

Dear Members of Council,

The Escarpment Project is a not-for-profit organization that provides remediation and stewardship of the Niagara Escarpment. The organization was founded in 2011 and its Annual Spring Clean-up is the largest single day volunteer environmental clean-up of its kind in Canada. People of all ages gather at various locations along the escarpment in the Greater Hamilton Area to revitalize the Niagara Escarpment and help return it to its natural splendour by removing litter & debris that has been dumped and left there, in some cases for years and even decades.

The Escarpment Project's 2017 Annual Spring Clean-up was held on Sunday April 30. Hundreds of volunteers braved cold, wet, and windy weather conditions to clean thirteen sites along the Escarpment:

- The Bruce Trail in Dundas
- Chedoke Falls, Stairs and Radial Trail
- James Street Stairs
- Wentworth Stairs and side trails to Sam Lawrence Park
- Kenilworth Rail Trail from Mohawk Road to Wentworth Street South
- Kenilworth Stairs
- Armes Park
- Albion and Buttermilk Falls
- Red Hill Valley Trail from Greenhill to Queenston Road
- Glendale Falls area from the Escarpment to the Glendale Golf & Country Club
- Felkers Falls and Davis Creek area
- Glovers Falls
- Billy Green Falls
- Devil's Punchbowl

Overall, volunteers removed over 500 hundred bags of litter from the Niagara Escarpment, plus furniture, car parts, bikes, shopping carts, computers, TVs and more.

After the clean-up, volunteers gathered for a BBQ at the Devil's Punchbowl Market & Bakery to celebrate a great clean-up effort which made the event even more fun and rewarding.

Highlights from the clean-up include:

- 2,830 kg (approximately 566 bags) of litter was removed from the Niagara Escarpment by volunteers
- The Escarpment Project's online profile increased. Twitter followers increased to 990 as of April 30, 2017, Facebook ads reached over 43,000 people and the website was viewed 37,067 times.



- Despite the challenge posed by wet and rainy weather conditions, approximately 400 volunteers participated in the annual clean-up.
- Proceeds from rain barrel sales and increased corporate sponsorship in 2017 have contributed to the organization's financial sustainability.
- Due to the success of the Annual Spring Clean-up in April, The Escarpment Project hosted three smaller scale clean-up events throughout the summer and fall.

Photos from the 2017 Escarpment Project annual spring clean-up are included on pages 3 and 4 of this report and a video summary of the event is available online: https://youtu.be/X0_gwp5Fc4Q

I would like to extend thanks to the many supporters who have helped make The Escarpment Project an ongoing success. Hardworking volunteers spent countless hours coordinating all the details behind the scenes to make sure the clean-up go ahead each year. Essential financial support from many corporate partners, City Councillors and grant funding provided through the City Enrichment Fund have made the clean-up and volunteer appreciation BBQ possible each year. Your contributions each year help keep Hamilton's Escarpment clean and healthy so that it can be enjoyed and appreciated for many years to come.

Best regards,

Greg Lenko
Founder/Executive Director
The Escarpment Project



