

Niagara Escarpment threatened

I was given a book to look at and to write about. It is a new book and it will appear in the book stores in September. Our public library here in Georgetown has a copy for you already.

Since the book came my way a few days ago, I have been reading it and looking at it with rapt attention. The book's title is "The Niagara Escarpment."

At first glance, the book seems to be the usual coffee-table-gift-package, printed on glossy paper and far too heavy for easy reading (in this case four pounds!).

On closer inspection, however, I took a tremendous liking to it. It is put together with so much care and an abiding love for it's subject.

Reading the well-researched text made my heart ache, because I fear that the Escarpment will not be with us more than another generation.

"The Niagara Escarpment" is by Pat and Rosemarie Keough, authors and photographers, with two other books to their credit, titled "The Ottawa Valley Portfolio" and "The Nahanni Portfolio."

This book is a history book of this area, illustrated by maps, drawings and photographs that show the forming of the Escarpment 400 million years ago, the life of the original human inhabitants of the Escarpment, the arrival of Samuel de Champlain at Georgian Bay and



John Sommer
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

the Blue Mountains in 1615, and the impact of the European settlers on the Escarpment.

This last phase is documented with 155 rare, old black and white photographs from many archival sources, the Halton Hills Public Library Archives being one of them.

The second part of the book is a portfolio of 130 glorious color photographs of the Escarpment and surrounding country taken by Pat and Rosemarie Keough in the last years. In captions the authors remind us that the beauty of the natural world has a few defenders in a society that sees value only in what can be sold and made a profit of.

Most impressive, in my view, is a long introduction by the outstanding Canadian and great artist and naturalist Robert Bateman, in

which he recalls the origin of the Bruce Trail and his 11 frustrating years on the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Here are a few quotes from this introduction:

"Rapid development and large profits were the mindset of many landowners and most commissioners. These were the people who, in their 40s and early 50s saw nearby farms selling for millions of dollars to developers. The man who sold the village store for a mini-mall site replaced his economy Ford with a luxury Lincoln.

Historically and geographically these folks were at the edge of the Golden Horseshoe just as it started to gleam and expand, just at the right age in their lives. This, they believed, was progress, the way the world was meant to be. A whole new set of expectations became the standard. We naturalists attempting to preserve the natural integrity of the environment, were told not to stand in the way of progress.

"Does it not seem strange that tourists travel specifically to Scotland and Britain to walk the footpaths? Is it not peculiar that one can safely hike across Germany and Holland and not see garbage or meet yahoos on the trails? Surely, it is impossible that only the jerks and the hopeless crossed the ocean to be our ancestors.



Ms. Catherine Bishop, with Herald columnist John Sommer, display the sculpture "Soccer" she won at a raffle conducted by 'The Friends of Halton Hills Libraries' recently.

Rather, I believe the problem is a frontier, buccaneer mentality. Too many of us lack respect. We refuse to recognize boundaries or limits. The problem is that now, because of the sheer number of people in North America, the time of seemingly limitless land and endless exploitable natural resources is running out, as it did long ago in Europe. We have to wake up, as they have in many ways, to the realization that limits exist.

"The Escarpment still has good quality, but it is being steadily encroached-upon and nibbled

away. Sadly, there seems to be neither the backbone nor the will to preserve it. Indeed it is now or never. It would be a crime against nature and future generations of people to allow the Escarpment to be turned into a sterile, dull, packaged world.

"If this portfolio can do anything, I hope it will help to alert people and make them more conscious and caring of all things along the Escarpment, from the old farms to the natural landscapes. That is the intrinsic value of this lovely volume."

Sponsored In Part By
DC103 FM
103.5 In Stereo

Enter The Herald's \$4,000 SHOPPING SPREE CONTEST



You Could Be
1 of 8 Winners
Of A \$500
Shopping Spree
At Any One Of The
Participating Merchants

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER:

1. Simply visit one of the 8 Participating Shopping Spree Value Stores fill in an entry coupon. No purchase is necessary.
2. Contest ends Saturday, November 17/90. Each store will be making 1 Random Draw for a \$500.00 SHOPPING SPREE from all the coupons deposited at their store, on Monday, November 19/90. The person whose name is randomly drawn at each of the participating Shopping Spree Value Stores will be eligible to win one of the eight \$500.00 Shopping Spree prizes by answering a mathematical, skill-testing question.
3. The prize is a \$500.00 voucher only. The voucher can be used as cash towards your purchases at the pre-selected SHOPPING SPREE VALUE STORE. The winner may elect to make purchases which exceed the value of the voucher by adding personal funding. Provincial taxes are extra. Check individual store for Sale Item exclusions.
4. Prizes must be accepted as awarded. No cash value. No substitution. Decision of the judges is final.
5. You may enter as often as you like by visiting one, or all of the participating Shopping Spree Value Stores.
6. No responsibility will be assumed for lost or misdirected entries.
7. Employees and immediate relatives of The Herald or participating advertisers are not eligible.
8. Winners must be 18 years or older.
9. By entering the contest you agree to accept these rules.

Look For The Specially Marked
Shopping Spree Value Stores
Every Week, Only IN
the HERALD

DC103 FM
103.5 In Stereo

"Your Regional Super Station"

\$4,000⁰⁰
SHOPPING SPREE
VALUE STORE

ATTENTION TRAVELLERS

The New Fall Brochures are finally here with great savings on the latest Fall and Winter Packages.

Stop in today and pick up your FREE copy!

Goliger's Travel
SINCE 1955
235 GUELPH STREET
GEORGETOWN
877-0103

THE CORPORATION OF THE
Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive - P.O. Box 128
HALTON HILLS (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 5G2
873-2600

FALL AQUATIC REGISTRATION

Registration for both Acton and Georgetown Indoor Pools for Fall session commences at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8th. Both pool registrations will be taken at the Pool Entrances. For more information call 873-2600 ext. 276.

POOL CLOSURES

Both the Acton and Georgetown Pools will be closed for annual maintenance Sept. 4 - 16th.

LOST AND FOUND

The Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department has many reminders of its Summer Youth Programs...if your child is missing a pair of sneakers, a towel, a gym bag, a pair of sweatpants, a tupperware container or any other article that he/she took to camp this year, do not hesitate to call us at 873-2600 ext. 267. Our lost and found pile is impressive! We will keep these articles until Friday, Sept. 14.

T-SHIRT MAGIC

The latest craze for kids is designing and painting their own clothes. Sign up soon with the Halton Hills Recreation and Parks Department and learn how to paint T-shirts with artwork and graphics unique to you. Call 873-2600 ext. 268.