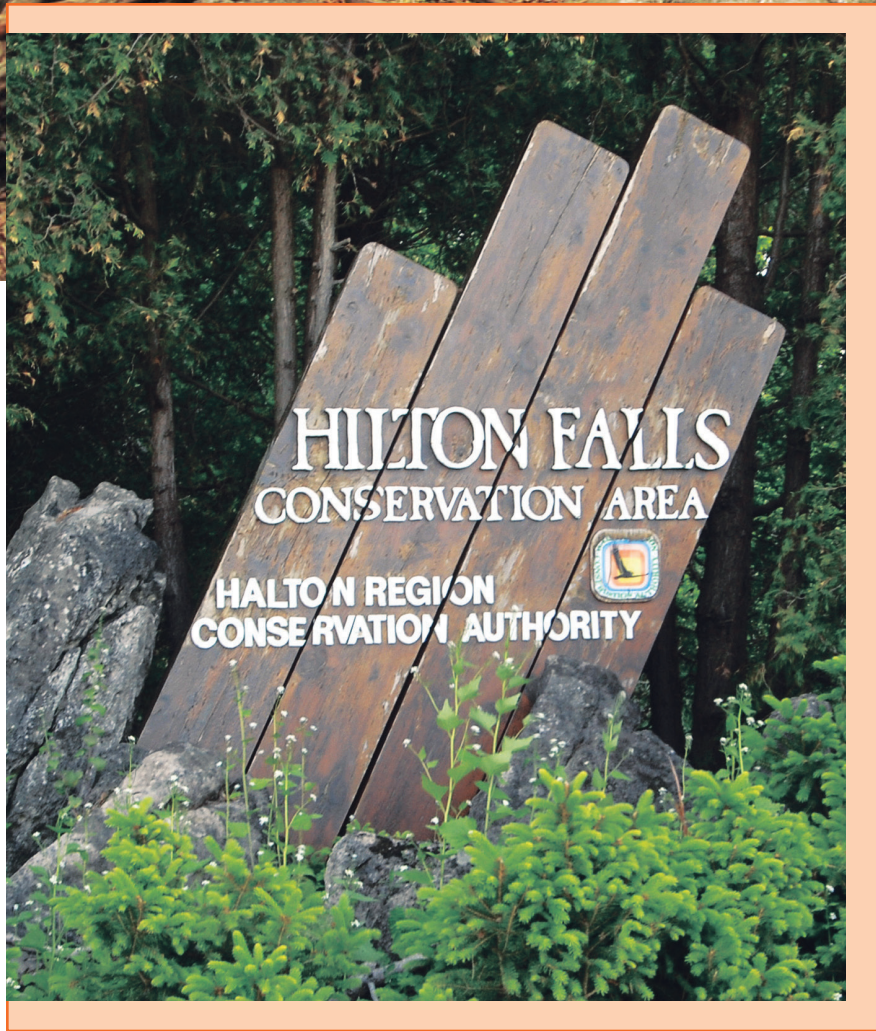


Daytripping at Hilton Falls



Story by Andrew Hind
Photos by Ted Brown

It was a gorgeous early summer day at Hilton Falls Conservation Area. The sun poked through the forest canopy overhead to paint the ground golden. Sparrows flittered from branch to branch and woodpeckers hungrily tapped at trees. Warblers sang happily and through breaks in the foliage above we could see hawks gliding silently and menacingly across the scattered clouds. Squirrels watched us pass, and once we startled a rabbit which hastily bounced off into the underbrush.

We didn't dally to watch the joyful wildlife, however. Instead, we pushed onward along the gravel trail, eager to view the waterfalls that are the namesake and centerpiece of this conservation area. Our pace quickened and our anticipation grew as the sounds of rushing water began to disrupt the all-encompassing silence of the forest. And then, suddenly, the majestic waterfall was before us, a spectacular curtain of water flanked by the haunting stone ruins of 19th century sawmills.

We paused in silence, soaking in the moment. The sound of the cascading water was soul-soothing, the view of breathtaking. We were just the latest to discover the magic of Hilton Falls.

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