

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