



The Escarpment Project  
1 – 1355 Upper Gage Avenue  
Hamilton, Ontario

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 to host an Annual Spring Cleanup. 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 2018 Escarpment Project cleanup season was a great success! New strides were made as we teamed with other groups to help get the escarpment cleaned up.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we teamed up with Mohawk College's Student Association and cleaned up the James St Stairs and part of the Red Hill Valley Trail for their ABC Day (A Better Community Day).

The Escarpment Project's 2018 Annual Spring Cleanup was held on Saturday, April 21. Hundreds of volunteers came out to clean 13 sites along the Escarpment in Hamilton:

- Albion Falls
- Buttermilk Falls
- Armes Lookout
- Billy Green Falls
- Bruce Trail Dundas
- Chedoke Falls, Stairs and Trails
- Felker's Falls
- Glover's Falls
- Kenilworth Stairs and Rail Trail
- The Devil's Punchbowl (top and bottom)
- Sam Lawrence Park
- Wentworth Stairs

The Escarpment Project team joined forces with Friends of Sheldon Creek in Burlington, a Southern Ontario geocaching club in Grimsby and Friends of Short Hills Park in St Catharines to extend the clean up into the Greater Hamilton Area.

The weather co-operated perfectly and so did the hundreds of volunteers who again came out to remove all the litter that had been strewn across the escarpment trails, stairs, creeks and waterfall areas. After a couple hours the escarpment floor was once

again litter free so that plants would have an easier time growing and fewer animals would be harmed by the litter. After the cleanup, volunteers gathered for a BBQ at the Devil's Punchbowl Market & Bakery to celebrate a great cleanup effort.

It was disappointing that just days after cleaning the Albion Falls and Oak Knoll area that someone dumped roofing shingles at Oak Knoll Falls. After posting it on social media about six volunteers got together on the morning of Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> and cleaned it up for City of Hamilton staff to haul away. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Escarpment Project also teamed up with Hamilton Geocachers who cleaned up a portion of the beach near Confederation Park.

Overall, volunteers removed over several hundred bags of litter from the Niagara Escarpment and other areas around Hamilton, plus many bulk items. Highlights from the 2018 cleanup season include:

- The website was viewed approximately 60,000 times 2018
- Twitter followers increased by 71 in 2018
- Approximately 400 volunteers participated in the annual spring cleanup on April 21 and filled at least 4 dumpsters worth of waste from along the Escarpment
- After 7 major escarpment cleanups since 2011, Escarpment Project participants have found less garbage to clean up each year. Dumpsters were half full of litter, of mainly smaller items, whereas in the past the dumpsters were overflowing with large items. This is a positive sign that shows that fewer people are dumping large items and the human footprint is decreasing.

Photos from the 2018 Escarpment Project annual spring cleanup are included below.

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 cleanup go ahead each year. Financial support from corporate partners and City Councillors as well as cleanup supplies from the Keep Hamilton Clean & Green Committee have made the cleanup 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