods Factory in Woodstock was left empty for a number of years. Before the building was renovated for non-profit housing, I had the opportunity to go there a few times with a friend to do photography. I love shooting rural and urban decay as there is always a story to be told. This photo has so many details between textures, colours and the depth of the objects before the sliding door. I added to the tones of the photo to intensify the image. I wonder what it would have looked like when the factory was in full operation and all the workers were there. This photo was also a winner in PhotoArt.

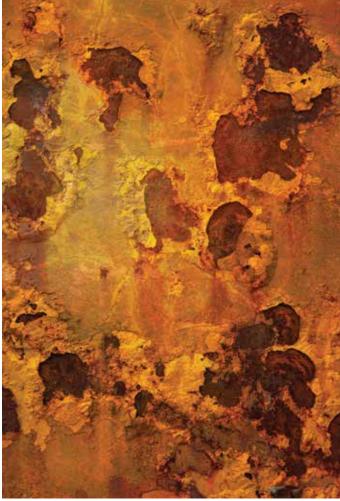




▲ "BROKEN GLASS" When I looked at this window that was on a battered boat in a scrapyard in Port Dover, I saw a face peering back at me from the broken glass. The scrapyard was being cleaned up to build condos. I had the opportunity to go there with a friend a few years ago and was attracted by all of the cracks in the glass. I attempted to emphasize the cracks in the glass to strengthen the textures in the photo. This photo also won an award in PhotoArt.



▲ "BACK TO THE ROOST" This Bald Eagle was bringing nesting materials back to its nest which was in the Township of North Dumfries near Cambridge. The parents were very occupied as they had three eaglets in the nest and were busy providing for them. Eagles are such majestic birds and so beautiful to watch, that if you are lucky enough to capture one in a photograph, it is an awesome feeling.



▲ "ENHANCED RUST" The rust is what attracted me to this photo. This image was from a scrapyard in Halton that has a lot of rusting cars, trucks and buses ranging from not too long ago to many decades past. I added textures and layers to the photo to boost the yellow/orange colours and added colour tones to make the image more interesting.



▲ "RUSTING AWAY" This was also taken at the Harvey Woods Factory. This old furnace was in the basement, and I loved the colours in the rust. I enhanced the vibrancy to help strengthen the rust effect in the photo and used some filters to help in the process.





▲ "WASTING AWAY" I believe this is a bolt. It was located on a big safe in the basement of the Harvey Woods Factory. I took this a few years ago and recently played with it again. I added more layers and some filters and by trying different ones, the colours in the original image changed and the cracks and peeling seem to intensify. The added colours seemed to complement the image and magnify the effect I was hoping to get.

◄ "LEFT ALONE IN THE WOODS" While on a hike up north near Minden, I saw this car out in the middle of nowhere. I have no idea how long it was there but there was no visible sign of a road. It made me wonder why it was there, just left on its own. I liked the tones of the green of the car and the broken silver grill in the front with the lights. With the fall leaves, it made for a great subject.



Archie Braga, CFP®

Financial Advisor (519) 853-4694 315 Queen St. E., Unit 2 Acton, ON L7J 1R1 archie.braga@edwardjones.com

Nicole Brookes

Financial Advisor (905) 873-7630 211 Guelph St., Unit 4 Georgetown, ON L7G 5B5 nicole.brookes@edwardjones.com

Todd Neff, CFP®

Financial Advisor (905) 331-1099 1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 6 Burlington, ON L7P 3P5 todd.neff@edwardiones.com

George Paolucci

Financial Advisor (519) 833-9069 82 Main Street Erin, ON NOB 1TO george.paolucci@edwardjones.com

Joel Sinke

Financial Advisor (905) 648-3870 385 Wilson St. E., Ste. 203 Ancaster, ON L9G 2C1 joel.sinke@edwardjones.com

>edwardjones.ca









■"ST. ELIAS CHURCH" This image involved high dynamic range photography and won the Vistek **Competition for Capture** Canada- Black and White Category a few years ago.

► "FLYING SOLO" This was a sole flying eagle that I photographed near Cambridge. I then used layers in Photoshop and added numerous textures that complemented the colour of the eagle. I was trying to enhance the photograph to show how magnificent and bold he was



Photographer's Statement

My primary passion in photography is birds and raptors, with Osprey being a favourite. My other passions are rural and urban decay, such as old barns, abandoned farms and buildings. I also love exploring old junkyards where you might find rusting cars, trains, trucks, and boats. Another favourite subject is landscape photography.

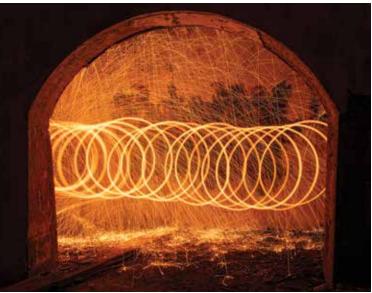
I look for scenes that may have interesting topography, distinctive buildings, or an abrupt change in the weather that produces interesting cloud formations. There are endless possibilities and one minute you may have a scene that is dull and then the light changes and it becomes animated.

My current equipment is: Nikon D500 (primarily for

birding), a 500mm PF lens, a Sigma 100-400mm lens and a Tamron 150-600mm lens; Nikon Z6 ii (primarily for landscape, urban and rural decay) a 24-200mm lens and a 24-70mm lens; and a Sony RX 10 IV, just recently purchased for travelling and hiking for landscapes and birding. The camera has a 26-600mm retractable lens. I also use a Sony RX100 V (a

pocketable point and shoot); and a Panasonic DMC-G3 infrared converted camera. I have an assortment of other lenses that I use for landscape and macro photography.

In Halton Hills Camera Club's PhotoArt Competition, I have won Best-In-Show and some other categories over the years. I also won first place in a competition sponsored



▲ "SPARKS AWAY" The old Barber Mill in Georgetown was the setting for this photo. I was with some other photographers and we were experimenting with steel wool. This was my first time trying this. Steel wool was placed in a whisk, set on fire, and somebody swings it in a circular motion on a wire or a chain to give that result. I used a slow shutter speed and my camera was on a tripod and captured the sparks going in all different directions. This was the final effect. Taken a few years ago, this image also was a winner in PhotoArt.



by Vistek-Capture Canada, for a monochrome image of the former St. Elias Church in Brampton. Sometimes, my photography involves using software to enhance photos. This lets you do layers so you can use multiple images in one final photograph and add different textures, or completely change the tonal subject of your photograph. I shoot in RAW

and primarily use Photoshop to process photos. The main software I use is from the Topaz and the Nik Collection, which I can use in Photoshop. I also use Photoshop for processing infra-red photos. NEV

For more of Anne Fraser's photographs, see www.flickr.com/photos/ annie57/albums.





Lora Greene CIP, Agent 211 Guelph St Unit 6

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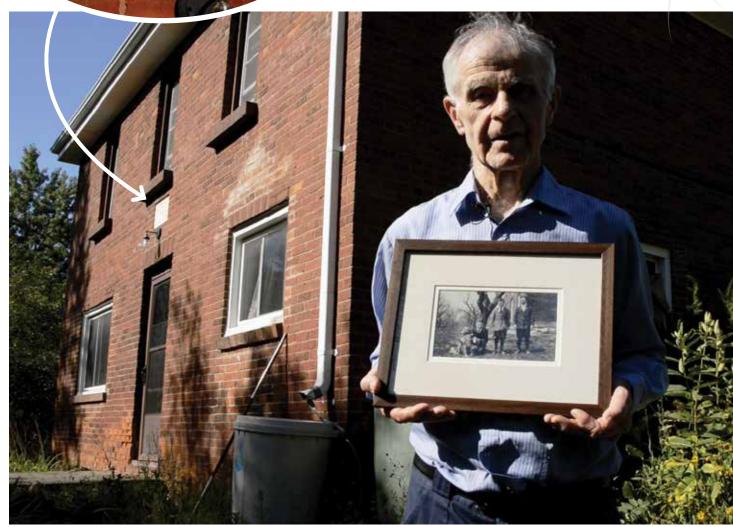
Open Sunday to Friday. Visit our Social Media for Specials and more information



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A Deep-Rooted Attachment

■A wallstone marks the construction of the O'Reilly farmhouse in 1900. The name "Knowlesdale" was used by the builders, who were an earlier generation of the O'Reilly family, to signify the house is on a knowle (hill) overlooking a dale or valley. The plan is to restore the wall as part of an ongoing restoration of the brickwork.



▲ Dan O'Reilly in front of the farmhouse, holding a century-old photo of his father and uncles standing at the exact same spot. PHOTO BY TERRENCE KRAMMER.

PROTECTING PROPERTY FROM DEVELOPERS' DOLLARS

WRITTEN BY DAN O'REILLY PHOTOS BY DAN O'REILLY EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.





◆ Dan's brother Bernie O'Reilly.

n late 2020 my brother Bernie and I completed one of the most important legal agreements of our lives. We signed all the required documents enabling the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy to place a conservation easement on our approximately 65-acre family farm on the Brampton/Caledon border.





▲ The West Humber River flows through the property.



he conservation easement was registered on title and remains on title even if the property were to be sold. What that means is that the property can't be turned into a subdivision. The agreement also contains a number of restrictive clauses including a

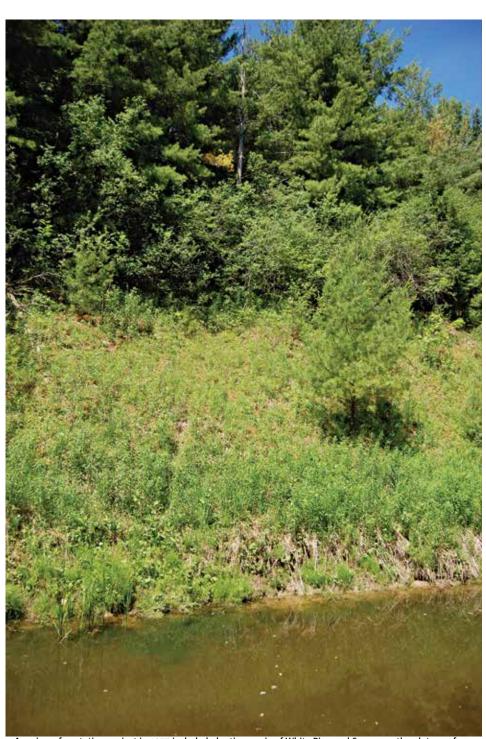
swimming pool ban. Although we have no intention of selling the property, the easement will ensure it remains undeveloped, should circumstances change in the future.

Signing the agreement wasn't something we entered into easily and

required careful deliberation, especially as the route of a proposed Highway 413 is only about a km away. While the easement prohibits private redevelopment, it doesn't prevent government infrastructure projects. The farm was included in the



▲ A very old apple tree stands high on a ravine which in turn, overlooks a wetland.



▲ A major reforestation project in 1977 included planting a mix of White Pine and Spruce on the plateau of this hill, adjacent to the West Humber River. Over the years, grass, shrubs and small trees have started to take root on the hill, stabilizing it and significantly reducing erosion. Previously, the hill was bare and eroding significantly, with the result that earth was falling into the river.

initial highway study area.

Nevertheless, we accepted that risk. Adding Bernie as a joint owner prior to the eco gift in the same calendar year allowed me to avoid a huge capital gain. That sequencing, first having Bernie listed as joint

owner and then signing the agreement, was recommended by a specialized high-priced accounting firm. Modelling by my accountant showed I would be hit with a \$twomillion tax bill without this eco gift. As I am considerably older and will likely die

first, Bernie would face a similar nightmarish prospect if I had simply willed the property to him. Ultimately he will take over the property and, we hope, pass it on to one of his children.

We chose Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy

(EBC) to implement this agreement because I have known its executive director, Bob Barnett, for several years and had several discussions with him over more than a few years on the advantages of a conservation easement. In view of the high, if not



▲ The wetland on the O'Reilly property. This important habitat, with the entire property, is now protected.



In view of the high, if not outrageous, prices potentially developable land is going for, the obvious question some might ask is: "Why would you do such a crazy thing?"

outrageous, prices potentially developable land is going for, the obvious question some might ask is: "Why would you do such a crazy thing?"

Why Do This?

The answer is diverse and encompasses a love of nature and the environment, and disgust with how a large swath of southern Ontario is being paved over with housing and warehouses. Most importantly, however, is a deep-rooted attachment to the property and its history.

It has been in our family's possession since 1842 when it was purchased by our greatgreat grandfather. During the 1930s' depression, our father and an uncle held onto the property by their fingernails. In the late 1970s this uncle sold me his share for a ridiculously low price to ensure it would remain in the family. So, I feel I have a moral obligation not to develop it.

A description of the property's geographic setting and its natural features may also provide some insight. It's located in the historic hamlet of Wildfield, which straddles the Brampton/Caledon border. Although we call it the farm, it's not an actual working farm, but is leased to a genuine farmer who alternates between growing corn one year and soya beans the next.

About one half of the acreage is farmable, while the remaining area is valley land which I had reforested in the late 1970s and early 1980s under various Ministry of Natural Resources and Toronto Region Conservation programs. The West Humber River flows through the valley, creating interesting sections including a wetland which is not traversable, except in some heavy snow-laden winters when I am able to snowshoe over it. Overlooking the wetland is a ravine dotted with two very old and very high apple trees which are intermingled with the White and Red Pine and White Spruce planted by the Ministry. There are also two vernal ponds in a corner of one of the farm fields.

Unfortunately, the property is also the home of copious amounts of buckthorn. With help and advice of the conservation authority, I have been making a valiant effort to control this insidious invasive species which chokes out natural growth. Every year since 2012, sections of the buckthorn have been cut and sprayed by Guelph-based Bartram Woodlands, a firm I highly recommend. This is done in the fall, and in the following spring, tree seedlings are planted in those sections by the Authority. This is a slow, multi-year process and the buckthorn may never be totally eradicated. Progress, though, is being made.



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▲ Michelle Place of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) collects fluvial geomorphology data for the Humber River Watershed Plan. Fluvial geomorphology is the study of the interactions between the physical shapes of rivers, their water and sediment transport processes, and is used to determine the health and stability of the watercourse and the potential impacts on the local biological community. PHOTO PROVIDED BY TRCA.

Maple and other tree seedlings are naturally taking root in the cleared sections, as are woodland violets.

Environmental Commitment

As part of my commitment to the property's environmental health, I have allowed the Authority to conduct a number of studies, including a geomorphology analysis in 2021. It is one of 30 such sites in the study, which is being conducted to determine the overall health and stability of the Humber River and its tributaries. Bank slope heights and widths, plus soil and vegetation characteristics at three different areas per site are evaluated and recorded by Authority staff.

Returning to our reasons for signing the agreement, I would like to reference a photograph hanging on a wall of the living room of my 1900 farmhouse. Almost as old as the house itself, it's an image of our father and his two brothers standing beside an apple tree in front of the house. Knowing my father's birthdate and judging by how old he looks, it was probably taken about 1919 or 1920. The apple tree is long gone. But in its place in the exact same spot is a spirea bush, which I and my siblings can stand beside just like my father and his brothers did at the apple tree a century ago. That experience is more important than any developers'

dollars. Hopefully, this article will inspire large property owners who want to preserve their property and perhaps pass it on their children or grandchildren without incurring exorbitant capital gains, while ensuring it will remain in a pristine state in case their offspring have any thoughts of eventually selling it to a developer.

For more information I suggest contacting EBC executive director Bob Barnett, whose column is a regular feature of this magazine. It's also wise to consult your accountant. **NEV**

Dan O'Reilly's last feature for this magazine was "65 Years of Grimsby's Sweat Equity Houses," Autumn 2021.



▲ One of the features of the property is a crabapple tree which is at least a century old, and probably older. Until about 20 years ago, it was still producing fruit. Some apples still appear every summer. The tree has produced an offshoot through a natural process, not through any grafting.







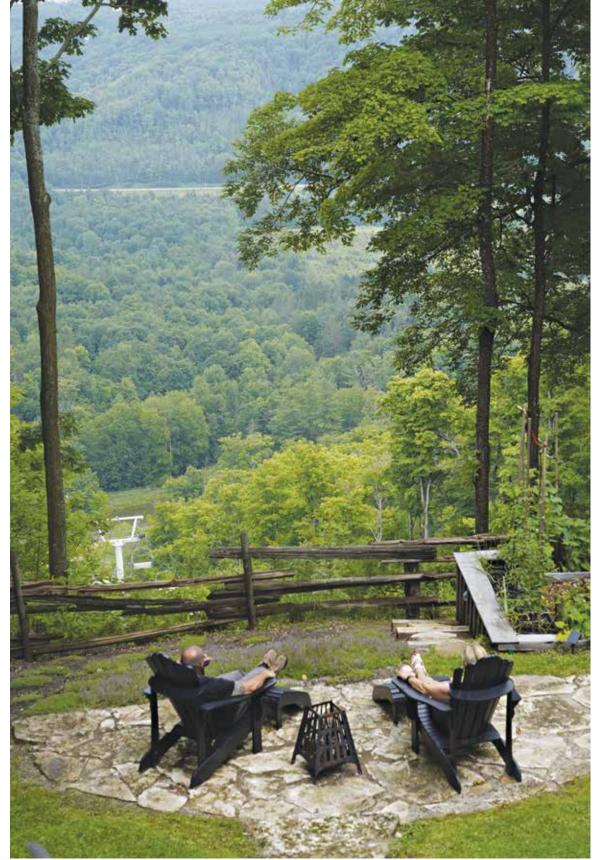






The Fodors's Garden in the WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT | PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS hen you think of an Escarpment view, the Beaver Valley provides plenty of options. John and Lilla Fodor of Grey Highlands have a private backyard that drops off dramatically and provides a gasp-creating view across the whole 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. 30 Niagara Escarpment Views \infty SPRING 2022









t'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 throughhikers, 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

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▲ 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.

▲ 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.

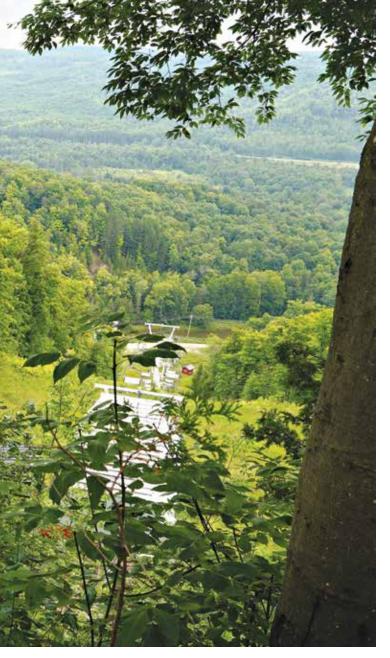
of zucchini thrive in large pots on the deck of the house. In case the insects don't find the flowers in the planters, he pollinates them himself.

"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**

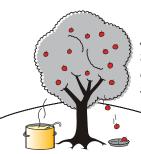








▲ Lilla looks after the pockets of flower beds that surround the house and property.



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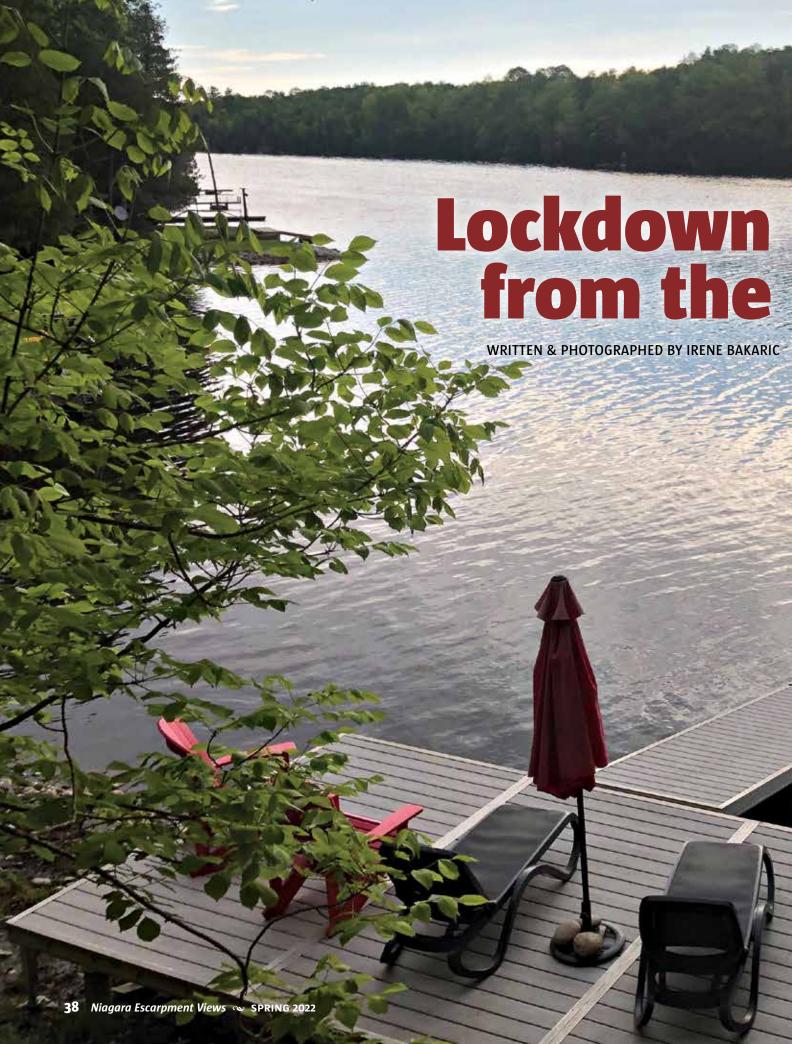
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Escape City **EXCEPT WHERE NOTED** ast spring, when lockdowns were extended, my husband and I escaped the concrete confines of downtown Toronto to find hiking heaven on the South Bruce Peninsula. The dock at the cottage on Bass Lake was perfect for eating meals. SPRING 2022 Niagara Escarpment Views 39



A For Irene, a paddle in the late afternoon on the calm water of Bass Lake was the perfect end to a day of hiking. PHOTO BY SEÁN O'SHEA.

hen my husband and I sold our home a few years ago and downsized to a condo in downtown Toronto, I never expected to be spending so much time within its walls. Like many city dwellers, the pandemic forced me into an indoor life that challenged me in many ways including my mental health. I endured the months of lockdowns and relative isolation by escaping to nature, hiking and cycling on the weekends.

In need of a bigger adventure, and hoping to flee the confines of the city, we installed a hitch on our vehicle, rented a trailer and booked reservations at a couple of provincial parks. Unfortunately, the government extended the stay-at-home order that was in place and the parks cancelled our reservations. So we were stuck with a trailer and nowhere to go.

Then a colleague of my husband Seán presented us with an option. His parents had a cottage they rarely used on Bass Lake in South Bruce Peninsula. We were told they were not there and that we were welcome to park in their driveway. Our disappointment turned to relief and excitement for Plan B. The remaining challenge was where to find electricity and a place to dump the grey and black water. The trailer had solar panels and could go off grid, but, in the end, we were able

to use the exterior outlets at the cottage. We also found a private campsite nearby that allowed us to dump for a nominal fee. When we arrived to find that the driveway was paved, it was an added bonus. This was our first time with a trailer. Consequently, getting it level with all the jacks and blocks so that the fridge would work was much easier on a flat surface. Parking on someone's cottage driveway turned out to be a brilliant idea. Since sharing our experience, we have had other friends with cottages offer their driveways should we again find ourselves in need of a place to park a trailer.

Bass Lake is very peaceful with little development. Our hosts allowed us to use their

dock and canoe so a paddle in the late afternoon on the calm water was the perfect end to a day of hiking on the glorious Bruce Trail within the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

Hiking Heaven

We were definitely in hiking heaven. Typically, we would hike one section in the morning and another in the afternoon. The cottage owners had given us suggestions for their favourite trails in the area and they were quite easy to find. Some were loops which we always prefer for the variety, but a few were also in and out trails.

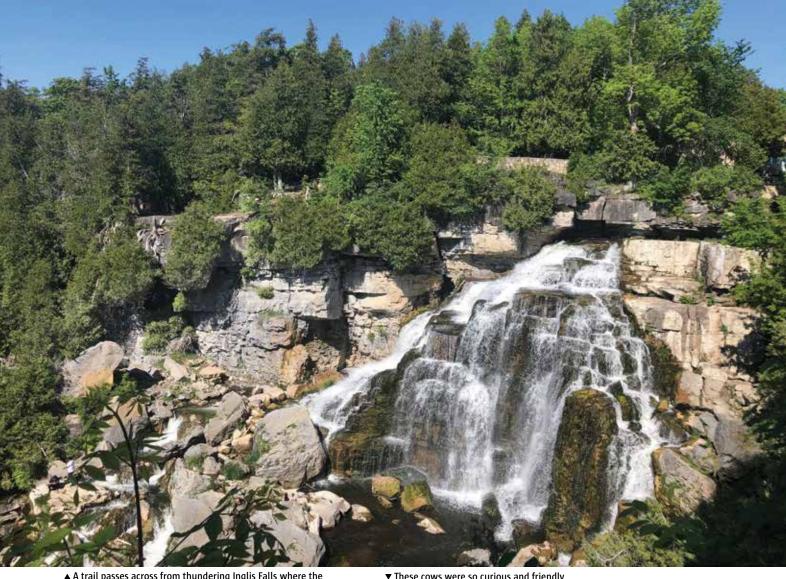
We loved that we didn't need the masks we wore constantly in the city because





▲ The couple rented a travel trailer and ended up being offered the use of a cottage driveway on Bass Lake. This turned out to be a brilliant experience.





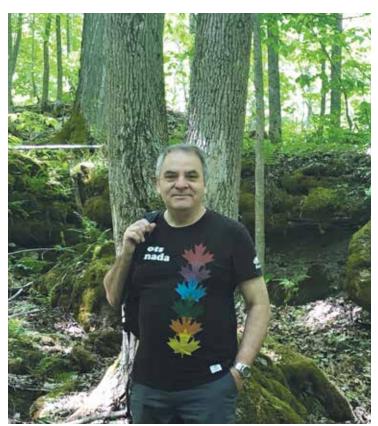
lacktriangle A trail passes across from thundering Inglis Falls where the Sydenham River meets the edge of the Niagara Escarpment.

▼ These cows were so curious and friendly that they galloped right up to the fence.



we would hike for hours without seeing anyone at all. It was effortless social distancing. The clean air, the light filtering through the trees, the mosscovered rocks, the unusual flowers, the sound of birds chirping and small animals rustling in the undergrowth were a balm for the soul. The weather was perfect, quite cool in the mornings and overnight, warmer in the afternoons.

One of our treks took us to Bruce's Caves, a rocky reminder of the last ice age. The enormity of the cave openings made one feel very small. We also discovered spectacular vistas like the one from Skinner's Bluff overlooking Colpoy's Bay and White Cloud, Griffith and Hay Islands. We passed by thundering Inglis Falls where the Sydenham River meets the edge of the Niagara Escarpment. And, another



▲ On vacation: Seán O'Shea, investigative and consumer reporter, Global Television, relaxing on a trail.

route found us walking by wetlands in The Glen that were vibrant with the sound of mating frogs.

We also met more domesticated animals along the way. I was attempting to capture some cows on camera when my husband started making "moo" sounds. I guess they were so convincing that the entire herd responded. I always thought that only horses galloped, but these cows galloped toward us at such an alarming speed, I thought they'd break down the fence in their attempt to be friendly.

Self Sufficiency

This was a perfect pandemic travel alternative. We were completely self-sufficient in our trailer. It even came equipped with a small propane BBQ which made my husband, the BBQ king, very happy. We had packed enough food for four days so every evening, Seán would grill something while I made salad and we would eat our meals on the

dock. Then, we would end the day sitting around a roaring fire. We regretted not bringing marshmallows.

Initially, I had been reluctant to travel north in blackfly season, but, to my surprise, there were no blackflies and very few mosquitoes. We had come ready for the worst with brand new head nets, but we never had to use them. For me, the dearth of things that bite or sting made the trip even more enjoyable.

While in South Bruce, we ventured to see the communities in the area, stopping briefly in Wiarton, the home of Willie, the prognosticating groundhog. The park by the lake with the sculpture dedicated to the famous rodent was peaceful and uncrowded. The main street was blocked off for construction and we did not need anything so we stayed in the car except for a quick stop at a pharmacy because Seán forgot his toothbrush.



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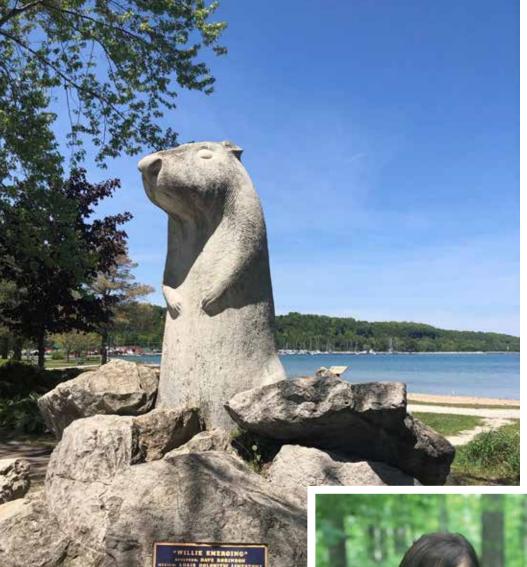


Niagara Escarpment

Summer 2022

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▲ During lockdown, the park with the statue dedicated to Wiarton Willie gave peace and quiet.



► Irene enjoying one of the hikes on the Bruce Trail. PHOTO BY SEÁN O'SHEA.

In Owen Sound, where things were a bit busier, we were focused on our search for butter tarts. This is a ritual whenever we travel in Ontario. We crisscrossed the town multiple times, but everywhere was closed. We finally had success at a coffee shop where stringent safety protocols were in place. The butter tarts were pretty good, but I am not sure they were worth that amount of effort.

Aside from these drivethroughs, the real heart of our trip was in the cool quiet of the woods. We fell in love with the South Bruce and are eager for another stay on the peninsula. We plan to explore the more northern reaches closer to Tobermory soon. And, if pandemic restrictions continue or return, it will make for another COVID-safe getaway.







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Inspiring Future Nature Enthusiasts

t has never been more evident that we are emotionally, physically, and mentally connected to this earth. The global pandemic has further proven the need to protect and conserve natural greenspaces, as people across the world flocked to these areas in pursuit of the great benefits that nature has on our mental and physical health. Since nature has always been there for us, we must in turn dedicate ourselves to making it a part of our daily lives, fully appreciating its irreplaceable resources while learning to protect and conserve them.

As we look to future generations to take on this great responsibility, we must inspire tomorrow's environmentalists and passionate nature enthusiasts. As caregivers and educators, we must show them the importance and benefits of nature, through outdoor learning and opportunities to experience risk-assessed activities such as climbing trees and hiking muddy trails.

When we teach about nature and the environment within the environment, children can develop an intimate, sensory, and experienced-based relationship with the earth, and a sense of awareness and responsibility for protecting and understanding natural systems. When we learn about something, and can touch, smell, hear, feel, and taste it, we become more connected. Outdoor education fosters these connections.

Benefits of Nature and Outdoor Education

Whether in a play-based, child-led, or structured setting, outdoor learning is beneficial to childhood development. When children spend time outdoors, they are encouraged to use their imagination as there are no preconceived notions of what



they are supposed to do or how they are supposed to play. A stick found on the ground is no longer just a stick, it can also be a magic wand, play sword or arrow. Immersive outdoor play differs from traditional playgrounds as children can explore places like forests, creeks, and meadows, stop along the way to discover little critters, and use their imagination to find nature's very own swings, slides, and monkey bars.

In the great outdoors, children can develop their gross and fine motor skills through activities like climbing over logs, as this requires problem solving and understanding of bodily capability and strength. They learn resiliency and adaptability when they prepare to spend time in nature and consider the impacts and implications of changing weather and terrain conditions. Through these experiences, children develop a love, appreciation, and respect for nature and wildlife, and a growing desire to look after their environment.

With an endless list of benefits, it is important for teachers and schools in traditional settings to incorporate, support, fund, and

promote outdoor learning especially in urban areas where students and communities do not have easy access to nature. It is equally important that parents and caregivers explore new ways of incorporating outdoor learning, through daily activities within family or afterschool groups, or by enrolling children in nature school or outdoor learning programs.

Incorporate Nature into Daily Activities

When it comes to teaching children about nature and immersing them in their natural environment, every action makes a difference, and no action is too small.

Children enjoy exploring their own backyards, and when heading outdoors is not possible, learning about nature indoors can also be a wonderful experience. Consider planting a pollinator garden in your backyard to teach them about the importance and benefits of pollinators and native plants and trees.

Take a walk around your neighbourhood or head out on a hike to a local conservation area. While it can be tempting to direct or control this experience, it is important to allow children to explore freely and take risks where appropriate. Allow them to stop along the way, discover and identify the different flora and fauna they come across, and ask questions. As they explore nature, remember to teach them to leave only footprints and take home only memories.

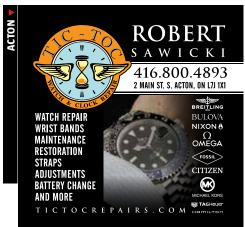
Nature and Outdoor Programs

For more than a decade, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has offered outdoor educational programs, including seasonal day camps and most recently, Ball's Falls Nature School. The program provides students with specialized, small-group curriculum-based lessons in math, reading, writing, science, social science, and art - all in an outdoor setting led by educators certified by Ontario College of Teachers.

Learn more about NPCA's educational programs and Nature School at npca.ca/learning.

Article and photo provided by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

HALTON HILLS COMMUNITY MARKET



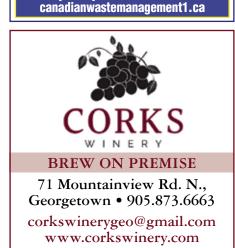






















VIEW OF LAND CONSERVATION

Our Million Dollar Challenge

By Bob Barnett

nvironment and Climate
Change Canada (ECCC)
has offered Escarpment
Biosphere Conservancy
(EBC) a challenge. They will
match our donations up to
\$1,200,000 to acquire land!
We really appreciate their
commitment to biodiversity
and letting us help protect 25
per cent of Canada by 2025
and then 30 per cent by 2030!

We have 40 projects we could complete if we can find sufficient funds. The majority are land or agreement donations where we can complete the project for \$5,000 to \$10,000 with ECCC paying half. We also have several opportunities to purchase land. Sometimes the landowner has offered part of the value as a donation or other funders have stepped in to help. We project that if we can raise our side of the \$1,200,000 offer, we can protect 17 new sq km or 4,260 acres of nature. Below are some specific examples.

Michael's Bay East

This 300-acre project lies between EBC's new 488-acre Michael's Bay Reserve on Manitoulin's south shore and Blue Jay Creek Provincial Park. The cost to complete the purchase in late November was \$229,000, plus expenses of \$10,000. We received \$50,000 from another funder and used \$115,000 of ECCC funding. We only needed \$64,000 to complete the purchase. Your dollar to support this project buys almost \$4 worth of land and each acre needs only \$213.

Timber Bay

West of Manitoulin's Michael's Bay, we have purchased 202 more acres and 600 m of shoreline to add to our 300acre reserve along the shore at Timber Bay. It closed in September. We spent \$60,000 of EBC's funds plus that of two donors. If we replace that funding, we can push our resources that much further to acquire the projects below.

Pretty River

Near Collingwood, adjacent to Pretty River Provincial Park, this 101-acre conservation agreement will prevent hunting, allow only one house, and prevent severances or gravel pits. Our total cost to protect this \$75,000 agreement is only \$10,000, so our half of the cost is \$5,000 or \$50 per acre. Your dollar protects \$15 of conservation value. This project is representative of the landowner donating the land or agreement as a gift in kind. As you can see, we just need a few dollars to compete each one.

Kemble Mountain

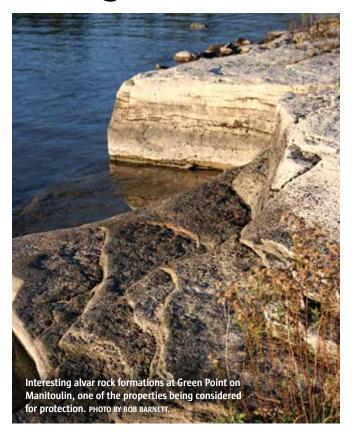
We have three other donations of Escarpment land coming near Kemble Mountain on the Bruce Peninsula. If we raise sufficient funding, we can use that and existing EBC funds to bring many more purchased projects. Following are some other projects we are negotiating for.

Long Swamp

We have received an offer of 200 acres of Long Swamp near Springmount, which is near Owen Sound and right beside three EBC reserves. This would consolidate our three Malcolm Kirk Reserves with those of Nature Conservancy and Ontario Nature.

Port Elgin

We could purchase a 34-acre property in Port Elgin on Lake Huron, southwest of Owen Sound, which will close half of the gap between our Campbell reserve and property donated to us by



Canadian Auto Workers, and extend our trail there.

Green Point

On Manitoulin Island, we may be able to extend our Green Point Reserve by another 32 acres with 600 m of shoreline and alvar. We have a signed agreement to buy the land for \$160,000, contingent on raising the matching money. Beside that, there is a 2,200 acre parcel we'd love to add to our reserve which buffers the huge "Queen Mum" provincial park to the west. Established in 2014, the park's full name is Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Mnidoo Mnising Provincial Park.

With every donation, we can push into new frontiers. Land values are increasing. The faster we move, the more we can do. Please join us on this wild ride to secure the land by matching ECCC's funding before the best land becomes

developed and cottages ring the shores. We want our children and grandchildren to walk the trails and shore and gain inner peace. It costs you only \$60 to donate \$100. If you donate securities, it may only cost \$400 to donate \$1,000.

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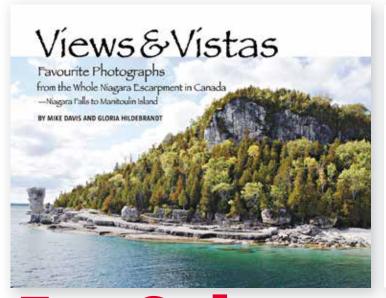












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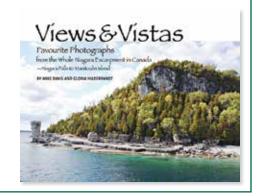
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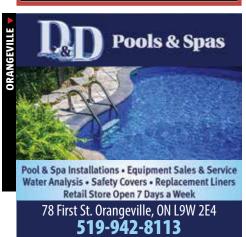
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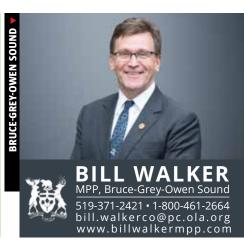


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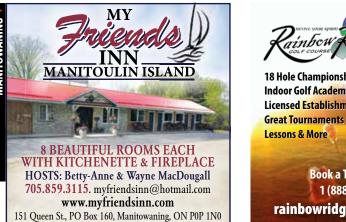


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