

Engaged Letters to the Editor



Our letters to the editor, which we publish in a department we call Readers & Viewers, have long been a vibrant part of our Escarpment community. This section is so popular that some people tell us it's the first thing they turn to in our issues. That may be because we have always published letters and messages from our audience, even when they are critical of our work, disagree with our choices, or dislike what I've written as my editor's letter. I believe that good journalism accepts a variety of opinions and voices. Publishing negative comments adds credibility to our letters

department, and engages our readers more than just positive ones would. We've had discussions from readers that have lasted over several issues, again demonstrating the level of engagement that you have with our magazine. I'm honoured and humbled by that, and encourage all of you to keep sending me your opinions. The letters in this issue contain at least one that may certainly stir some of you to a deft response. I'm eager to read your views.

In this Issue

Last winter the Bruce Peninsula endured a brutal snowstorm that locked people down for days. Our man in Lion's Head, Chris Hamilton, shows us what it was like and how people came together to ensure everyone's safety and comfort.

Sandra J. Howe, who loves getting out in all seasons, takes us cross-country skiing at Massie Hills, southeast of Owen Sound. Deep snow is valued here!

There's a valuable volunteer organization based in Owen

Sound that works tirelessly to locate missing people, or at least their remains if they're deceased. Please Bring Me Home is celebrated for us by Sue Horner.

Beth Gilhespy shows us some of the very foundations of the Niagara Escarpment in her exploration of the astonishing variety of rocks and minerals to be found along the mighty ledge.

We're honoured to have a piece written by Steve Paikin of TVO. His description of a remarkable church in M'Chigeeng, Manitoulin Island, marries well with photos of the exterior and interior that were taken by Mike Davis.

What, Another Book?

A few years ago, I woke up to the alarming fact that I may be in the last third of my life. Too many of my friends had died recently, and there is no reason that I might not be next. I'm not even as fit as some of them were. With the real probability of death sometime in my future, I began to feel an urgency to

get some things done that I always thought I would do one day. That includes publishing some books of my writing. I started with a memoir, *A Gift of Land: Living With Nature*. Next is a collection of what I consider the best short stories I've written over my lifetime. I didn't want to die without having them assembled in book form. I'm relieved that I've published *Big Fat Stinky Woman and Other Stories*. Now I feel I've "caught up" with the obvious works I had in me. If I manage to write any other books, I expect it will take some time. I appreciate the opportunity I have in this magazine, to publicize my work.

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
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