

READERS & VIEWERS



I very much enjoy reading NEViews. The article "Farmland to Sprawl" [Summer 2023] clearly outlines the Ontario Government's failure to protect our natural environment and the disregard for the public response to Bill 23. Encouraging that the government is taking an initial step to protect Ontario's farmland [by not moving forward with

the proposal on rural lot severances]. Let's hope the plans to meet Ontario's housing needs keep the impact on our natural environment a top priority. We do not need more sprawl.

Norman Wingrove, Collingwood

This is just a chatty note to let you know how much I enjoyed the latest issue of NEV. Did you write it especially for me?? I received my subscription copy and sat down to read it cover to cover -

1! There was a lovely picture of irises on the RBG ad - I had just been there!

2! My daughter lives in Owen Sound and we know Kelso Beach -we saw the start of the Reconciliation garden -must return to see it again.

3! I have met Beth Gilhespy several times, I love her enthusiasm and

have enjoyed her hikes.

4! Big Tub Harbour -last summer we took the Chi-Cheemaun to Manitoulin.

5! We stayed at Bridal Veil Variety -one of your advertisers.

6! Visited Sheguiandah Bay -see photo. (me playing Don Pettigrew's Waltz "Sheguiandah Bay" at Sheguiandah Bay) (did not get see the trail but got to Wiikwemkoong and hiked several other trails)

7. Amazing, on p 56 there's a photo of Knox Church in Georgetown where our daughters were both married!

8. Back to page 8. I was looking for a dessert to offer guests and used the Foodland recipe!!

Thanks for the memories. I look forward, as always, to the next issue.

Anne Harrison, Oakville



I have enjoyed the Summer Copy. As always, the photography is so good, especially the centre fold.

Myrna Kurtz, Burlington



I noticed in your Summer 2023 issue page 12 Leonard Beam "Images of Power from a Couple of Cultures" the depiction of "Bison" looks like Musk Oxen to me!!

Dennis Wood, Greensville/Dundas



Hmm, I found it a little off-putting to begin reading an article, "Grimsby Bench", in which the author, Ashley Brown, describes the "bench" as "atop" the Niagara Escarpment. Actually, the "benches" (Beamsville, Twenty Mile and Shorthills) are below the crest of the escarpment. See «Topography» here; <https://winecountryontario.ca/region/niagara-escarpment-area/>.

Rob Stevens, email



knap and I was never very successful.

Peter Storck, author of Journey to the Ice Age

The article on the trail at Sheguiandah is very interesting, particularly the comments about the tour guide/flintknapper. That quartzite is very tough to

To celebrate your 15 years of Niagara Escarpment Views, I have renewed a 2 year subscription. Way to keep up the fight for our environment and nature!

John Moss, Conestogo

Niagara Escarpment News – Simply The Best!! Here's to two more years of reading enjoyment.

Mary Hubert, Caledonia



Apple Pie Cookies

Prep Time: 10 min. | Total Time: 2 h. | Makes: 16 Cookies

Ingredients

- 2½ cups All-Purpose Flour, plus more for filling and dusting (625 mL)
- 3 tbsp Sugar (45 mL)
- 1½ tsp Ground Cinnamon, divided (7 mL)
- ¼ tsp Salt, divided (4 mL)
- 1 cup Cold Unsalted Butter, cut into small cubes (250mL)
- 4 cups Apples, peeled, cored, finely diced (about 4 apples, 1 L)
- 3 tbsp Light Brown Sugar, firmly packed (45 mL)
- 1 tbsp Lemon Juice (15 mL)
- 1 Egg, beaten

Directions

1. In food processor, combine 2 1/2 cups (625 mL) flour, sugar, 1/2 tsp (2 mL) cinnamon and 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt. Pulse until blended. Add butter and pulse until mixture resembles coarse meal. Add 1/4 cup (60 mL) cold water and pulse just until dough forms and holds together when squeezed between fingers. If mixture is too crumbly, pulse in 1 tbsp (15 mL) cold water at a time to moisten. Transfer to lightly floured work surface. Shape into two large discs; wrap in plastic. Chill 30 min.
2. Meanwhile, in large saucepan, combine apples, 2 tbsp (30 mL) flour, 1/4 cup (60 mL) water, brown sugar, lemon juice, 1 tsp (5 mL) cinnamon and 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, 8 to 10 min. until apples are tender and juices are thickened. Transfer mixture into bowl; cool slightly, cover and chill.
3. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. On lightly floured surface, roll out 1 disc of dough to 1/8-in. (3-mm) thickness. Using 2 1/2-in. (6.5-cm) round cutter, cut 16 dough rounds. Place on prepared baking sheets. Cover and chill. Roll out second dough disc into 1/8-in. (3-mm) thick rectangle. Using sharp knife or pizza cutter, slice 96 strips of dough, each 4 in. X 1/4 in. (10 cm X 5 mm) -- each cookie requires 6 strips. Remove dough rounds from fridge; brush edges with beaten egg. Top each round with 1 tbsp (15 mL) chilled apple mixture, leaving thin border around edges. Press ends of 3 dough strips along "left" edge of dough round (fold strips away from filling). Press ends of another 3 strips along "bottom" edge of dough round (at 90 degrees from first 3 strips), also fold off filling. To weave lattice, lay middle strip from "left" edge onto filling, then lay "bottom" edge strip farthest on left onto filling. Next, lay top and bottom "left" edge strips onto filling. Continue weaving strips under and over each other to create lattice. Firmly press down strips at edges of cookie. Trim off excess dough. Make 16 cookies.
4. Brush remaining egg wash over lattice tops. Cover and refrigerate cookies 30 min. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Bake 25 to 30 min., until cookies are golden brown and filling is bubbling. Cool completely on wire rack.

Tip: Practice making the lattice top before placing it over the cookies. Once you get the hang of weaving the strips you'll get the cookies in the oven faster. In a hurry? Save time by weaving a lattice of three strips by two strips instead of three by three.



I was sad to see the “advertisement” posted in the latest issue of NEV disparaging the current Board of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC). Bob Barnett, staff, supporters and volunteers of EBC have built a wonderful organization—one that I still believe in. But as a current volunteer, donor, and past Board member I do not believe the fabrications that were printed and signed by 5 “donors and supporters.” It is unseemly and unfair that NEV choose to print these statements under the banner of “advertising.” We all need truth in advertising and NEV has not upheld fair standards. Likely, the Board can’t speak openly. Likely, there is far more to the issue than what you chose to print from those 5 individuals. I would encourage a retraction and apology to the Board. I truly trust that they are working in the best interests of EBC and all of it’s supporters, donors, staff and volunteers.

Catherine Lake, email

Editor’s note: Your quotation marks around the word “advertisement” suggest that you doubt that this actually was an advertisement. It was indeed a paid advertisement with no involvement on content by this magazine.

I noticed the full page ad in your Summer 2023 issue about the EBC. Unfortunately this ad stands alone without a background story or editorial note. As you know better than most the importance of the EBC. I do hope you can give background to your readers. I found the ad poorly written and left me with more questions than answers. And who is behind the desk at escbiosphere@gmail.com?

Bruce Mackenzie, Grimsby

Near the end of 2020, my brother Bernie and I completed signing all the required documentation

for a Caledon Family Farm)

The agreement was registered on title and will remain on title even if the property were to be sold. We have no regrets about our decision because the agreement will ensure the property can never be turned into a subdivision. As bit of context, the property has been in our family’s possession since the 1840s and it would break our heart if that were to happen.

At the same time, however, we are seriously re-evaluating our support of the Conservancy. This decision, not taken lightly, comes in the wake of some troublesome events at its head office and the unjust,

property protected from development in perpetuity. As one of the founders of the Conservancy, he carried out this task with determination and enthusiasm and has saved 20,000 acres of land from development.

But it’s not just the fate of one individual that is relevant. Executive dismissals, valid or not, are a common occurrence in the business world and, to a lesser extent, in the non-profit sector. What is at stake is how the conservancy is conducting its affairs, treating its long-time supporters, and, indeed, its long-term future.

That questionable conduct was brought into sharp focus at the Conservancy’s June 25 annual general meeting, a hybrid in-person and virtual event.

Efforts to table proxy votes for new board members were blocked by the CEO and board chair and there were efforts to silence participants who were clearly upset at the direction the conservancy is headed. Indeed, there were suggestions by the CEO those attendees “were not members and should leave.”

Many of those that attended via Zoom were very critical of the Board, primarily via the chat function, but also by unmuting themselves. The chat was controlled so that all the comments could only be directed to the CEO and not shared among members. Other critics were removed from the zoom meeting entirely. The primary area of contention was that the Board had declared that many individuals, who thought they were members, no longer are and therefore

What is at stake is how the conservancy is conducting its affairs, treating its long-time supporters, and, indeed, its long-term future.

enabling the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy to place a conservation agreement on our approximately 65-acre family farm just outside of Bolton. Those efforts and the long-term planning and careful deliberation which led to that signing were detailed in an article which appeared in the spring 2022 issue of Niagara Escarpment Views. (*Protecting*

in our opinion, firing earlier this year of executive director Bob Barnett, whose column appears regularly in this magazine.

It was Bob who patiently guided us through the somewhat labourious and cumbersome exercise of completing the conservation process, as he has done with scores of other landowners who want their

Continued on page 9





Call Us Today!

1-866-506-6626

pineridgetimberframe.com



Proud to be part of
THE Dream Home Group®

ineligible to vote in the AGM.

Just before the meeting, Bernie received an email from the CEO informing him he was not a member despite the \$5.8 million valuation of our donation made just 30 months prior. This, coupled with the seemingly rigged votes only increases the question—how many others received this notification email and under what agenda was this list compiled?

Perhaps even more egregious was the outright rejection of applications for board positions from two men with a long and a distinguished record of support and volunteer service to the conservancy.

One is Ivor Simmons who donated monies to purchase the Simmons Family Property—now a conservancy reserve—and who has performed stewardship duties on six EBC properties. The

second is Douglas Dingeldein who, with the support of his family, placed a conservation agreement on his 200-acre farm block in Grey County.

A third applicant, Mary Ferguson, was deemed eligible and was asked her to present her qualifications. She spoke for several minutes and was rather impressive. However, she concluded her remarks by saying that, considering the disarray and lack of respect shown by the Board, she was no longer interested in serving.

In a province now ruled by a government seemingly bent on weakening conservation protection, individuals such as Simmons and Dingeldein should be embraced, not rejected. The environmental/conservation/green movement in Ontario is small and fragile enough as it is.

Dan O'Reilly, Caledon
and Bernie O'Reilly, East
Gwillimbury

The Board should seriously consider mediation to sort out their differences with Mr. Barnett, EBC supporters, and Board members.

It is almost two weeks since I attended the 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) held in Toronto and “virtually” across Canada. This past week as Canadians celebrated Canada

Day and this caring nation, I wondered how the EBC could have fallen into the quagmire I witnessed June 25, 2023. All EBC members, past and present, volunteers,

Continued on page 10

■ READERS & VIEWERS

supporters, and friends by now are aware that the AGM did not reflect their caring dedication which has protected 226 nature reserves, ensuring 91.5 sq. km would remain protected forever along the Escarpment with 70 species of conservation concern. How did this happen and what course of action needs to be taken?

Many readers share my experience with EBC this spring. I did not receive a spring EBC newsletter which would have confirmed the status of my membership. I did receive a note from Mr. Barnett, Executive Director, noting the date of the upcoming AGM and that he had been dismissed by the Board. When I phoned the EBC Chair, to confirm my membership, I was told it had expired. I was also informed of a new on-line system for memberships. I checked my past receipts and confirmed I was a member. However, realising the new system may need to be reviewed for corrections, I renewed my membership online and sent a note back to the Chair indicating my new membership could be appended to my current one. I requested email notification of the AGM, virtual link, agenda, and any other associated material. Three days before the AGM I was heading north to Haliburton where internet was questionable. I had not received notice from EBC, so I decided to phone on my mobile. I had a pleasant conversation with the Chair, who said she could invite me to attend the AGM in person, but it would be up to the Board to determine my membership status. I thanked her and told her I am a Mediator and that

the Board should seriously consider mediation to sort out their differences with Mr. Barnett, EBC supporters, and Board members. The Chair agreed that maybe mediation should be considered.

When I arrived at the meeting on June 25 there were only two other people who were neither Board nor staff members. Their requests to amend the agenda were refused. My request to be accepted as a member was not on the agenda. The interaction with however

to be eligible. About 157 proxies provided through Mr. Barnett were disqualified. Only one nominee for the Board, not on the current Board's slate, was allowed to speak. She withdrew as she claimed the meeting was unfair. At some point I just wrote "chaos" in my notes.

As I left the meeting and exchanged greetings with Board members and staff, who I have met before, I realised the chaos stems from disagreements that began last summer in 2022 and have not

Second, associated with this action, the memberships must be confirmed, with professional assistance, to reflect those from the old system that were not recognised by the Board in spring 2023 and ensure they are reflected in the new system. This amalgamated list should be provided to members 90 days prior to the new AGM.

Finally, and at the same time as the new AGM is called, the Chair and Vice-chair of EBC should meet with a professional mediator and Mr. Barnett to resolve the issues that precipitated the disfunction within EBC. There may be someone else Mr. Barnett wishes to include who understands his perspective. Mediation could take one day, but it could resolve issues well ahead of the new AGM.

I live in The Marsh near Singhampton, close to the highest point in southern Ontario. My husband, Doug Dingeldein, and I have a conservation agreement on our 200-acre property. Since 1975 I have farmed here, written articles from here, worked with my community to respect the invaluable, natural resources of this area and beyond. I have met wonderful, committed, energetic people who share my goals and respect each other. The EBC has been a great community resource and all affiliated with it should join in restoring its reputation.

**Peggy Hutchison,
Singhampton**

Editorial note: As for a response from Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, unfortunately, constructive communication with this organization has ceased.

EBC needs help and EBC "matters".

many people were virtually attending the meeting was chaotic. I was prepared to take notes, but quickly realised I was not the only attendee with membership concerns. Many attendees tried to voice their concerns vocally or through the Chat Box. They were disconnected. EBC's lawyer kept interrupting the meeting. The Chair kept voting until finally listening to the advice to not vote. Someone mentioned Robert's Rules of Order, which only permits the chair to vote in the event of a tie. There was no proof of the validity of the proxies the Board claimed

been professionally addressed. Since then, I have confirmed my observations with a few other EBC supporters. We are all involved in various organisations and agree that EBC needs help and EBC "matters". It is a relevant, ambitious organisation that has comprised many energetic, competent volunteers.

What is the fair course of action? First, the EBC Board and all members should call for a new AGM, under professional supervision, where all members can feel confident that generally accepted meeting rules will be followed scrupulously.

READERS & VIEWERS



Love your magazine, one of the best of its type,.... a year or two ago you had a excellent article about how the town of Grimsby handled the re use of there sewage lagoons, as a natural nature area as I recall,I live in Niagara On the lake and we have the same situation developing here,.....

Christopher Allen,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Editorial note: The feature "Significant, Important: The Grimsby Wetlands" by Bruce Mackenzie is available for free on our website NEViews.ca under Magazine>Back Issues>Spring 2021.

Thank you for your wonderful magazine, and keeping us aware of our beautiful escarpment and the true and present dangers it faces.

Janet Muise, Toronto

I have been a reader of Escarpment Views for many years going back as far as the very early issues. I commend you and your staff for tackling the environmental issue we face today as well as showcasing the beautiful lands that we all are in danger of loosing.

Russell Tonks, by email

I enjoy your publication but... there is a rather important error on the map on your back cover. The area encompassing Kimberley up to Georgian Bay shows Sideroad 7 and Grey Road 13 incorrectly. Anyone trying to follow this map will be misled. Keep up the good work.

Peter French, Kimberley

Editorial note: We tried to make the correction on the map on the back cover of this issue.

FALL SAVINGS

MS 170
GAS CHAIN SAW
30.1 CC - 8.6 LB ①



SAVE \$50
\$249⁹⁹
MSRP \$299.99 with 16" bar

MS 180 C-BE
GAS CHAIN SAW
31.8 CC - 9.3 LB ①



SAVE \$40
\$349⁹⁹
MSRP \$389.99 with 16" bar

MS 250
GAS CHAIN SAW
45.4 CC - 10.1 LB ①



\$479⁹⁹
MSRP with 16" bar

MS 291
GAS CHAIN SAW
55.5 CC - 12.3 LB ①



SAVE \$50
\$599⁹⁹
MSRP \$649.99 with 16" bar

MS 391
GAS CHAIN SAW
64.1 CC - 14.1 LB ①



SAVE \$30
\$849⁹⁹
MSRP \$879.99 with 16" bar

MS 362 CM
GAS CHAIN SAW
59.0 CC - 12.3 LB ①



SAVE \$130
\$999⁹⁹
MSRP \$1,129.99 with 16" bar
DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR FREE WOOD-PRO™ KIT

RECEIVE A FREE WOOD-PRO™ KIT
WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY ELIGIBLE STIHL CHAIN SAW.®
Kit includes: Woodsman® Carrying Case - OILOMATIC® Chain - STIHL Hat



Dealers may sell for less. Pricing on all products and accessories will remain in effect until November 17, 2023. Illustrations and descriptions are as accurate as known at the time of publication and are subject to change without notice. STIHL Limited is not responsible for a printing error, the local STIHL Dealer has the final authority to set product pricing. Pricing valid at participating dealers only while supplies last.

① Dry, without guide bar and chain. ② Price shown with 61PMMS chain. ③ Simply purchase any one of the following chain saws between July 17, 2023 and November 17, 2023 and you will receive a STIHL Wood-Pro™ Kit - a \$99.99 value! Hat may not be exactly as shown. Offer valid until November 17, 2023. Eligible Models up to 20" bar: MS 170, MS 180C, MS 250, MS 291, MS 391, MSA 602, MSA 705. While supplies last at participating dealers.

f t i p | STIHLCANADA WWW.STIHL.CA






Mount Nemo Sales
and Service
(905) 335-3434
5025 Guelph Line,
Burlington, ON



Oneida New Holland
Niagara
(905) 688-5160

1410 Fourth Ave., St. Catharines, Ont.
www.oneidanewholland.com



Pic's Motor Clinic (905) 892-3041
2514 Hwy 20 East, Fonthill, ON
www.picsmotorclinic.com



Walker's Small Motors
(705) 445-0881
850 Hurontario St, Collingwood, ON
www.walkerssmallmotors.ca



Hamilton, (905) 628-3055,
151 Hwy #5 W.
Mississauga, (905) 569-2055,
3165 Unity Dr.
www.WPEequipment.ca