

As a natural wonder, Niagara Escarpment merits protection

By BARBARA HALSALL
Herald Special
100 Year-old trees

When the Ontario government approved the Niagara Escarpment Plan in June 1985 the Escarpment was recognized as a unique, natural wonder. Since then more discoveries have been made like the 1000 year-old trees just a short distance from Georgetown.

Because of the difficult terrain and rugged geology around the cliff face, settlers passed by this area and did not chop down all the trees. This serendipitous accident has left us with a unique area now recognized by the United Nations as a Biosphere Reserve.

In Ontario, it stretches 725 kilometres, from Niagara to Tobermory. Information from the Niagara Escarpment Commission tells us the Escarpment contains more than 100 sites of geological significance including some of the best exposures of



rocks and fossils, of the Silurian and Ordovician Periods (400-500 million years old), to be found anywhere in the world.

As one of the last natural areas in Southern Ontario, many animals and birds have retreated there. More than 300 species of birds, 53 species of mammals, 36 species of reptiles and amphibians, 90 fish species and 100 varieties of 'special interest flora' including 37 types of wild orchids can be found in the

Escarpment natural areas. Many trout streams originate there.

In 1988, Doug Larson, a botanist at the University of Guelph, discovered trees that were 700 years old. When someone thinks of ancient trees visions of huge towering giants come to mind. However, these ancient trees, eastern white cedars, are twisted and not much larger than a tall hedge. They have grown under the most severe conditions in cracks and

crevices on the scarp face, with incredibly little soil and very little moisture. This is a tree that doesn't quit despite the most severe conditions of nature.

Doug Larson was one of the speakers of P.O.W.E.R.'s Enviro-watch II Conference in June 1989. He brought with him a cross-section of a 600-year-old cedar that he carried in his pocket. Growth had been so slow that the tree was incredibly small. Since then 1000-year-old specimens have been discovered.

Because of our over use of the trail along the cliff new seedlings are being trampled. The public must be educated about the importance of protecting this ancient forest.

P.O.W.E.R. is working to keep the Escarpment protected for future generations. Who knows what further treasures, in the

plant world, in fossils, or in artifacts that are waiting for discovery.

The Acton Quarry is in the Escarpment. It is the proposed site for a garbage dump. As the first private landfill going under the Environmental Assessment Act, it could set a disastrous precedent for the whole Escarpment.

And what about those amazing ancient trees that have literally seen civilizations come and go? I like to think that environmentalists are as tenacious as those trees and that we will outlast the developers in spite of all the severe conditions. Like those trees, hang in there. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

P.O.W.E.R. will circulate information in November. Remember to welcome our canvassers the week after the election.

Community Service Bulletins



If you are a non-profit organization, service club or charity or church group and would like us to publish your community service announcement of community interest, call us at 877-2201 during regular office hours. There is no charge for this service to Halton Hills community groups. The deadline for submissions is Friday at Noon for publication for the following Wednesday. Deadlines will not be extended under any circumstances. Although we will do our best to print all announcements, space is limited and there are no guarantees of insertion.

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary at the Bennett Centre Recreation Room, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information call Vi, 877-4593.

Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary 33rd Annual Christmas Ball, at Holy Cross Aud., Maple Ave., Dec. 6, Dinner 7:30 p.m. For info call Vi Haines, 877-4593.

Verdun Rebekah Lodge 184 Bazaar, Sat., Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Oddfellows and Rebekahs Hall, Wesleyan St., Georgetown. Hot lunch served.

Roast Beef Family Dinner, Sun., Nov. 10, 5:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Parish Hall, hosted by Georgetown and District Seniors Assoc. Tickets \$10, 10 yrs. and under \$5. Phone 877-3235 or 877-9714 for info and tickets.

Tinker Bell Nursery School 20th Anniversary Celebration. Past and present parents, volunteers and staff, please join us Monday, Nov. 4 at T.B.N., 321 Ontario St. S., Milton. Open house: 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Meetings

The Lupus Society of Hamilton will meet Nov. 10, 2 p.m. at the All Saints Anglican Church Parish Hall, corner of King and Queen Sts in Hamilton. Everyone welcome.

The Learning Disabilities Assoc. of Halton meets Wed., Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. at Lord Elgin H.S., 5151 New St., Burlington. Everyone welcome.

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will be meeting Wed., Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bennett Centre Recreation Room. For info call Inez Christion, 877-6248.

Esqueving Historical Society meets on Wed., Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m. at the Georgetown Armory. Topic: The Lorne Scots - Halton's Military Heritage. For more info call Karen Hunter at 878-2109.

Multiple Sclerosis Self-Help Group meetings held 3rd Thurs. of the month at 10 a.m. at the Social Services Building, Willow Street, Acton.

Friendships Alive - a social club for single, divorced, separated and widowed adults, meets regularly for social events such as dinners,

bowling, theatre, cards and games. Call 454-5764 or 877-4574.

Living With Cancer groups meets every second Thursday at the Canadian Cancer Society, Milton Branch, 751 Main St. E. at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 877-5228 or 878-1876.

Pregnant teens: Prenatal classes designed specifically for teens, free of charge. Transportation provided, pregnancy counselling available. Call Susan Stuart at 844-5502 or Public Health Department for more information.

Halton Hills British Canadian Club meetings are held informally on the 1st Thursday of each month in the lounge of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120, Georgetown, at 8 p.m. Call Dave at 873-2934 for more info.

Volunteers

Red Cross Georgetown and District requires volunteers to assist in Finance and Publicity, driving and First Aid instructions. For more information call Bernice at 877-5233.

Alcoholic Anonymous can help. Call 877-1211 for more information.

The Salvation Army will pick up appliances in working order. For more information call 853-3321.

Volunteer drivers for the Canadian Cancer Society, Georgetown Unit, needed to transport patients to and from the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. Reimbursement for mileage will be paid. Please contact the Georgetown Unit's office at 164 Guelph St., Georgetown, between 1-4 p.m. daily, or call the cancer office at 877-1124.

Halton Support Services is looking for mature individuals who are interested in contract positions working 4-15 hours per week teaching life skills to children with developmental handicaps. Instruction takes place in the child's home. If you are 18 or older call (416) 849-8000 for more information.

Big Brothers is looking for men 18 years or older to volunteer 4 hours a week to a young boy from a father-absent home. For more information please call 847-7267 or 876-4756.

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Happenings

Halton Centennial Manor is offering an educational series on Aging at the Manor, Ontario St., Milton. Session 8 - Mon., Nov. 4, 7-9 p.m. - Prescription for Happy Retirement and Emotional Well-Being. Lauraine Andrews, Social Worker, Panel of Retired Citizens. Call Lauraine Andrews at 878-4141, ext. 167 for more information.

Dinner Theatre, presenting Joe Abbey Colburne in 'The Treasure Chest' at Georgetown District Christian School, Nov. 2, 7 p.m. \$73 couple, \$38 single. For tickets call 878-2142 or 853-1203. Limited seating.

Candy Cane Carnival Bazaar, Sat., Nov. 2, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Knox Presbyterian Church, Main St., Georgetown. Christmas crafts, knitting, sewing, baking.

Christmas Bazaar, Sat., Nov. 7, Georgetown Parent Child Center, 89 Mountainview Rd. S., Georgetown (St. Andrew's Church). Baking and gifts galore, hot lunch.

Ballinfad United Church Turkey Supper, Sat., Nov. 2, 5:00, 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. Adults \$8, children \$3.50. For tickets call 877-6050, 877-3721 or 833-2649.

Georgetown Golden Circle Club Bazaar and Bake Sale will be held on Sat., Nov. 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church Hall on Mountainview Rd. S. also tea tables and white elephant table.

Christmas House Tour of 6 homes in Georgetown area, Sat. Dec. 7. Tickets \$10, from Hayden's Music Store, Main St., Mac's Milk, Mountainview. Sponsored by St. John's United Church for renovator

Happenings

project. Limited no. of tickets. Big Brothers of Halton Inc. Information Forum, Thurs. Nov. 7, 5-8 p.m. Optimist Centre, Milton, 311 Commercial St. For more info call 847-7267 or 876-4756.

St. John's United Church Annual Bazaar at 7 p.m., Wed., Nov. 20 at the Indoor Mall, next to Beaver Lumber. Something for everyone.

Ski Swap, sponsored by Optimist Club of Georgetown, Nov. 10 at Optimist Hall on Hwy. 7. Preview at 10 a.m., sale at noon.

Trinity United Church, Acton is hosting a Chili Dinner, Sat., Nov. 2, 6 p.m. Tickets at church office, \$5 adults, children 6-12 \$3, under 6 \$1.50. For more info call 853-0215.

Solving Mysteries the Forensic Way will be the topic of Nancy Stubbing's talk to the University Women's Club on Tues., Nov. 5, 7:45 p.m. at the Centennial School library. Everyone welcome.

Ticket holders are reminded that the first Super Sunday Series performance is Nov. 10 and will feature sing-a-long folk musicians, Rick and Judy, at the John Elliott Theatre. For info or tickets call 877-5373 or 877-6149.

1st Annual Scout and Guide Food Bank Drive, Sat., Nov. 2, Fill bags provided in Acton Free Press and Georgetown Independent with contributions. For info call 878-1328 in Georgetown or 853-2050 in Acton.

Brampton's Sixth Annual Christmas Holiday Craft Show and Sale, Sat., Nov. 9, Sun., Nov. 10 at North Peel Secondary School, 1305 Williams Pkwy., Brampton, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun. Adults \$2, children under 12 free. Tupperware Sale put on by the

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