

# Escarpment group publishes how-to book

By IRENE GENTLE  
Special to the Champion

**T**he fight against improper development of the Niagara Escarpment just got a new weapon.

A book compiled by The Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE) is now available as a one-stop information guide aimed at putting protection of the escarpment into the hands of ordinary citizens.

The 100-page book combines illustrations of the breathtaking natural features of the escarpment with information designed to make it easy for anyone to don the cape of environmental protector.

"If you wake up one morning and find there's a quarry in your backyard, the book will give you a guide as to who to call," explained Kyle Ferguson of CONE. "It will also give you the number of folks like us working on the same kind of issues, since there's strength in numbers."

The aim is to stop inappropriate development on the escarpment. That can be anything from quarries to housing complexes to golf courses.

"It's one-stop shopping if people have a problem," said Mr. Ferguson. "It's political organization on a non-partisan political manner."

The Southern Ontario portion of the Niagara Escarpment runs from Niagara Falls to the Bruce Peninsula, a 725-km stretch. For the past 25-years it has been protected by special provincial legislation. It has also been named a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations.

Even so, CONE believes that the escarp-

ment is best served by citizens getting in on the act.

"This gives people the resources they need if they're concerned about something," said Mr. Ferguson. "They should know that protection is there."

CONE itself is an umbrella group of 16-Ontario environmental and community organizations. It formed 20-years ago as a watchdog of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, which is itself meant to be a watchdog of the escarpment.

"We're here to make sure the commission follows its own mandate, which is to allow only appropriate development of the escarpment," said Mr. Ferguson.

To that end, the book provides a thorough rundown of just what laws are there protecting the environment and what the average person can do to ensure they are enforced.

"The purpose isn't to make money on this. CONE has some concern about the general political sphere," said Mr. Ferguson. "We're concerned that the government really be concerned about inappropriate development."

To make their message loud and clear, CONE has sent its book to politicians including Minister of Natural Resources John Snobelen, who is responsible for the escarpment.

Free copies are also being sent to libraries, schools and community organizations along the escarpment.

To obtain the book, write CONE at 517 College St., Suite 207, Toronto, M6G 4A2, or call at 416-960-9606.

Copies cost \$7 plus \$3 shipping and handling.

## Skateboarding fundraiser Saturday

BMX and skateboarding demonstrations don't usually go hand in hand with garage sales but they will Saturday at the E.C. Drury High School complex.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., the school parking lot will play host to a garage sale that is a fundraiser for the Milton Skateboard Park, an initiative backed by the Milton Jaycees.

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## Appointment notice

Publisher Ian Oliver is pleased to announce that Bill Begin has been appointed general manager of the Milton Canadian Champion, effective immediately.

Mr. Begin comes to the position from The Burlington Post, where he worked as an advertising sales representative. Prior to that Mr. Begin published his own newspaper, The Garrison Post, in eastern Ontario.

"Bill brings substantial experience to the job, with a well-rounded background in newspapers," Mr. Oliver noted. "As well, he lives in Milton and enjoys the community."

Mr. Begin also worked as a family therapist for almost two decades. He graduated from St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia.

The Canadian Champion is a subsidiary of Metroland Printing, Publishing and Distributing. Previous general manager David Bos has accepted a position with another Metroland publication in Oakville.

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