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AUTUMN 2025 (SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER)



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Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



Autumn 2025
September, October, November

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PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

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*The Gift of Land:
Living With Nature:
a memoir, Published 2024*



*Views & Vistas, Favourite Photographs
from the Entire Niagara Escarpment in
Canada, Published 2021*



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

Keep Demanding Our Excellence!



We have had more responses to the cover of our Summer 2025 issue, than I think we've ever had to anything. To see what the fuss is about, see our letters to the editor on page 6. While we don't like to make mistakes, we love how you point them out to us, always in the nicest way, and proving how closely you read our issues – cover to cover is no exaggeration – and how much you care about the quality of our work! This engagement is enormously gratifying and valuable, as it shows our advertisers the close attention that's paid to our publication. So thank you for caring and please continue to hold us to high expectations of excellence.

Holding the Line

Canadians are continuing to buy Canadian products instead of American ones when possible, and to spend tourism dollars in Canada or elsewhere, while avoiding the U.S. These are manageable ways for individuals to resist the increasingly bizarre administration that's dominating our neighbours to the south. It also benefits our fellow Canadian business owners who can use our financial support. To help with this, we again suggest choosing our advertisers, fellow Canadians and

Escarpment lovers, who are always happy to deal with you. Patriotism continues to be strong in our great land and I am happy to keep acknowledging it. Let's continue until the U.S. returns to behaving like the country we used to appreciate as our neighbour.

In this Issue

Here are some of the topics we explore in this Autumn issue. The Georgian Trail that stretches between Meaford and Collingwood, is a former railway line that is now a popular, multi-use recreational space.

Indigenous members of Saugeen Ojibway Nation share their knowledge of the plants and animals found in the Escarpment forests on the Kolapore Wilderness Trails.

Autumn is a great time to join a local choir and get singing. Amateur choirs in St. Catharines, Burlington, Milton, Georgetown and Owen Sound are featured with lots of photos in this entertaining piece.

Reform Gravel Mining Coalition is working with community groups to limit the harmful impacts of gravel operations. There are enough gravel licences already! Did you know that Ontario has licences to mine two billion tonnes of gravel annually, but only 160 to 170 million tonnes of gravel are actually extracted each year? We have enough! This feature looks at how communities are trying to end the unnecessary use of natural lands.

There is more to see and read here. We hope you've had an enjoyable summer and that you're looking forward to a cooler time of the year. As always, let us know what you think of this issue.

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,
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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.



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READERS & VIEWERS



CORRECTION

We received several messages and phone calls about this, but this is the first one we received:

Picked up your magazine for the first time and really enjoyed it. I would like to correct the bird identification on your cover. It is a tree

swallow not a barn swallow.
Rose Schmidt, by Facebook

Editor's note: reply from our photographer:

I am sorry but I was wrong. That is a Tree Swallow and the reader was right. Again, sorry for the error.

Anne Fraser

This correction message is of special interest:

I enjoyed the Summer 2025 issue of Niagara Escarpment Views, which I picked up at the Anchor Inn in Little Current. A correction to the species name of one of the beautiful bird photos by Anne Fraser. At page 30 (and unnamed on the cover), the swallow is a tree

swallow not a barn swallow. Barn swallows have a rust-coloured throat, not a white throat, and a deeply forked tail when compared with the tree swallow. There are 3 species of egrets commonly found in Ontario. The unnamed egret at page 25 is a great egret. In contrast to the great egret, the snowy egret has bright yellow feet; the bird in the photo has black feet. I look forward to reading the summer 2026 issue.

Norman Zlotkin,
Saskatoon, SK

Remind your advertisers that there is still a group of us "old timers" who 1) have the time to be tourists and the money 2) have spent our lives south of Mount Forest and can't

find "line 1234" or "village ???" on the Ontario map and do not have electronic gadgets. A mail address and/or telephone address please.
Bob Girdwood, Owen Sound

People are blown away by the summer issue, well done. Bird photos are amazing. I gave a copy to my Cancer drive clients they all love it, also committee members of hospice.
Chris Miller, Acton

Just a quick note to applaud you on the Summer edition of NEV... as it is so appreciated by us all along the Escarpment and beyond!
Peggy Hutchison,
Singhampton



Sweet Apple Pot Pie

Prep Time: 10 mins | Total Time: 1 hour | Serves: 4

Ingredients

- 5 Apples such as Granny Smith, Crispin, Pink Lady, Honeycrisp
- 2 tbsp Lemon Juice (30 mL)
- 3 tbsp Unsalted Butter (45 mL)
- 1/3 cup Sugar (75 mL)
- 1 tsp Ground Cinnamon (5 mL)
- 1/4 tsp Ground Nutmeg (1 mL)
- 1 tbsp All-Purpose Flour (15 mL)
- 1 Compliments Deep Dish Pie Shell, thawed according to package directions
- 1 Egg
- 1 tsp Sugar (granulated or coarse) (5 mL)

Vanilla Ice Cream or Whipped Cream for serving (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 190°C (375°F). Peel, core and dice apples; toss with lemon juice.
2. Melt butter in large skillet over medium heat. Stir in diced apples, sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg; cook about 5 min. to begin softening apple. Sprinkle flour overtop. Stir through; cook another 5 min., or until apple is tender. Spoon filling into four 4-in. (10-cm) ramekins (1 cup/250 mL).
3. Tip pie shell out of foil dish onto lightly floured work surface. Pat pastry flat, patching together any large cracks. Using a 4-in. (10-cm) round cutter (or dish to trace), cut out 4 pastry rounds. Cut a small "X" in the centre of each round for air vent. Use tines of fork to crimp edges. Whisk together egg and 1 tbsp (15 mL) water. Brush pastry with egg wash and sprinkle with sugar. Place pastry rounds on top of warm apple filling.
4. Bake about 15 min., or until crusts are golden brown and filling is bubbling. Let stand a few minutes before serving. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream, if desired.

Tip

Re-roll pastry scraps, wrap and freeze for future use.

■ READERS & VIEWERS

Your magazine is wonderful and I have read it cover to cover. There is actually a photo of my friend, Louise Jarvis, at The Repair Café. However, the ink has such a strong smell it is making me feel sick! I'm sure a lot of your readers will feel this way too. I hope there is some remedy for this in your next issue. I suspect the ink is not good for the environment either. So sorry to be negative but perhaps there is a solution.

Anne Walker, by email

Editor's note: We notice the smell too. It is likely because our Summer feature on bats has a dark background and may have taken more ink than usual. Future issues should go back to normal.

I am extremely impressed with the magazine. I am also very impressed with the dedication that you [Mike] and Gloria commit to nature conservation and the nature preserve that you bequeathed to future generations. My son [...] and I really enjoyed the book launch and tour.

Dave Orsini, Georgetown

I live in Little Current on beautiful Manitoulin Island. I've enjoyed reading your publication for many years when I pick up a copy from Turners store in town. I believe it is of great interest to the boating community in our region and should have a wider distribution.

Roy Eaton, Little Current

I have enjoyed receiving this magazine for the past few years and have always found the articles informative and interesting.

Jill Shea, Lowbanks

On May 4th my hiking buddy & myself attended "Springtime at Hildebrandt + Davis Nature Park" presentation at Gloria's home near Georgetown. We so enjoyed the afternoon &



I love this magazine & the article on Glo Farm Sanctuary on Manitoulin. I'm 87 & live in Mountainview Residence. It would be great if someone could visit us & tell us about it & Niagara Escarpment. I am a canoeist (or was)!! & love the outdoors. Halton is a beautiful area & your magazine opens doors & eyes for me.

Jan Gourlay, Georgetown



I was [...] very pleased to see the article on bats. As a life long fan of bats it is always good to see some light shed on the benefits of these misunderstood little creatures. Also, we should all be aware of the challenges they face with expanding encroachment on their natural living spaces, their decline in numbers and the threat of disease such as white nose syndrome... I have included a photo of two books that were sent to me back in the early 60s when I was a child by my aunt in England that I still have today, which I read and reread over many times to bolster up my knowledge on bats. And Mike, I really enjoyed the beautiful photos that you took for the article.

Russell Tonks, Georgetown

Gloria & Mike were excellent hosts. Gloria read from her book "The Gift of the Land" followed by a very interesting tour of her property & then snacks back in her home. Their love of the property & knowledge of the plants & trees & the importance of saving it all in its natural state was so evident. Thank-you both for a wonderful afternoon & for a fabulous magazine!

Anne Wheatley, Mississauga



I've wanted to compliment both NEV and Russell Tonks for some time now on the politically charged artwork he

creates. I'm glad that NEV includes it in their incredible magazine and I thoroughly enjoy the satirical flavour of Russell's creations.

Art Weaver, St. Catharines

Please renew my subscription of Niagara Escarpment Views, which is getting better and better (if that is possible!)

Marg Megelink, Georgetown

In the Summer 2025 issue we printed a suggestion by Pamela Brown of B.C. for readers to send photos of their flags. We received this one and some others. See them at p 45.





Karen Phillips

6 Foot Festival

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EVENTS

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ This summer, members of the organizing committee of Belfountain's 200 Bicentennial celebrated the creation of the wax model of the commemorative sculpture by Wendy Mitchell of Treehouse Pottery, top right. This will be unveiled on Oct. 4 in Belfountain during the bicentennial festivities.



▲ A plaque honouring Dr. Bill McIlveen was dedicated on May 20 at a Sugar Maple planted for him in Georgetown Arboretum. Bill stands to the left of the tree, accompanied by relatives, friends and members of Halton/North Peel and South Peel Naturalists' clubs.

EVENTS

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ A new Indigenous-led trail of informative signs was opened on June 10 in Dundas Valley Conservation Area, part of Hamilton Conservation Authority. Called The Basadinaa Experience, it offers a journey of knowledge of First Nations' teachings and perspectives. PHOTO PROVIDED.



◀ On June 21 members and friends of Toronto Caving Group had an outing at Mt. Nemo, part of Conservation Halton. PHOTO BY TERRY WILSON.



◀ Eugenia Gold Rush festivities were held on June 28 at Eugenia Community Park, with plenty of family-friendly outdoor activities. Proceeds from the event go toward park improvements. PHOTO PROVIDED.

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FROM COBBLESTONE TO CARBON FIBRE

POLICARO GROUP CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF BELFOUNTAIN



EVENTS

Photos by Mike Davis except where noted.



▲ Pride Month of June was marked in downtown Beamsville with this colourful installation called Love is Love Lincoln Pride. The rainbow lit up at night and offered a place for people to take a photo.

► On July 17 Wayne Ferlich received a plaque from Bruce Mackenzie, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, during the dedication of Grimsby Wetlands' observation tower in his name. Wayne was key to the establishment of Grimsby Wetlands. Left, Azam Foda, member of and right, Joan Witson, president of, Rotary Club of Grimsby.



◀ Opening ceremonies for Caledon Village's Canada Day celebration included speeches by dignitaries, music by Caledon Concert Band, singing the national anthem and a flag raising. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.


A group of diverse people, including men and women of various ages, are singing enthusiastically with their hands raised in the air. They are dressed in dark clothing, and the setting appears to be a church or community hall with a dark background. The overall mood is joyful and communal.

Singing Their Hearts Out

On any given weeknight, in church halls, seniors' centres and community spaces along the Escarpment, folks of all ages are singing their hearts out with other like-minded music lovers, just for the joy of it.

Along the Escarpment

BY JEANNINE D'ENTREMONT



Burlington's Glee Social Club enjoys the applause, with Emily Daquano, founder and director, in first row, second from right, and Erin Karpriel, far right. PHOTO BY CHRIS PAYNE.



▲ Chorus Niagara and Niagara Symphony Orchestra at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines, for the first concert of their 60th anniversary season, "JOY!" PHOTO BY MADE BY FRAME

Choirs Ontario, an umbrella organization, says there are 11,300 choirs in the province, mostly church choirs, with 1,243 of them being community or professional choirs. That means almost one in seven Ontarians is a chorister. If you want to sing, there's a choir for you. Choirs range from auditioned, semi-professional groups where the ability to read music is required, to community choirs of varying sizes, the only prerequisite being a love of singing and a willingness to learn and practise.

St. Catharines' Chorus Niagara

With 80 singers ranging in age

from 18 to 80, St. Catharines-based Chorus Niagara bills itself as Niagara's premier auditioned mixed choir. Their recently-retired artistic director of 35 years, Robert Cooper, received the Order of Canada and is one of the country's foremost choral musicians. Really a family of choirs, Chorus Niagara includes a children's choir and a high school chorale. They perform four concerts a year, as well as a "Singathon" fundraiser. The choir's repertoire includes major classical works, Christmas favourites, and popular, opera and Broadway choruses.

"Singing with Chorus Niagara is the best kind of workout, a challenge

physically, intellectually and emotionally," says Virginia, a member for 10 seasons. "Best of all, I belong to a strong, supportive community." Fun fact: their flash mob video of Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus at a food court in Welland has received over 57 million views! (See it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Xh7JR9oKVE>)

Burlington's Glee Social Club

For those looking for something completely different, there's Glee Social Club, a 24-member group in Burlington that performs cabaret-style numbers, complete with choreography. Founder and director, Emily Daquano, started the group in

2017 as a project when she was studying for her Masters of Community Music at Laurier.

A non-auditioned group, Glee Social Club blends musical theatre with community choir. They rehearse weekly and put on a couple of shows per year, mostly performing contemporary music in a cabaret style with smaller groups and duets.

"I saw that there was a gap in community music for younger adults in their 20s to 40s," says Emily. "There were lots of musical theatre groups and choirs for older adults, but not as many consistent opportunities that were accessible for younger people." Emily says community singing



▲ Members of Escarpment Singers rehearse at Milton Seniors' Centre. PHOTO BY JEANNINE D'ENTREMONT

▼ Erin Karpiel, centre, performing a small group number with Burlington's Glee Social Club. PHOTO BY CHRIS PAYNE





▲ Members of North Halton Community Singers performing The Supremes' "Stop in the Name of Love" at their Motown fundraiser concert. PHOTO BY BART MANIERKA.

is important because it gives people an opportunity to use their voices and working toward a common goal brings people together.

"Singing is so joyful and spiritually fulfilling and so important for a balanced life," she says. "Everyone should make time for singing."

Glee member, Erin Karpel, 35, has been with the group for three years. She's been singing since she was six years old, starting with a children's chorus, high school musical productions and then community musical theatre. "Emily is a fantastic director," says Erin. "I've made a lot of friends there. It's something I look forward to every week."

Milton's Escarpment Singers

Another choir option within view of the Niagara Escarpment in Milton is the aptly named Escarpment Singers. It's an all-women choir founded in 2019 by married couple Bob Hall and Melanie Silva, both music teachers by day. Bob is a high-energy musical theatre performer and director. He directs the group and Melanie, an award-winning children's choir director, is the piano accompanist. Rehearsals are filled with joking and teasing.

Bob says the choir's purpose is to have fun first. "Singing in a choir elevates your mood and you're in the

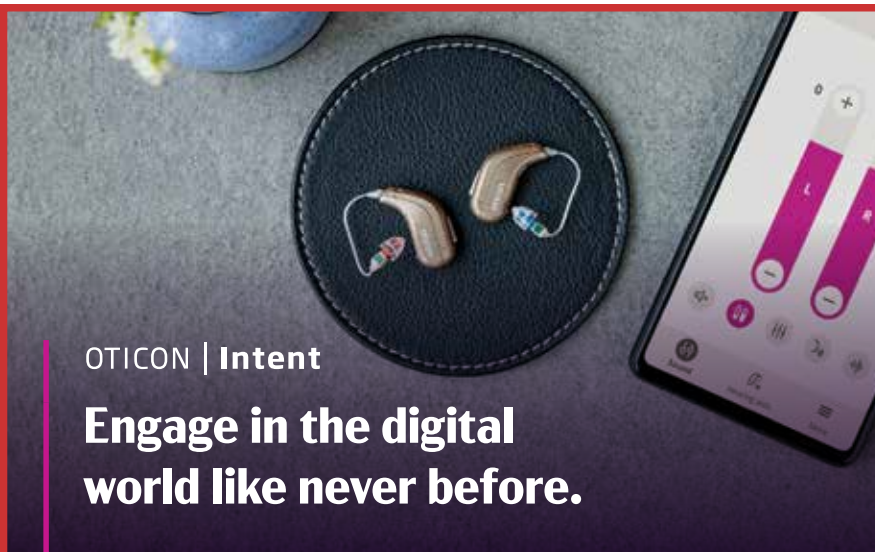
present moment," he says. Melanie concurs. "It's obvious that we're having a good time. A lot of members don't read music. They come back again because they enjoy it."

Beyond the social aspects, singing in choirs is actually therapeutic. A *Globe and Mail* report says SingWell, a Toronto Metropolitan University research project led by Dr. Frank Russo, is studying the effects of singing on people with chronic conditions. "It involves posture, breath control, using your core, coordinating speech and movement. And so, the physical activity of singing is itself therapeutic," he says.

Georgetown's North Halton Community Singers

For Viktoriia Chylibiiska of Georgetown, joining the North Halton Community Singers (NHCS) was a way to integrate into her new community. In June 2022, she and her two children fled the war in Ukraine and came to Canada, knowing no one but the family that hosted them. Three months later, Viktoriia joined the choir to meet people and improve her English language skills.

"I had never sung in a choir before," says Viktoriia. "Usually, I would sing at home with my father. He loved to play guitar and sing. 'The



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▲ Bob Hall, director, and Melanie Silva, accompanist for Escarpment Singers. Choir members surprised Melanie with cupcakes and balloons for her 40th birthday. PHOTO BY JEANNINE D'ENTREMONT



▲ Jeannine d'Entremont and Christine Arbic at NHCS's Roaring 20s fundraiser concert. PHOTO BY BART MANIERKA

best thing about belonging to the choir is that I met lots of lovely people, we have fun during rehearsals and concerts and I was able to sing amazing songs.”

During the COVID-19 pandemic, NHCS’s membership fell from 86 paying members to 26. Now back up to its previous membership levels, the choir is continuing its mission to share the joy of singing with its choristers and audiences.

Owen Sound’s Wonderland Singers

The pandemic was also the catalyst for Owen Sound’s Wonderland Singers Zoom choir. Director Coco Love Alcorn, an award-winning professional singer-songwriter, had just started an in-person choir when she had to shift gears. She decided to move the choir’s rehearsals online, but since Zoom doesn’t allow for group singing because of the time lag, Coco had to improvise. Using a “looper,” she recorded herself playing guitar and ukelele and singing harmonies and invited participants to mute themselves while singing along.

“It surprised everyone that it worked so well,” says Coco. More than 700 Wonderland Choir members from across Canada and the U.S., Europe, Australia and New Zealand came together once or twice a week over three years to sing on Zoom. “Music is healing and singing together in community is therapeutic and liberating,” says Coco.

If you’re inspired to experience the joy of singing in a choir, Google “choirs in my area” or check the Choirs Ontario website. **NEV**

Jeannine d’Entremont is a soprano with North Halton Community Singers. “Seniors Caring About Climate” in Winter 2024-25 was her last feature for this magazine.



▲ A Wonderland Singers’ sold-out performance at a concert venue in Owen Sound. PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCLUHAN



▲ A screen shot of Wonderland Singers virtual choir with founder and director, Coco Love Alcorn. PHOTO BY JEANNINE D’ENTREMONT



◀ Mark Peterson,
North Halton
Community
Singers' talented
accompanist at
their spring 2025
concert,
"Sing for Joy!"
PHOTO BY GARY CRALLE



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An aerial photograph showing a large gravel pit on the right side of the image, bordered by a dense forest of green trees on the left. A road or path runs along the edge of the forest, separating it from the gravel area. The sky is clear and blue.

Working Together to Limit the Impact of Gravel Operations

BY DAN O'REILLY

An aerial photograph showing a large, active gravel quarry. The foreground features a residential property with a large, light-colored house and a driveway. To the right of the house, several yellow construction vehicles, including trucks and a loader, are parked on a gravel area. The quarry itself is a vast, flat expanse of light-colored gravel and sand, with several small, irregular ponds of blue water scattered throughout. In the background, a dense line of green trees separates the quarry from the horizon. The sky is clear and blue.

United We Stand might be considered the motto of the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC), an incorporated non-profit body comprised of 20 Ontario grassroots groups established in 2022 to limit the environmental and social impact of gravel operations.

The hard reality of Nelson Aggregate's lunar landscape encroaching on the living green of Burlington's Escarpment.
DRONE PHOTO BY TODD JARRETT

Twelve of the groups forming RGMCC are extremely active and its members sit on a steering committee which meets virtually every two weeks and in person every three months, says campaign director Mike Balkwill.

The catalyst for its formation was a litany of gravel-related complaints from citizen groups that Mike was receiving when he was with the Wellington Water Watchers. While the common thread was the impact of gravel operations, “each group was fighting their own fight.” The coalition connects those groups to legal and technical experts, helps them prepare for Ontario Land Tribunal hearings, and advocates for regulatory and legislative reforms. A key initiative is calling for a moratorium on new gravel mining approvals. That’s not an unreasonable demand, says Mike.

More Licences Than Needed

“Ontario licenses 13 times more gravel for extraction than the amount it consumes each year,” says Mike, citing data which shows Ontario’s 6,000 pits and quarries are licensed to mine two billion tonnes of gravel annually, yet only extract between 160 to 170 million tonnes annually.

“In Halton Region alone there are 22 licensed pits and quarries,” says Gord Pinard, president of Conserving Our Rural Ecosystems of Burlington (CORE Burlington).

Along with Protecting Escarpment Rural Land (PERL), the City of Burlington and Halton Region, CORE is fighting Nelson Aggregates’ proposed expansion of its limestone quarry on Mount Nemo. The proposal is to



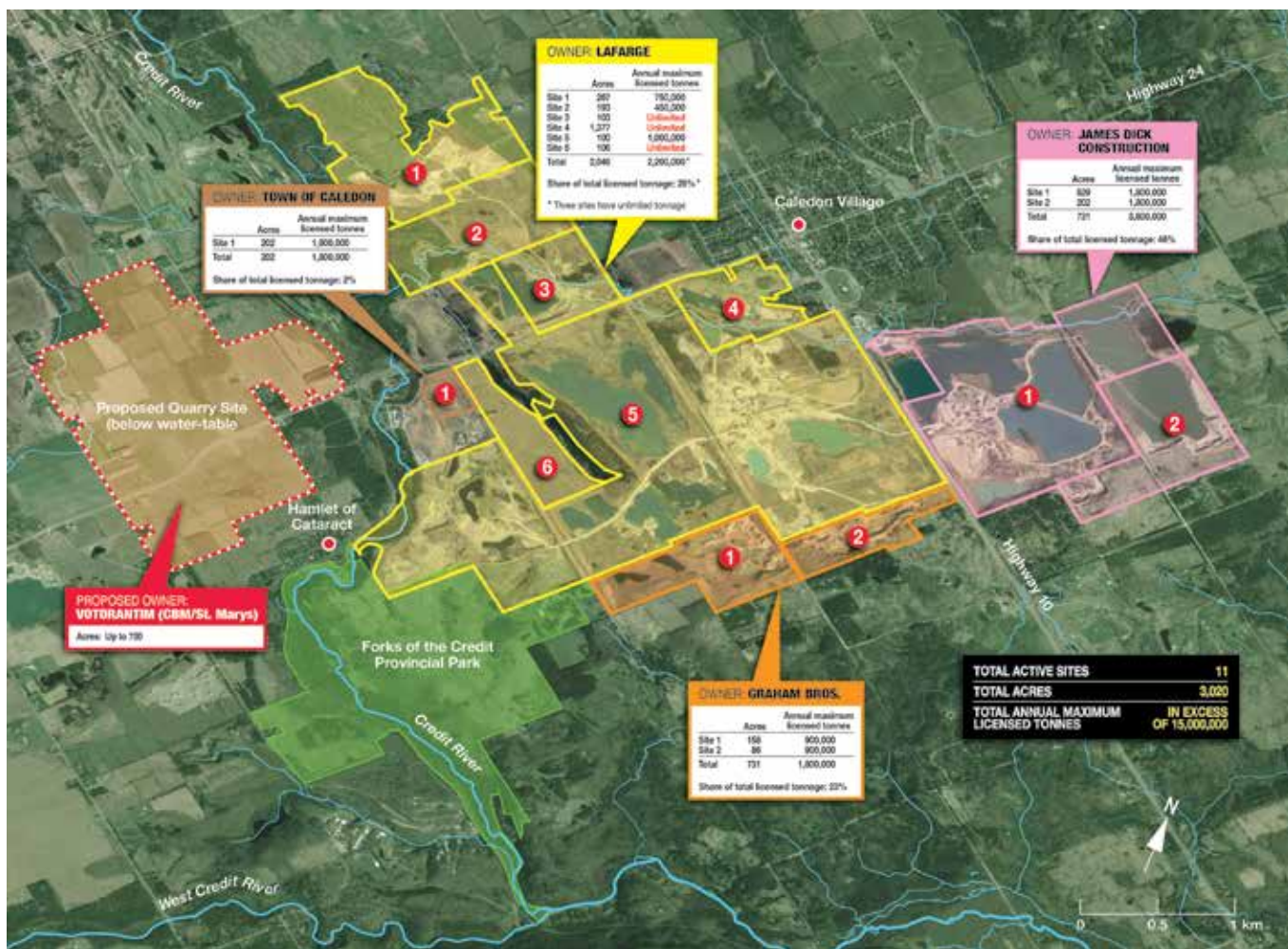
▲ The rugged beauty of Mount Nemo’s ancient limestone cliffs thrills hikers, photographers and rock-climbers.
PHOTO BY DEAN CAHUSAC

create two new quarries, a 45.2-acre one south of the existing quarry and a 148.3-acre one to the west. A joint city/region/Niagara Escarpment Commission technical analysis of the proposal had been underway. But in 2023 Nelson “prematurely abandoned” that process, says Gord, and filed an appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. That appeal

was the focus of a hearing from March to June of this year. Closing submissions were to be presented by the various parties in early September. A decision date is not known, says Gord.

This is Nelson’s second attempt at expanding the quarry. In 2012, after an eight-year-fight the Joint Board (Ontario Municipal Board + Environmental Review

Tribunal) unanimously denied the application, primarily because of the unmitigated threat to the endangered Jefferson Salamander. But most of the same concerns about noise, threats to the groundwater aquifer, impact on natural heritage systems and the impact on the surrounding communities are still relevant, says Gord. “Gravel fights are very



▲ Using satellite imagery and other map-making technology, Reform Gravel Mining Coalition produced this map for Forks of the Credit Preservation Group (FC Preservation). It shows CBM Aggregates' proposed quarry site along with 11 other quarry sites in the immediate area of northwest Caledon. PHOTO PROVIDED.



▲ Burlington's beautiful Mount Nemo is protected within the Niagara Escarpment UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve. PHOTO BY GORD PINARD



▲ The breathtaking destination is worth every step on the rugged path to Burlington's Medad Valley. PHOTO BY GORD PINARD

emotional issues, but they're also very technical issues which can be quite daunting for citizens' groups," adds Gord.

Being a member of the RGMC links those groups and facilitates knowledge sharing, says Gord. As an example, he cites CORE's research on blasting-related flyrock. That's the term used to describe rocks propelled through the air by blasting operations.

Escarpment Quarry Battles

The Mount Nemo quarry battle is one of a number along the Niagara Escarpment that coalition members are waging. In northwest Caledon, the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group (FC Preservation) is locked in a bitter struggle against CBM Aggregates, a division of Brazilian conglomerate Votorantim Cimentos, which plans to blast an 80-foot-below-

Fall paints glorious colours across the Carolinian forests that thrive on the Escarpment in Burlington. PHOTO BY JANET TURPIN MYERS





A solitary hiker enjoys a golden patch of Carolinian forest on Burlington's Escarpment. PHOTO BY JANET TURPIN MYERS



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the-water quarry on approximately 700 acres of prime agricultural land adjacent to the Credit River in the area.

Issues of concern include air quality, noise, gravel truck traffic, the estimated loss of 40,000 trees, the impact on the river, and the possible drying out of private wells from dewatering, says David Sylvester, chair of FC Preservation.

It is very much a David-versus-Goliath battle, he concedes. But in March of this year FC Preservation secured a major victory when the Ontario Land Tribunal dismissed CBM Aggregates' appeal of the Town of Caledon's Interim Control Bylaw against new pits and quarries. It was implemented for a one-year term in 2022, and renewed for a second one-year term in 2023, after a FC Preservation-commissioned planning consultant's report revealed that Caledon's aggregate policies were the weakest of Ontario's top 10 municipal gravel producers.

CBM Aggregates had submitted applications to both the town and Ministry of Natural Resources before new, strengthened policies were enacted in October 2024. Had the appeal been successful, CBM's application would have been "grandfathered" and assessed under the old policies, says David. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has not signed on the new policies, for some unknown reason, he says.

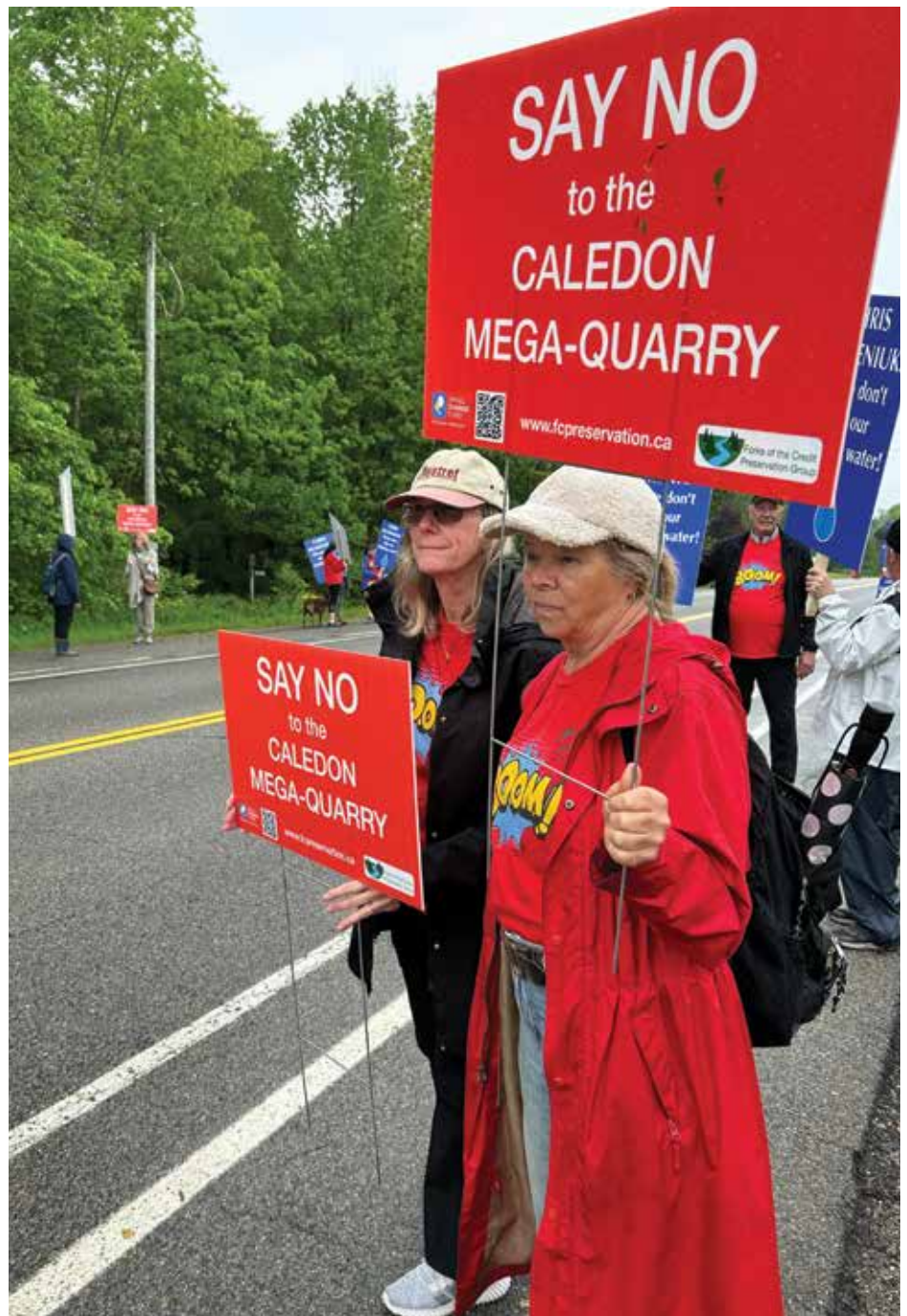
Another opposition strategy was the creation of an "easy-to-interpret" map showing the proposed quarry along with 11 active sites in the immediate area. The coalition produced it using satellite imagery and other map-making technology, while David conducted the research. "We have used the map at a number of meetings," he says.

Further to the north in Melancthon Township is a new quarry struggle. Earlier this year locally-based Strada Aggregate filed an application with the Ministry of Natural Resources for a blasting quarry on a 350-acre property it owns.

"It would be the first blasting quarry in Dufferin County. The crater [of the mine] would be 250 feet below the ground surface," says Larry Taman, organizer of Melancthon Against Quarries.

Potential Impacts

Residents' opposition is based on the potential impacts to air quality, natural



▲ About 40 members and supporters of the Forks of the Credit Preservation Group protested at the June 6 opening of the RBC Canadian Open at Osprey Valley Golf Course in northwest Caledon. They weren't opposing the tournament, they object to the golf course's partnership with CBM Aggregates to develop an 80-foot-below the water blasting quarry, more than half of which would be on golf course lands.

PHOTO BY DAN O'REILLY

environment, endangered species, water-table damage and truck traffic. In this battle Reform Gravel Mining Coalition has been helpful in getting the Melancthon group organized. But Larry is worried about the looming implications of Ontario's Bill 5, a section of which would allow the Premier and the cabinet to designate Special Economic Zones and select "trusted proponents" who would be given the authority to undertake projects without regard to provincial and municipal laws and bylaws.

There is a very real risk that proposed quarry sites could be declared Special Economic Zones, says the coalition's Mike Balkwill. That is why it is incumbent for citizens groups "to write their MPPs and demand that Bill 5 be withdrawn." **NEV**

Dan O'Reilly's last feature for this magazine was "Concerns for the Greenbelt Remain," Autumn 2024. All past features can be read online under Magazine>Back Issues at NEViews.ca.



▲ Trees in Mount Nemo Conservation Area snake their way to the top of the canopy in search of the sun. PHOTO BY DEAN CAHUSAC



▲ Protesters are deeply disappointed that Chris Humeniuk, owner of Osprey Valley Golf Course in northwest Caledon, is willing to accept discharged water from a CBM Aggregates' blasting quarry onto his golf course. PHOTO BY DAN O'REILLY



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Cape Croker Lighthouse, Neyaashiinigmiing,
South Bruce Peninsula, from the Chi-Cheemaun
during the 2024 Fall Repositioning Cruise.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS


A group of cyclists is riding away from the camera on a wide, light-colored dirt path that stretches into the distance. The path is flanked by dense trees and foliage, many of which have turned yellow and orange, indicating autumn. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating dappled light on the ground. The cyclists are wearing various cycling gear, including helmets and jerseys in red, pink, black, and blue. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

WILD, WILD WOMEN!

Riding the Georgian Trail

WRITTEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY SANDRA J. HOWE

The Georgian Trail between Meaford and Collingwood makes the most of an old rail line, as a multi-use recreational trail.



The Georgian Trail follows the old rail line between Collingwood and Meaford, a 34-km route nestling between the Niagara Escarpment and the southern Georgian Bay shoreline. It is a multi-use, recreational trail providing access to spectacular views and welcoming communities. An autumn bike ride is just the ticket to explore the highlights of the Georgian Trail.



▲ The annual Scarecrow Invasion takes over Meaford, home of “wild, wild women!”

For railway buffs, the Georgian Trail offers many glimpses into the bygone days of train travel. The Collingwood Museum, modelled on the 1873 rail station, chronicles local history. Collingwood began as tiny Hens and Chickens Harbour, named for the bay’s islands, developed into an important shipping, agricultural, and industrial port, and is now a bustling commercial and recreational city. The railways played an important role in this transformation.

Railway Heritage

The first steam train arrived in Collingwood in 1855 on the

Ontario, Simcoe, and Huron Railway (OSHR) line. The OSHR was sometimes called the Oats, Straw, and Hay Railway because it transported agricultural commodities. This early connection between port and rail enabled trans-shipment of goods and people throughout eastern North America, giving Collingwood a huge boost to development.

The OSHR became the Northern Railway of Canada, and enabled construction from Collingwood through Thornbury to Meaford. The first locomotive rolled into Meaford at Station Hill in 1872. In 1902, the line was extended to Meaford harbour and a new station was built by

the Grand Trunk Railway. The Canadian National Railway (CNR) took over in 1923 with passenger service lasting until 1962. As the trains rolled into town, the whistle sang out, and the conductor’s voice carried: “Meaford, end of the line, the home of the Georgian Bay trout, and wild, wild women!”

With improved highways and private vehicles, Ontario’s railways declined. The CNR line from Collingwood to Meaford saw its last freight train in 1972. Stations were demolished. In the 1980s, the tracks were removed but the rail bed was protected. This became the Georgian Trail which opened in 1989.

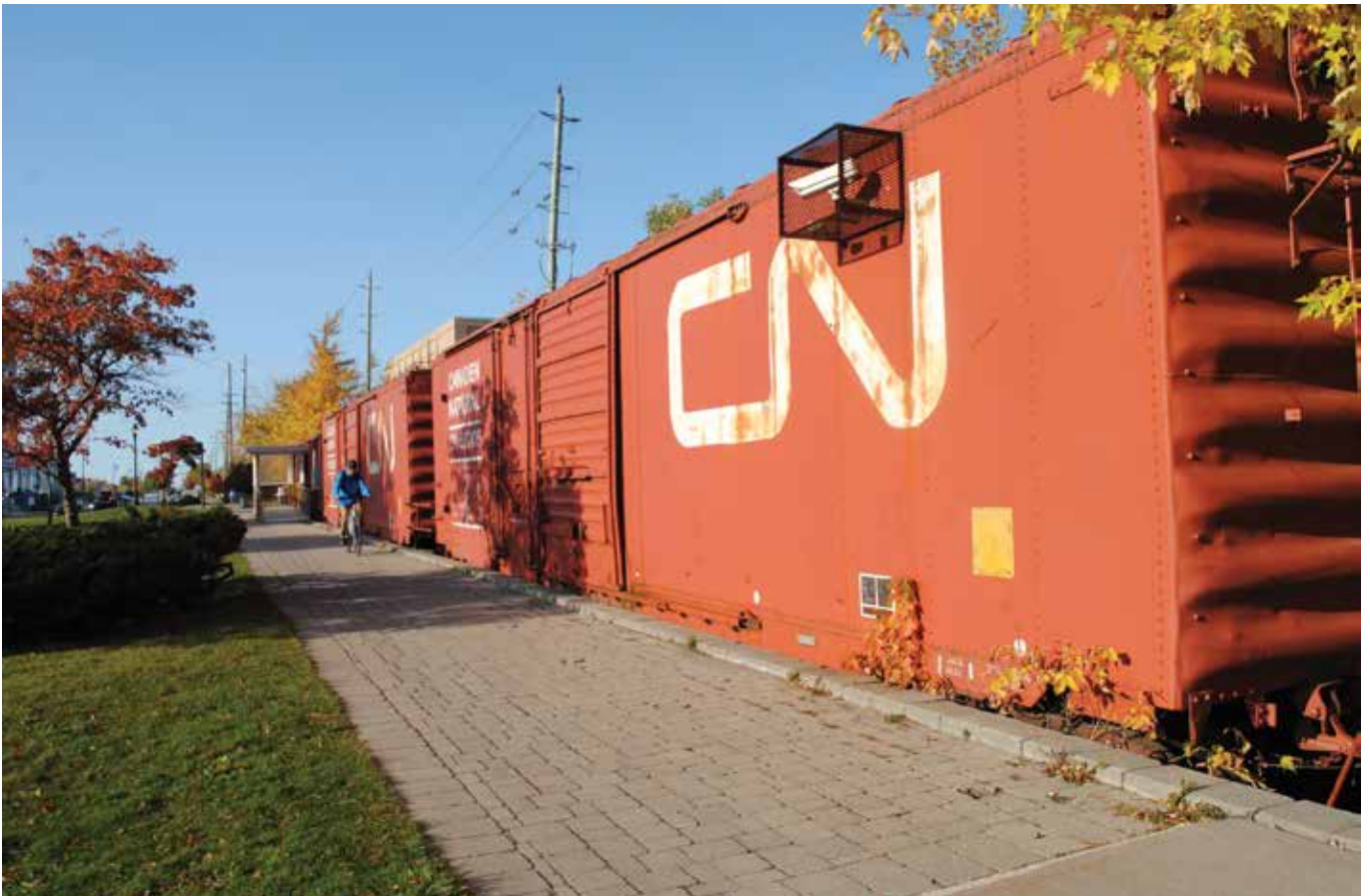
Exploring the trail, you will note old CNR boxcars used for storage at the Collingwood Museum, railway trestles crossing creeks and the high trestle over the Beaver River at Thornbury, the historic coal shed in Thornbury, and the remaining freight shed at the Meaford harbour. These remnants of the past call to mind our railway heritage.

The original Craigeleith Train Station, now the Craigeleith Heritage Depot, is a beautiful example of railway architecture. It is located on the trail near the Georgian Bay shore. Fully restored in 2023, the Depot currently houses tourism services, the public library,



▲ Fall colours line the trail in autumn.

▼ At Collingwood Museum, old CNR boxcars beside the trail are used for storage.





◀ Craigleith Heritage Depot houses tourism information, a public library and a museum.



▲ Trilobite fossil in Craigleith shale.



◀ Delphi Point Park in Town of The Blue Mountains offers fascinating fossil viewing.

and an excellent museum. A walking tour of the grounds offers fascinating interpretive signage about Indigenous peoples, the station and railways, and the development of the Blue Mountains ski industry.

Begin at Craigleith

Craigleith is a great place to begin your Georgian Trail exploration with options to ride or walk in either direction. Northwinds Beach, just across Highway 26, has picnic grounds, a sand beach,

seasonal washrooms, and lots of parking. Collingwood is nine km east of Craigleith. The trail is flat and straight through colourful woods and wetlands with some views to the Niagara Escarpment. The wide surface makes for easy

going. Do be considerate of other trail users, and abide by trail rules. Watch for the Silver Creek bridge with interpretive signage, and the possibility of seeing fish coming up the creek to spawn. Trail traffic increases as



you approach Collingwood. It has Silver Designation as a Bicycle-Friendly Community with over 60 km of trails to explore. The Georgian Trail winds its way along the Pretty River through the city to Harbourview Park. You can continue along the trails to reach the Collingwood Museum, tour the beautiful park, or visit historic downtown. The Train Trail passes the Collingwood Museum, extending out Millennium Park for spectacular views of Nottawasaga Bay, or inland for 12 km to Stayner. Visit collingwood.ca/trails.

Heading west from Craigeleith, you can fuel up at the little shopping plaza that backs onto the trail. For geology enthusiasts, this shoreline area holds amazing fossil viewing. "Bituminous shale," or the Collingwood Member of the Lindsay Formation of the

Escarpment, crops up within Craigeleith Provincial Park and at Delphi Point. The dark grey, organically-rich limestone is full of trilobites and other fossils, and forms rocky shore ledges. It can give off an oily smell, and oil was extracted from it briefly here in the mid-1800s.

Onward toward Thornbury, you can access Delphi Point Park which has a lovely rock ledge beach, and picnic facilities, by crossing Highway 26 at the Georgian Peaks stop lights, and riding east through the subdivision. The fall colour views of the ski slopes are also wonderful here. Craigeleith to Thornbury is 12 km, and Craigeleith to Meaford is 25 km total. You will need to plan your ride time and speed accordingly to avoid getting caught out in early fall darkness. Council Beach and Peasemars Nature Preserve, both before Thornbury, offer water access and a restful break.

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► Georgian Peaks Ski Club gives Escarpment views of bright autumn colours.



► Bushels of local apples are available at Grandma Lambe's in Meaford.



Thornbury Fishway

The Georgian Trail crosses Highway 26 before entering Thornbury. Information signage and all services are available in this friendly community. Thornbury is famous among visitors and anglers for its dam and fishway. In autumn, Chinook

Salmon leave Georgian Bay to migrate up the Beaver River. You can look out from the trail's high trestle bridge, or walk down by the river to see the fishway, salmon, and busy fishers up close. Visit <https://www.thebluemountains.ca/recreation-culture/>

harbour-fishing/thornbury-fishway-fishing.

From Thornbury to Meaford, the Georgian Trail passes inland into the apple orchards of Meaford. Stop by Grandma Lambe's for tasty apples and goodies. Rolling into Meaford is a long, gentle incline to the

historic harbour. You can enjoy the sights and sounds of this lovely town, including all the fun of the Scarecrow Invasion. Meaford also has an informative heritage tour accessed by QR codes. See <https://tidbits.site/>. Meaford's vibrant history, including its rail story, comes alive



▲ Thornbury is known for its dam and fishway for Chinook Salmon returning to Beaver River to spawn.

with videos and images.

The Georgian Trail provides both residents and visitors to southern Georgian Bay excellent recreational opportunities to explore the region's cultural and natural history. Whether rails, shales, or fish tales excite you, there is plenty to keep

you busy along this scenic route. For a downloadable map, visit: <https://royalharbourresort.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/georgiantrailmap.pdf>. **NEV**

Sandra J. Howe's last piece for this magazine was "Kemble Maple Tour," Spring 2025.



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Sharing Indigenous Knowledge

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT | PHOTOGRAPHED BY MIKE DAVIS & GLORIA HILDEBRANDT





Christopher Akiwenzie, standing in the centre to the right of the small tree, leads a group of people on a "Walk and Talk" on a Kolapore Wilderness Trail in the Escarpment area of Grey County, between Collingwood and Markdale. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

When is a walk in the Escarpment woods much more than just a pleasant stroll? When it's part of a program to help Indigenous people connect to the land again and protect it by sharing knowledge widely with others.

Last September, people were invited to share in a “Walk and Talk” by Aki Guardians, who are part of Bagida’waad Alliance. Aki Guardians are Indigenous youth leaders who help protect land through education and stewardship. Bagida’waad Alliance is an environmental group led by Anishnaabe people from Saugeen Ojibway Nation on the Bruce/Saugeen Peninsula. The alliance was begun to bring attention to the disappearance of Whitefish, an important, popular food source, which has been declining in Georgian Bay due to climate change.

“In the Anishinaabemowin language, also known as Ojibwe, Bagida’waad means ‘they set a net,’” explains Natasha Akiwenzie, manager of Bagida’waad Alliance. This organization has broadened its focus to support the transfer of knowledge and skills, including Native languages. “Youth are asked what they want to learn,” Natasha adds. “They said seed collecting, birding, basket weaving and butterfly and dragonfly identification. We practise gentle catching only to identify them.”

Connect People to the Land

The September hike began at 495436 Grey Road 2, on one of the Kolapore Wilderness Trails, a 50-km challenging trail system in the Niagara Escarpment south of Georgian Bay. Beaver Valley Destination Stewardship organized the event. While Christopher Akiwenzie, Natasha’s son, leads the large group of people into the forest on a trail, Natasha returns to the parking lot with someone who has a mobility challenge. Even in this unlikely location, Natasha has plenty of nature knowledge to share. She explains how the walks in the woods help people connect to the land again.



▲ In the woods of the Kolapore Wilderness, Chris shows a map and shares his knowledge. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

“We’re seeing different habitats and which animals and birds prefer them,” she says. “Newts are starting to migrate and hibernate. Chipmunks and squirrels are preparing for winter, gathering nuts and seeds.” Natasha doesn’t seem disappointed by missing today’s forest walk. She seems to have the attitude that nature can be everywhere if you look closely. Along the perimeter of the gravel parking lot, she finds a surprising number of plants and animals to point out in the scrubby, wild growth just beyond.

The beautiful blue colour of Chicory plants in bloom prompts her to explain “Chicory is a coffee substitute. It grows in disturbed areas.” Later, it’s easy to find information that the root of flowering Chicory plants

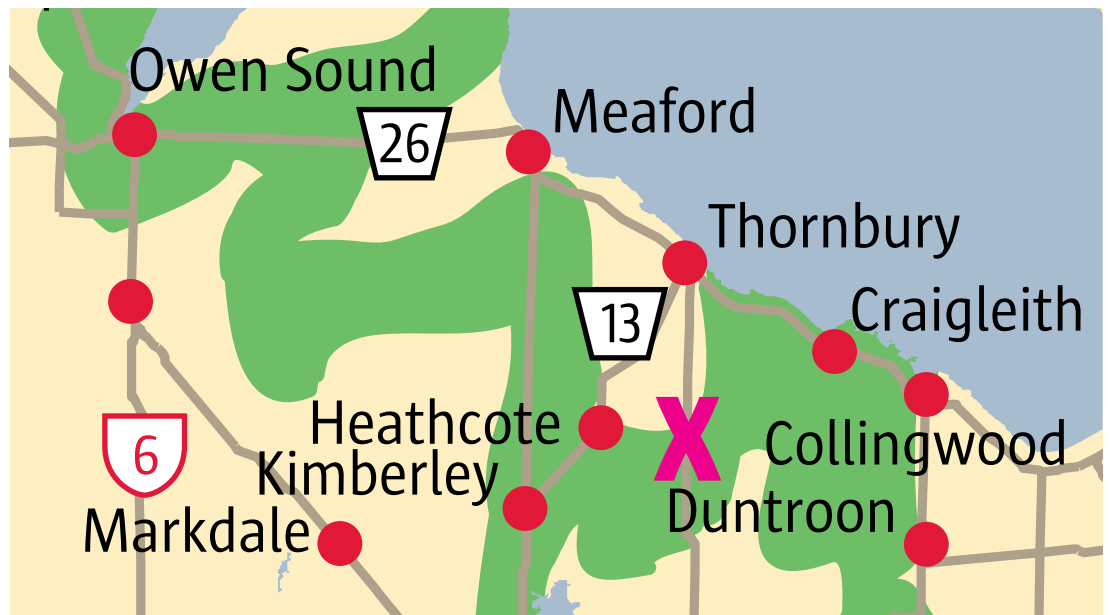
can be roasted, ground and then brewed like coffee.

Natasha mentions that branches from the Leatherwood shrub are used for making bows, and that Black Ash can be used for making baskets and snowshoes. Pointing to the beautiful flowers of the Purple Knapweed plant, she adds that it’s invasive. She indicates Common Milkweed, saying that Swamp Milkweed is preferred by the Monarch Butterfly. Dark purple New England Asters are a favourite for many people, but the equally common Goldenrods are hard to identify, she admits.

Learning About Insects

Insects are plentiful among the dense “weedy” growth around the parking lot. Natasha explains that the Conehead





▲ X marks the rough location of Kolapore Wilderness Trails.



▲ In the parking lot at the start of the walk, people gather in a circle around Chris to hear plans for the afternoon. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS



▲ Natasha Akiwenzie, manager of Bagida'waad Alliance, pointing out Common Milkweed and proving that nature is almost everywhere. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

From the bagidawaad.ca website, the description of the organization:

“The Bagida’waad Alliance is a grassroots organization that includes a majority of members of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, whose traditional territory’s shoreline is over 800 km. Saukiing Anishinaabekiing extends from near Thornbury on Georgian Bay around the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula and down Lake Huron past Goderich.”

Grasshopper is green, large, with red “lips.” Swiftly yet carefully, she captures a Large Marsh Grasshopper, gently holding it by its legs to allow for a photograph. She also knows caterpillars, noticing one on a Goldenrod leaf, and identifying it as a Brown-hooded Owllet Moth. Even the galls on plant stems, those hard round growths that swell inside the stalks after insects have laid eggs or fed on the plants, are of interest. “We’re learning which insects like

which plants,” she says.

Natasha moves to an area where grasses are tall in the shade of large trees. “We’re looking for signs that animals have been here,” she explains, and soon she points to some flattened grass that might be a trail or a resting place. Looking up into the trees, she explains that Trembling Aspens have leaves that catch sunlight on both sides, which is why they “tremble,” exposing both sides to the light. Looking at



▲ Chris shows the Sensitive Fern, which is an indicator of wetlands.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

◀ Natasha’s eagle eye spotted this Brown-hooded Owllet Moth caterpillar on a Goldenrod leaf.

PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

► Chris points to Basswood leaves, saying they’re a good substitute for toilet paper, and giving the tree’s descriptive rhyming nickname.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS






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Sandhill Cranes, taken by Rob Wray



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▲ At the end of the Walk & Talk, Kate Russell, left, gives some closing remarks while Natasha looks on. Kate is treasurer for Bagida'waad Alliance. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

other trees, she makes the unusual statement "Elms are corky under the bark," and adds that grabbing the tree helps to identify it in winter.

There is still more to see, identify and learn about even in this unimpressive patch of scrubland, but Christopher and the large group is returning. The time with Natasha in the parking lot is finishing long before she shares all her knowledge even of this place.

Hunger for Native Knowledge

People seem to have a hunger for Indigenous knowledge of the natural world. After a few hours exploring the forest, the Walk & Talk group moves to Osprey Museum, by then hungry for

the buffet meal of good food.

For more information about Bagida'waad Alliance and Aki Guardians, see the website bagidawaad.ca. **NEV**



▲ Natasha carefully holds a Large Marsh Grasshopper. PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT

Also from bagidawaad.ca, observations of climate change:

The Bagida'waad Alliance has been running a program called New Journey to Save Fish: Oshki Maadaadiziwin Jaa Bimaaji'ut Gigooyike. At least for the last ten years, the commercial fishers have noticed changes in the weather patterns on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay: in particular, increasing winds and increased severity of storms. These changes have had negative effects on the number of safe days for being on the water. Each day when we decide whether to fish or not, one of the critical issues is how windy it is. We either decide it is worth the risk, or stay on shore. When one family, the Akiwenzies, started fishing fifteen years ago, we used to have two windy days a week with five calm days to fish. Today it is about five windy days a week, with one or two days of calm days. We have been collecting the stories of the changes in the environment through hiring youth to interview community members, produced a mini-documentary, and are working on a book of stories. We are also running a Film School for Anishinaabe youth in our region to gather stories about the perspectives of stewardship and caretaking.

■ READERS & VIEWERS

continued from p 8.



Read your wonderful Summer 2025 magazine and just had to send this picture of a flag in Orangeville. Hope you enjoy.

David Kirk



Norman Wingrove



Kay Hedley



▲ Chris indicates Hart's Tongue, a very rare fern, growing close to tree roots along the trail. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

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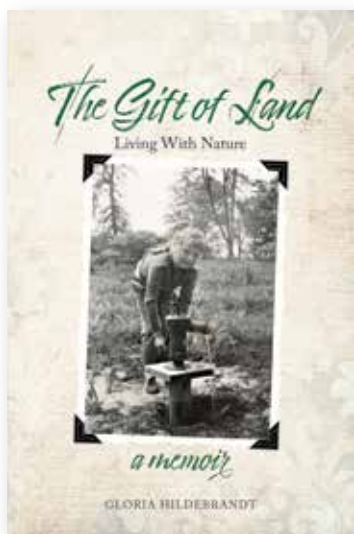


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Rock Climbing in Identified Sensitive Areas & Bill 26

By Adam Pearce

I am writing to express deep concern about the increasing and largely unregulated impact of rock climbing on the sensitive ecological and geological features of the Niagara Escarpment. The recent steps by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to invoke Bill 26—potentially overriding long-standing environmental protections—pose a serious threat to the health of this UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

The tragic death of a climber at Mount Nemo earlier this year is a stark reminder of the dangers associated with unregulated climbing. Within 48 hours of this fatal incident, the site was reopened to the public. This raises a deeply troubling question: was the remainder of the rock face even assessed for structural stability before welcoming back climbers, hikers, and other recreational users? The risks are not hypothetical—this could happen again, and not only to climbers, but also to unsuspecting families, nature lovers, and other trail users.

Ontario Parks was established to safeguard ecologically sensitive areas for the benefit of future generations—not to allow recreational activities to develop unchecked and without proper oversight. Allowing climbing route development by individuals without formal engineering backgrounds or ecological

training leads to the destabilization of the rock face and disruption of delicate ecosystems. Such alterations are not only dangerous but often irreversible.

In addition, we have submitted a Freedom of Information request that we believe will reveal that Ontario Parks, MECP, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) are knowingly failing to uphold protections for identified species at risk—specifically, a bat hibernaculum located within one of the impacted areas. This is not only ethically questionable, but legally and scientifically indefensible. We would be more than willing to share the FOI findings with *Niagara Escarpment Views* once we receive them.



▲ Bolts and chains attached to the Escarpment cliff face at one popular rock climbing location. PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS

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Suspended. Splendid!

by Nicholl Spence

Many years ago, I discovered a substrate that I adore playing with: resin! This material is fascinating, from the chemical reaction that happens when first mixing the two ingredients, to the final results that this incredible epoxy renders. Jewellery resin is a two-part product: resin and hardener and is mixed in equal parts. I started using it with everything. First, I incorporated it with items from nature.

Resin has the wonderful ability not only to suspend an item within it, but also to illuminate such fine details as the veins in a leaf or flower petal. This is likely due to the fact that the resin, after curing, gives a wet-like, glass finish to the project.

My first experience included suspending a piece of driftwood I had found in Burlington along the shores of Lake Ontario. I experimented with adding drops of food colour to the resin and once cured, I sliced cross sections of the suspended driftwood to make individual pendants.

In the fall I gathered several acorn tops that the squirrels left behind after

they'd foraged the nuts. Using a silicone bead mould, I filled the cavity with flower petals and then poured in the resin. Twenty-four hours later I had beautiful marble-like beads which housed my garden flowers. Using a piece of 24-gauge wire, I threaded it through the bead, added an acorn top and then poured more resin over the top of it.

I have also experimented with using resin to make furniture from nature. A friend gave me a four-inch slab from a fallen tree. The inner markings were beautiful and you could see how two young trees had once intertwined into a single. The slab was beautiful, but the chainsaw used to cut the section had made jagged, ugly gouges in the hardwood. Masking off the perimeter of the slab to create an edge where the resin would stop, I poured resin to create the tabletop. The result ended with the ugly gouges disappearing and the inner circles of the tree coming to life. This beautiful side table sits under my window where I display fresh cut flowers from my garden.

Resin kits are readily available online or at your local craft store. You'll want to purchase resin specifically



▲ Top of an acorn with dandelion suspended in a resin bead.

► Cross section of a piece of salvaged driftwood found along the bank of Lake Ontario.



for jewellery. Be sure to send us your pictures!

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You can find how-to tutorials on my YouTube channel @FarmhouseStudioOnFifth.

Nicholl Spence is a freelance graphic designer who works from her rural farmhouse home office in Erin. Among her work is the design and layout for this magazine.

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GUEST COLUMN

Awakening a German Yellow

By Mike Davis

I was doing some spring cleaning in my garage this past spring and was refolding an old plastic tarp. At first, I felt a pin prick on my arm but soon realized that I got stung by an insect! As I age, I am developing a greater appreciation of nature, so instead of dispatching the creature, I took a photo. I showed it to a member of my local naturalist group, the Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club. I regard Dr. Darryl Gwynne as the Club's resident entomologist, which is a scientist who studies insects. He confirmed that the creature was a German Yellow Jacket queen that overwintered in my tarp!

She is a foundress, as she is the only one of a few other queens to survive the winter from her nest the year before. She will build a new nest, lay eggs, and forage for food for her grubs. She will do all of that alone until her sterile daughters emerge as adult workers. She will then devote her time to staying in the nest just laying eggs. Later in the season larger nest cells will be created, for the production of new queens and male drones.

To put it into human terms, I awakened a princess who spent the winter cozied up in a relatively-warm abode in my tarp, only to be rudely disturbed by a big hairless ape (me). She could and did express her displeasure. I got stung by a Foundress Queen. What an honour! The sting was not too noticeable in the beginning, but got more painful over a day or so. I had a rash for about a week and it was a little itchy. After that, it was just a memory. By the way, she survived her encounter with me.

Meat Eater

Several years ago, I observed what I think may have been a worker Yellow Jacket wasp during a local Ribfest in Georgetown. I was relaxing at a picnic table and noticed a wasp landing on a pile of discarded rib bones that someone had eaten from but had not taken to the garbage. It was late in the summer and as I was familiar with wasps going after sugar, I thought she was going after the likely high-sugar content BBQ sauce. I was wrong. I watched her scrape meat leavings away from the bone and roll them into a ball. She then flew away, likely to her nest to feed a grub! She exploited a protein source.

Dr. Gwynne explained that the German Yellow Jacket is more aggressive than other native Yellow Jacket species and as it is an introduced species, can displace native species by outcompeting them. My Internet research at thecanadianencyclopedia.ca found that they are pollinators, as they go after flower nectar, and that they can control pests by preying on other insects to feed to their grubs.

Dr. Darryl Gwynne is Emeritus Professor of Biology, University of Toronto. His research emphasis is on using insects, particularly Katydid and Crickets, to



Autumn in Bayfront Park, Hamilton.
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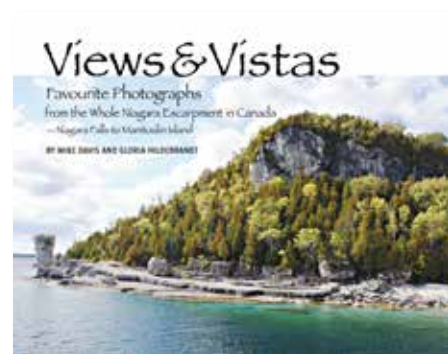
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Jacket Queen

understand some of Darwin's ideas, particularly how sex differences evolve. He is an Ig Nobel prize recipient. This is a satirical prize awarded to promote public engagement with scientific research. Dr. Gwynne last appeared in

my article "The birds and the bees, and the dance flies," in Summer 2011. **NEV**

Mike Davis is co-founder, co-owner, co-publisher and accounts manager for Niagara Escarpment Views.

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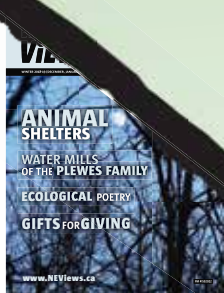
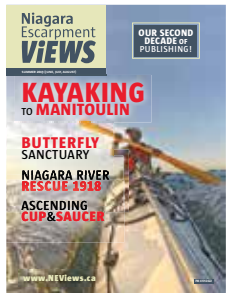
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Preserving a Wild Future, One Wild Acre at a Time

By Beth Gilhespy

We're in the midst of an unprecedented environmental crisis. Globally, nearly one million species are at risk of extinction, many within our lifetime. In Ontario, the leading threat to biodiversity is habitat loss—the slow but steady erosion of forests, wetlands, alvars, and meadows that species need to survive.

Even as this crisis deepens, protections for Ontario's natural areas are being weakened. So who will safeguard the land when policy falls short? Never before has the work of land trusts like Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC), been more important.

At EBC, we have worked with landowners to protect nearly 25,000 acres of ecologically significant land on the Niagara Escarpment and surrounding areas: dramatic Escarpment ridges, tall forests, gentle wetlands, and sensitive alvar ecosystems. These are places that store carbon, purify water, and give at-risk species the space they need to thrive.

Work Far From Done

Through our 2025 Wild Future Campaign, we're aiming to protect another 1,100 acres by the end of 2025. Each of these places tells a story—not just of ecological value, but of the choices we face. Will we protect what remains, or watch Ontario's natural heritage slip away?

Among them: 365 acres of forest and wetland near Benallen, expanding on

233 adjacent acres protected last year. A 100-acre mosaic of meadow, karst, and wetland on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula that shelters nesting Bobolinks and a family of Black Bears. A 20-acre fen and alvar nearby where tamarack trees and showy Lady's Slipper Orchids bloom. And on Manitoulin Island/Mnidoo Mnising, a dramatic Escarpment ridge with rare ferns and dolostone caprock increasingly vulnerable to quarrying.

The cost to preserve these and other sites in 2025 is \$3.8 million but thankfully we already have \$2.7 million in funding and donations secured. That means a 2025 Wild Future Campaign goal of \$1.1million, and every donation has 3.5 times the impact.

A wild future is a hopeful future. A wild future means intact expanses of forest, protected shorelines and thriving wetlands. A wild future means the habitats that Ontario's sensitive and vulnerable species call home are safe from impairment. And a wild future means health for ourselves and the generations that follow.

If this vision of a wild future resonates with you, I invite you to learn more about the Wild Future Campaign and make a donation at www.escarpment.ca. You can also contact me at beth@escarpment.ca. I'd love to tell you more about the incredible places we're safeguarding, and the future we're working toward—one wild acre at a time.

Beth Gilhespy is CEO of Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy

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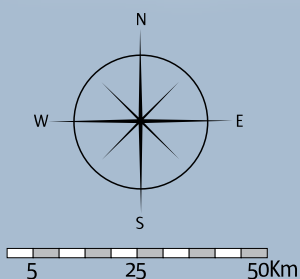
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Approximate scale
Map is only an approximate reference.

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