

Editor's note

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.
—Margaret Atwood

Spring may not quite be here, but there is no mistaking its subtle hints—birds chirping, a warmer sun, the sound of melting snow rushing down a sewer grate—all harbingers of warmer days ahead.

With this edition of Sideroads of Halton Hills we mark our fifth anniversary of offering you a local publication that provides stories you would not find elsewhere. Hidden, and not-so-hidden gems, if you will.

In this edition Andrea LeFebvre profiles Innerscapes—a group of six artists who have formed a unique collective.

Ted Brown takes a behind-the-scenes look at how a group of determined residents have brought the former Acton Town Hall building

back to life.

Coyotes have been making headlines in the Greater Toronto Area for all the wrong reasons in recent months. Writer Andrew Hind takes a look at this wily animal and how urbanites must now deal with this once seldom seen creature.

Fore! If it's spring, that means golf season is here. Hind talks to a couple local professionals who offer advice on what you should be doing now to get ready for the coming season.

Master gardener Belinda Gallagher looks at spring plants while fitness expert Caroline Harris offers a beginner's guide to running.

We hope you enjoy this edition and, as always welcome your comments, letters and story ideas.

Send them by e-mail to John McGhie at jmcghie@independent-freepress.com.

Contributors

Ted Brown has been a staff photographer/writer at *The Independent & Free Press* for the past 26 years and has won numerous newspaper awards. He is a Georgetown native.

Cynthia Gamble is the editor of *The Independent & Free Press* and has been a staff member for 25 years.

Andrea Lefebvre is a Georgetown native and the special features co-ordinator/writer for *In Focus* and *The Independent & Free Press*.

Andrew Hind is a freelance writer who contributes to many Metroland publications. He is a graduate of York University and has been writing for eight years. During that time, he has co-authored six books with Maria Da Silva, most recently *Niagara: Daredevils, Danger, and Extraordinary Stories*

Parting shot...



One sure sign of spring is the annual ritual of 'mailbox bashing'—a 'sport' those with a less-than-stellar IQ take part in, usually in the rural parts of town.

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