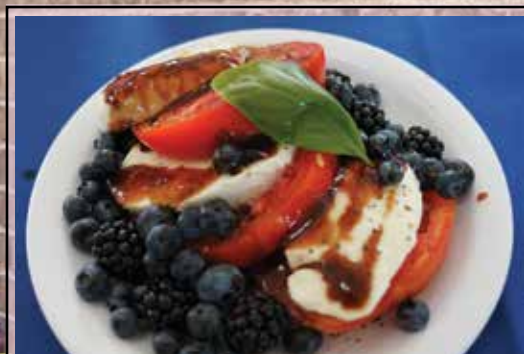


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SUMMER 2026 (JUNE, JULY, AUGUST)



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# Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**



Summer 2026

(June, July, August)

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Photo by Gloria Hildebrandt

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## Niagara Escarpment **ViEWS**

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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

# The World We Live In



**T**he communities close to the Niagara Escarpment do not exist in a vacuum. We are all being affected by decisions and actions that originate south of our border and are causing responses by our national and provincial governments. We're all seeing the alarming prices of groceries and gas. The push to build more housing to create jobs and home markets for Canadian products is being felt by small towns that are bracing for pressures on infrastructure, community resources like drinking water, and loss of farmland. Added to this are the unknown results from changes to or the losses of, local conservation authorities. We have every right to scrutinize and criticize all of these. When every day brings new devastation, mostly from the United States, it's natural to hope for a swift return to international

harmony and good will. There is so much to do to benefit all life on earth, that it's heartbreaking to see so much time and money being wasted in negative and harmful ways.

We've faced greater difficulties before, especially during the COVID pandemic, and most of us got through it without much damage. We will have to overcome the current challenges as well. By continuing to buy Canadian, travel locally and support each other, this time in our lives may become nothing but a distasteful memory. Life will go on and we will be able to resume creating the kind of world we want to live in.

## In This Issue

As always, this issue was worked on far in advance and as I always prefer to feature positive stories, our content does not deal with international stresses. Instead, we're celebrating some lovely activities and events from our Escarpment area. Perhaps they will give you ideas for where to go and what to do

this challenging summer!

The cover story is a photo feature that lets you explore beautiful pollinator gardens that were on last year's garden tour offered by Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society. Another common thread among many of the gardens was the inclusion of lovely art pieces. We're happy to be showing the garden owners as well as their gardens.

Boaters who enjoy the North Channel off Manitoulin Island during the summer months have a friend in Roy Eaton, the driving force behind Cruisers' Net, a volunteer organization out of Little Current that provides help, news and socialization. A morning spent in the studio is fascinating.

A great way to spend time on water is by cruising down the Grand River while making and enjoying an Indigenous gourmet meal. Grand River Dinner Cruises offered this last year and we've brought back peeps at the goodies.

Hamilton Conservation Authority has built a

new educational trail in Dundas Valley with a First Nations' focus and Paul Weinberg shares the hike experience here. Be prepared to learn a lot.

## New This Issue

My co-publisher Mike Davis likes arithmetical puzzles. I haven't got a clue about them, but I do like some word puzzles, where I have to find words hidden among meaningless letters. I'm joining other publications that have them, and I'm happy to introduce our own version, called Word Tracking, complete with an animal's paw print. Have a look at it on page 51.

## Get Back to Me

If anything in this letter annoys you, do get back to me with your own particular view. I always love hearing from you, even if you don't agree with me.

**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](mailto:editor@NEViews.ca) or  
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 Georgetown ON L7G 2V2.

## 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](http://www.NEViews.ca).



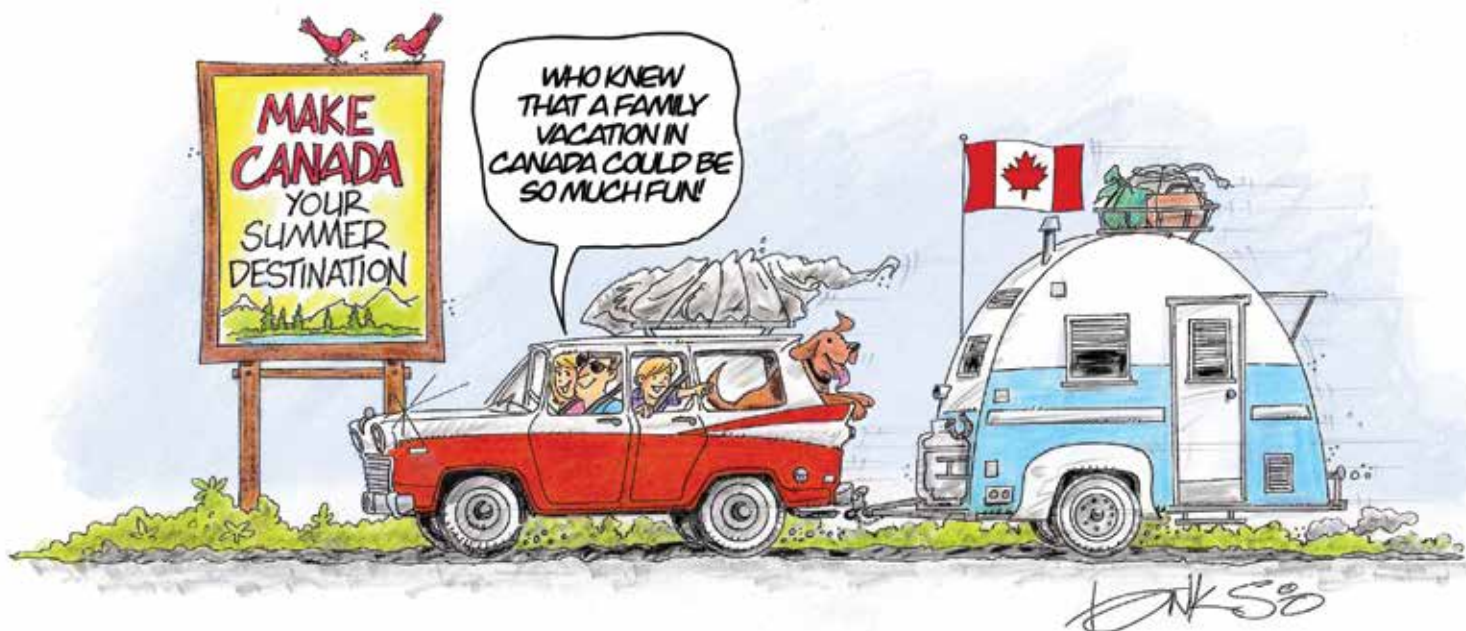
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## NEWS ITEM: SURVEY SHOWS A MAJORITY OF CANADIANS ARE PLANNING TO VACATION AT HOME.



## READERS & VIEWERS



I just picked up my copy of NEV at Berg Equipment today. I've only had time to glance at the Letters to the Editor. However, it was heartening to see two other thoughtful responses to the last issue's letter from Louise Dawe (specifically) and reflections on our "King" to the South (generally)... I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the issue at bedtime. It looks like a lot of great photos and who doesn't miss Esther the Wonder Pig?  
Garry Tate, email

Just picked up the latest copy of NE Views which I do on a regular basis. In the Readers & Viewers section I couldn't believe how many lengthy comments there were about US politics, immigration, Gaza etc., stopped reading the section ruined my morning. I read the rest of NE Views and found it interesting and enjoyable as usual. I don't understand why politics is even discussed in this magazine, if I want to read or here [sic] about politics there are numerous media outlets for that purpose and NE Views in my opinion is not one of them. I live within the Niagara Escarpment and enjoy the peace and tranquility it brings to my family. I would suggest that if you haven't already, that you reflect on what the purpose of The NE Views is, and I would hope

political discussion is not one of them. The politics discussed is not even Canadian, curious to see were [sic] NE Views goes in future issues, it will either end up on my coffee table or in the garbage.

Gene Lecinski, email

First: I will state again how much I appreciate your magazine. The articles and the print quality are first class. However recently you have printed reader's statements on politics far beyond the Niagara Escarpment. Please don't. You have lots of battles to fight with governments Ontario and smaller. There is a reason that they invented the shredder.

Robert Girdwood, Owen Sound

I've loved your magazine from the first edition and I'm sure I'll love it to the last. It was lovely to see

Sue Horner's name in print, too. Her articles have been really interesting and well written - just like yours.

Judy Snyder, email

Renewal cheque enclosed - can't live without your wonderful magazine! Avid reader.

Don Rand, Georgetown

*Editorial note: We appreciate the more-than a dozen years of support!*

I'm an octogenarian tree-hugger with chemical sensitivities living on the edge of the Escarpment. I picked up your latest copy of Views in Creemore. Once home, I found the ink smell too strong, so put it outside for 2 weeks to air. And it is still too strong for me to read - so I won't. You may want to take this aspect of "publishing"

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## ■ READERS & VIEWERS

into consideration when  
next you engage a printer.

Michael Monahan, email

It's subscription renewal time  
for your amazing publication!  
Please renew mine for one  
year...also renew...gifts  
for one year as well.

Karen Hartung, Brantford

I have enclosed a cheque in  
the amount of \$100 payable  
to NEV to cover [10 back  
issues.] Would it be possible  
for you to enclose a short  
note as to exactly how many  
past issues are available?

Siegfried Grabs, Moose Creek

[Editor's note: copies of all  
back issues dating to early  
2008 are available.]



I really enjoyed the article. It really captured what we do here  
and why we do it. Thank you to you and Mike for the coverage.

Valerie Assinewai, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation



I read the article. Wow. Thank you for hosting me and WPEC in  
such a large feature.

Tunde Otto, Willow Park Ecology Centre

A big thank you for your article on snakes and fear thereof! I am  
one of those unfortunate people that suffer with ophidiophobia  
AND there's a hibernaculum just over the fence in the backyard...  
needless to say, there's a steady stream of the critters slithering  
to and fro to the wood pile and the gardens and sometimes  
even getting into the basement, oh my. I will keep your article  
handy for future use. I know I know, they are more scared of  
me than I of them. Still... But they were here long before me  
so it's time to get over it! Funny story: one of the first shedded  
skins I found in the garden was quite beautiful and I hung it  
close by, but it startled me every time I passed it. Maybe that was  
taking it a bit far. They do have the cutest eyes though! National  
Geographic had a great article on snakes years ago with some  
fabulous close-up shots of their faces and they're adorable! Very  
expressive eyes. Not like a great white shark's or anything. It's a  
work in progress... Take care and keep writing great articles!

Patricia Hettinga, email

## ■ EVENTS



▲ In St. Catharines on March 14, David Suzuki and Tara Cullis on their  
Stronger Together Tour, joined Niagara Academy for Indigenous Relations to  
discuss climate change issues as part of Art in Action Climate Festival.  
PHOTO BY ALEX HEIDBUECHEL.

▼ In November 2025 Hamilton Conservation received a pledged donation of  
\$200,000 over two years, from RBC Foundation for the Saltfleet Conservation  
Area Wetland Restoration Project. This project will restore four wetlands above  
the Niagara Escarpment to protect from flooding downstream and provide  
wildlife habitat. PHOTO BY PAUL STACHO.



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43 Queen St, (705) 859-2317 or

Manitowaning, ON [storytellers@debaj.ca](mailto:storytellers@debaj.ca)



▲ Tyler Grant and K9 Trigger demonstrated their work as part of Ministry of Natural Resources Canine Program, at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show on March 20. Dogs support conservation officers enforcing wildlife protection laws and help with tracking evidence and suspects.

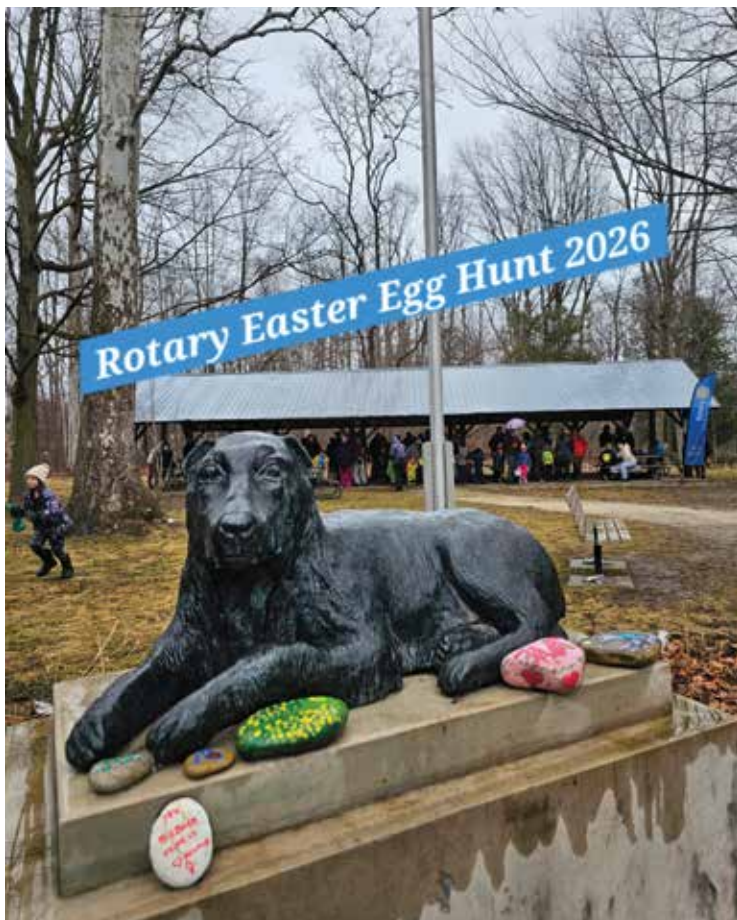
## EVENTS



▲ On March 22, Anishinaabe Traditional Grandmother Kim Wheatley gave ancestral storytelling sessions during Credit Valley Conservation's Maple Syrup in the Park festival at Terra Cotta Conservation Area in Halton Hills. PHOTO PROVIDED.



▲ Town of Halton Hills held an Environmental Symposium on April 1 at Mold-Masters SportsPlex in Georgetown for the public to learn about environmental activities happening in town.



▲ Foodland staff gave a demonstration of food preparation at The Spring Cottage Life Show in Toronto on March 27.

◀ The Rotary Club of Meaford held an Easter Egg Hunt on April 4 at Beautiful Joe Park. PHOTO BY SHARON MANSION, BEAUTIFUL JOE HERITAGE SOCIETY.





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► On April 2, arborists Aaron and Ryan, from left, of Silver Creek Tree Care, helped volunteers in the Toronto Bruce Trail Club clear a dangerous tree near a trail. PHOTO BY LAURENT THIBAUT.

## EVENTS



▲ On April 12, Phil Parrot-Migas won the Around The Bay 30K Road Race in Hamilton for the third year in a row. PHOTO BY GRAHAM PAIRD.



▲ Mark Zelinski presented his new book of photography *Niagara Escarpment: Land Between Waters* to Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club in Georgetown on April 14, and signed copies for purchasers.



► Halton/North Peel Naturalist Club celebrated its 60th anniversary on April 18 in Georgetown, when Bill McIlveen gave a presentation on the club's history beginning with the formation of Earth, and Don Scallen presented views of Halton's wide variety of plants and animals.



▲ Lanzarotta European Market in Ballinafad held a grand reopening on April 15, celebrating the store's renovation and enlargement.



▼ The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award in Conservation presented in partnership with Ontario Heritage Trust. The award was presented on April 17 at Legislative Assembly of Ontario and recognizes BTC's seed orchard project. At left is John Ecker, chair of Ontario Heritage Trust Board of Directors. Receiving the award, centre, is Lyndsey Wilkerson, BTC restoration coordinator. At right is Her Honour the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.  
PHOTO BY DAHLIA KATZ.



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## EVENTS



▲ On April 20, Ecojustice, on behalf of Environmental Defence and Ontario Nature, filed a lawsuit in the Federal Court against the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Julie Dabrusin, and the Town of Wasaga Beach, seeking urgent action to protect one of Canada's most fragile and important endangered species habitats. The lawsuit seeks to protect the Piping Plover's critical habitat on Wasaga Beach from damage by the Town and third parties. PHOTO BY MERRI-LEE, CARE OF ONTARIO NATURE.

◀ Local businesses in Pelham organized for the third year, a cleanup of the community on April 18 to celebrate the Earth. PHOTO BY HEATHER HAMILTON, HAMILTON'S OF PELHAM.

## COMING EVENTS

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▲ ZEPHENIA JAMES BY JUSTINA MOORE

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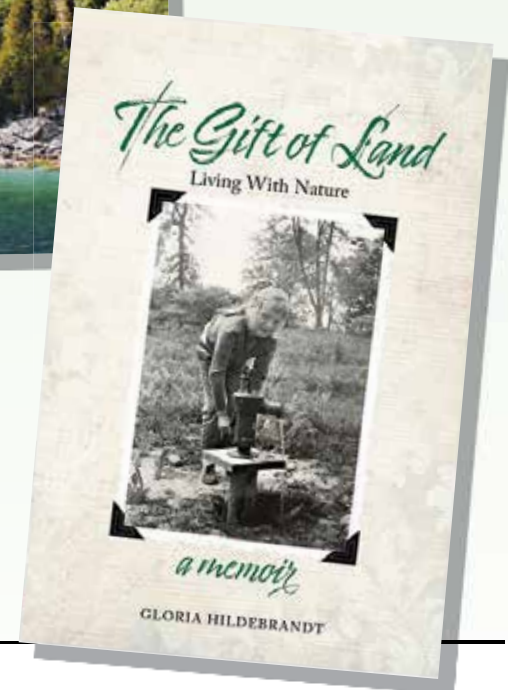
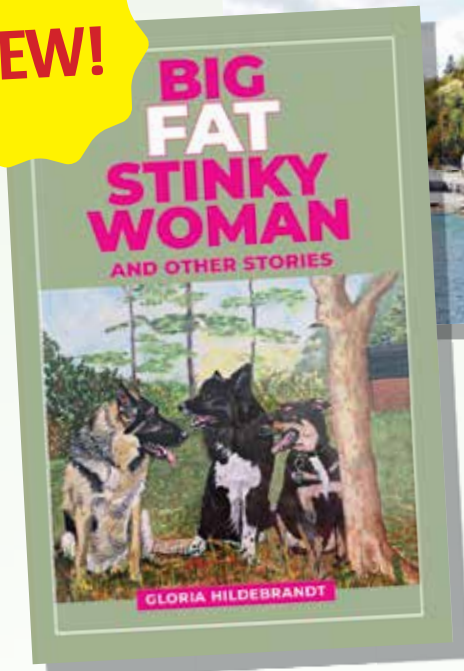
Niagara-on-the-Lake  
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9:30 to 4pm Tickets & info: [www.notlhortociety.com](http://www.notlhortociety.com)

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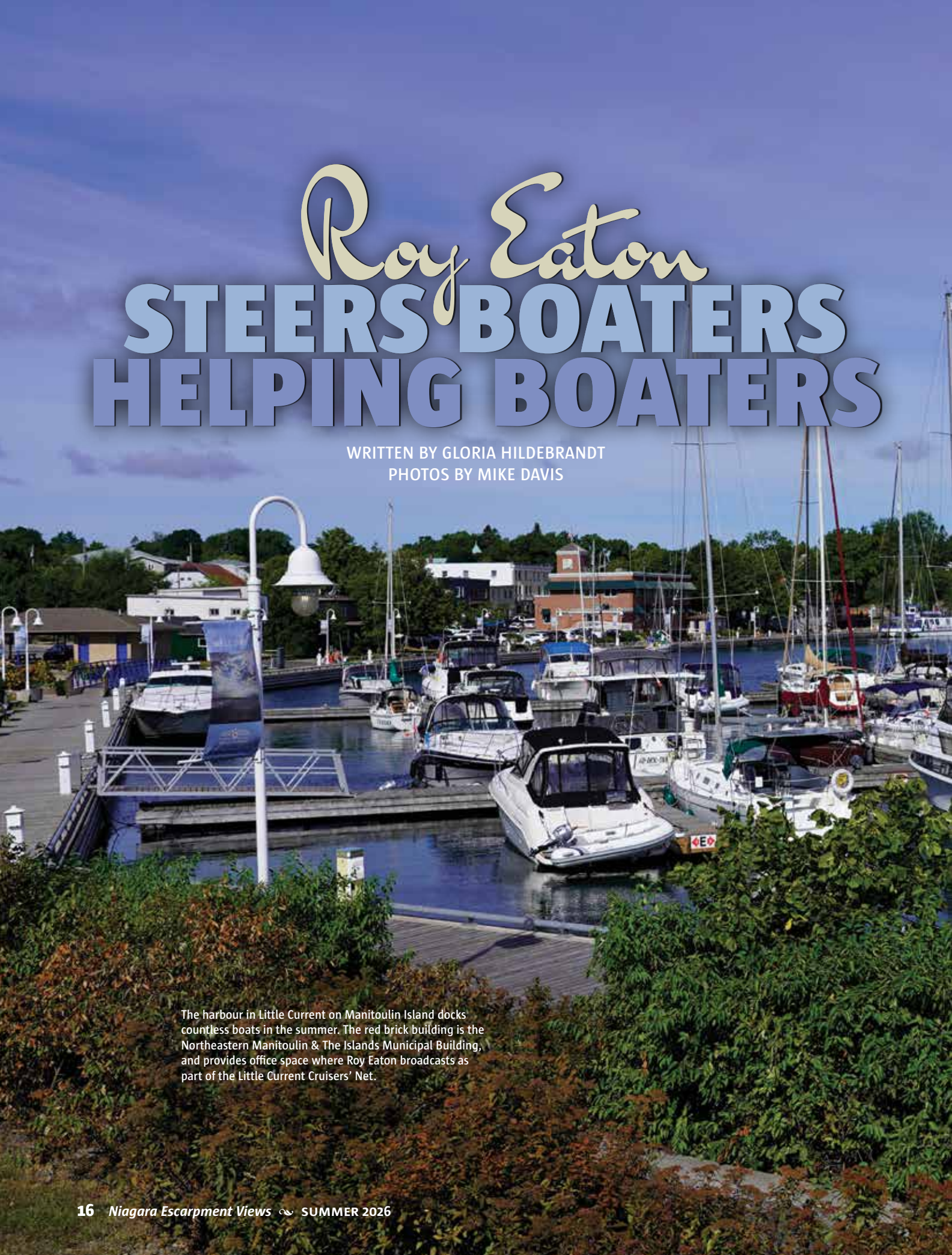
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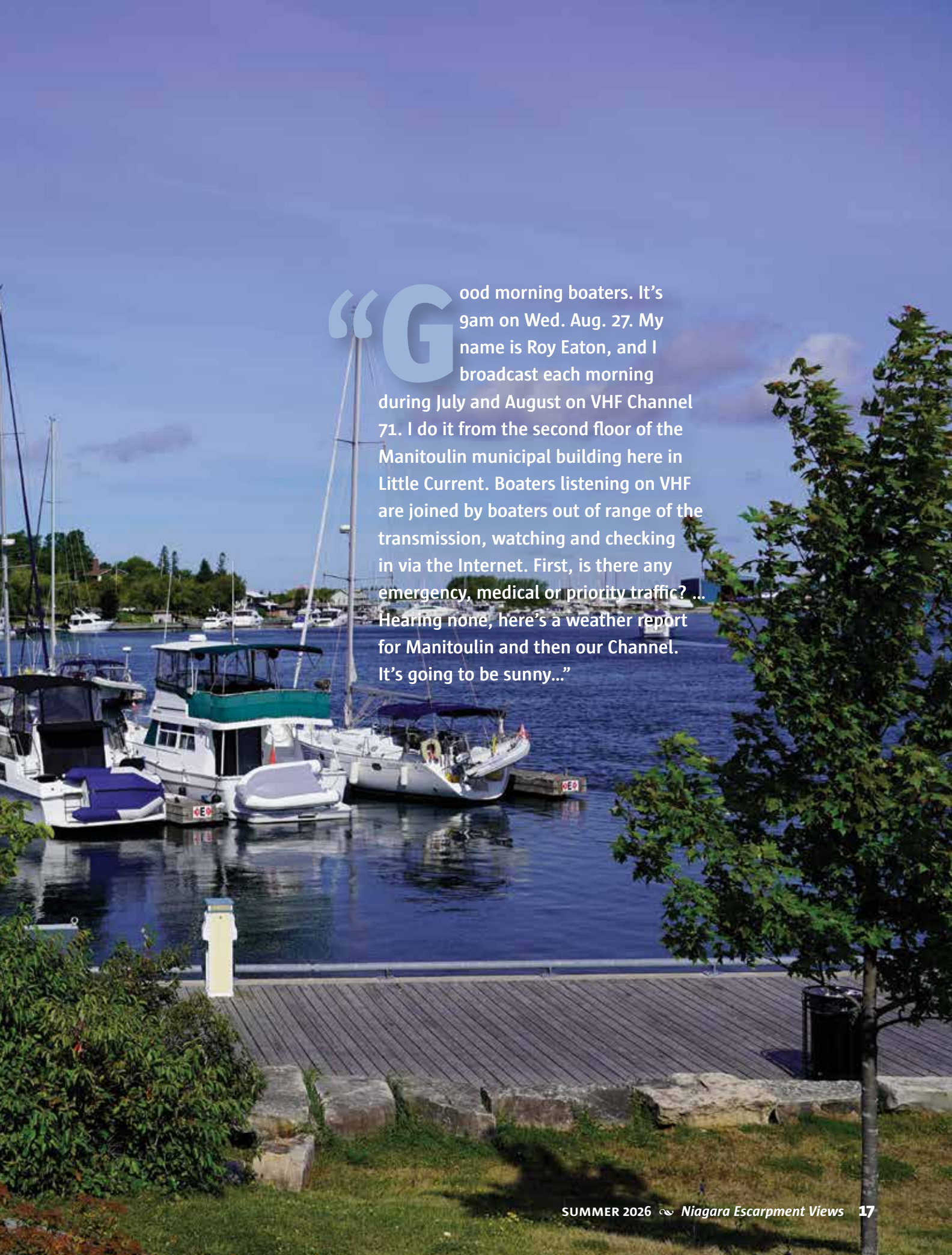
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# Roy Eaton STEERS BOATERS HELPING BOATERS

WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT  
PHOTOS BY MIKE DAVIS

The harbour in Little Current on Manitoulin Island docks countless boats in the summer. The red brick building is the Northeastern Manitoulin & The Islands Municipal Building, and provides office space where Roy Eaton broadcasts as part of the Little Current Cruisers' Net.



“Good morning boaters. It’s 9am on Wed. Aug. 27. My name is Roy Eaton, and I broadcast each morning during July and August on VHF Channel 71. I do it from the second floor of the Manitoulin municipal building here in Little Current. Boaters listening on VHF are joined by boaters out of range of the transmission, watching and checking in via the Internet. First, is there any emergency, medical or priority traffic? ... Hearing none, here’s a weather report for Manitoulin and then our Channel. It’s going to be sunny...”



▲ Roy Eaton broadcasting from the studio inside the Northeastern Manitoulin & The Islands Municipal Building in Little Current.

**R**oy is Net Controller of Little Current Cruisers' Net, a boaters' network with a daily broadcast, that he began in 2004 as a free benefit for members of Little Current Yacht Club, which he headed from 2003 to 2006. He credits Bruce O'Hare and the Anchor Inn of Little Current, for initial financial support. In addition to giving a weather report, every day he summarizes world and local news, sport and community events, but his main focus is supporting the safety and comfort of boaters in the North Channel, the body of water separating Manitoulin from the north shore of Lake Huron.

Roy describes his broadcast

reach as "Bustard Islands in northern Georgian Bay to the end of the Whalesback Channel. But abnormal weather conditions have led to a clear signal being received southeast to Parry Sound and west to Mackinac Island."

Examples of help provided to boaters range from boaters arriving when someone has engine problems, to towing a boat through the North Channel, or towing a sailboat to Gore Bay, down to boaters meeting up to share their ice for drinks. Callers to the studio mention their thanks to other boaters for help of all kinds. The Net is registered with search and rescue organizations and is prepared to help with emergencies.

"Other boats will look for

a boat that's not responding and ask them to get in contact," says Roy. The group's motto is "Boaters helping boaters."

The morning broadcast asks boaters to call in with their boat names and locations. Some give water and weather conditions for their locations. Boaters will relay information to boaters who can't hear the broadcast from the studio. Boaters are asked for any questions they may have. A volunteer records details and on this day in August, there were 33 callers, texters and Zoomers during the half-hour broadcast time slot.

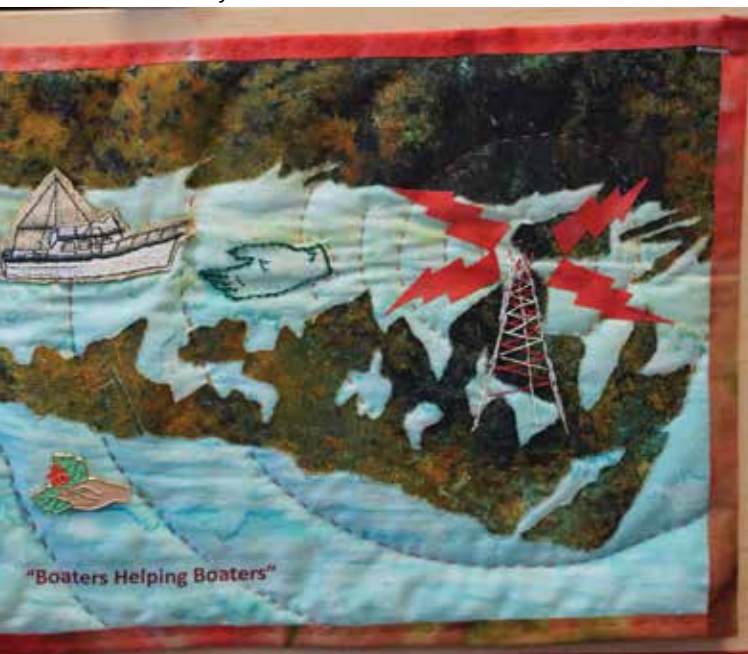
The impact being made by the Net is apparent from the more-than 200 boaters' flags lining the entire walls of the studio from floor to the





▲ The Cruisers' Net has been helping boaters since 2004.

▼ A quilted map showing Manitoulin Island, a boat in the North Channel, two helping hands, and a tower showing radio signals, is attached to the desk where Roy broadcasts.





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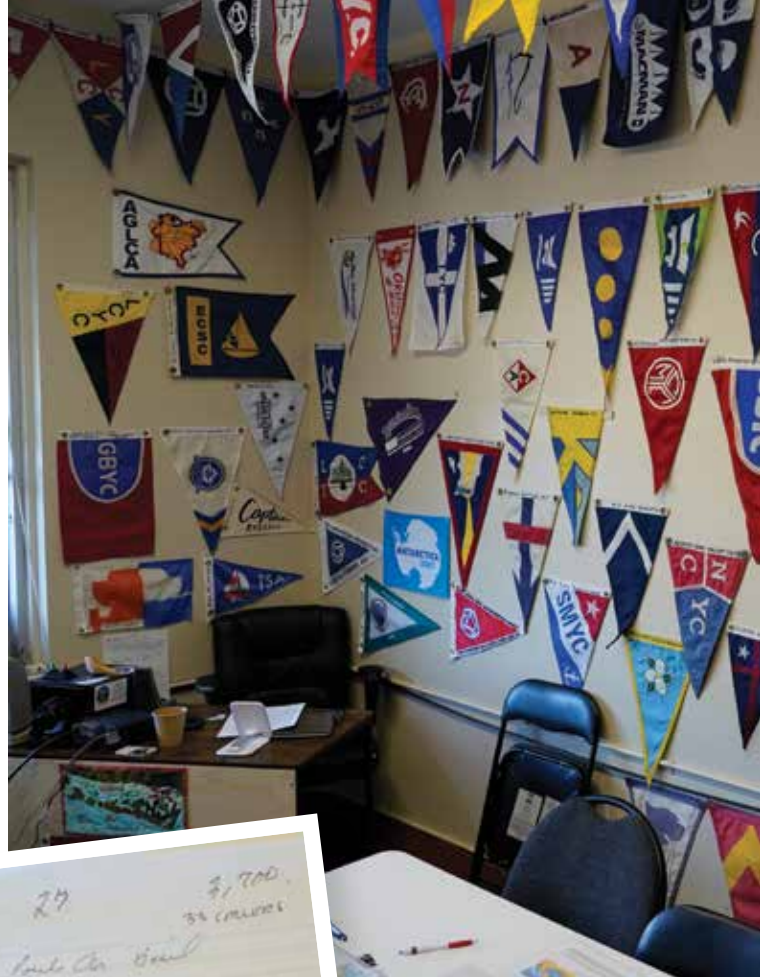
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▲ Careful notes being taken during Roy's broadcast.

► Notes about the 33 callers who contacted Cruisers' Net on Aug. 27.

top and even hanging from the ceiling. These colourful triangular pennants celebrate boaters' clubs, organizations and events from a vast area. There is a foreign wall displaying pennants from New Zealand, Australia, Turkey and other places around the world, including one from Antarctica. Another flag is presented to Roy today, by Glenn Grosskurth, vice commander of Lake Simcoe Yacht Club.

## Community

"We really have formed a community in the North Channel," says Roy. "Strangers feel good about joining in."

Members of the Net meet at Anchor Inn, Little Current, the former location of the Net, every Friday afternoon

in July and August. Free hors d'oeuvres are provided for boaters. Once a summer, Roy and his wife Margaret host a potluck supper for the Cruisers' Net. Door prizes are given by local businesses.

The Net holds a poker run by dinghy, in which boaters go to five places to get cards to form their hand. Roy also organizes boater bags, which are provided by the Town, and filled with contributions



▲ Boaters' flags and pennants cover the walls and hang from the ceiling of the studio.



▲ Glenn Grosskurth, vice commander of Lake Simcoe Yacht Club, presents Roy with his club's pennant.



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Keefer Falls photo taken by Rob Wray

from local businesses and magazines like *Niagara Escarpment Views*. Boaters can come to the studio to pick up bags or Roy and Margaret take them to boaters' meetings.

In addition to having fun, the Net gives back to the community, supporting such fundraisers as a lemonade stand to benefit cancer treatments, and collecting money from the international boaters' community for specialized equipment for Little Current's hospital.

### Roy's Own Boats

Roy has always been involved with boats, saying that from childhood he grew up with runabout fishing boats. "In the early 1960s I had a 15-foot Starcraft and was looking for a larger powerboat we could sleep overnight. We ended up buying a secondhand Catalina and through reading learned how to sail. In 1983 we [he and Margaret] did a circumnavigation of Georgian Bay and in 1984 we bought a brand-new CS 30. We sailed all the Great Lakes. On July 2, 2001 we left Spider Bay Marina [west of downtown Little Current] on a nine-month sail, down the ICW [Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway] to cross over and West Palm Beach to spend three months in the Abacos [islands in the Bahamas]."

With Roy being a retired principal and Margaret a retired teacher, Cruisers' Net is well organized and well connected. Running the Net is a big commitment, notes Roy, and as of summer 2025 there was no succession plan. It is to be hoped that whenever the time comes that Roy wants to step back, there will be someone else willing and able to take the helm. **NEV**

*Roy Eaton can be reached at [roy.eaton@gmail.com](mailto:roy.eaton@gmail.com) or 705.698.4131.*



◀ Gloria Hildebrandt, editor of *Niagara Escarpment Views*, being interviewed by Roy for radio broadcast.



▲ Anchor Inn, Little Current, serves as the social headquarters of the Cruisers’ Net, where members meet every Friday afternoon in July and August.

▼ The Swing Bridge, formerly a single-lane rail bridge and the only land connection to the island, in the North Channel at Little Current. When needed, it swings open once an hour to permit tall ships through.



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# *Art* in Niagara-on-the-Lake Gardens

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MIKE DAVIS | WRITTEN BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT  
EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

▲ The striking central garden of Robin Garrett's property is friendly to pollinators.



Last July, pollinators and art seemed to be themes in the gardens on the tour presented by Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society. There were 12 diverse gardens to explore while their owners and gardeners were available to discuss their creative ideas. Paintings and sculptures were on display outdoors in many locations, while others had a strong focus on providing native habitat for pollinators. Proceeds from the tour supported horticulture scholarships for students at Niagara College Canada and Niagara Parks School of Horticulture. In one of the southernmost, mildest areas sheltered by the Escarpment, temperatures and gardens alike were hot.



▲ Nancy Jackson and Sophie rest in the shade of their secluded garden.



▲ Nancy Jackson's garden looks ready to host a fabulous party. Filled with plants, art and seating areas, lush plantings have taken the place of lawns.



▲ The side entrance to Terry and Sandra Davis's garden is bordered by a breathtaking display of hydrangeas PHOTO BY GLORIA HILDEBRANDT.



▲ Terry Davis, with his wife Sandra, tend an artistic garden with a great eye for colour.



▲ An infinity pool provides a great place to relax for Betty Knight, a busy educator, Master Gardener and pollinator steward.



▲ Betty Knight is a Master Gardener, a certified pollinator steward, and former teacher who uses her garden as a living classroom for ecological gardening. Here, she shows bees at flowers of a native Buttonbush. Signs through the garden identify plants and their role in ecosystems.

◀ Robin Garrett is responsible for a beautifully maintained garden that includes a pond and waterfall.

► Historical interpreter Ethan Moncion, wearing Regency clothing, and volunteer Marla Percy enjoy the McFarland House garden.



▲ At the side of McFarland House, 15927 Niagara Parkway, the garden that was planted in the style of the 1800s, has “everything grown here would have been used and eaten between 1812 and 1850.”



▲ The rural-looking large pollinator garden belonging to Tom and Jackie Bonic was built in the last six years.



▲ In addition to a shady backyard with colourful hostas, Oak Leaf Hydrangea as a low border, and flowering shrubs surrounding a rustic fire pit, Janet Ennamorato tends this eye-catching arrangement of brights pots and plants on a tiny fountain.



▲ Janet Ennamorato in front of her Weeping Beech in her large garden.



► Niagara Pumpphouse Arts Centre, 247 Ricardo St., opened its front garden and back yard which edges the Niagara River.





► Tom and Jackie Bonic own a spacious one-acre woodland garden in the old part of Niagara-on-the-Lake.



◄ Artworks were displayed and offered for sale in the Niagara Pump House garden.



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▲ Artist Heather Bacon has created a charming small garden that makes a big impression.



▲ A natural looking waterfall surrounded by greenery and a colourful variety of plants and flowers is a highlight of Heather Bacon's back garden.

► June and Zoli Miklossy fell in love with their tree-filled garden eight years ago.



▼ A long border filled with delphiniums, roses, hostas and daylilies stretches across a fence line in the rear yard of June and Zoli Miklossy's property while large planted pots punctuate the lawn.



► Paula Wilson and Madeleine Gray got around to the gardens on pastel-coloured vintage bikes.

► Melissa Schooley, owner of Apple Hill Apothecary, has a new retail location in St. Catharines.





▲ Judith and Colin Pattey built everything in their garden since moving in about four years ago.

◀ An antique gate marks the entrance to Colin and Judith Pattey's garden that's set for entertaining.



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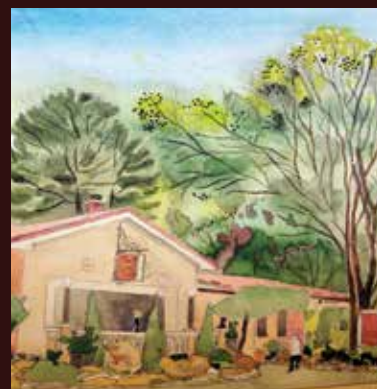
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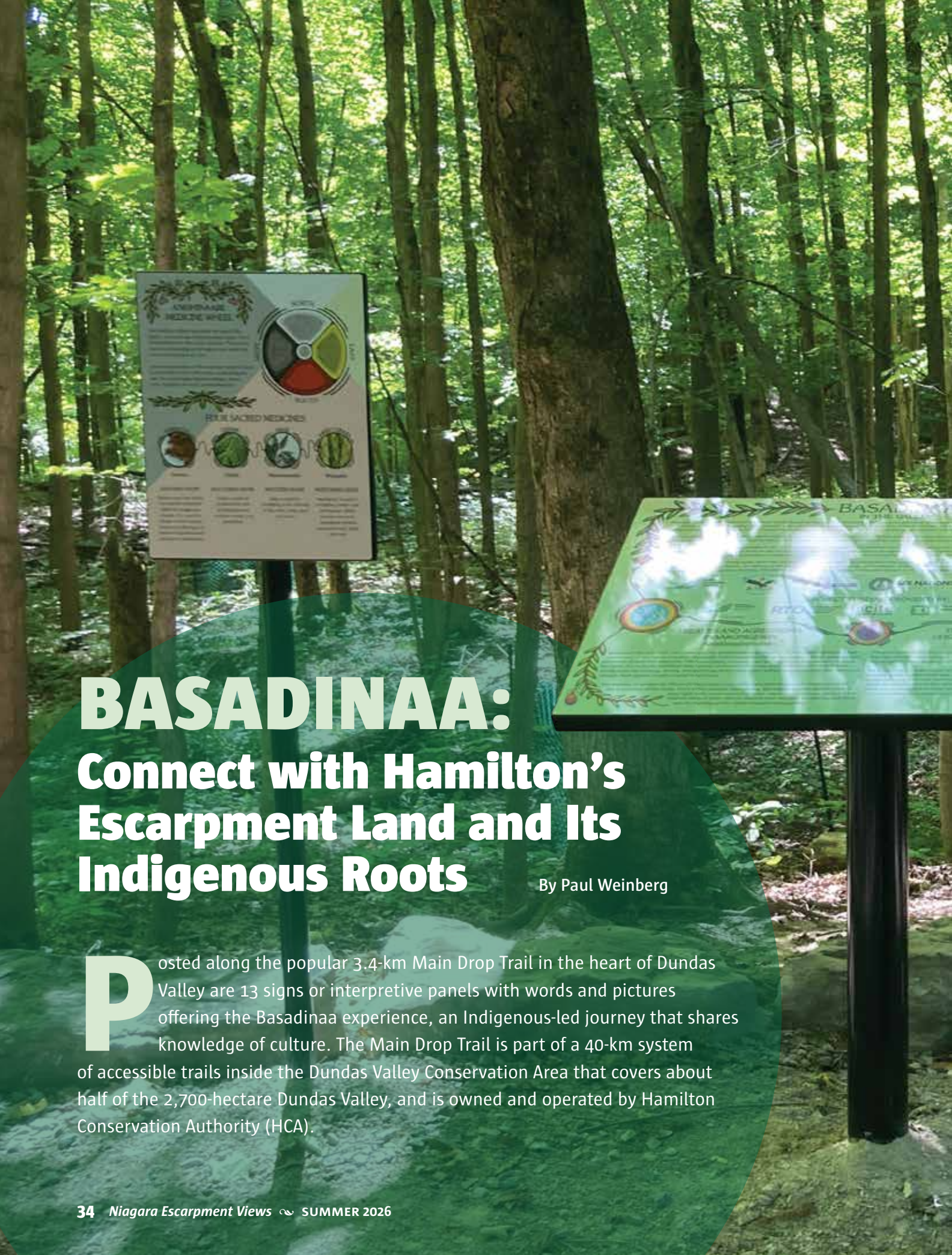




Crawford Lake in Crawford Lake Conservation Area,  
Conservation Halton, is a scientifically significant body of water  
on the Niagara Escarpment in the Town of Milton.

PHOTO BY MIKE DAVIS.





# BASADINAA:

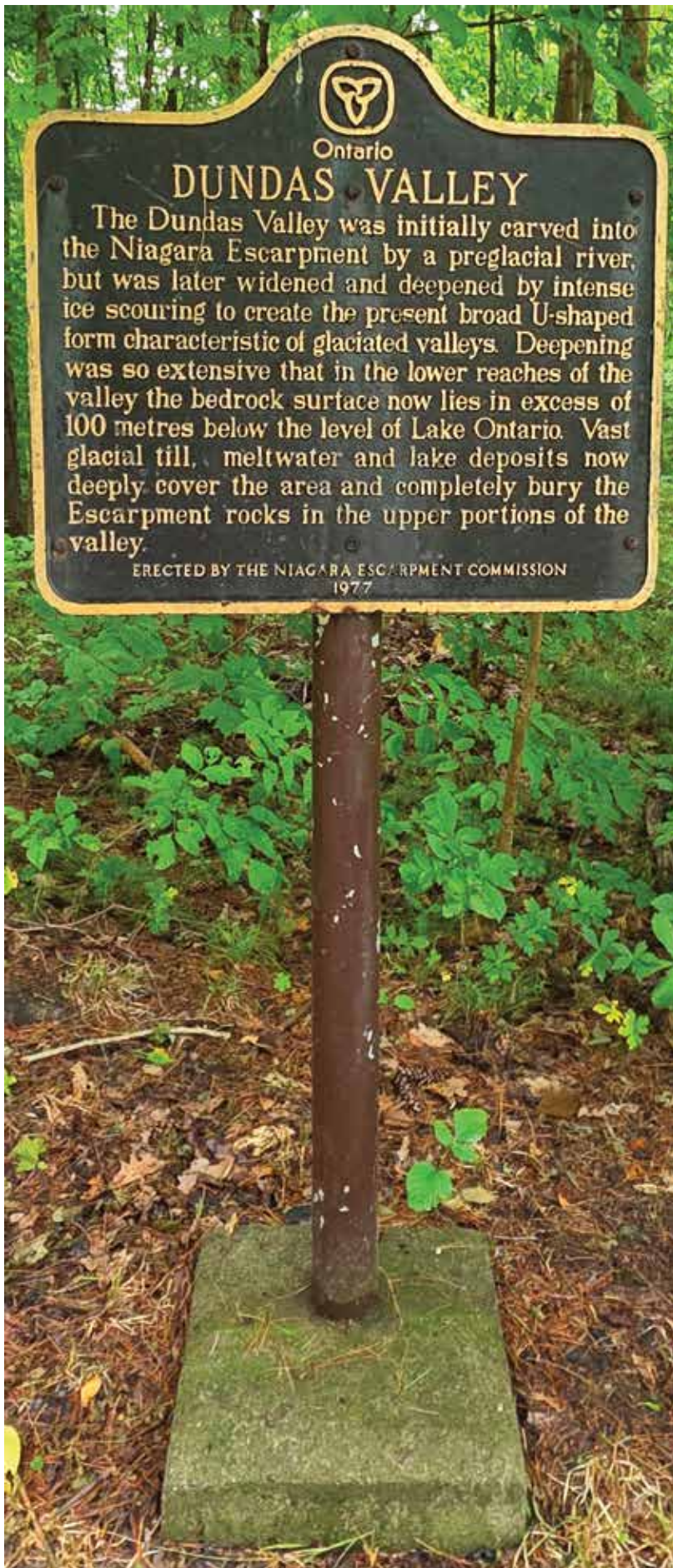
## Connect with Hamilton's Escarpment Land and Its Indigenous Roots

By Paul Weinberg

**P**osted along the popular 3.4-km Main Drop Trail in the heart of Dundas Valley are 13 signs or interpretive panels with words and pictures offering the Basadinaa experience, an Indigenous-led journey that shares knowledge of culture. The Main Drop Trail is part of a 40-km system of accessible trails inside the Dundas Valley Conservation Area that covers about half of the 2,700-hectare Dundas Valley, and is owned and operated by Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA).



The two traditional Indigenous cultures of the Dundas Valley are displayed at the Basadinaa Experience, including the Anishinaabe Medicine Wheel and the Haudenosaunee Creation Story.



▲ With ancient geological history, Dundas Valley is deeply embedded in the landscape of west Hamilton.

Visitors can obtain an intimate understanding of the culture, history and natural world view from the First Nations who have fished, hunted and lived here at the west end of Lake Ontario, also called Head of the Lake, for centuries: the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Incidentally, Basadinaa means “in the valley” in Anishinaabemowin, the language of the Mississaugas.

“It is actually a beautiful way for both the Mississaugas and the Six Nations to come together on a project because there are many differences,” says Jaquie Jamieson, senior manager of tourism and community development at Six Nations. “To be able to see both of the cultures represented is really nice. A lot of the stories that are told within the plaques or the signage are really common stories that we tell today. But to certain people, they may not have been heard before.”

“The First Nations and conservation authorities are in a sense very natural allies and we are partners on the land,” adds Darin Wybenga, a manager of culture at the Mississaugas.

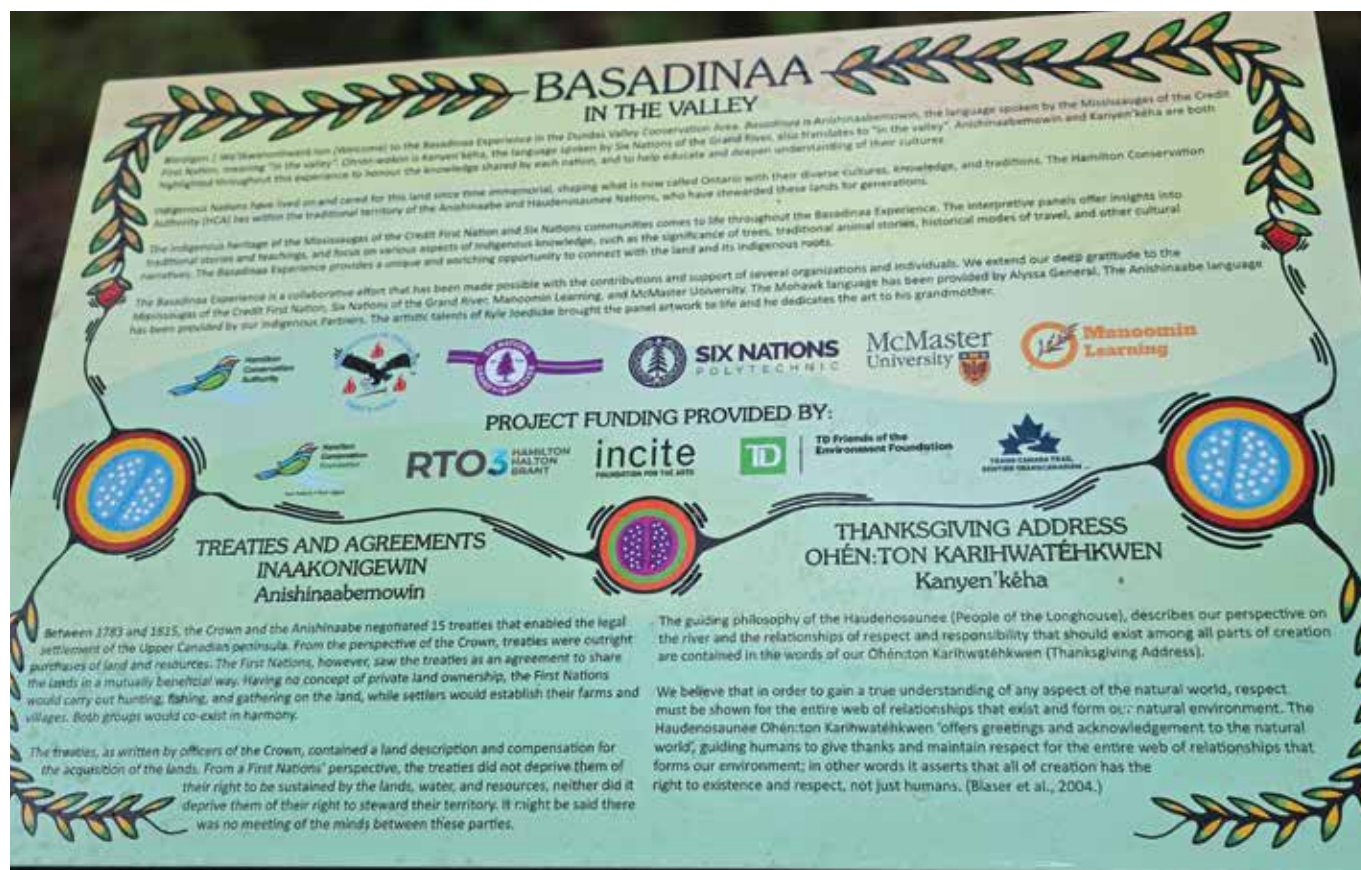
The Dundas Valley is endowed with a rich variety of deciduous trees typical of the Carolinian forest ecosystem which covers the central and east sections of the HCA. Complementing this is the presence of more than 300 species of birds gathering here at the west end of Lake Ontario.

A trail centre modelled on a Victorian old railway station and serving as the information hub for Dundas Valley Conservation Area and the main parking lot can be found at 650 Governors Road in Dundas. It sits secluded in the countryside outside the old town and is primarily accessible by car or bicycle via the major roads and highways such as the 403 entering Hamilton.

Visitors should check the HCA website, [conservationhamilton.ca/conservation-areas/dundas-valley](http://conservationhamilton.ca/conservation-areas/dundas-valley), for the various access points and parking lots in addition to the main Governors Road entrance. That also includes Artaban Road, Hermitage, Merrick and Monarch. Both the Artaban and Merrick parking lots are temporarily closed because of environmental monitoring. There are various entrance rates including a \$130 HCA new membership fee which gives free access. Otherwise, non-members are charged \$11.50 to visit, plus \$8.50 for parking.



▲ The restored ruins of The Hermitage, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century mansion and outbuildings that burned down in 1934, can be found at 739 Sulphur Springs Road just off the Main Drop Trail within the Dundas Valley Conservation Area.



▲ Two distinct traditional cultures find common ground through collaboration at the Basedinaa experience on the Main Drop Trail.

► The gnarled and twisted offshoot of a tree, easily mistaken for a huge snake, on the Main Drop Trail.

### Take Your Time

HCA is emphasizing “taking your time” and “reflection,” and walking with “openness and curiosity,” along the Main Drop Trail, versus a sweaty fast walk or run, in the encounter with the Indigenous signage and the quiet serenity of this thickly wooded and partially shaded landscape. HCA recommends 45 minutes to an hour to complete the Main Drop Trail which includes different exits and entrances along the route. But the journey is potentially longer, depending upon one’s pace, as I can personally attest to as an older gent. Also, it is not advisable to use a walker or a stroller on the Main Drop Trail because the experience can be both laborious and painful.

HCA advises visitors to stick to the trail so as not to disturb the wide variety of local plants as well as various forms of wildlife. There are various species at risk including the Wood Thrush forest songbird and the native American Chestnut tree.

John Terpstra, local award-winning poet and historian, describes the entire Dundas Valley as not a valley in the usual sense of the word. He explains how the Niagara Escarpment makes a geographical “hairpin turn” around the west end of Lake Ontario or the head of the lake.

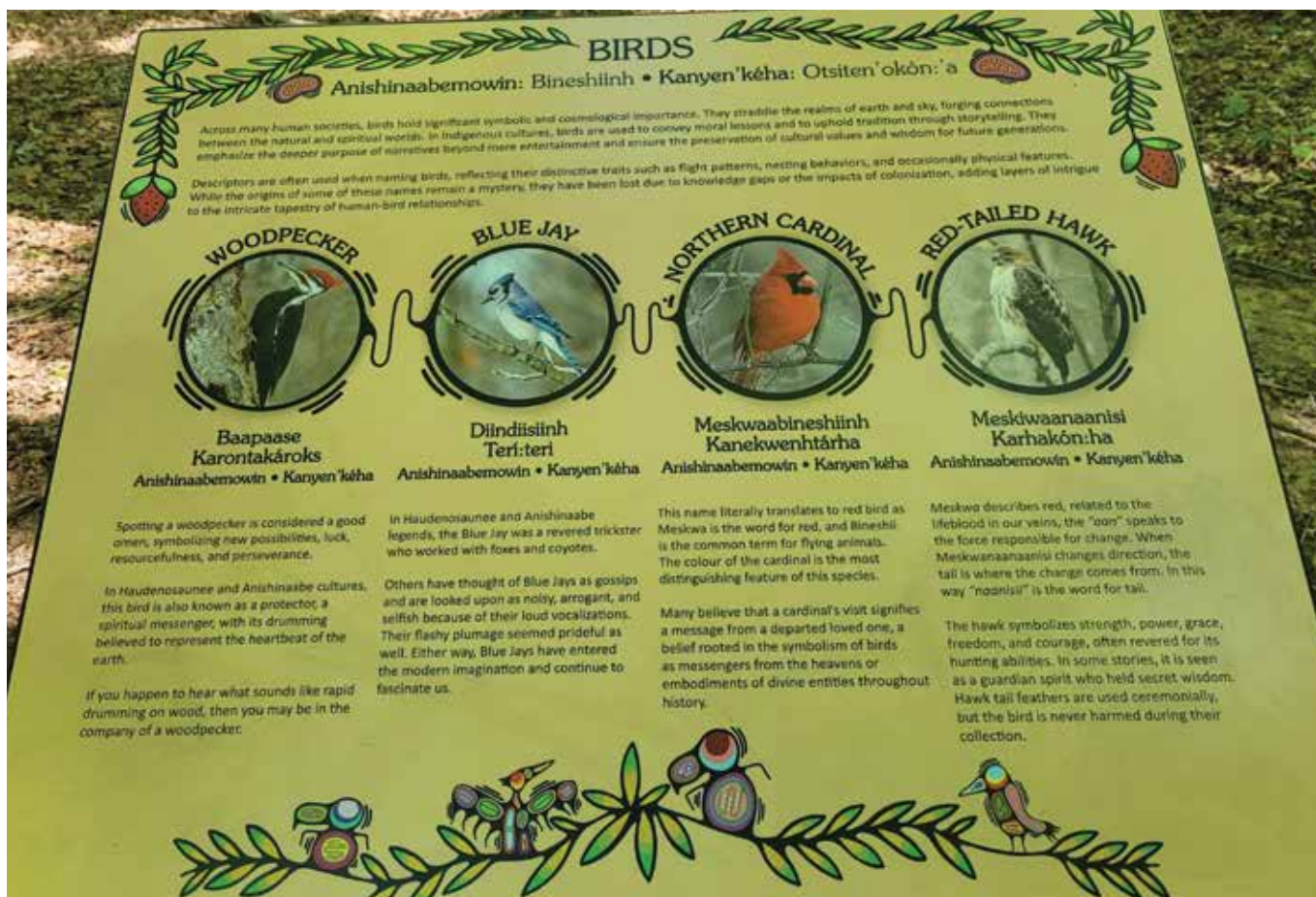
“There is no Escarpment wall at the point where it executes the actual turn, however,” he adds. “Instead, it is all crumbled into the hills of Dundas Valley.” The valley is physically visible for local residents from the town hall in Dundas to Mineral Springs Rd.

### Panels

The Basadinaa panels took 18 months to complete and cost about \$60,000. The Great Tree of Peace panel explains how



▲ The Main Drop Trail passes large trees among interesting Escarpment mossy rock formations.



▲ Birds figure prominently in the teaching of moral lessons and traditional ways in Indigenous cultures.

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▲ Near the Dundas Valley Conservation Area trail centre that resembles a train station, the author's friend and photographer Buddy Martin gets ready for a hike.

Address, the Between the Lakes Treaty No. 3, and Birds.

Today, a forest and a trail in the Dundas Valley Conservation Area are named after Thomas Beckett, the first chair of what was originally the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority. Starting in the late 1950s he was responsible for the acquisition of sensitive and flood plain lands in the local watershed including in the later '60s, the Dundas Valley that became part of the conservation authority. He also led a successful campaign to stop a provincially planned highway smashing into the valley, the Dundas Bypass.

Now the Beckett legacy faces a challenge. HCA will be no longer exist as the

Ontario government embarks upon the merger of local autonomous conservation authorities across the province. Details are few but the matter is sparking controversy and concern about a potential loss of protected land to developers.

The Mississaugas are not usually concerned about settler governance and structure, says Wybenga. But he understands the concern. "Hopefully, [the new authorities] don't get so big and unwieldy that they forget some little details along the way." **NEV**

*Paul Weinberg's last feature for this magazine was "Cootes Paradise for Birds, Plants and People," Summer 2024.*

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# Grand Cruising, Cooking, Eating, *with an* Indigenous Flavour



A photograph of a blue and yellow riverboat named 'Grand River Belle' on a river. The boat has a white canopy with 'GRAND RIVER BELLE' written in blue letters. Several people are on board, and orange life preservers are visible along the railing. The background is a dense line of green trees under a blue sky with white clouds.

BY MIKE DAVIS

▲ Grand River Belle is one of the Grand River Dinner Cruises fleet.

**L**ast summer, Grand River Cruises hosted a series of talks on the river, partnered by Six Nations Tourism. One of the talks was on Haudenosaunee foods given by Aicha Smith-Belghaba, an Indigenous chef with the gourmet culinary business Esha's Eats, and held on the Grand River Queen river boat. The day involved Haudenosaunee teachings, history of native foods, cooking stations, a fabulous meal that guests helped to cook, and a relaxing boat ride back to port to finish the day.

**O**n one of the river talks, co-owner of Grand River Dinner Cruises, Blain Albin, outlined the day's itinerary at the boat launch near Caledonia on the Grand River. The Grand River Queen would travel downriver to Caledonia, then upriver to Chiefswood Park near Ohsweken and back to dock. Both Caledonia and Ohsweken are west of the Niagara Escarpment, and southwest of Hamilton. On board would be an introductory talk, a prayer, cooking the food, then enjoying the meal and more discussion.

Jodie Johnson of Six Nations Tourism (SNT) introduced the Haudenosaunee culture and gave a thanksgiving prayer in Native language. With roots in the Mohawk Wolf Clan and the country of Algeria, chef Aicha then explained the full breadth of the day's cooking and meal preparation. A very good storyteller, she gave an interesting lecture on culture, history and food. Cooking stations were set up with portable one-element stoves.

### Indigenous Menu

There were three stations for preparing the food: the Three Sisters side dish, two for Sweetgrass Sweet Tea and one for Blueberry Sweetgrass barbecue sauce. The Three Sisters dish consists of corn, beans and squash. Sweetgrass Sweet Tea is made from wild Sweetgrass and the barbecue sauce combined blueberries and Sweetgrass flavour. Aicha put the guests to work at each station, chopping ingredients, mixing food, and cooking it on pans on the stoves.

"I enjoyed being part of the cooking experience," said Debra Seabok of Hamilton. "I liked the hands-on quality."



▲ Jodie Johnson of Six Nations Tourism and Blain Albin, co-owner of Grand River Dinner Cruises, at the dock.



▲ Aicha discussing the significance of corn.



***An abridged version of a story told by Aicha:***

How I like to do these workshops is I think about our traditional way of living in longhouses, how we all had our own roles and responsibilities, and it wasn't just for an individual family, it was for the collective benefit of our community. That's what we are doing today.

The Sky Mother came down to earth and created this land. The three sisters, Corn, Beans and Squash were sacred; the seeds came from the dirt from the Skyworld. They are sacred. So is all plant life, animal life, water, the air, the sun, the moon, all that is part of our system. Everything has a spirit that has to be respected and cared for. We are all connected and grow together. With the three sisters, the corn grows tall, the beans climb the corn, then the squash covers the ground and helps mitigate weeds and keep moisture in. The beans and squash replenish the soil, because the corn takes so much out. It is a representation of our culture, because we all do better when we are working together. If we are separate, things are harder. I want to bring everyone together to share the meal, to cook the meal.

Nixtamalization of corn is a process whereby lye-water solution is used to chemically change the corn to allow the nutrients to become more bioavailable to our bodies. Traditionally lye came from wood ash, which imparts calcium into the corn. Traditionally there were no Eurasian animals, such as cows and goats to milk, so calcium was from other sources, being plants and the

lying process. This super ancient way is still done today.

The corn that the Six Nations grow and use today is from heirloom seeds. Throughout colonization, food was used as a weapon. Colonizers burnt crops and orchards so they wouldn't have any food. They went beyond that and worked at destroying the seeds as well. So people would hide the seeds, risking their lives to protect their way of life. They were willing to sacrifice themselves for our future. Our food is not just something that we eat, it's very spiritual, and it's very sacred. Just like language, art, dance, singing, food is just important. It is the essence of Haudenosaunee culture and throughout the colonization and genocide, these things were strategically taken away to break people. Having all these things back is how we heal ourselves and move forward in a better way. In today's society there is a lot of separation from people, from place, from language, from each other, from land, from water. That is why we are able to destroy things because there is so much disconnection. My goal is always to connect people with each other, with food and with understanding. Food is healing and food is fun.



▲ Preparing the Three Sisters side dish, using Lyed Corn. Lyed Corn can be bought at Route 54 Variety & Gas in Six Nations.



▲ Blueberry Sweetgrass Barbecue sauce being prepared.



◀ The first course was Berry Caprese Salad.



◀ Grilled Turkey with Blueberry Sweetgrass Barbecue sauce, Wild Rice Medley and Three Sisters Side Dish.



Some parts of the meal had been prepared earlier by others, specifically berry Caprese salad, grilled turkey, wild rice, and chocolate chili raspberry tart for dessert. All the dishes worked together to give delicious enjoyment.

“I thought it was great,” said Brent Caspi of London. “A great learning experience. Food was matched to the culture. I want to explore more into natural food.”



▲ Guests being introduced to the main course by Aicha.

### Six Nations Options

On the return to port, Jodie talked about the many Six Nations tourism options. SNT rents out 16 cabins on the Chiefswood park lands, offers kayak and Voyageur Canoe rentals, and provides native cultural experiences. Jodie continued with the history of some of the now-Six Nations Haudenosaunee peoples moving from upstate

New York, and described Mohawk chief Joseph Brant's interactions with Governor Sir Frederick Haldimand concerning original territory granted to the Six Nations.

The day had perfect sunny weather. From the boat's outside promenade, guests could experience the sights and sounds of the river with minimal engine noise. The water was calm, birds sang,



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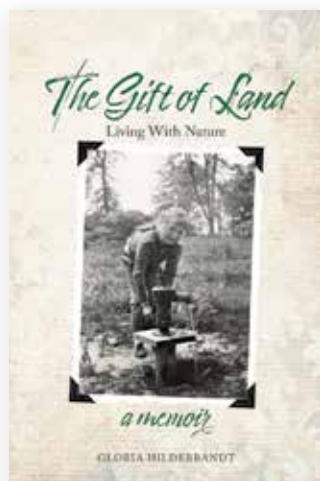
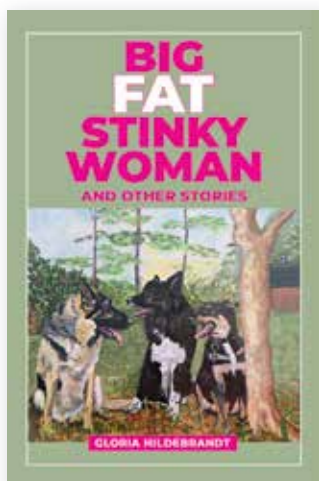
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# Preserving Keefer Falls, a Niagara

By Beth Gilhespy

**S**ome places don't need much explanation. You arrive, you pause, and something in you says: this matters. Keefer Falls is one of those places.

Keefer Falls has been in private ownership since the 1800s. Now, the landowner wants the waterfall and 117 acres of surrounding lands preserved, and reached out to our organization. With an agreement to purchase now in place and a deadline of December 2026, the task ahead is to raise the funds necessary for this ambitious – but incredibly important – acquisition. The landowner has made a generous financial commitment to the acquisition, and with a grant recently awarded by the provincial government, our fundraising goal is now \$800,000. Will you help us create the Keefer Falls Nature Preserve?

The first time I visited the land, just northeast of Owen Sound near the community of Annan, I remember following the sound before I ever saw the water. Keefer Creek begins quietly. Cold, clear water rises from springs high on the Niagara Escarpment, and winds its way through

meadow and forest. Then, almost without warning, it reaches the edge. The creek spills eight metres over a shelf of ancient Manitoulin Dolostone, fanning into a steady, silvery curtain.

I meant to have a quick visit, just in and out. I stayed much longer.

What struck me wasn't just the falls themselves, it was everything around them. As I followed the stream I began to understand the place more fully. For nearly a kilometre, the creek moves through a landscape that still feels intact: open grasslands, pockets of forest, rocky gorge, and that winding ribbon of cold water that quietly supports fish and other life.

## Countless Species

Nearby woodlands and regenerating fields, planted with mixed tree species over the past decade, offer habitat for forest birds including the Red-headed Woodpecker, along with countless other species that depend on a connected mosaic of meadow, forest, and stream.

In early summer Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark call out across the fields. These are sounds that have become far too rare in southern Ontario. And when we hear them, it

feels like things are still working the way they're supposed to.

Keefer Falls lies within the Territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and forms part of a living cultural landscape that long predates settler history. Visible remnants of the more recent Slattery Mill remain on the property, reflecting the area's recent industrial past. Artist Tom Thomson spent time near the falls and wrote about swimming beneath them as a child. Keefer Falls has been discovered and rediscovered for generations.

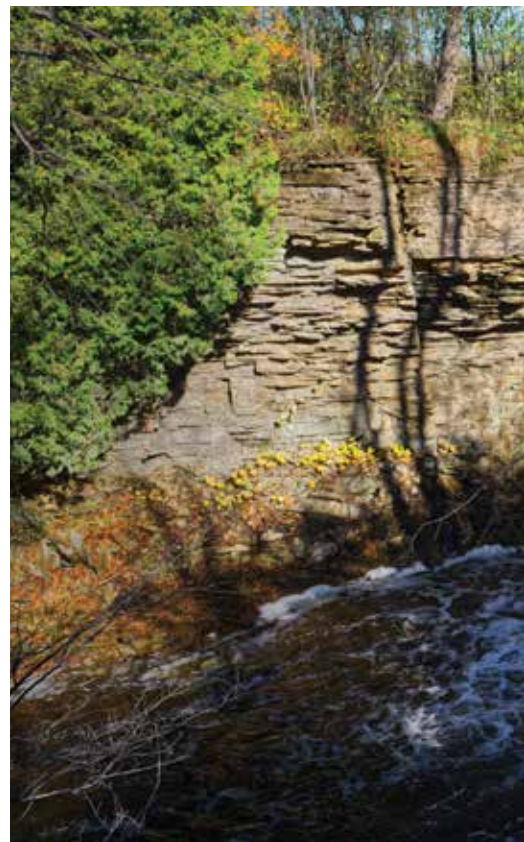
The only structures on the land are the remains of the old Slattery Mill. Otherwise, it's an oasis of fields, forest, river, and gorge. Over time, we'd like to establish a simple interpretive footpath that allows people to walk through the nature preserve and learn more about its natural and cultural history.

## Living Landscape

Places like Keefer Falls are

easy to overlook precisely because they aren't dramatic in the way we often expect. But to me, that's what makes Keefer Falls so compelling. It isn't just a waterfall. It's a whole living landscape that still fits together: the water, the land, the wildlife, and the way people experience it.

And that stays with me.



▲ Keefer Falls. PHOTO BY ROB WRAY.

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There's something quietly powerful about recognizing a place like this and deciding it's worth preserving. Not to change it, or polish it, or turn it into something else, but simply to make sure it's still here, just as it is, for the coming generations.

I think that's why Keefer Falls resonates with me so much. It reminds me how simple it can be. It's just a creek, a falls, a field, a forest, and yet it feels complete.

Keefer Falls Nature Preserve: a vital part of the Niagara Escarpment's living landscape.

*To learn more about Keefer Falls and our work to create the Keefer Falls Nature Preserve, please go to [escarpment.ca/about/campaigns/living-landscapes-campaign](http://escarpment.ca/about/campaigns/living-landscapes-campaign) or contact Beth Gilhespy directly at [beth@escarpment.ca](mailto:beth@escarpment.ca)*

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# Ban Gambling Ads for Fueling a Public Health Crisis

By Robin Campbell, Joel Finlay, and Bruce Kidd

It is difficult listening to the mother of a first-year university student telling us that her son called at Christmas exam-time saying he was panicking and couldn't study, had drained his bank account, and needed help. It is difficult listening to a self-described recovering gambling addict say how he wants to watch the hockey game with his young son, but all the gambling ads trigger him. It is difficult listening to a mother talk about how she lost her son to suicide when the shame of his gambling debts became more than he could bear.

With the passage in 2021 of the misleadingly named *Safe and Regulated Sports Betting Act, Bill C-218*, the Canadian Federal Government amended the *Criminal Code* to allow "single-event sports betting" and left it to the Provinces to regulate on-line gambling, including sports betting. The gambling companies responded by flooding our TV screens, computer screens, and

phone screens with betting ads. These ads are fueling a public health crisis as more and more people, especially the young and vulnerable, become problem gamblers.

Disgusted by the ads that we saw to be undermining the culture of sport, we formed a small volunteer organization and launched a campaign to ban all gambling ads. We have come to understand that the ads are much more than an irritation interrupting our favourite sports broadcasts. The ads are targeted to attract a whole new generation of gamblers, and when this addiction sets in early (kids as young as eight and nine are gambling), it becomes one of the most difficult to treat and one of the most dangerous in terms of suicide rates.

## Letter to all MPs

The following is a letter we have just mailed to every MP in Canada, with a subject line referencing "Gambling Addiction in your Riding":

"In the most recent national survey of sports betting in Canada, the Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) reported that 9.9% of Canadians are likely to experience the symptoms of problem gambling. That's a six-fold increase from the 1.3% reported by Stats Canada in 2018, before Parliament legalized sports betting in 2021.

"Problem gambling' has been classified as a non-substance-related addictive disorder by the American Psychiatric Association. If the CCSA is accurate, 4 million Canadians experience problem gambling, some of whom live in your riding.

"We are therefore writing to every MP in Canada urging them to pass Bill S-211 *An Act respecting a national framework on sports betting advertising*. We also urge all Canadians to write to their MPs to ask that they pass Bill S-211. This is a non-partisan

issue that affects all Canadians. Every elected official should be supporting this legislation.

## Gambling Ads Harmful

"Canada has already taken strong action against harmful advertising—banning tobacco ads in 1988, restricting alcohol ads, and banning cannabis ads when it legalized cannabis in 2018. Yet when Parliament legalized sports betting in 2021, it did so without guardrails, ignoring the widely available international research documenting the harm from gambling ads, allowing betting companies to advertise everywhere. Bill S-211 has already been passed twice unanimously by the Senate. It provides opportunity to undo the damage from C-218 and to start protecting Canadians and their families from gambling ads by creating a strong national framework to ban betting advertising.

"The World Health Organization, Canadian Medical Association,

“Start protecting Canadians and their families from gambling ads by creating a strong national framework to ban betting advertising.”

Canadian Mental Health Association, Mental Health Research Canada, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addiction, and a host of other public health bodies have called for an end to the marketing and sponsorship of gambling as a way to reduce the harms.

“The health science research is clear – the rapid growth and normalization of gambling we are now experiencing is a public health crisis. The ads are fueling this crisis, the costs of which are conservatively estimated to be two or three times the tax revenue generated from the gambling companies.

“We are Olympians, parents and grandparents of Olympians and athletes, teachers, journalists, lawyers, health researchers, and political activists. While we came together because of the way we saw gambling ads distorting the culture of sports, we quickly learned about the tremendous health harms caused by sports betting and other forms of gambling.

“Thank you very much for your consideration. We would be pleased to talk with you further about the harms and the way in which the ads are fueling the crisis.”

A little while ago, at the start of the Winter Olympics, we, together with seven other like-minded NGOs from Canada,

the U.S., the U.K., and Japan, wrote to the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees after IOC officials told us that “betting adds to the enjoyment of sports and that advertising for sports betting grows the interest in sports”. That view is mistaken. Betting may draw people to sports, but that interest is entirely disembodied and sedentary, and for many of those, harmful to the point of addiction. In our letter, we told them that there is absolutely no evidence that sports betting increases the realization of Olympic values, including healthy active participation in sports.

#### Join the Voices

Please consider joining the many voices that are calling for a ban on these ads and sending a letter to your MP. You can find more information and a letter to send on our website. Campaign to Ban Ads for Gambling [www.banadsforgambling.ca](http://www.banadsforgambling.ca).

*Robin Campbell, Joel Finlay, and Bruce Kidd are directors of Ban Ads For Gambling. Robin is a retired lawyer and has through-hiked the Bruce Trail. Joel and Bruce have both been awarded the title OLY for having competed in the Olympic Games. Joel has a Masters in Public Health from Harvard. Bruce has the Order of Canada, and is Professor Emeritus, Sports Policy, U of T.*

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# Collaborative Community Conservation along the South Georgian Bay Escarpment

By Jarvis Strong, Executive Director, Escarpment Corridor Alliance

**T**he Niagara Escarpment has long benefited from the leadership and stewardship of numerous dedicated conservation land trusts, particularly the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) and Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC). Now there is a new land trust in the mix. The Escarpment Corridor Alliance (ECA) has become Ontario's newest land trust and the only one focused specifically on the South Georgian Bay (SGB) region of the Escarpment.

The ECA's story began not as a land trust but in advocacy and education. Launched in March 2022, deep community engagement in SGB has always been a focus. Over three years, the team performed extensive geospatial analysis and spoke with hundreds of local landholders across a 2,000-square-km area encompassing six major watershed basins. The research confirmed both a compelling need and a real opportunity: a connected, protected ecological corridor across SGB was achievable. It also revealed something equally important. When a locally

rooted organization was present, one that understood the region's sense of place, the communities, and the landowners personally, individuals who had never before considered donating land or creating a conservation easement came forward. Dozens of them.

As these conversations continued, it became clear that many landholders were open to conservation, but were often unaware of the tools available to support it. For example, landholders were often unfamiliar with the Ecological Gifts Program, which offers enhanced tax benefits through provisions in the Income Tax Act. Donations of Ecologically Sensitive lands may be exempt from capital gains tax and donors can carry forward income tax credits for up to 10 years. While donating land is ultimately about leaving a lasting conservation legacy, it can also serve as a powerful estate and tax planning tool.

## Becoming a Land Trust

By late 2024, the case was compelling enough that the ECA made a formal decision to pursue becoming a land

trust. The process with the CRA and other governing bodies began in earnest in 2025, with the final step completed in the late fall. The ECA is now an eligible recipient organization of Canada's Ecological Gifts Program, is a member of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance and is an NEC Approved Conservation Organization.

In December 2025, within weeks of completing the process, the ECA closed on its first nature preserve, Sandy's Summit, near Kolopore. That same month, the BTC announced its acquisition of the former Talisman Mountain Resort lands near Kimberley, permanently protecting more than 120 acres of sensitive land. In its public announcement, the BTC specifically credited the ECA for drawing attention to the property's importance, commissioning ecological and land-use studies, facilitating early conversations with the landowners, and contributing significantly to the appraisal process.

Enter the "collaborative community conservation" philosophy that the ECA and many other conservation

organizations subscribe to. Regional and pan-Escarpment organizations are not competitors, they are collaborative partners, and together, conservation at scale becomes achievable. It's all about getting sensitive lands into the right hands and ensuring long-term land management that improves outcomes for biodiversity.

## Farmland Important

The ECA is also conscious that not all land protection looks the same. In addition to the loss of natural lands, Ontario is losing farmland at an alarming rate, and the ECA actively reminds landholders that restoring agricultural land to natural cover is not always the right answer. Farmland feeds people, supports farm families, and delivers a wide range of ecosystem services. The environment and the people of Ontario need to preserve farmland as well as natural lands such as forests, wetlands, and meadows. For some landholders, the right conversation is with the Ontario Farmland Trust rather than a land trust. The emerging ecological corridor of SGB will be a mosaic

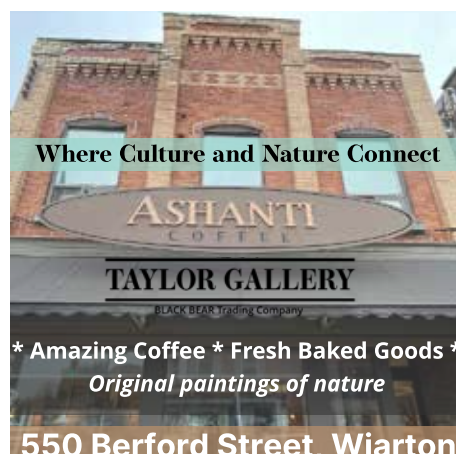


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◀ Sandy's Summit, in the Kolapore area, the ECA's first nature preserve.  
PHOTO BY CAROLYN THICKETT.

property in the Pine River watershed of the Township of Mulmur. This year the ECA has a goal of securing five new nature preserves or conservation easements.

The ECA's work is also about a better balance between people and nature by connecting natural lands into habitats that support biodiversity, supporting Indigenous conservation and Two-Eyed Seeing approaches, linking nature and the economy, and ensuring that Ontarians have plentiful access to the natural world. Nature-based recreation is not a distraction from

of natural lands and working farms with a variety of land use types.

The public sector has an important role to play as well. The ECA encourages municipalities across the region to reflect conservation priorities in their land-use planning, priorities that complement Ontario Nature's Municipal Protected Areas Project and Canada's international commitment to protect 30 per cent of lands and waters by 2030.

The ECA is currently fundraising to complete its second nature preserve. Black Bank Highlands is a 152-acre

conservation, it is a gateway to it. People who discover nature and fall in love with it, become its strongest advocates.

Creating an extensive ecological corridor across SGB is a massive undertaking. But it is entirely possible. One property, one partnership, and one nature lover at a time. The emerging SGB Ecological Corridor is a legacy in the making, and it will benefit nature and people, forever.

Learn more about the ECA and its land trust program at [www.myscarpment.ca](http://www.myscarpment.ca) or [info@myscarpment.ca](mailto:info@myscarpment.ca).



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# Aromatic Lavender Wands

By Nicholl Spence

**L**avender is a wonderfully versatile flower with a history dating back to ancient civilizations. Its deep purple hues and soothing aromas are adored by many and it is also well known for its medicinal values and perfume.

Lavender wands originated in the 18th century in France and were given as gifts as symbols of love and good fortune. They are still crafted by many people today! Lavender wands are made using fresh, flexible lavender stems picked fresh from a garden. This is a great summer project from late June to mid-August when it's best to harvest lavender. The process is quite simple using fresh lavender stems, cotton kitchen twine and/or 1/8" ribbon and a tapestry needle.

To begin, harvest approximately 10 to 15 fully opened lavender flowers and be sure to cut them keeping 8 to 10 inches of green stem attached. It's these stems which get pulled downwards over the flowers to become the "cage" which you then weave the ribbon through. Remove any lavender leaves or small buds that may be growing along the stem. With flower



▲ Two examples of lavender wands after drying. The left photo shows a very loose weave so the flowers would poke through but traditionally the weave is very tight and none of the flowers within are shown, as seen right. RIGHT PHOTO CREDIT: ADOBE STOCK.

stems laid out in front of you, pick up a single stem at a time to create a neat bundle, matching all the bottoms at the base of the flower. Tie your bundle at the base of the flowers using a 1-metre piece of ribbon or string. Allow the remaining string to dangle away from your project as you work on creating the cage

around the lavender flowers.

With your bundle secured, turn it upside down so the flowers can be gripped in the palm of your hand and the stems protrude upwards away from your body. Begin pulling each of the stems downward over the lavender flowers in your palm to cage them in. Once all the stems have been

brought downward, attach a tapestry needle to the long string and begin weaving over and under between the stems, securing the flowers into their lavender cage. Once you've woven your way to the bottom tie a secure knot and trim the excess string. The remaining stems become the handle of the wand and you may also

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▲ Pick 10 to 15 lavender stems with 8 to 10 inches of stem attached. Remove leaves and buds from the stem.



▲ Gather a bundle of lavender stems in your hand and match them at the base. Once your bundle is assembled, secure it in place with cotton kitchen twine or ribbon.



◀ Carefully fold each stem over the lavender flowers to cage them in.

► Attach a tapestry needle to the remaining long string and begin weaving in and out through the stems to the bottom. Once secure, tie a knot and trim. I like to keep about 3 inches of stem when making lavender wands.



choose to continue to wrap the ribbon to the bottom of the stems for added interest.

Lavender wands keep their aroma for months and can be used throughout your house, particularly in the bathroom or undergarment drawers. They make wonderful gifts or use them as fancy bag-tags while gift-giving. Better yet, give your lavender wands to a bride-to-be on her wedding day so she may use one in her bouquet, the way they used to in ancient times!

### Follow Along

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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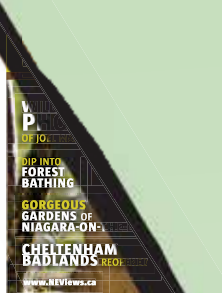
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# Grilled Spicy Sausage & Kale Crostini

Total Time: 40 mins | Serves: 4

## Ingredients

- 2 spicy Italian sausages
- ¼ cup olive oil, divided
- ¼ baguette, cut into 1/2-in. (1-cm) thick slices
- 1 cup loosely packed baby kale
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- ¼ tsp chili flakes or diced fresh red chili
- ¼ pkg *Compliments* Double-Cream Brie Cheese, sliced

## Directions

1. Cook sausages on grill preheated to medium heat 15 to 20 min., turning often, until cooked through and browned. Remove from grill, cool and thinly slice.
2. Brush 1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil onto both sides of baguette slices. Grill 1 to 2 min. per side, until lightly golden.
3. Combine kale, garlic, chili flakes and remaining 3 tbsp (45 mL) olive oil in food processor; chop into a coarse pesto.
4. Top baguette slices with sausage, kale pesto and cheese. Place back on hot barbecue until cheese is melted.

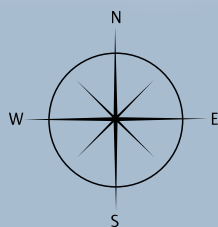
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