

Why is the Niagara Escarpment important?

- It has been given the very special distinction of a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). One of only 8 in Canada!
- It is over 400 million years old and 725 km long!
- As a unique Canadian ecosystem, it is home to a variety of living organisms: 300 bird, 53 mammal, 35 reptile and 90 fish species.
- It defines the oldest and longest marked hiking trail in Canada - the Bruce Trail.
- The escarpment is a major source of water. Several major rivers begin in its springs and wetlands.

Simple tips to protect our escarpment...

- Plant native species on slopes or leave existing vegetation to lessen erosion.
- Preserve trees. Trees on your property are great for shade, oxygen, animal habitat and as windbreaks. Even a dead or fallen tree is home for other creatures.
- Plant a garden that attracts butterflies and birds (e.g. bee balm, serviceberry, butterfly milkweed).
- Appreciate the natural contours of streams on your property. A natural stream is much healthier than a straight cut channel.
- Teach others to enjoy and respect the Niagara Escarpment.
- Establish natural corridors between natural areas to provide habitat to encourage wildlife to move between those areas.
- Leave the underbrush, leaves, and twigs where they fall in natural areas.
- Avoid planting rapidly growing, non-native plants (e.g. goutweed, periwinkle) near natural areas. Don't let garden vegetation spread into public natural areas.
- Use existing trails and avoid creating new paths or shortcuts.

Note: Always check your local regulations before building or making changes to your property.

What is Land Stewardship?

Most of the Niagara Escarpment is privately owned. Protecting the Niagara Escarpment depends on cooperation and good stewardship from thousands of private landowners. Use your Escarpment land responsibly. Manage its natural resources carefully. You will be helping yourself - and all living things.

Preservation. Conservation. Land stewardship. The care we take today will ensure that the Niagara Escarpment is here tomorrow, for our children and grandchildren. Each and every one of us can make a difference!

This Niagara Escarpment Stewardship Pamphlet was prepared by the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program, a joint project of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton & Bay Area Restoration Council of Hamilton-Wentworth Regions Inc.

For more tips, ideas & information

Hamilton Conservation Authority:
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Conservation Halton: 905-336-1158 ,
Extension 2263
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Inspired by "The Living By Water Project".

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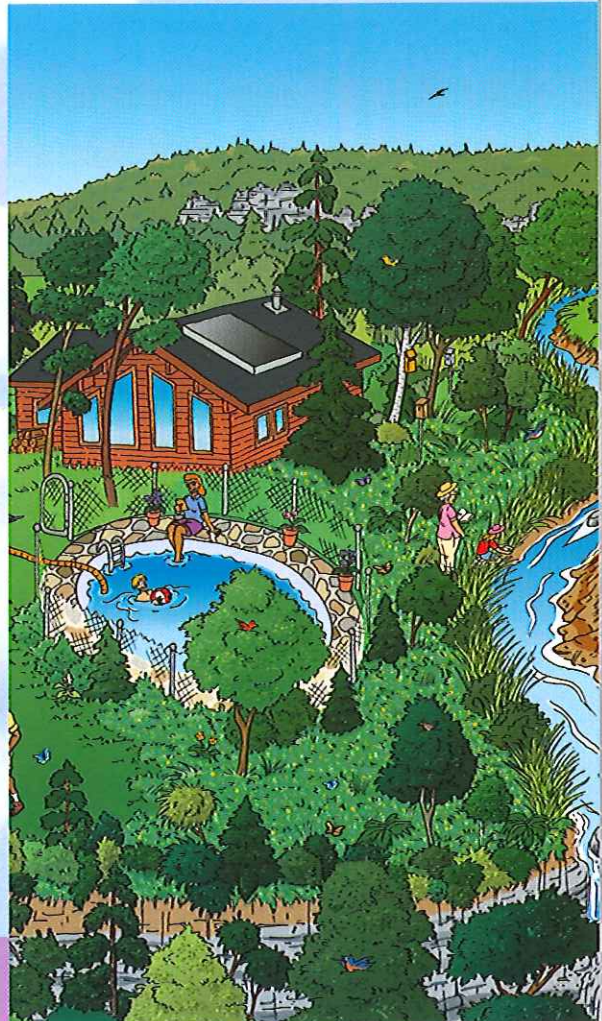


The Ray Lowes Environmental Fund of the



Escarpment Living

Simple Tips...Lasting Benefits





THINGS TO DO

1. Local yard waste pick-up or compost -- no harmful dumping.
2. Using kitchen and yard compost -- improves soil's quality.
3. Growing low maintenance native plants -- provides buffer at ravine, less yard work, more natural habitat.
4. Draining of pool water properly -- improved growth of natural plants.
5. Building -- set back from ravine and in character with setting.
6. Well-placed, trimmed trees -- natural air conditioning and view.
7. Narrow footpath -- less chance of erosion
8. Erecting bird boxes, bat houses -- fewer bugs.
9. More natural -- work less -- relax more!
10. Consider keeping your dog on a leash and your cats indoors -- prevents disturbance of wildlife on your property.

THINGS TO AVOID

1. Dumping yard waste -- smothers flora and creates unstable slopes.
2. Collecting lawn clippings -- deprives soil of nutrients and moisture.
3. Mowing to or beyond natural area boundary -- eliminates "protective barrier".
4. Draining pool water into ravine -- causes erosion and adds harmful chemicals to a natural area.
5. Building at the edge of a ravine -- affects slope stability.
6. Removing natural vegetation -- more erosion, less wildlife.
7. No shade trees -- overworked air conditioner adds to electric bill.
8. Growing ornamental shrubs -- require chemicals and extra work.
9. Using yard fertilizers and pesticides -- harmful for wildlife and water.
10. Free-ranging cats and dogs -- consume birds and small animals.