

NEWS ITEM:
POLITICIANS SHIFT FOCUS AWAY FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, TO ADDRESS MORE IMMEDIATE VOTER CONCERNS LIKE THE ECONOMY, HEALTHCARE, AND INFLATION -



■ READERS & VIEWERS



Mike's centerfold sylvan image of Old Baldy [Winter 2025-26] brought back a recollection of my first close encounter of the escarpment kind, back in '57, very shortly after arriving in Canada. That's when our kinfolk were driven up to the secret "mountain" in some-ones Cadillac, in search of semi-permanent accommodation. Lo and behold, there was such a similar view of rock and forestry looking out the windshield, as we drove up James Street. And well do I remember getting seasick in

that chesterfield on wheels using that kaput macadam road, full of potholes; just as I felt on the recent voyage across an ocean left behind. (Keeping in mind, none of us five was used to car rides, coming from the Old Country where hardly anyone yet owned an auto.) I also recall, as a teen in the '60s, often climbing the "mountain" staircases, rickety as they were, with a bike on my back. The trip by bike down the brow by way of the Jolley Cut was, however, always much fun with the wind in my hair. No pedalling needed to get all the way to King or Main Streets. Since leaving HAMILTON I and my wife have moved multiple times to various towns, but always ended up near the slope/

scarp. It seems in Ontario one can't escape the escarpment.
Jürgen Müller, Hillsburgh

I would like to offer my opinion regarding the points specifically raised by Louise Dawe in her letter published in the Winter 2025-26 of NEV. My information is current as of December 27, 2025.

As for rebuilding the economy, the Republicans' "big beautiful bill," has delivered tax cuts for the rich, while reducing federal funding for Medicaid (health insurance program for low-income Americans), and SNAP (food stamps). According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a non-partisan agency, households in the bottom decile of income distribution

will lose about US\$1,600 per year as a result of the law, while those in the top 10 per cent will see a US\$12,000 annual gain. As for tariffs and creating "American" jobs, according to US Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, if the whole US trade deficit were rebalanced through expanding domestic industries, this would (only) increase the share of manufacturing employment within the US by about one percentage point, from about 8% today to 9%, hardly transformative.

Regarding calling out corruption in the government, Mr. Trump should first look in the mirror. There being too many instances of corruption, please go to this 30-page report from the Campaign

Debajehmujig Storytellers

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Legal Center (CLC), a nonpartisan legal organization dedicated to solving the wide range of challenges facing American democracy. https://campaignlegal.org/sites/default/files/2025-1/CLC_Corruption_Tracker_Nov20.pdf

As for illegal immigrants straining social services, the CBO found that between 50 percent and 75 percent of illegal immigrants pay federal, state, and local taxes. They also pay into Social Security and Medicare, benefits that they are not eligible to collect, only their children.

Regarding deporting criminals that are committing crimes against U.S. citizens, of people booked into ICE custody this fiscal year (since October 1, 2025), nearly three in four (73 percent) had no criminal conviction and the majority of criminal convicts were for vice, immigration, or

traffic offenses, not crimes (directly) against people.

As for working for World Peace, legal analysts and lawmakers from both parties have described the killing of at least 105 people in 29 strikes on vessels (so far) in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean since the beginning of September (with no evidence of any wrongdoing ever being presented), as extrajudicial killings, which are illegal under U.S. and international law. How soon before other countries, especially China, use Trump's actions as justification for their own attacks in international waters? **In conclusion**, I was surprised and disappointed that someone *choosing* to live in Canada, but also a U.S. citizen, would use the tired reference to needing a parka and toque in Canada, as if the idea was foreign to anyone living in the United

States. Hello, winter makes a freezing appearance in at least 19 U.S. states (alphabetically, Alaska to Wyoming).

Garry Tate, email

I very much enjoy your publication and although I do not think it is a proper form for political discussion, I feel I must respond to one of your letter writers, clearly a member of the MAGA crowd. She has every right to express her opinion, however odious it may be to many NEV readers - so I am going to express mine. The writer seemed to be triggered by this magazine's characterization of the current US administration as being 'bizarre'. I would think that majority of your readers would find nothing out of the ordinary with this adjective. She claims "He (Trump) is rebuilding the US economy.

Facts: (from The Economist) After weak job figures, he (Trump) sacked

the head of Statistics ... and paused nearly all official data releases, leaving policymakers "driving in the fog", as Jerome Powell, chair of the Federal Reserve, put it. So how DO you actually measure economic performance once you shoot the messenger? Btw, inflation is up and consumer confidence is down. The stock market is lower than Trump's first term and even lower than Obama's 2nd term. Trump also attacked Powell for not lowering interest rates - an attempt which is a clear case of government interference with respect to this formerly 'arms length' institution.

The writer goes on ... "He is deporting illegal immigrants ..." I'm certain he is but the arbitrary number of a request for 3000 arrests/day, given by Stephen Miller, means many other innocent people are being caught up by the ill-trained, goon squad called ICE, that are assaulting,

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teargassing, tasing, beating and incarcerating innocent American civilians just trying to go about their daily lives. Many of them have no criminal record and are in the United States legally, raising families, working and paying taxes. It seems to be open season on anybody of colour or anybody who dares protest peacefully, which still is a legal right in the US (for now).

The cold-blooded shooting of Renee Good is a case in point (and certainly not the only one).

"He is working for world peace..." Gaza, Ukraine and Cambodia are still hotspots and he has bombed boats and attacked Venezuela without justification nor authorization. He continually threatens Greenland, and now Cuba, Columbia, Mexico and of course, Canada - a country you enjoy residing in but is under economic attack from Trump's misguided and ruinous tariffs and his refusal to recognize CUSMA (which HE negotiated). He no longer cares about International rule of law and world trade legalities.

"Canada needs to clean the waste and corruption and work on our health care system." No facts or specific evidence of 'waste and corruption' is cited, so this is a 'fact free' suggestion, going nowhere. As far as our healthcare system goes, sure it's always in need of improvement but at least Canadians don't suffer from huge medical bills, which is leading cause of bankruptcy in the US system - which, after Trump abolished Obamacare, is getting worse not better.

So I would ask the letter writer to count her blessings and spare us the lectures about the faults in our own country. The mere fact that I am publishing these anti-Trump views, incredibly, means I can no longer safely

enter the United States without risk of being detained, arrested and deported to some other country and that is a risk that I will no longer take. In a country that used to value free-speech, it's now criminal to think differently than the current President, who is acting like a dictator.

Grant Ranalli, email

I am writing in response to a reader whose comment was published in your Winter 2025 issue mentioning that she took offence to a comment Ms. Hildebrandt had written regarding "... increasingly BIZARRE ADMINISTRATION..." Re, the US Government, more so, President Trump. Although Louise Dawe comments that she is a dual citizen, from the tone of the comment my guess is that she's an American first. Frankly, I am tired of listening to this [garbage] and wanted to reply. Ms. Dawe writes that, "He" is rebuilding the US economy. "He" is calling out corruption and waste in the government, lowering crime rates, deporting illegal immigrants that are straining social services and deporting criminals that are committing crimes against US citizens. And, "He" is working for world peace. I don't know, maybe I am completely uninformed to the latest news but the event that stands out in my mind is that "He", single-handedly mobilized a mob of Americans instructing them to storm Capital Hill causing trauma, destruction and death. And after that, he managed to get elected again to cause more disruption and chaos. I find "him" terrifying and am mortified that so many people follow and defend such a human being and trigger-finger leader of the most powerful country. Seriously, you write that Canada needs a "wake up call?" Sorry Ms. Dawe, you might be living on

the wrong side of the border, besides it's warmer there!

Nicole Novak, email



Your magazine article on "Working Together to Limit the Impact of Gravel Operations" [Autumn 2025] is a very timely article. Based on my experience at the new Walker Duntroon Quarry I would mention to your readership there is a requirement of their license to monitor the groundwater as they are proposing to mine below the normal groundwater level as are many new and existing quarries. Walker's are required to submit an annual report on their water monitoring authored by their water resources expert. As the site sits at the headwaters of the West Beaver, Mad, Pretty and Batteaux watersheds and operation could have very serious impacts on the groundwater levels in the area. As a result it is very complex and beyond what a normal lay person could review and make meaningful comment on. It requires expert water resource review. My concern is it should also be peer reviewed by an independent recognized water resource expert and this is at this time not required and should be.

**George Powell,
retired professional engineer,
email**

I enjoy the magazine very much, it makes this wonderful resource, the Niagara Escarpment, seem like a whole rather than just a series of walking trails.

John Goyder, Oakville

I pickup your magazine at local Home Hardware here in Georgetown -- love it.
Mike Leigh, Georgetown

Your magazine was found at Foodland Tobermory last Saturday. We are life members of the [Bruce] Trail as my wife has now completed 2.75 end to end trail walks, me 1.5 times. Summer of 2024 she spent biking 10,602 km from Victoria BC to St. John's while I followed with truck and trailer. We enjoy travelling and exploring our country and its outdoor activities and your magazine has many interesting articles, therefore I decided to apply for more.

Mark Bender, New Hamburg



I really enjoy your magazine. I have the Welland Canals episode. [Spring 2024] Great stuff... I live in Caledonia. Grew up in Hamilton Ontario Canada

Mike Joncas, Caledonia



I just wanted to (belatedly!) say thanks again for making it possible for my family and I to have copies of the magazine with the Plewes feature [Winter 2018-19]. It's brought us a lot of pleasure to read about the history and reignited a passion for finding out more about our history.

**Emma Gosling,
Monmouthshire, Wales**

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Photos by Steve McNamara



◀ Snowy Owl,
north
of Belwood
Lake.

▶ Peregrine Falcon,
Royal Botanical
Gardens Arboretum,
Hamilton



◀ Osprey,
Guelph Lake
Conservation Area

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