

Views From Our Readers



Shy fawn and mother, photograph by **John Savage, Sheguiandah, Manitoulin Island**



We first saw him (or her) towards the end of August. (I understand that chipmunks have two litters during the summer, so perhaps this little guy was from the second litter). This little chipmunk is only seen from time to time, as he is a little more timid than the others, who are often quite brazen in their antics! We think that's a good thing, as he is very visible with his white coat and would, unfortunately, be an easy target for a predator. He often runs for cover into the woods on our property, which is in Kleinburg, on conservation land.

Marsha Lomis, Kleinburg

Chris Mills's lively account of the re-enactment of the Battle of Ridgeway (*Escarpment Views*, Autumn 2010) reminds me of regimental history I learned many years ago when I was enrolled in a storied army reserve unit. Along with the scarlet-coated soldiers of the 13th Battalion and other regiments were the militiamen of the Queen's Own Rifles in their dark green uniforms. Formed in 1860, the Queen's Own is one of the oldest military units in Canada, having also served in both world wars. But in 1866, the Toronto-based regiment was called into action to help quell an invasion of 1500 Fenian raiders who crossed the Niagara River, north of Fort Erie.

Unlike the Fenians – those battle-scarred U.S. Civil War veterans who despised the British – the Canadian militiamen were ill-trained and more poorly-equipped than their American counterparts. Confusing orders and miscommunication led to the first casualties suffered by the Toronto rifle regiment, which still fought with distinction and great pride. Eventually, the Irish-American zealots panicked when they sensed they'd be facing heavy British reinforcements and scurried back to the New York side.

The participants in this re-enactment are to be commended for their attention to detail and dedication to accurately portraying a skirmish which helped shape a country that was to undergo a national transformation in 1867. Thanks to Chris Mills and *Escarpment Views* for presenting this vivid account.

Ed Laba, Mississauga



Borer's Falls, Hamilton, photograph by **Chris Hamilton**

In response to Ian Pirie's letter in the Autumn 2010 Escarpment Views: While I appreciate Ian's point that you have to go "off the beaten path" to see rattlesnakes, he really should not be encouraging people to do that - one of the reasons we encourage people to use the "beaten path" is to protect the habitat of Species at Risk such as the Massasauga Rattlesnake. Please, stay ON the "beaten path"!

Caroline Mach, Mansfield

Just wanted to tell you I really enjoyed the article about the Fenian Raids.... nice job. You all do a great job reporting on these historical events (Milton and Fenian Raids), always a pleasure to read well written articlesand well researched too!! Thank You

Donna Elliott (AKA Miss Annabelle)
Communication Officer, American Civil War Historical Re-enactment Society



"Snow Fence" photograph by **Carol Ann White, Wiarton**



"Sunset by Lyal Island, Lake Huron," oil painting by **Sue Dymnt**



"No Picnic!" photograph by **Carol Ann White, Wiarton**



"Quietly Waiting" photograph by **Carol Ann White, Wiarton**