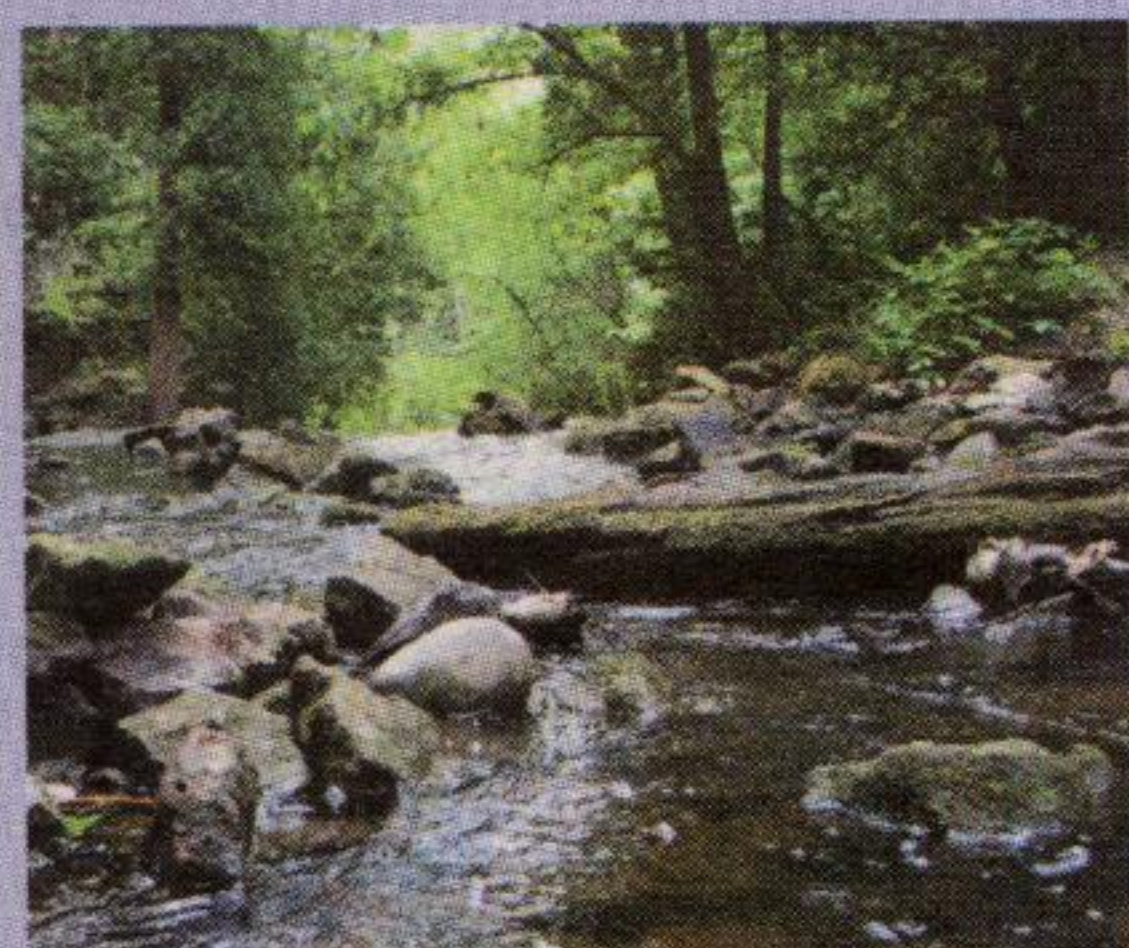


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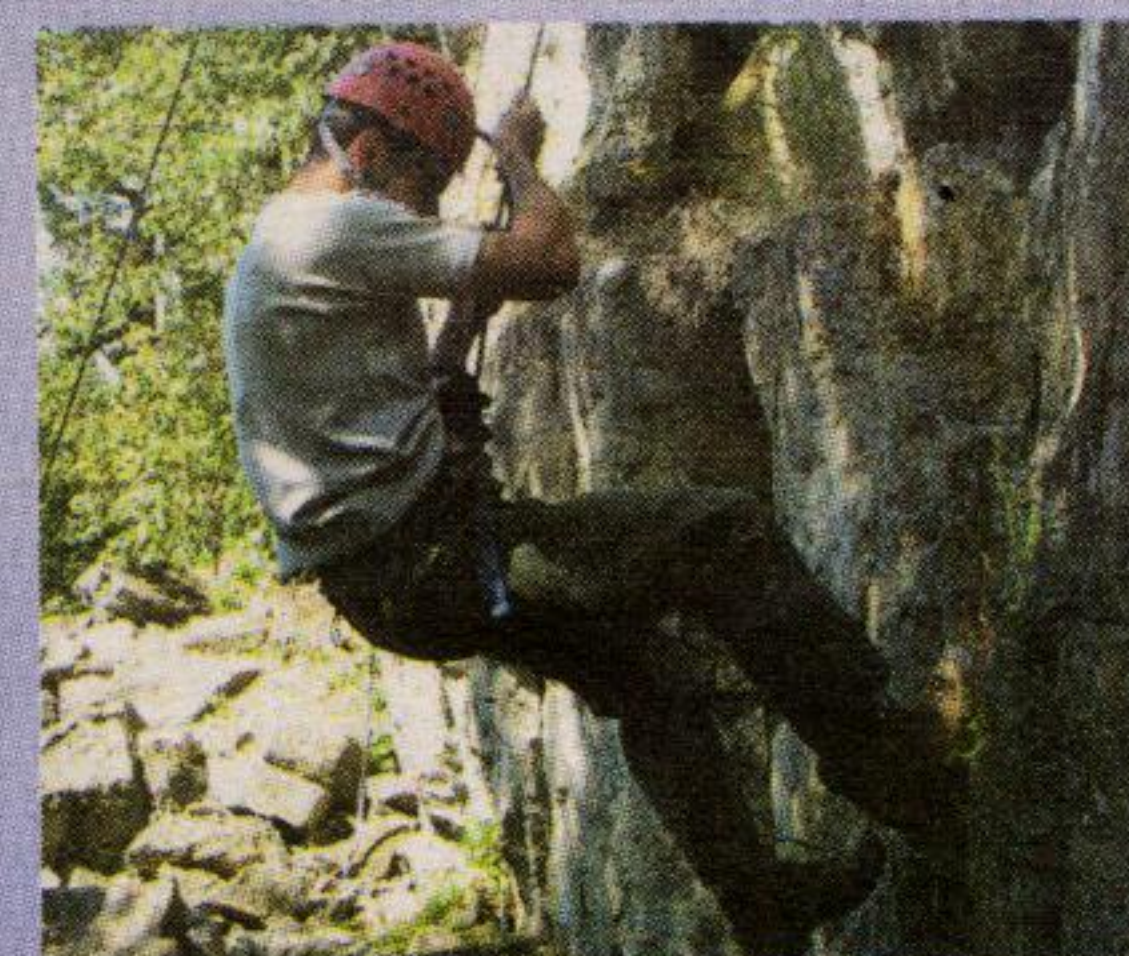
ON CONSERVATION



6 Mountsberg expansion plans



8 Source Water Protection



13 Rock Climbers Protect Cedars



14 Calendar of Park Events



Ancient, eastern white cedars up to 1,000 years old can be found growing along the edge and face of the Niagara Escarpment.

Photo: Neil Hester

Greenbelt Protection Act is good for environment

Conservation Halton believes that the recent introduction of the Greenbelt Protection Act by the provincial government is a great first step to stronger environmental protection in its watershed and Ontario. The benefits of this action include such things as water source protection, increased recreational opportunities, enhanced biodiversity and urban sprawl containment. The initiative could also lead to a province-wide environmental protection strategy.

During 2003, the Ontario Government introduced a proposal to create a greenbelt on the outer edge of the Golden Horseshoe area in southern Ontario. The greenbelt would permanently protect more than 600,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land and farmland from Niagara Falls to

Lake Scugog with growth focused outside the greenbelt. Mayor Rob MacIsaac of Burlington was appointed as Chair of the Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt Task Force that was established to make recommendations on the proposal.

The Greenbelt proposal is very complementary to Conservation Halton's Greenlands Strategy being developed in partnership with the Region of Halton to protect important natural areas in the watershed. Conservation Halton currently owns more than 9,000 acres of environmentally significant lands in the Greenbelt Study Area.

Conservation Halton fully supports the linking of its already protected Niagara Escarpment lands to the Greenbelt protection area. This includes looking at new

sites such as areas associated with provincially owned lands in north Oakville, the Bronte Creek Park escarpment link, and other significant watershed natural lands. There is an opportunity here to create an environmental legacy in north Oakville and Burlington by protecting the natural heritage system associated with the Trafalgar Moraine and the Sixteen Mile Creek valley and linking it to the Greenbelt and the Niagara Escarpment. This is a critical natural corridor that would ensure a healthy system of greenlands in Conservation Halton's watershed.

Stronger environmental protection will enhance the biodiversity of the watershed and the Golden Horseshoe area along with creating critical greenspace for rapidly expanding communities.

Spring into adventure at Conservation Halton parks

Nature is not only abundant at Conservation Halton parks, but it's calling visitors to enjoy some of the best hiking and biking trails found anywhere in southern Ontario.

Situated midway between Hamilton and Toronto, Conservation Halton parks include lakes, streams, forests and magnificent cliffs

amidst a World Biosphere Reserve recognized by UNESCO. Over 80 km of trails wind through Conservation Halton's six main parks that include features such as the Niagara Escarpment and Carolinian Forests.

Nature is bursting at the seams this season at Rattlesnake Point, Hilton Falls, Crawford Lake, Kelso, Mountsberg and

Mount Nemo. With this comes some great opportunities for outdoor adventures like hiking, mountain biking, swimming, boating, fishing, picnicking and bird watching.

A complete list of outdoor adventures to experience can be found in the calendar of events on page 14. For directions to parks see page 11.

