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SUMMER 2022 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)



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Summer 2022
(June, July, August)

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Photo by Mike Davis

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Conservation

Halton Award, 2014

to Mike Davis in Media/Blogger Category

OUR SECOND DECADE OF PUBLISHING

A Purpose Revealed

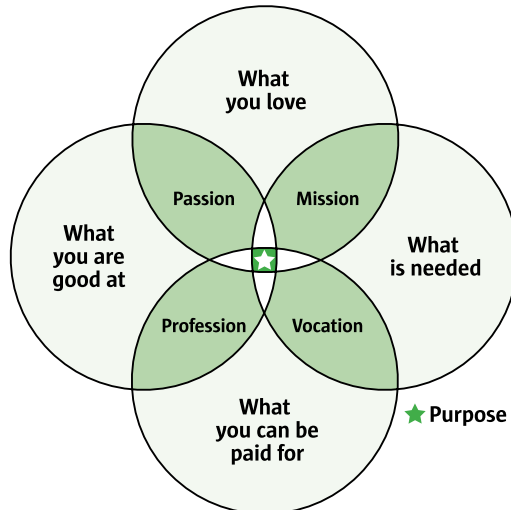
Most people need to work for a living, to survive. Some work to remain occupied, to prevent boredom. And some people work because they have a purpose in life.

In order to help find or identify a purpose in life, there's a Venn diagram that can be useful. Filling in four overlapping circles with what you love, what you're good at, what you can be paid for and what is needed, can lead to defining your passion, profession, vocation and mission. What you love and what you're good at, is likely your passion. What you're good at and what you can be paid for, could be your profession. What can bring you money and what is needed, might be your vocation, or calling. What is needed and what you love can identify your mission. Where all these circles overlap, you might find your purpose.

As we began work on this issue, we learned that one of our subscribers, Doug Yonson, made a very generous financial donation of \$32,000 to Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) for the purchase and permanent protection of additional, important Escarpment land. As Doug wrote in a note that appears in our Readers & Viewers section, it was reading about EBC in Bob Barnett's regular columns that prompted him to donate when the Canadian government offered a matching fundraising challenge.

When I learned of this, my jaw dropped. I realized that we had a reason to continue publishing this magazine

beyond making a living and doing what we enjoy. It seems that the plants, animals and people of the Niagara



Escarpment benefit from what we do and might need us. Our magazine is leading to the increased protection of natural spaces. There's a clear purpose to what we do. If I can save the lives of some animals that are increasingly under pressures just to survive, I'll do it.

Increasing the protection of natural land starts with having more people appreciate the Escarpment. From the beginning of our magazine, we have shared what's special and interesting about our Escarpment areas. We work at celebrating life along the Escarpment.

In This Issue

In these pages, we present summer stories from Manitoulin Island down to Halton Hills. Raymond Johns takes us inside a rehearsal with the Debajehmujig Theatre Group in Manitowaning where First Nations talent share their stories.

On the Bruce Peninsula, the Daylilies of summer are stunning and native plants are cherished at Earth Bound Gardens, which is a touring garden, garden

centre, gift shop and entertainment centre.

In southern Georgian Bay, Sandra J. Howe reports on the efforts of Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society to save a striking lighthouse on a little island that marks dangerous shoals.

Rosaleen Egan acknowledges the impressive work of the 1000+ Pollinator Plant Project begun by Julie Power of Halton Hills, whose little garden makes a huge impact on people and the natural world.

Interesting reading, beautiful viewing and

important work. It seems that just as always, the main features in this issue support our newly defined purpose for our work.

Price of Paper

One thing that could be a severe challenge to continuing to publish this magazine is the availability and price of paper. Our printer warns us that supply chain issues are a real concern, and that prices have increased by 50 per cent. We will do what we can to carry on, but the kind and quality of paper we're able to use for the magazine may be different in this issue and going forward.

Thank you

We always appreciate hearing from you. In particular, I want to thank Edward Naftolin for sending me news clips and Rick Grant for his wildlife photographs. They are always interesting. All of you, please keep letting us know what we're doing right, and how we can improve.

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
Niagara Escarpment Views,
 50 Ann St.,
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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.



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

READERS & VIEWERS



Editor's note: Anne Fraser's first name is misspelled on the cover. We regret the error.

We got a \$32,000 donation

from your subscriber Doug Yonson who cited the articles about EBC as his reason for donating... Thank you for NEV! He loves it too.

Bob Barnett, Executive Director, Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy

Editorial note: This is the letter received by Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy: I live hours away from the Escarpment, but it was while visiting my daughter Sara in Hamilton some years ago that I picked up a copy of NEV,

was immediately charmed by the magazine, and learned over the years of your priorities. The matching federal grant did move me to donate now. I am a retired print reporter/copy editor and I find NEV to be a very satisfying magazine -- happily straightforward in its business, but with spectacular photos, and always sincere, committed and generous-hearted.

Doug Yonson, Nepean

Omg Gloria, we just got the latest NEV edition with our article, you guys did an AMAZING job with it, we look waaaay better than we really are. Seriously though, we are so honoured to be in your magazine, we just love this place, the home and the gardens have been a labour of love so to see it featured like this just blows our mind. Thank you so much!

Lilla Fodor, Grey Highlands



[I] commend you for showing off part of Anne Fraser's body of work (*Gesamtwerk* or *oeuvre*). Her images were arresting even to this pro... You made sure that Anne's pictures were shown to the public... Obviously, Anne has imagination in spades. For Anne Fraser I suggest, if she hasn't done so yet, a photographic arts course at Ryerson, as I did back in 1966-69... My only protest is with the proliferation of enhancing or adulterating the original images. One no longer knows which picture on any page is the true/real view/capture of anything... Keep on publishing other artists' work, PLEASE!

Jürgen Müller, Hillsburgh

Your company is a delight to work with. I couldn't be happier with the level of communication, professionalism and expertise shown by Niagara Escarpment Views. We look forward to our continued business relationship for many years to come!

Mitchell Walker, Wise Cracks

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Photography is art. Art is subjective. I for one found the Winter issue photography spread absolutely beautiful. Thank you for sharing those photos.

Edda Martinello, Grassie

When a child, I grew up in St. Catharines but visited Hamilton, Dundas, Balls Falls & the Escarpment – love your magazine.

Roxann Brown, Bowmanville

A joy to read!

Donald Royal Rand, Georgetown

It's a great magazine and I enjoy sharing it and encouraging others to subscribe. Keep up the great work!!

Joan Oliphant, Hamilton

It is with a great deal of humble thanks that I write to thank you for my personal copy of Niagara Escarpment Views. Upon returning from a tramp on the Cataract Trail, my wife found the magazine in our mail box and then to see my name emblazoned on the cover made my day as they say! This issue of NEV is fantastic as always and to be part of it gives me much pride. To have my poems so well presented along with so many talented contributors is an honour I will cherish. May I also thank you for your professional engagement during the selection and proofing of my work and the very generous presentation of each poem. I especially liked the inclusion of "At The Lake", as a follow-up to the winter poems. A great touch!

Winston Uytenbogaart

Great pictures and interesting reading about the area you live in but know little about the history. Avid reader.

Elizabeth Lees, Burlington

This is the first time I've seen your publication and am so impressed with the content - text and visuals, even the ads - that celebrate this incredible part of the world. Congratulations - not sure how I've missed seeing it before. I will [be] sending you my personal subscription request, but first want to alert you to an important community initiative that is happening...

Martha McGloin by email



I bought a copy of "Views & Vistas" for my son-in-law for Christmas & he absolutely loves it, as he is a keen photographer. I decided to buy another for my friend's niece in England who is at University doing a photography course. We really enjoy our copies of "Niagara Escarpment Views."

Valerie McAvoy, Burlington

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▲ Katelynn Baksa of Mississauga wears the Niagara Escarpment Views fandana.

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Launch of Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network

About 10 years ago, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) reviewed its designation of the Niagara Escarpment as a biosphere reserve and indicated that to retain this special acknowledgement, it wanted to see less government management in favour of more involvement by communities and Indigenous people.

On Earth Day, April 22, 2022, the incorporation of a new organization, Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN), was celebrated at The Brown

Homestead in St. Catharines. The word “reserve” has been dropped because it has negative connotations for some Indigenous people.

A NEBN document about this meeting states “Through an agreement between the Transition Leadership Committee and the Indigenous organization Plenty Canada, with support from Environment and Climate Change Canada, work is underway to engage in a process consistent with recommendations from Pathway to Canada Target 1, including the reports *One With Nature*, *Canada’s Conservation Vision*, and *We Rise Together*.”

► Alyssa General of Six Nations, gave a presentation on the Mohawk language in The Brown Homestead on Earth Day. Alyssa is an artist, educator, poet and filmmaker.



▲ Presenters at the celebration of the new Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network included from left, Alyssa General, Larry McDermott, executive director of Plenty Canada, Liette Vasseur of Brock University, Bradley May of Brock University and Tim Johnson.

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Free Food When Needed

Community Fridges HamOnt is a Hamilton community effort that provides free food to anyone, from refrigerators that are located outside in insulated wooden shelters. The contents of these fridges are available 24/7. No registration or application is needed to access the fridges. Food is donated by individuals and businesses. Volunteers check on the fridges several times a day.

There are three locations for these community fridges in Hamilton:

- Gilkson, West Mountain, 44 Greendale Dr.
- Beasley, downtown 249 John St. N.
- Crown Point East 204 Ottawa St. N., at Ottawa Market.

The fridge at Ottawa Market is shown in these photographs.

While Community Fridges HamOnt welcomes donations of food and sealed toiletries, it does not accept direct monetary donations. Gift cards, however, can be given, electronically or in physical form. For details, email communityfridgeshamont@gmail.com. No phone number or mailing address is provided.

No One Goes Hungry is another community program giving out some free food. No One Goes Hungry Halton provides hot meals on certain days in Acton, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville.

“Our goal is to make sure that no one goes hungry in Halton, cooking rescued food. One town at a time,” they state. To donate money, funds



can be transferred by email to NOGHhaltonON@gmail.com.

There are also programs called No One Goes Hungry – Niagara and area, and No One Goes Hungry – Welland, although at the time of writing, they did not seem to be very active.



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The Market Shoppe Wins Awards

Tracy Nietvelt-Prentice, owner of The Market Shoppe in Markdale, won the 2022 Retailer Spotlight Award in the inaugural award program by Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters. Called Ontario Made, the program celebrates the sale and awareness of products that are made in Ontario.

Tracy was recognized for retailer excellence in spotlighting Ontario-made products and supporting local initiatives. She stocks locally-sourced produce, meats, cheeses, home-cooked meals, baked good and more. The book *Views & Vistas: Favourite Photographs from the Whole Niagara Escarpment in Canada – Niagara Falls to Manitoulin Island* is available in this shop.

“We only carry Ontario products,” says Tracy. “Selling Ontario products is so important because you are supporting people in the greater community.”

The Market Shoppe also won one of 150 Desjardins GoodSpark Grants for 2021, in the category of agriculture/agri-food. These Desjardins grants support Canadian entrepreneurs who want to invest in innovation, employees and sustainable development.



GAZETTE

Art Fashion Coming This Autumn



The Wearable Art Show is the only show and sale in Canada that is all about pieces to wear. In addition to clothing, this can mean jewellery, handbags, scarves, shawls, hats and more. Many wearable art

pieces are one-size-fits-most, and not specific to gender. Quality and craft skills are high but prices can be less than \$100 to several thousand.

The theme for 2022 is Interwoven, so different crafting techniques and materials are combined in one piece and may even be the work of two artists. This show is for those who love art, slow fashion and individuality.

Where: St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre
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Reforming How We Mine Gravel

Sarah Harmer, a singer and songwriter who in 2005 held an “I Love the Escarpment” tour across southern Ontario to support the community group Protecting Escarpment Rural Land, has now become co-chair with Graham Flint, of Reform Gravel Mining Coalition. This new organization seeks to “impose a moratorium on all new gravel mining approvals, until an independent panel can chart a new path forward.”

The Coalition points out that the gravel mining industry extracts the resource without the consent of Indigenous Nations, as the Canadian constitution requires. The Coalition consists of 39 community groups, in alphabetical order from Action Champlain to West Caledon Aggregate Study Group.

A petition called Demand a Moratorium Now (DAMN), is available online at www.reformgravelmining.ca. Sarah Harmer is on a cross-country tour this summer and fall promoting her new album *Are You Gone*.



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Celebrating the Welland Canal and the Summer Games

A celebration was held on March 24 to open the 64th navigation season of the St. Lawrence Seaway, when the first ship of the 2022 season sailed through the Welland Canal. The Canal with its many locks was cut through the Niagara Escarpment to let ships move between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. This helps to connect all the Great Lakes to the St. Lawrence River and the Atlantic Ocean. The St. Lawrence Seaway has an important role in Canada's economic recovery after the pandemic, and in the global supply chain.

Dignitaries from Canada and the U.S. attended the event at Lock 3, St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre. Also at this time, a huge work of art was unveiled which was painted onto the carrier CSL Welland, which was the first ship through the Canal this year. Entitled "The Runners," the piece marks the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games, a national competition for Canadian amateur athletes at the highest level. This year Niagara Region will host the Games from Aug. 6 to 21.



▲ Crew members of the CSL Welland beginning to unveil the ship's artwork.



▲ K.C. Hall, left, and Emmanuel Jarus, two of the four artists who created the mural "The Runners" on the CSL Welland.

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◀ The CSL Welland, the first ship to sail through the Welland Canal in 2022.



The unveiling of the mural on CSL Welland, reflected in the windows of the St. Catharines Museum complex.

Dignitaries near the CSL Welland, from left: Craig Middlebrook, Terence Bowles, Peter Lynch, captain of the Welland in the traditional top hat; Louis Martel, Walter Sendzik, mayor of St. Catharines; Jim Bradley, chair of Niagara Region; Doug Hamilton, chair of the 2022 summer games.



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Sampling For the Time of Humans



◀ Brock researchers boring a hole in the ice on Crawford Lake.

On Feb. 20, earth science researchers from Brock University collected samples of frozen sediment from the bottom of Crawford Lake in Milton. The researchers hope that the layers of sediment at this location will indicate the beginning of the time period during which humans have been the dominant species on earth.

Crawford Lake, managed by Conservation Halton, is a meromictic lake, which means that it is so deep that little oxygen reaches the lowest levels, and the bottom layers of sediment are rarely disturbed. A study in 1971 found corn pollen in a layer dating to the mid-1400s, suggesting the presence of a Native village nearby at that time. Further excavations confirmed the location and a modern reconstruction of longhouses surrounded by a palisade can be explored here.



▲ The important core sample on a tarp. Studies on the sample will be done to investigate the time of early humans. Photos provided by Conservation Halton.

◀ The core sample of lake sediment being winched up out of the hole in the ice.

Shared Bikes to Remain in “The Hammer”

According to CBC News, the City of Hamilton intends to contribute more than \$300,000 per year to Hamilton Bike Share, a not-for-profit program that provides around 800 bicycles for city use. Cyclists pay to pick up a bike from one hub and can return it to any other hub. There are hubs from Ottawa St. to Dundas. Bikes can also be rented by visitors to the city on an hourly plan without long-term commitment. The taxpayer funds should help to stabilize the program and let it become permanent.



▲ Details about the bike share program on a sign at a hub.



▲ Hamilton Bike Share hub at Emerson St. and Hamilton’s Rail Trail.



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SEEDING FOR Pollinators

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROSALEEN EGAN

Butterfly
Garden



A photograph of Julie Power standing in her front-yard native plant garden. She is wearing a blue tank top, a white cap, and sunglasses. The garden is filled with various native plants, including yellow Black-eyed Susans, purple flowers, and green foliage. In the background, there is a house with a brown roof and a utility tower.

Julie Power of Georgetown in her front-yard native plant garden. Last year, she initiated the 1000+ Pollinator Plant Project, giving 2,900 native plants to individuals and community groups.

Native plants, animals, insects, and birds are interdependent and sustain one another. The networks of individuals and organizations in Halton Hills bordering the Niagara Escarpment who are dedicated to nurturing nature have a similar synergy.



Creating native plant gardens, meadows and habitat to attract and sustain native species of bees, butterflies, and birds in communities and on personal property, are the groups Protect Our Water and Environmental Resources (POWER), Halton David Suzuki Butterflyway Rangers, Norval Community Association, Sustainable Milton and members in the Let's Nurture Nature-Halton

Hills Facebook group. One critical individual working in the background is Julie Power of Georgetown.

For years, Julie has been growing and sharing native plants and seedlings from her quarter-acre suburban property. In 2021 Julie initiated the 1,000+ Pollinator Plant Project to, as she says, "Seed the joy, peace and love found in nurturing nature, by creating habitat to support all the little souls with

whom we share the earth."

In 2013, Julie began to create a pollinator paradise in her 15-metre by 15-metre, or 50-foot by 50-foot sunny front yard. Her backyard is shaded and supports different plants than the front. She offered plants to everyone she knew or encountered, who would tell people, who would tell others. She only started giving away plants to organized groups in the last couple of years.

Thousands of Plants

The incredible success of the 1000+ Pollinator Plant Project proves the power of spreading the word. It far exceeded its original goal as she contributed 2,900 plants in 2021. Plants from Julie were added to more-than 100 new or existing gardens including: four parks, one school, one retirement home, four ecosystem restoration projects, one community garden, and the Happily Ever



▲ Julie Power's 15-metre-by-15-metre front garden hosts more than 60 native species including those shown here: Brown-eyed Susan, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Coneflower, Joe Pye Weed, *Liatris Ligulistylis*, Agastache, Butterfly Weed, Swamp Milkweed, New England Aster, Switchgrass and Violets.



▲ Individuals choosing native plants to bring home, freely given by Julie Power to attract and support pollinators.



▲ This roadside garden in Glen Williams is tended by Sandy Gillians. She is integrating and expanding an existing garden to include habitat for pollinators and native plants, some of which came from Julie Power. After four years, the property now supports about 60 per cent native plants and 40 per cent ornamentals.



▲ Sandy Gillians at her garden. She labels her plants to let curious passersby know what they are seeing, and as a way to promote pollinator gardens.

Esther Farm Sanctuary in Campbellville, world-famous for Esther the Wonder Pig.

Julie also suggested a planting design for the pollinator canoe native plant and shrub garden at McNab Park in Norval, giving plants for it and the Markham IBM pollinator canoe garden connected to the David Suzuki Butterflyway Project. Pollinator canoes were intended as a new use for old canoes, serving as planters, but have evolved to include new materials.

Julie says, “Although it’s been a lot of work, knowing I am making a small difference and the delight I see on people’s faces when I give them plants makes it all worth while.” She encourages people to share their resources and create more habitat.

POWER co-op student Julia Crean, who worked on the 1,000+ Pollinator Plant Project with Julie, says “It’s been an inspiring journey that has strengthened my connection to native plants and has introduced

me to amazing people in our community who are passionate about conservation. I will always look up to Julie as a role model and be grateful that she helped me take my first steps in conservation efforts.”

There are many people who are grateful, and the success of the project is a testament to Julie’s willingness to share her knowledge and dedication. It also reflects the growing public interest in supporting the propagation of native plants and the creatures they attract.

Powerful Pollinators

Pollinators are a diverse and varied group including bees, flies, butterflies, wasps, beetles, ants, moths and hummingbirds. We often hear of the decline of the non-native honeybee, yet some of Canada’s 800 species of native bees are threatened and declining.

According to davidsuski.org, “Insects are a key food source for birds and fish and play a vital role in forests and fields

as decomposers. They also ensure that plants and crops flourish. Over three-quarters of wild flowering plants and one-third of the food we eat depend on insect pollination.”

Many species can be supported by creating habitat, food and shelter right outside your door or in neighbourhood parks, and other outdoor suburban and urban environments. A large property is not needed.

Julie has documented more than 200 butterflies in various stages of development. She reports, “I’ve counted over 60 bumblebees at once in our front yard. Our garden supports over 100 pollinator species. Proof that one little native plant garden can make a huge difference.” She shares plants and seeds with other native plant enthusiasts to expand the number of species in her garden. One such friend, Sheri Lewis, has a quarter acre of land in Rockwood and 80 species of native plants. She is keen to encourage people to be stewards of their own property, whatever the size,

and thus cumulatively create acres of native gardens and meadows. She is also thrilled to have two species of at-risk bumble bees, the Tri-Coloured and the Brown-belted Bumble Bee. She says, “If you plant it, they will come.”

To be able to give away as many plants as she does, Julie gathers seeds from her existing plants in the fall. She explains the process: “Fill pots with soil, toss in seeds, cover with a bit of soil, label and leave outside. Most native species here require cold stratification, which means they need freezing temperatures for a period before they will sprout. This prevents them sprouting at the wrong time of year. I dig up lots of plants from the garden too, and a few months later you can not even tell. They fill back in quickly. I try to give more mature plants to public projects where they will not be tended every day and are in threat of being trampled.”

A native plant garden creates habitat, and it’s also a thing of beauty both in varied



▲ Sheri Lewis in Julie's garden. Sheri and Julie Power are mutual supporters, contributing plants to each other's gardens and encouraging people to create pollinator gardens of any size.



▲ Katherine Shaw, a butterfly ranger with the Halton Butterflyway Project, cites one of the reasons for the project's success is the free plants from Julie's garden given to participants. In two years, the ongoing project has worked to develop 103 private gardens and 13 public gardens.



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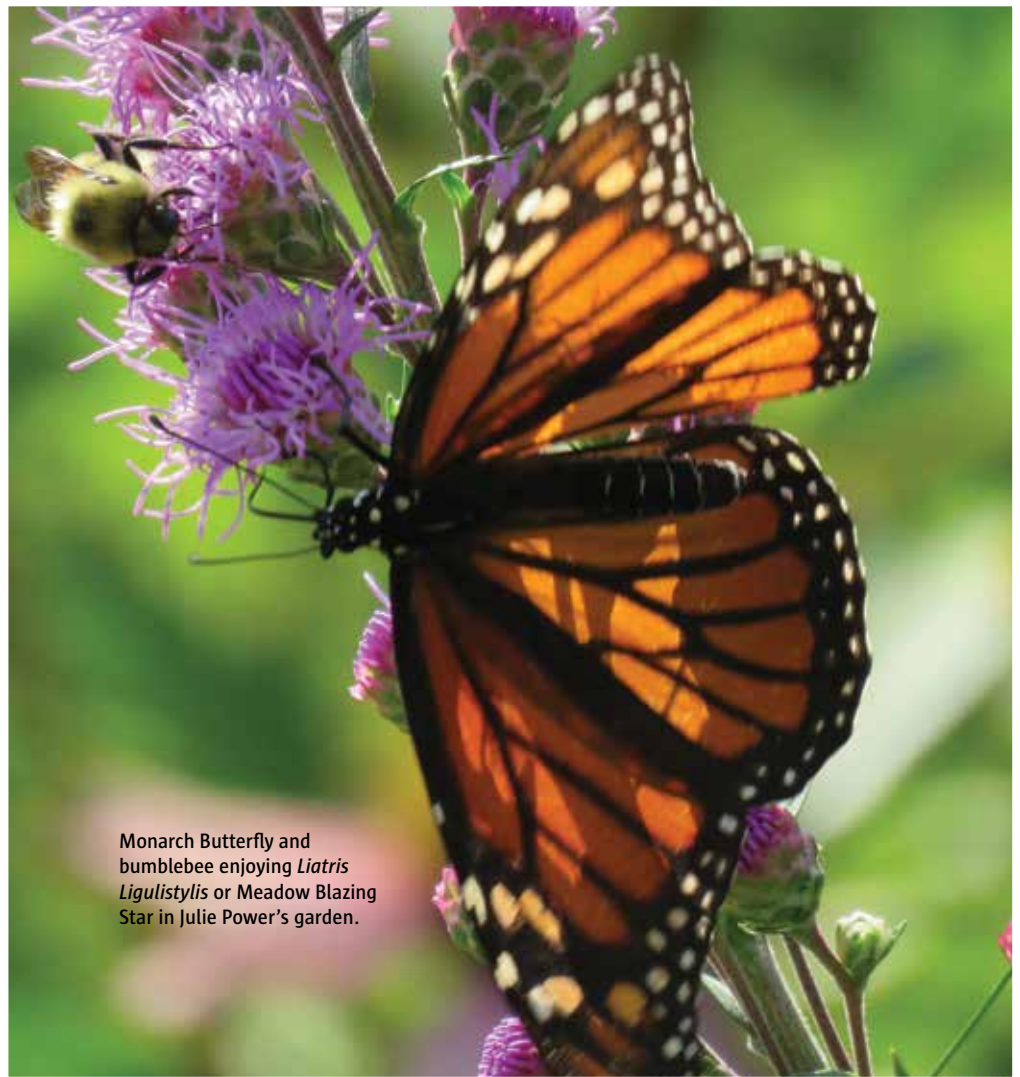
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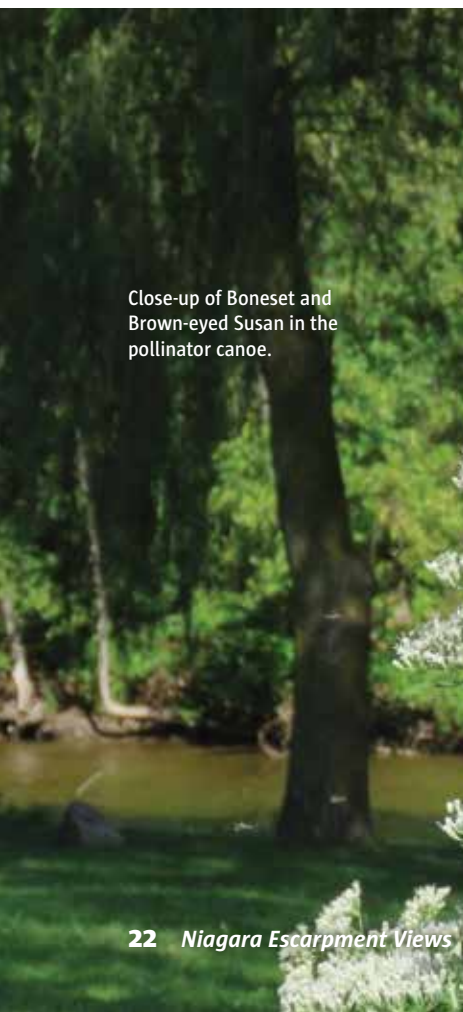
plant life and the life that it sustains. Julie's favourite butterfly, the Red Admiral, visits her on sunny summer evenings. She says "They will flutter all around us and continuously land on us and stay. It is one of the most magical experiences I look forward to in the summer."

To follow the ongoing 1000+ Pollinator Plant Project, share experiences and enjoy Julie's own beautiful photos of plants and pollinators visit Let's Nurture Nature-Halton Hills Facebook page and haltonhillsnature.com. **NEV**

Rosaleen Egan's last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Clearview's Fun Festivities for Fall" in Autumn 2019.



Monarch Butterfly and bumblebee enjoying *Liatris Ligulistylis* or Meadow Blazing Star in Julie Power's garden.



Close-up of Boneset and Brown-eyed Susan in the pollinator canoe.









▼ The pollinator canoe by the Credit River at McNab Park in Norval was made by metal artist Doris Treleven of Metalscape. It contains native plants used by First Nations in traditional medicinal uses. The Canada-wide David Suzuki Foundation Butterflyway Project suggests using old canoes as a creative way to add native plants to any landscape.



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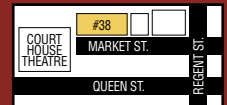
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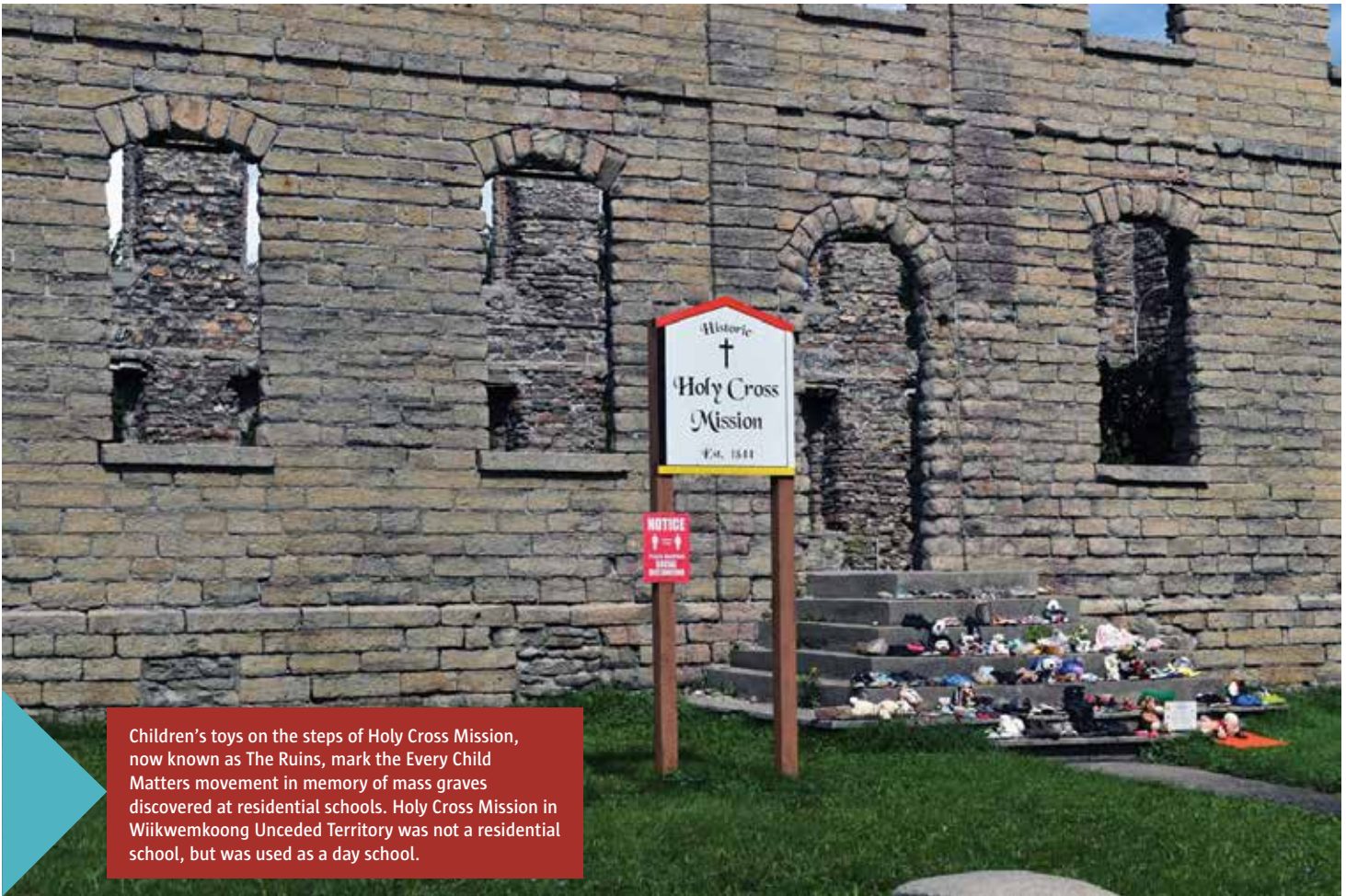


Some of the current and recent people involved with Debajimajig Theatre Group. From left, front row: Lorraine Bebamikawe, Mary Lou Manitowabi, Paige Allerton, Courtnee Osawabine, Tyler Pangowish, Cotnee Kaboni, Lynda Trudeau, Cecilia Pitawanakwat. From left in back row: Bruce Naokwegijig, Joahna Berti, David Osawabine, Samantha Brennen, David McDonald, Dustin Trudeau, Micheal Oshkabewisens, Carlos Garcia Estévez.

Debajehmujig Sharings



Storytelling has been the cornerstone of passing on history from one generation to another. When these words are put into action along with some creative music, you have summed up Debajehmujig Theatre Group on Manitoulin Island. The word “Debajehmujig” is pronounced “De-Boch-A-Mi-Gig,” which means educating and sharing with Native and non-Native people alike. In the Cree and Ojibway languages it simply means storytelling.



Children's toys on the steps of Holy Cross Mission, now known as The Ruins, mark the Every Child Matters movement in memory of mass graves discovered at residential schools. Holy Cross Mission in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory was not a residential school, but was used as a day school.

Founded in 1983 by Shirley Cheechoo of Cree Nation, who now resides in M'Chigeeng First Nation, Debajehmujig was begun so that Native people could hear and see their own views represented on stage. It is a unique theatre group, training centre and multi-art facility for both young and old. All newcomers, with little or no experience, are welcome to become part of the production. Productions are all family oriented and aimed towards the family. Debajehmujig is located in Manitowaning with the head office in Wiikwemkoong First Nation. All new personnel

are introduced to Sunny Oswanabie and Ashley Manitowabie who are the Knowledge Keepers of Debajehmujig. One of the first things newcomers are taught is the knowledge of the land, working with gardens and plants. Since COVID-19 started, Sunny has performed teachings online every Friday to keep those interested up to date on teachings. This way they can enjoy and learn in the comfort of their own home. The teachings are on how to respect Mother Earth and take pride in the land.

People of all walks of life are encouraged to attend any production in order to open their minds

and further understand an Anishinabe point of view.

Linda Trudeau is the executive general manager of Debajehmujig while Bruce Naokwegijig of the Odawa is the artistic director. Bruce has been involved with Debajehmujig since he was 11 years old. He learned to speak and write in his native language Ojibway.

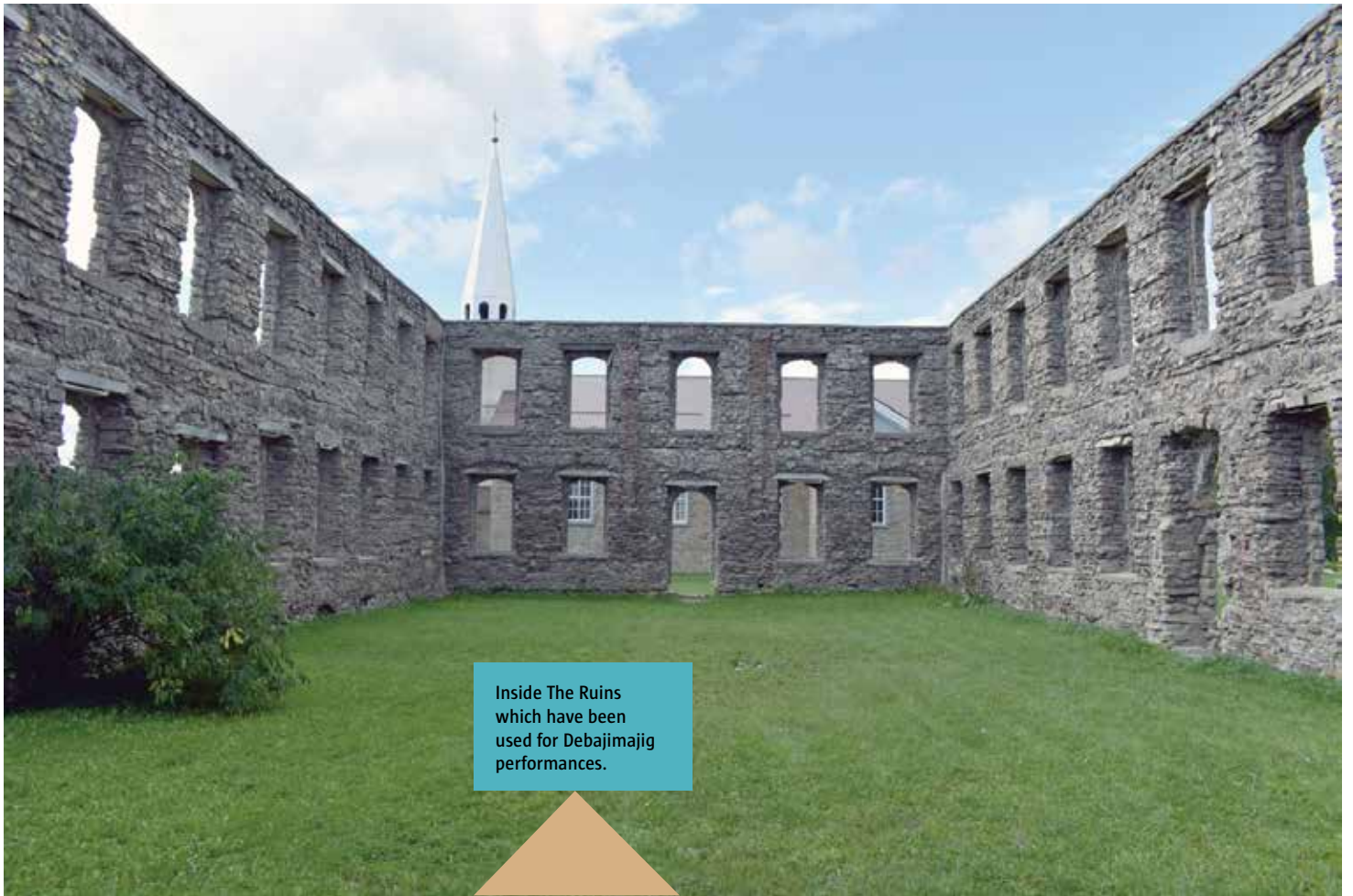
Sensitive Stories

"That sticks with me from this day on," Bruce says. "Stories are told every day and are very crucial to Indigenous culture. When we gather as a group or meet with friends there are stories being told that are educational and

also controversial." Before the pandemic Debajehmujig was working on the theme "The New Elders," which portrayed survivors of residential schools.

"This was a sensitive topic since we did not want to set off any triggers," adds Bruce. "The healing process and moving forward can take time so we have to start at the beginning, going back to our traditions, culture and spirituality. This was the message Debajehmujig was trying to restore as well as rejuvenate the inner spirit to move forward as an individual."

Debajehmujig also does commissioned performances, travels and performs for



Inside The Ruins
which have been
used for Debajimajig
performances.



Artistic
director Bruce
Naokwegijig.



Actors Michael Oshkawbewisens and Carlos Garcia Estevez, standing, while rehearsing “In the Name of Humanity.”



businesses. Having the studio on site is an added bonus, which allows Debajehmujig to host an outside group from anywhere. The media department consists of Jason Manitowabi, who runs the sound recording, Justin Deforge, who runs the video editing, and Chris Deforge, technical director and physical plant manager, who makes sure everything is operational.

Accommodations are also provided since Debajehmujig owns a fully furnished apartment next door along with a bachelor unit. In the past students would occupy the space but they have all moved on and since the pandemic there has been no use for the accommodations.

Debajehmujig creates shows for a specific purpose or strictly for entertainment. When new scripts are initially created, a brainstorming session occurs. Everyone

comments on a word. Then a scene is acted out with four or five actors on stage relating to specific themes. The group then plays exploratory games where they share anything relating to that particular theme. Referred to as vignettes, these games are sometimes demanding.

Summer Productions

July and August are the busiest for the group. An outdoor venue for summer productions is the Holy Cross Mission, known as “The Ruins,” located in Wiikwemkoong overlooking Wikwemikong Bay on Georgian Bay. The Ruins are recommended as a must-see place for newcomers.

Debajehmujig normally holds a two-week performance. There are “staple” events and there is the “Summer Mainstage” which used to be held at The Ruins. Unfortunately, because

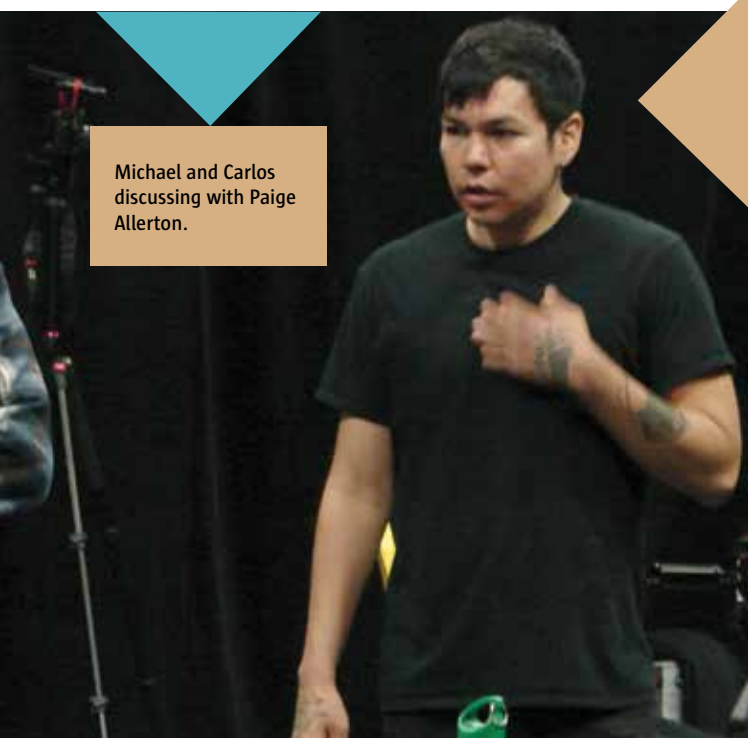
of safety issues, The Ruins has temporarily been out of service, but it is hoped that it will be restored in the near future. This summer, a production called “In the Name of Humanity” will be offered in Manitowaning.

Although Debajehmujig was mainly funded for theatre, there are many offshoots relating to music which is why everything can be accomplished right on site. There are also workshops that teach individuals the skills needed to enhance their ability to move forward in life. There is no cost to enter these workshops but they are planned in advance and may last up to a week or two. The workshops may include painting, drawing along with playing musical instruments to generate interest among those who attend.

Debajehmujig is a great place to collaborate and



Left, Michael Oshkawbewisens on the soundboard and David McDonald, both at work on "In the Name of Humanity."



Michael and Carlos discussing with Paige Allerton.

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The renovated exterior of Deabajemujig Creation Centre in Manitowaning was revealed last winter.



gain knowledge of cross-cultural understanding. To become involved you could join to become an educator, collaborator or assistant. There is also the chance you could end up being a performer.

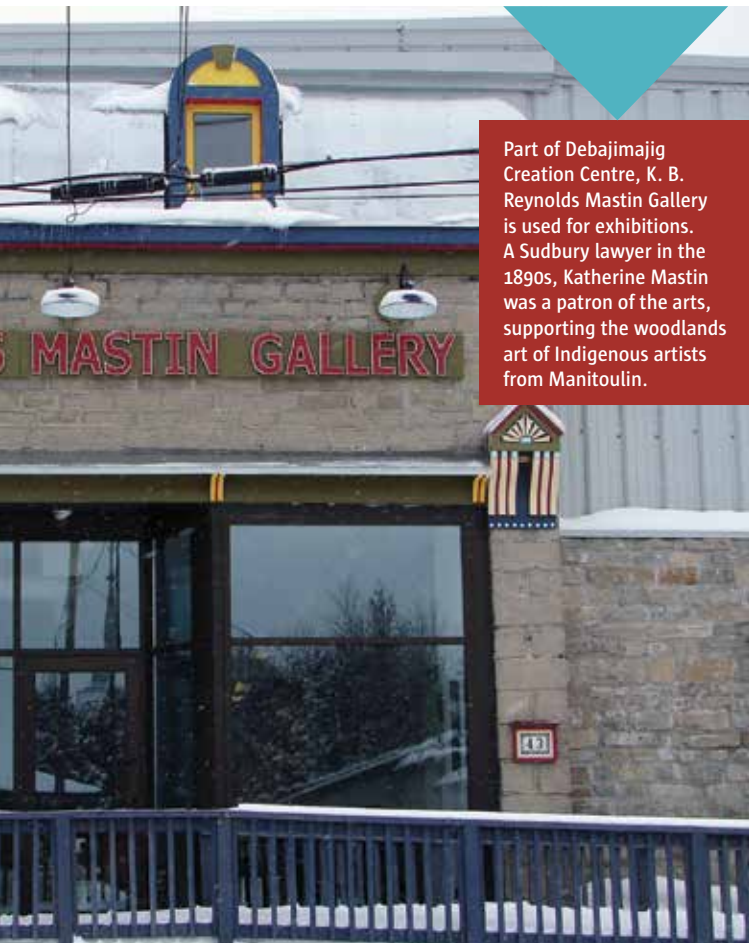
There are many ways to support Deabajemujig: simply by following their website Debaj.ca or on Instagram, Facebook and

YouTube. You can also donate at events if they are able to be held this summer. **NEV**

*Photographer, artist and graphic designer **Raymond Johns** is a member of the Ojibway First Nation who lives in Manitowaning. His last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was "Manitoulin Powwows," Summer 2021.*



Linda Trudeau, executive general manager.



Part of Debajimajig Creation Centre, K. B. Reynolds Mastin Gallery is used for exhibitions. A Sudbury lawyer in the 1890s, Katherine Mastin was a patron of the arts, supporting the woodlands art of Indigenous artists from Manitoulin.



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Dundas Peak on the Niagara Escarpment, lit by the
setting sun on the summer solstice. BY MIKE DAVIS.

*From Views & Vistas: Favourite Photographs
from the Whole Niagara Escarpment in Canada
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EARTH BOUND GARDENS
Five Acres to

Explore

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT
PHOTOGRAPHED BY MIKE DAVIS

Seeing Earth Bound Gardens in Red Bay on the Bruce Peninsula in July, rewards the visitor with stunning displays of blooming daylilies in vast garden beds. There are more than 950 different daylilies grown here. But this is only one of their achievements. These gardens also specialize in plants that are native to Ontario.



Brenda Sutherland kneeling among the glory of just one of the Daylily fields.

Begun in 2008, Earth Bound Gardens has been a labour of love for Judy Larkin and John Close as well as Brenda Sutherland. Brenda describes their commitment: “We are three friends who have shared a common passion for gardening, and a vision of integrating that passion into a way of life for more than 30 years. The joy of being able to live, work and grow on this land and share our knowledge and gardens with the public has been ongoing.”

Why Daylilies

Judy explains their specialization in daylilies this way: “As we were planting our first gardens, we were looking for plants that would have a presence in our rather ambitious layout. We were on the hunt for hardy plants, that put on a show, would survive and thrive in our very sandy soil and require little care.

“The first cultivars that we put in were some of the most popular and commonly available at the time, Catherine Woodbury, Frans Hal, Rocket City and lemon lily or *Hemerocallis Lilioaphodelus*. They were great and did exactly what we wanted. They were dependable, pretty and tough!

“As our gardens expanded, so did our collection of daylilies and our awareness of just how many beautiful flowers were out there waiting for a space in our garden. It seems many other people loved them too. Daylilies became one of our best sellers, and attracted more visitors to the garden. One of these visitors introduced me to the Ontario Daylily Society. I began attending meetings and that was that. I was officially hooked! Our collection grew and expanded to include the back field propagating bed which now



◀ Looking deep into the stamens of Dear Prudence.



► The Daylily called Dance Til Dawn in one of the display beds.



◀ Jersey Spider has an unusual shape to its petals.

► Total Eclipse has the most dramatic colour.





▲ Red Mulberry is native to Ontario. Birds and humans love its berries.



▲ A vast array of Daylilies in pots available for sale. Earth Bound Gardens' plants are a generous size.

is home to over 500 plants!"

Daylilies are easy to grow, say these experts. They want full sun to part shade and regular moisture in soil that drains well. They enjoy bone meal when transplanted and when the warm season begins. When large, they can easily be divided.

In the case of unusual colours of daylilies, one surprising tip is to "remove

spent flowers," as Brenda says, "to prevent plants self-hybridizing to the dominant colour of yellow or orange."

Judy adds that daylilies don't need to be cut back in the fall, but dead foliage should be removed in the spring to keep the plants healthy.

As for the Orange Daylily, or *Hemerocallis Fulva*, although it can be

seen growing wild, it isn't native. It is an escapee from gardens and is considered an invasive species by some people. Trying to remove it from a cultivated garden can be quite an exercise in persistence, as it will regrow from a small part of root.

Daylily flowers only last for one day, although the plant can put out new flowers for weeks. Some

are even repeat bloomers. There are no daylilies that are native to Canada.

Daylilies are not to be confused with lilies, some of which are native to Ontario. True lilies are grown from bulbs, grow on single stems and have flowers that last for several days. The lilies that are native to Ontario are Michigan Lilies, Wood Lilies and Canada Lilies.

Favourite Daylily Appetizer

BY BRENDA SUTHERLAND

PHOTO PROVIDED BY EARTH BOUND GARDENS



All *Hemerocallis* (Daylilies) have edible flowers. They are crunchy and slightly sweet. The thicker the petals the better. Because the flowers only last a day, you can enjoy them knowing they have been enjoyed in yet another way before finishing their show! You can pick your colour and create a gorgeous starter salad. We put a layer of lettuce as the base, preferring a Buttercrunch variety if possible. A large slice of tomato or several small slices as per availability comes next, then a larger-sized Daylily blossom, stamens removed. The blossom is stuffed with a basil or marjoram-infused cream cheese after finely chopping the herb of preference into the cream cheese. Drizzle balsamic glaze over the blossom and tomato. If available, tuck in a blossom or two from a Nasturtium.



▲ A tall, healthy stand of Joe Pye Weed grows in the display gardens.

Native Plants

Judy has been interested in native plants her whole life. When Earth Bound Gardens opened, Brenda, John and she began learning about the native plants of South Bruce Peninsula.

“So many are rare or endangered,” says Judy. “People wanted Lady Slippers and Orchids. I was discouraged that they were

being dug out of the wild.”

Judy maintains that there’s a native plant for every use, but first, she urges people to know where the plants are coming from.

“Get to know the growers,” she advises. “Are they really native plants? We want to preserve Ontario’s natives.” The type of garden they’re intended for is critical. A lakefront property, a



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In addition to Common Milkweed, shown here, Swamp Milkweed and Butterfly Weed are available. Native Milkweed is an important host for butterflies.



▲ Wild Bergamot, also called Bee Balm, growing near Milkweed.

pollinator garden, a formal garden, can all be perfect for different natives.

“We love to help people with their needs,” adds Judy. “You should know your garden condition, type of soil and moisture level. Native plants attract pollinators and animals better than cultivated plants.”

Earth Bound Gardens has an extensive supply of native plants, around 95 different varieties. Many natives are established in their five-acre touring garden, open to the public, and the plants demonstrate how they may look when mature. The owners have a special dedication to Bruce Peninsula plants and have much knowledge to share. Plants may be bought from their greenhouses and the outdoor areas of the garden centre.

“Native plants are less work,” Judy points out. “They tend to be hardier and have less disease. Don’t be afraid of planting native plants. Every native plant we can get into the ground helps the environment.” **NEV**

For more information about Earth Bound Gardens see www.EarthBoundGardens.com.



▲ The rare and endangered Hart's-tongue Fern, a perennial evergreen fern, grows abundantly in shaded forests in the wild on the Bruce Peninsula.



▲ One of the greenhouses at Earth Bound Gardens, which grows native plants from seeds that are sustainably sourced.

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Saving Nottawasaga LIGHTHOUSE

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY SANDRA J. HOWE

Nottawasaga Lighthouse protected ships from dangerous shoals at Collingwood harbour, since 1858. The lighthouse is wrapped in protective plastic tarp, awaiting restoration. The island is off limits without special permission.



From the top of the Niagara Escarpment on the Blue Mountains near Collingwood, the view over Nottawasaga Bay is spectacular. Turquoise waters sparkle in the sunlight. A series of islands is visible along the coast. The largest is Nottawasaga Island, and its lighthouse still rises proudly at the northern tip. The tower gleams white but is in serious trouble. Without the help of the Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society, this beautiful historic structure will be lost forever.

In the mid-1800s, marine traffic was thriving on Georgian Bay and the Great Lakes. European settlement was forcing First Nations peoples further north. Rail lines were connecting communities across what is now southern Ontario. Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries were developing. Economies were booming, and goods and services were in high demand. Most people and goods still travelled by water, and shipwrecks were an increasing issue with loss of life and merchandise. The need for navigational aids became very clear. It was time to build lighthouses.

Nottawasaga Lighthouse was one of the first lighthouses built on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. Called Imperial Towers, they were built between 1855 and 1859 by John Brown, a wealthy stonemason and quarry operator from Thorold in the Niagara Region. Limestone cut from the Niagara Escarpment was shipped to each site in huge blocks, shaped by hand, and lifted into place for the massive stone towers and accompanying homes. The work proved more difficult than expected with shipwrecks, construction delays, and costs far over budget. Of the 11 towers planned, only six were completed: Point Clark, Chantry Island, Cove Island, Griffith Island, Nottawasaga Island, and Christian Island. Most later lighthouses were built of wood, a more manageable material.

Collingwood's Guardian

Nottawasaga Lighthouse was first lit in 1858 to mark the dangerous shoals leading into Collingwood harbour. Collingwood, first known as Hen and Chickens for the shape of its local islands, was



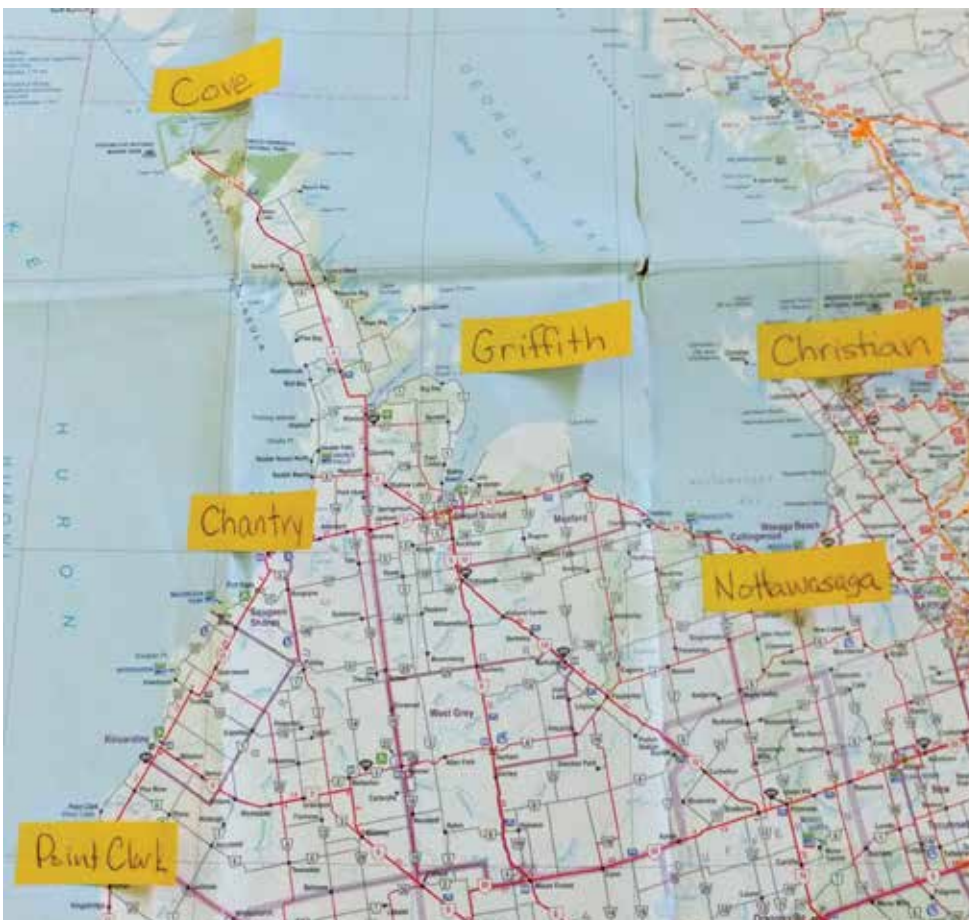
▲ The view across Nottawasaga Bay from the summit of Blue Mountain Ski Resort on the Niagara Escarpment near Collingwood. Nottawasaga Island and Lighthouse are visible at the centre of the photo.



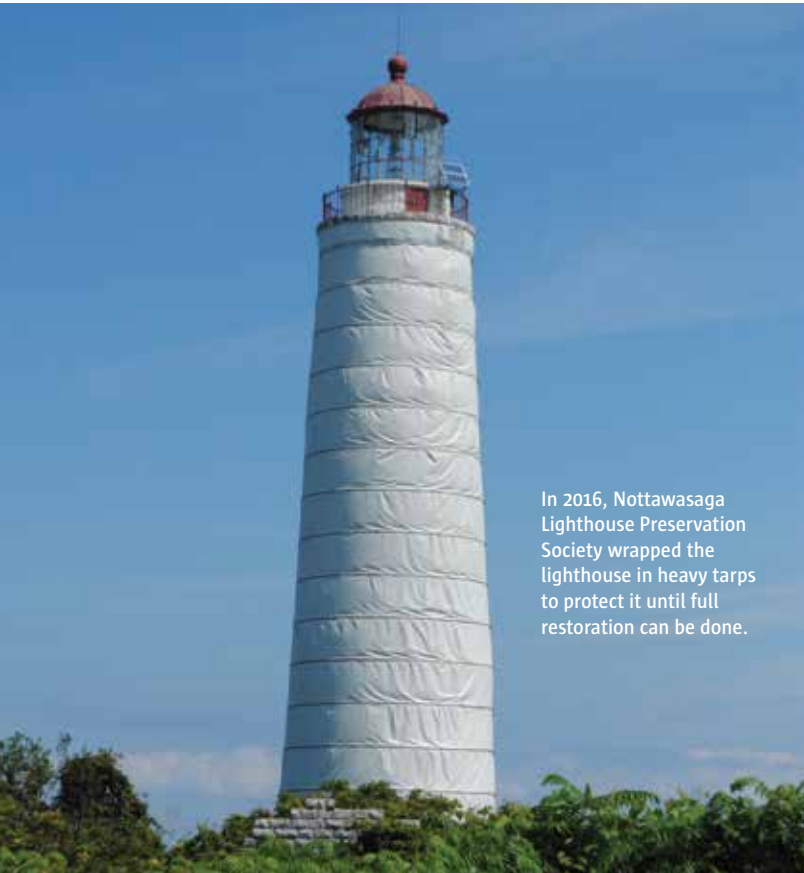
► Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society members in the lighthouse lantern room atop the tower, from left, Robert Square, Stephen Emo, Andrew Karsgaard.



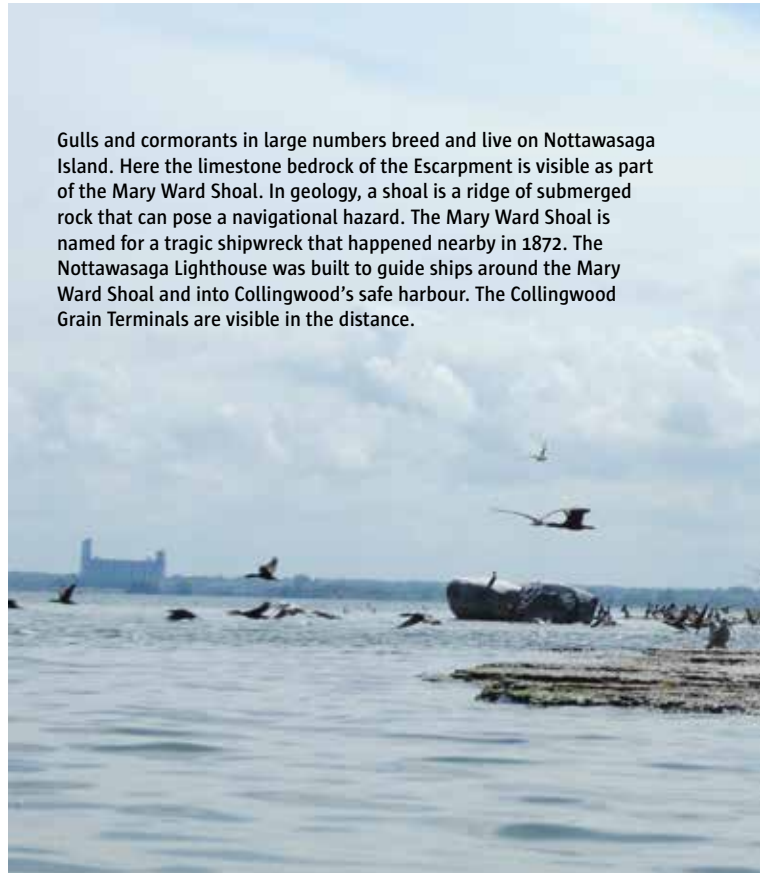
▲ Dennis Stier of Southampton kayaks near Nottawasaga Island. To the west the Escarpment rises inland from Craileith in the Town of Blue Mountains.



◀ Road map showing locations of the six Imperial Tower Lighthouses built on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay between 1855 and 1859. All are still standing, and Point Clark and Chantry Island are fully restored and open to the public.



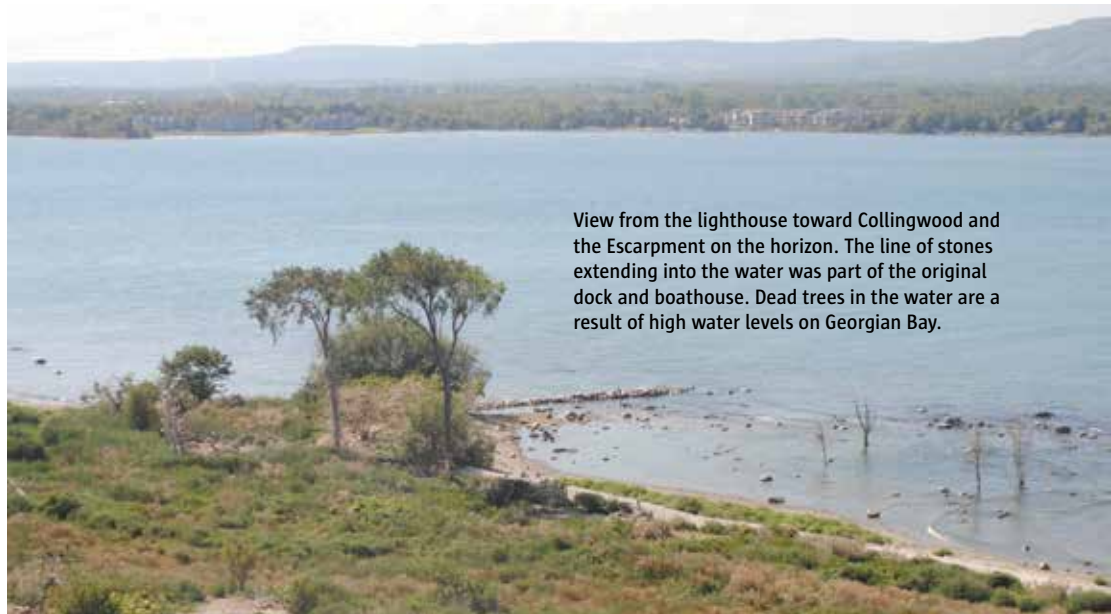
In 2016, Nottawasaga Lighthouse Preservation Society wrapped the lighthouse in heavy tarps to protect it until full restoration can be done.



Gulls and cormorants in large numbers breed and live on Nottawasaga Island. Here the limestone bedrock of the Escarpment is visible as part of the Mary Ward Shoal. In geology, a shoal is a ridge of submerged rock that can pose a navigational hazard. The Mary Ward Shoal is named for a tragic shipwreck that happened nearby in 1872. The Nottawasaga Lighthouse was built to guide ships around the Mary Ward Shoal and into Collingwood's safe harbour. The Collingwood Grain Terminals are visible in the distance.

incorporated in the same year. It was fast becoming a major shipping port and railroad terminus. With the arrival of a railroad in 1855, people and products could travel quickly between Toronto on Lake Ontario and Collingwood with all points beyond. This was a great boon to development around the Great Lakes and western Canada.

Guarding the waters, Nottawasaga Lighthouse served faithfully for almost 150 years. Her resident lightkeepers were famous for their daring rescues. Captain George Collins, lightkeeper from 1860 to 1890, and his son and assistant, Charles, are credited with saving 52 lives during their careers. Several other lightkeepers also won medals and honours for their selfless service. Three women are listed as lightkeepers who took over duties when their husbands died or were absent. The life of a lightkeeper was difficult, isolated, but had its rewards. In 1959, the light was automated and a fire damaged the keeper's cottage.



View from the lighthouse toward Collingwood and the Escarpment on the horizon. The line of stones extending into the water was part of the original dock and boathouse. Dead trees in the water are a result of high water levels on Georgian Bay.

Without resident lightkeepers, vandals destroyed the cottage and it was eventually demolished. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) continued to operate the lighthouse as a solar-powered navigational beacon.

Lightning Struck

By 2003, DFO had decided to quit servicing Nottawasaga

Lighthouse. The tower structure was deemed unsafe for work crews. Lightning struck the tower in 2004 causing a large section of the limestone exterior wall to collapse. Fortunately, Imperial Towers have thick, double walls and the lighthouse remains structurally sound but badly damaged. Community outcry prompted DFO and

the Canadian Coast Guard to install metal bands around the tower in 2006. This has helped prevent further collapse but is only a temporary solution. Community members in Collingwood and surrounding areas began coming together in 2013 to explore ways of saving their beloved lighthouse. The Nottawasaga Lighthouse



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▲ This is the kind of light that was previously used in the Nottawasaga Island Lighthouse. An original Second-Order Fresnel Lens, this one is on display at Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre in Southampton. All Ontario lighthouses now have solar-powered, electric light beacons.

Preservation Society (NLPS) was incorporated in 2015.

“The Nottawasaga Lighthouse is an iconic structure of Collingwood,” says NLPS chair Stephen Emo. “It is part of our heritage and should be preserved.”

In 2016, NLPS wrapped the whole lighthouse in heavy tarping to further protect it until full restoration can be undertaken. That cannot happen until DFO hands over ownership of Nottawasaga Lighthouse and Island to the community. NLPS connects almost weekly with DFO to move this transfer forward but bureaucracy moves slowly. There is significant environmental contamination on the site which must be addressed before transfer.

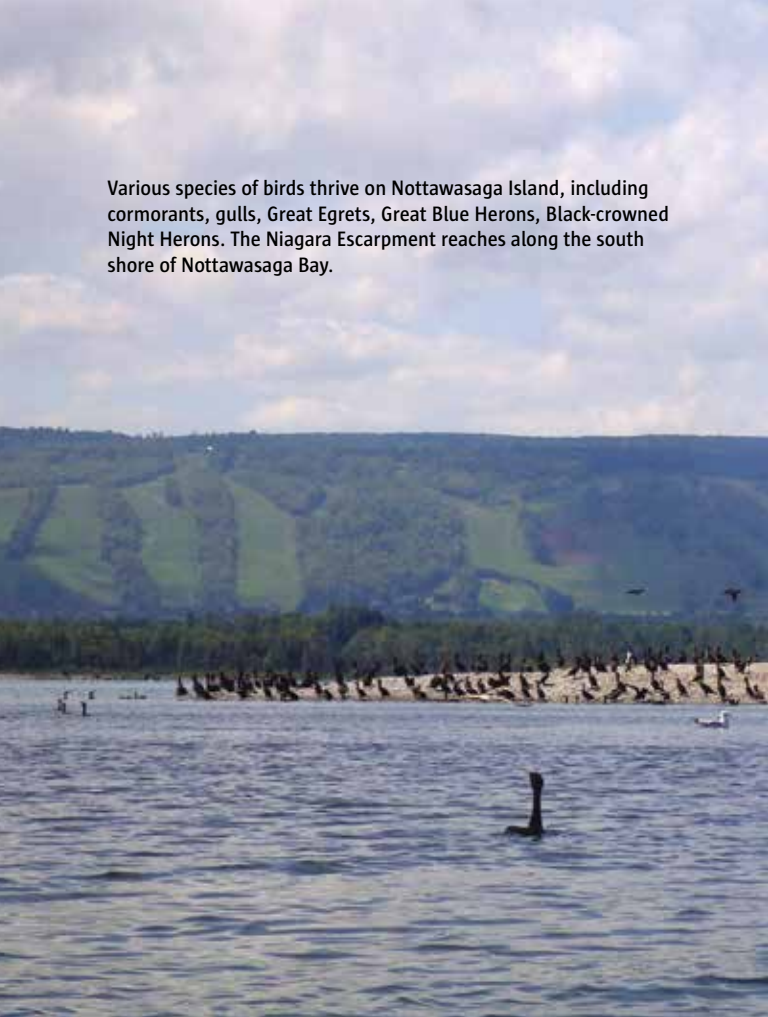
Stephen says, “NLPS could move this cleanup forward in the most efficient and cost-effective way,” but so far

DFO has not agreed. And so the lighthouse stands, precariously, in limbo.

Protecting the Lighthouse

The 2020 and 2021 seasons have been challenging for NLPS’s public awareness and fundraising efforts. With in-person gatherings limited or cancelled, usual events like the annual BBQ and regular displays at farmers’ markets and other venues have not occurred. One huge win for 2021 was signing an agreement to work together with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) to protect the ecology of Nottawasaga Island and surrounding waters.

These lands and waters are part of traditional territory of the SON. The name “Nottawasaga” comes from an Algonquin phrase meaning “the Iroquois are at the mouth of the river” because Iroquois



Various species of birds thrive on Nottawasaga Island, including cormorants, gulls, Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons. The Niagara Escarpment reaches along the south shore of Nottawasaga Bay.

raiding parties came down the Nottawasaga River to attack indigenous communities along southern Georgian Bay. Nottawasaga Island is part of the Mary Ward Shoal, an important spawning ground for Lake Whitefish which is a major ecological, cultural, and commercial resource for the SON. Nottawasaga Island is also home to a vast array of bird species: Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, cormorants, and various gull species. Any lighthouse work must protect the ecological heritage of the island and waters.

Today, the Nottawasaga Lighthouse is in need of help to continue standing proud. Robert Square, vice-chair of NLPS and a long-time lighthouse advocate, says, “Within 10 years, I hope to see the lighthouse and keeper’s cottage fully rebuilt. Visitors

would arrive in controlled numbers for guided tours. The lighthouse, birds, fish, and environment would be well protected. You can help now by joining NLPS, liking us on social media, donating and volunteering, talking to MPs, MPPs, and government officials, and advocating for this important part of our history.”

For more information, see nlps.info. **NEV**

For another feature about this island, see Albert Bedward’s “Staying Alive: Safe Winter Kayaking from Collingwood to Nottawasaga Island,” in Winter 2020-21.

Sandra J. Howe’s last feature for Niagara Escarpment Views was “Winter Journey Through Time at Kemble,” in Winter 2021-22.

Both these features are available at NEViews.ca.




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St. Alban's Garden of Pollinators

Photographed by
Chris Miller

St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church in Acton has a pollinator garden thanks to Pam Sheldon, a member of the church's Greening 4 God committee, who a few years ago applied for a Takla Foundation grant with the help of Credit Valley Conservation's Greening Corporate Grounds initiative, and was awarded \$10,000.

Creating the garden began in 2020 when Ben Rowley and Noah Varju of Hometown Landscapes Construction in Acton, carved out the beds across the southern and western edges of the church. Church members joined them in planting and watering native pollinator varieties. A few birds and butterflies have been spotted in the garden.

In 2021, the second year, Milton's Sean James Consulting & Design's team designed and added a rain garden to direct water away from the basement into two stone-filled channels with native plants.

"These two local companies did wonderful work for our project," notes Pam. "The goal of our work was to honour all God's creatures and to build the gardens in an environmentally positive way, hence, the rain gardens and all natives. All God's creatures include all living things, birds, bees, butterflies, beneficial insects, plants, and trees. Our second goal was to reach out to the community with a restful place to walk by, sit on our benches and just take in the peaceful surroundings."

This year Pam hopes to add a bench carved from a tree and a seed library to share with the public.

*With files from
Gayle Withers-Miller.*



▲ Planting begins in the garden.



A finished bed, planted and mulched.



▲ A small bench welcomes visitors to sit near the birdbath and birdhouses.



◀ A sign reads "All God's Creatures" near a vine-covered trellis.



▲ Davis Anders, left, and Dalton Poelmann, both part of Sean James Consulting's team, at work in a large bed.



▼ Taking a break from gardening, Gayle Withers-Miller, left, and Pam Sheldon.



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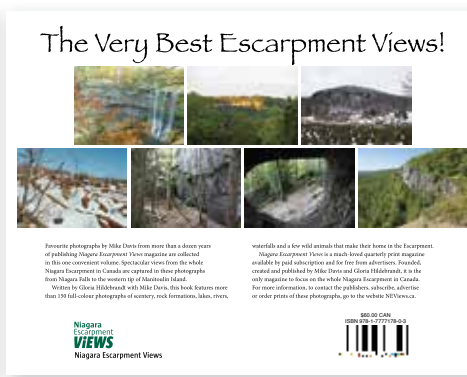
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Hidden Benefits of Conserving the Escarpment

By Bob Barnett

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) is starting our 25th year. We have 45 Niagara Escarpment properties protected with 5,500 acres (23 sq km). I remember hiking my first Bruce Trail end to end in 1986 with our young family. We absorbed the sights of Raccoons, Hawks and snakes, the rain and spectacular views that the kids ran toward, scaring us. It made us a family unit that is strong today, 35 years later. That started me conserving land, first for the Bruce Trail and now for the Conservancy. It deflected me from my architectural career to the extent that I'm now the anti-architect: protecting land from buildings.

It's hard to determine which reasons for protecting land are most important. How can we balance these "hidden" benefits against the municipal race to add new property taxes?

1. Ontario, Canada and 193 countries are striving to protect 30 per cent of our land, especially in areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services and to prevent the extinction of known threatened species. The Escarpment has a very high concentration of rare, threatened and endangered species. We have now identified 70 species of conservation concern on our reserves. Nature provides value by removing pollutants from our air and water and preventing floods. EBC's 208 reserves protect \$35 million of such services annually. But we never see that money. The value of nature's services is rarely included in the cost/benefit of projected development.

2. Connectivity is extremely important and not just for the Bruce Trail. Species depend on getting from one property over the fence to next door. Buildings, roads, lights and people break that flow. Birds can fly over and around barriers, but plants and many animals aren't so lucky. The Niagara Escarpment Plan defined a continuous natural feature and that has brought economic health to communities from Queenston to Tobermory.

3. Grey County is developing a climate action plan. There must be two dimensions for any climate plan to succeed: reducing carbon and absorbing it. EBC suggested Grey County emphasize the importance of protecting our mature trees which absorb so much carbon. Only 15 per cent of harvested wood lasts 100 years while almost half is designated for immediate disposal as toilet paper and other household uses. EBC has sequestered 733,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in our trees so far. We've only managed to monetize about \$500,000 for that removal. We must both reduce carbon use and absorb it to stave off the crisis which is already here. We must adapt to more heat, floods and winds. Trees and wetlands mitigate those problems.

4. The Bruce Trail brings hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Escarpment. EBC owns half of the park at Heathcote, just down the Beaver River. The next river over is the Bighead. There we now own the Trout Hollow reserve where John Muir lived while in Canada. We know that



View from Cup & Saucer Trail on Manitoulin Island. PHOTO COURTESY OF CLEMENTPHOTOGRAPHY.CA

with Beautiful Joe Park and the conservation authority lands in Meaford, we host thousands of people every year. What is our Cup and Saucer trail on Manitoulin's Escarpment worth as it brings 20,000 visitors a year?

5. For 50 years, academic literature has shown that seeing nature reduces one's time to recover from illness or injury. There have been dozens of books written about how time in nature improves both mental and physical health. The Japanese call it *Shin Rikyo* while locally some call it forest bathing, but I can personally testify that my time in nature is healthful. And it's not just exercise which creates better health, it is seeing the birds and animals and the views. Just thinking about nature makes many worries disappear. What's that worth? How many people stay out of hospital or take fewer drugs or cause fewer crimes? Does the government value the reduced need for services or the insurance industry reward us for saving lives? Not directly, or even indirectly, I think.

6. Early in my conservation career a journalist asked why I do it. I responded, "So my grandchildren can appreciate what I grew up with." People want nature, animals, trees, birds and plants and are often willing to pay for it. We raised \$1.7 million to save Heaven's Gate last spring when people saw the potential to protect the mountains, lakes painted by the Group of Seven.

Accountants call the type of things I've listed above as "externalities" because they consider them in a different league or "external" to financial consideration. Property tax revenue will beat out the well-being of residents, tourists and the needs of the broader community in municipal decision making until we have a better decision model. Somehow, we have to build these factors into economic impact studies. We have values from books and academic studies. We need new rules forcing decision makers to use them.

Bob Barnett is executive director of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and can be reached at 888.815.9575 or through www.escarpment.ca.

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Strawberry Cobbler

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

Ingredients

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

Directions

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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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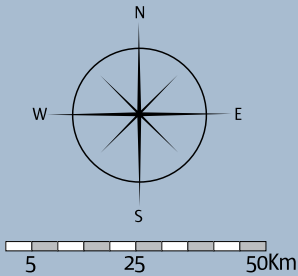
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