

# Did The Queen Sleep Here?



**P**ublishing this magazine for the last 15 years has often included some lucky accidents. Stories that we are considering doing sometimes fall easily and unexpectedly into place. So it was with our feature “Royal Retreat,” about The Queen’s 1973 visit to the Escarpment.

When I heard that The Queen had died, I began remembering a rumour that The Queen had once stayed at a stately farm north of Georgetown. Basic research didn’t bring a result and we didn’t know how to investigate this. As a long shot, I emailed Mark Rowe, a historian for the area of Georgetown and north Halton. Did he know if this rumour was true?

Not only could he confirm this, he had written a report a few years ago that includes

this fact. He knows which farm it was, when The Queen visited and who the current property owners are. It was natural to ask Mark to write about this for us.

So it was, that on the day that The Queen’s coffin was passing through London to Westminster Hall, that Mark, Mike Davis and I visited Rolling Hills Farm on a mission to find out more about Her Majesty’s visit, including whether she slept there.

## This Anniversary Issue

Another story we present this time is an exploration of Bird Kingdom in Niagara Falls, where the most spectacular tropical birds shake their tail feathers in a magnificent permanent jungle-like home. There are also some exotic reptiles and amphibians that have a safe refuge here. Conservation and education are a big part of the mission.

Sandra J. Howe takes us cross-country skiing at Highlands Nordic, an impressive ski resort in the Escarpment at Duntroon. Fun family skiing, serious racing and even night skiing can all be enjoyed here before the rewards of *après-ski*.

We’re also helping to celebrate another 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, that of the community festival Light Up the Hills of Georgetown, Glen Williams and Acton. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> winter of lighting displays brightening

up the darkest weeks and commemorating loved ones. Volunteers and sponsors have worked to make this annual event free and available for all to enjoy.

It was 15 years ago that Mike Davis and I started this magazine, publishing the premier issue in January 2008, at the time under the name of *Escarpment Views*. While other magazines have folded permanently, including some that I used to edit or write for, we have managed to do well, despite the challenges of ad sales and distribution to a very large geographic area, a name change to *Niagara Escarpment Views*, and the COVID pandemic. Of course there have been some disappointments. Yet we have not wanted to give up. We have also been amazed, heartened and encouraged by the flood of cards, letters, phone calls and gifts we receive from you, our readers and subscribers.

## Three Big Successes

Over the last 15 years we’ve had three successes that we’re very proud of. The first is this magazine itself. It is increasingly recognized and well received, both by the large number of advertisers, most of them repeat customers, from all along the Escarpment in Canada, and also by our growing number of loyal, paying subscribers.

The second is our

photography book *Views & Vistas*. Completing it and publishing it has been a significant achievement for us. Having it sell steadily is what we hoped for. Having a retailer tell us “It’s selling better than expected” is gratifying.

The third accomplishment is the establishment of the Hildebrandt + Davis Nature Park, which recognizes a conservation easement recently placed on my family’s rural property, achieved through Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC). This leads me to do something I don’t normally do: comment on an advertisement. But the EBC ad on page 17 this time mentions me by name, thanking me for my work on this magazine, for the perpetual gift of the conservation easement, and for helping to conserve a part of Ontario. I am, of course, only one of many landowners who have protected property through EBC. I encourage others to consider doing this as well. In addition to the great personal satisfaction that comes, there can be significant financial benefits. To find out more, contact EBC at 888.815.9575.


*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](mailto:editor@NEViews.ca) or  
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## More Online!

 Keep in touch with Escarpment news between issues at our website. We have unique content not seen in the magazine, and you can leave comments in response. See [www.NEViews.ca](http://www.NEViews.ca).

 *Niagara Escarpment Views* is on Facebook as: [www.facebook.com/N.E.Views](http://www.facebook.com/N.E.Views)