

Views... from the editor's desk



Let's Celebrate Foresight!

We're delighted that *Escarpment Views* keeps growing and improving. In this issue we introduce a new department called Foresight. This page at the back of the magazine directs us to the future. Here we share forward-thinking or enlightened actions and practices, and celebrate environmental good news and achievements related to the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.

In this issue we also take you, through words and photos, from old Fort Erie to Kemble near Owen Sound, and from prehistoric times at Georgian Bay to a contemporary harvest festival held each year. If you want more, we invite you to look us up online at www.EscarpmentViews.ca where we post a blog, keep a continuing

calendar of events, store our published features, and generally make more information available.

This autumn also means it's time for municipal elections. We urge you to pay as much attention to your options for local government as you might to provincial and federal elections. On Oct. 25, be sure to vote for those who will best serve your Escarpment municipality.

Please send me good news about the Niagara Escarpment or its communities, your story ideas and what you like or dislike about the magazine. I'll read everything that is sent to editor@EscarpmentViews.ca.

Gloria

Gloria Hildebrandt, Editor

...and from our readers

I work on the Chi-Cheemaun and enjoyed the article in the Summer 2010 issue of *Escarpment Views*. I would like to point out two errors though. The first concerns the photo in the lower right of page 6. That is not 2nd Mate Terry McMillan in the photo. It is 1st Mate Dave Grass. The second is in the "Fast Facts" list on page 7. The Chi-Cheemaun was re-engined in 2007 and now has four 2200hp CAT engines, not the two Rustons as listed.

Alan Constant

[Editor's note: We apologize for mixing up Terry McMillan with Dave Grass. As for the engine facts, we reported information that was provided to us. Thanks to Alan for clarifying this.]

I had to chuckle too when I read that on the Bruce Peninsula, most people will never see a Massasauga Rattlesnake because of its secretive behaviour and incredible camouflage. I have been a cottage owner on Coal Oil Point since 1977 and also own an eight-acre island at the

mouth of Willow Creek. At one time, I used to fish for speckled trout a few miles up Willow Creek. It was quite common to see rattlesnakes and I am sure it still is. This property is now within the boundaries of the Bruce Peninsula National Park, but there are no roads or paved trails for access. My wife and I walk around five miles most days in the Willow Creek area and we will see rattlesnakes on occasion. We used to pick raspberries in the Johnson Harbour area and the rattlesnakes were so common that we would wear hip waders for protection. The brush was quite thick and my wife even stepped on one once. Frequently, we would no sooner get out of the car and we would encounter a rattler. The point I would like to make is that all of the Park Wardens and writers that never get "off the beaten path" are not likely to see a rattlesnake. Get on a pair of chest waders and head up Willow Creek a few miles where very few people go and you should have no trouble viewing a rattlesnake.

Ian Pirie, Coal Oil Point

The following is an excerpt of a letter we received. To read the rest of it, go online to our blog at www.EscarpmentViews.ca and look under Bruce Peninsula:

I'm thinking about my home here in the Bruce Peninsula in terms of a sustainable community. So are a lot of other people, as evidenced by last fall's creation of The Meeting Place, the regular occurrence of Transition Communities get-togethers, the educational initiatives at the Lion's Head school, the numerous grass-roots organizations including the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory and lately, some relatively independent efforts to generate local "clean" energy. What can I do to contribute to securing in the future a quality of life and standard of living I am now privileged to enjoy? How do we conserve and preserve the balance between development and preservation of this unique gem of a Biosphere? I am hoping that the knowledge generated by residents and researchers in this area will be part of the solution.

Arlene Kennedy, Tobermory



PHOTOS BY DIANE BATOR, ORANGEVILLE