
An aerial photograph of a snowy landscape, likely a mountainous region, with a winding road visible in the lower right. The snow is a mix of white and light blue, and the overall scene is hazy and atmospheric.

# **YOU CAN'T GET HERE FROM THERE**

WRITTEN BY CHRIS HAMILTON

# **THE 2025 BRUCE SNOWSTORM**

A photograph showing a person in dark winter clothing walking away from the camera through a deep snowdrift. The background is very hazy and white, suggesting a heavy snowfall or whiteout. Other figures are visible in the distance, also struggling through the snow. The overall scene is one of a severe winter storm.

Multiple accidents on closed road,  
Bruce County. PHOTO BY DON MCCULLOUGH.

**T**he storm of 2025 on Saugeen Bruce Peninsula came with 90-km-per-hour winds and 60 cm of snow per day causing huge drifts, roads blocked, whiteout conditions with zero visibility. It hit fast and hard. Squalls and whiteouts had made roads impassable. Everyone in town was stuck in town, and anyone who had gone out of town in the morning was stuck wherever they were because roads were closing.



Bruce County accident on highway. PHOTO BY DON MCCULLOUGH.

**O**n January 27, 2025, the town of Lion's Head was busy. Residents from all over the Peninsula were preparing for an incoming storm. Grocery, hardware, pharmacy, liquor stores and shops in town were full of people stocking up on essentials either for themselves or friends and neighbours who couldn't get here. With the forecast predicting massive winds and

oodles of snow, we all knew it was going to be a bad one.

Stories from the massive storm of 2014 were everywhere. Cam Ruttle told of having his car stuck headfirst in a snowbank until a burly man with a dump truck and chain, pulled him out and onto the road again. Cam followed the truck's tail lights to Lion's Head, where he stayed the night. Others spoke of days without hydro or water. One family left their

stranded car seeking shelter at a nearby farm only to find two other families had already been welcomed inside.

Conversations would then invariably turn to making sure everyone had food and water, hydro, firewood or someone to call in case of emergency.

### **Then the Storm Hit**

Up here on the Peninsula we can see 30 to 60 cm of snow and laugh it off. Sure, that's a lot of snow to get rid of, but

we have a great snow clearing system using municipal and locally contracted resources in town and on municipal roads, and provincial plows on the highways. Anyone with a plow is out there helping someone.

The nasty bit about a Peninsula winter, though, is the wind.

Those working in town who live in Pike Bay or Stokes Bay, Miller Lake or anywhere in between were stuck. Jo stayed with her sister in town. Rick



► Chris Hamilton digging because there's a barbecue in here somewhere. PHOTO BY NANCY HAMILTON.



Highway closed, Bruce County.  
PHOTO BY DON MCCULLOUGH.





▲ Waves of snow, when the snow blows in from both directions. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAMILTON.



▲ Icicles and overhangs at the Golden Dawn senior citizens' home. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAMILTON.



▲ Snow wall, Lion's Head. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAMILTON.

barely made it to Ferndale. Bijou and her Jeep 4x4 got stuck twice on the nasty turn on the way to Barrow Bay. Lee made it as far as the liquor store. A handful of us live in town so were able to get home. We all just hunkered down.

It was a different story out on Highway 6.

Bear Tracks Inn and Restaurant remained open that night to take in anyone who needed shelter. Kelly, who would end up stuck at work for two days, was inside making sure everyone was dry and fed. The Inn was full, but no one was turned away.

Nick was outside in the storm pulling people off the road. The snow was blinding and the howl of the wind was deafening. He watched for the blinking hazards of slow-moving cars and directed them into the parking lot. Soon the cars stopped coming.

Drifts on the highway were six feet tall. Stranded Hydro workers stayed at the gas station. One car was stuck in the middle of Highway 6 in Mar blocking the road. Over the course of the night 50 cars were stranded. There were even plows and emergency vehicles in the ditch.

The storm continued for two days. Many roads remained closed in the region so supply trucks could not get through. The egg truck made it through, but once here, was stuck. The driver couldn't get there from here. Stranded motorists lined Highway 6, slowing the process of clearing the roads. The OPP were ticketing anyone caught driving on a closed road.

I climbed over the six-foot pile of snow plowed into

the end of the driveway and walked to work in the tracks of the school bus. There are enough of us who live and work in town so we can open some stores for food and essentials. Rachel's stayed open for hot meals. Scott's for essentials. Scott's even brought me up a new snowblower that afternoon when mine broke mid-plow. Hellyer's was open for groceries and gossip.

By noon on the 29th, Highway 6 was open. The sun was shining, and the snow-covered world took on a sparkling beauty. Stranded people made a dash for home. By 2:30 Highway 6 south was closed again. A hydro pole had gone down over the highway just north of Warton. It would be more than a day before it re-opened, but Bruce Road 9 was open as an alternate route.

### Digging Out

Once the snow abated, the efforts to dig out began.

As the sun came out, neighbour helped neighbour to clear ice and snow. In many cases, there was no place to put it. The kids went back to school for the first time in weeks, and life slowly returned to normal.

As the people of the Peninsula made it out, they gathered in their spots: the gas station, the restaurants and the shops. People new to the area would say "What the hell was that!?" Those of us who have lived here a while would just say "Winter." And so, the new stories began.

The biggest delay in opening roads during and after a storm is saving people and clearing abandoned cars. Many had to be pushed into



Impassable front door. Maybe we'll go out the back door today. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAMILTON.



Chris Hamilton's path through the 12-foot drifts so the propane guy can get through. PHOTO BY CHRIS HAMILTON.

the ditches to clear the roads. Warnings had been issued for days. More than snow or ice or wind, people travelling when they shouldn't, caused the most trouble. People

were stuck in cars all night, frightened and frozen or sleeping on floors away from their homes and loved ones.

So, if it's winter and it's going to be a big multi-day

blizzard, get some food, warm boots and mitts, stop at the library, then head home. Start the fire, make some popcorn, open a book and let the storm rage outside.



▲ Meanwhile, Sauble Beach also had a bit of snow. PHOTO BY LISA CHADWICK.

Don't go for a drive. Because you can't get here from there. **NEV**

*Chris Hamilton's last feature for this magazine was "Fire at Lion's Head Foodland," Summer 2024.*



Follow us on **TikTok & Instagram?**

**VISIT US**  
in person for  
the real thing ...



**FOODSTUFFS**  
Specialty & Health Foods

You'll  
be  
**AMAZED!**

89 Main Street South • Downtown Georgetown • Foodstuffs.ca



**egmond**  
ASSOCIATES LTD

**GEOHERMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

**JOHN VAN EGMOND**  
Egmond Associates Ltd  
9601 Winston Churchill Blvd,  
Brampton, L6X 0A4  
647-444-4797

Save Energy, Save Money  
on Heating and Air Conditioning.  
Dealing with contamination of wells. EMAIL: johnv@egmond.ca WEB: egmond.ca

## SALES HELP WANTED!



**BUILD CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLE** who want to increase visits to their locations and sites.

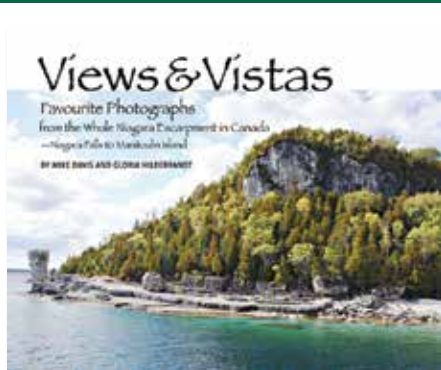
**WORK IN YOUR AREA OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT**, selling ads in this popular publication.

**WE PROVIDE LOTS OF LEADS & SUPPORT!**

**Niagara Escarpment VIEWS**  
Contact Mike Davis:  
905.866.7888  
or ads@NEViews.ca

Enjoy the **Best Views & Vistas** of the whole Niagara Escarpment in Canada!

ORDER FORM:



More than **150 full-page photographs** from Niagara Falls to Manitoulin Island in one softcover volume.

Photographs by Mike Davis, writing by Gloria Hildebrandt, co-publishers of *Niagara Escarpment Views* magazine.

**Details at NEViews.ca.** Order online through our General Store or pay now by cheque, e-transfer or credit card

**Niagara Escarpment VIEWS**  
Niagara Escarpment Views  
50 Ann St., Georgetown ON L7G 2V2  
905.866.7888 ads@NEViews.ca

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

TOWN .....

PROVINCE .....

POSTAL CODE .....

PHONE .....

EMAIL .....

Copy of *Views & Vistas*  
\$60 + \$3GST + \$21 shipping = **\$84**