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New children's book highlights the escarpment, wildlife around Hamilton

'Saving The House Mother Nature Built' is the second project by author and artist Sherry Hayes

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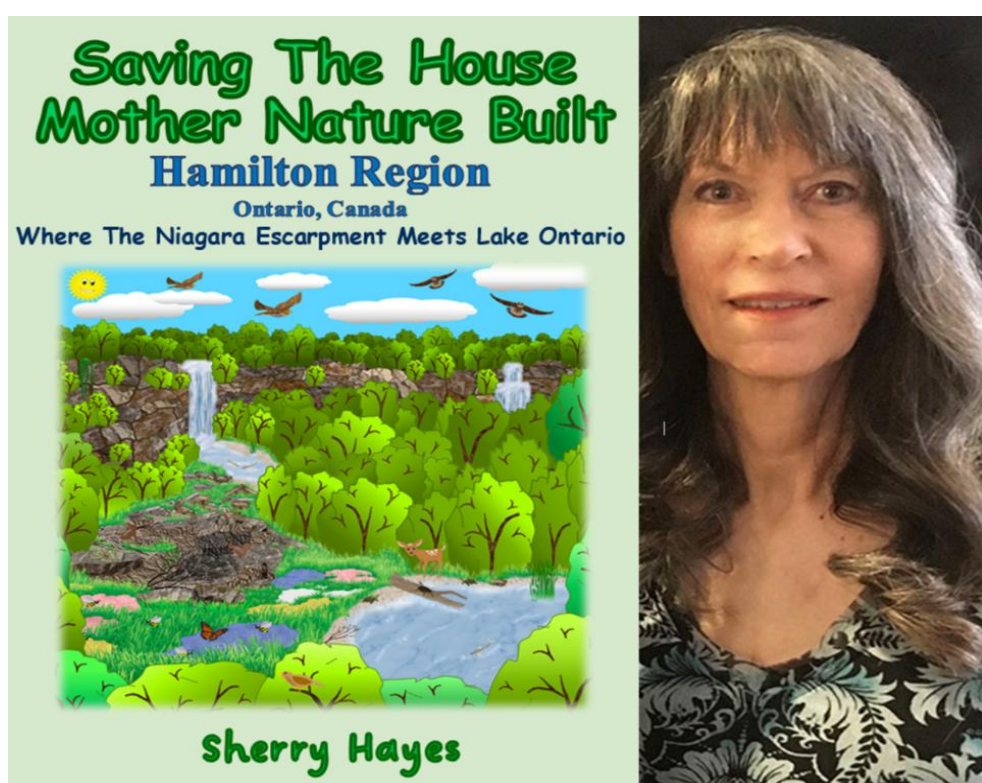
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NEWS RELEASE

SHERRY HAYES

Local artist and author Sherry Hayes is set to release her second children's storybook soon. A year in the making, this new book features Hamilton and surrounding regions. It highlights the unique geographical characteristics within and around the city. And in typical fashion, the book also includes a variety of species and spaces at risk.

'Saving The House Mother Nature Built – Hamilton Region' is book two in her newfound series 'Saving Wild Canada'. Her first book, 'Saving The House That Jeff Built' tells the tale of the endangered Jefferson Salamander and its fragile habitat in the Burlington area. It was released in the spring of 2025.



Hayes notes, "Since 2019, I've been busy trying to bring awareness to the public regarding the plight of both local and Canada-wide species and habitats that are vulnerable and at risk. I draw attention to these issues through my dedicated art and donation program. But, over the past two years, I have become more aware of the importance of reaching all generations and that includes children." Hayes continues, "It's no secret, our youngest generation will be the future of our planet."

The author also points out, "Children are inquisitive and incredibly willing to learn. They absorb knowledge and want to share their ideas, thoughts and feelings. What better way to encourage young minds than to provide them with a tool that can help them learn about and appreciate local Nature as well as understand the issues that can arise if we don't take the time to be good stewards of the natural environment that surrounds us."

Taking on this task again, Hayes has another unique storybook that is designed in simple, rhyming format and suitable for young children. It is filled with colourful, illustrated scenes that are easy to recognize and understand. The book comes to life as it describes various features and wildlife in and around Hamilton.

"This book was fun to create but also, quite the challenge." The author and illustrator says. "I wanted to have bold, colourful images to draw attention and make a statement but still be very relatable to young children. It certainly was an ambitious project but worth the effort and long hours so I could bring Hamilton to life through the eyes of our youngest generation."

Drawing on the special areas of this rich city, the book covers many extraordinary natural features such as the Eramosa Karst; waterfalls and Niagara Escarpment. It also highlights a selection of endangered species in the region including those found in forests, meadows, lakes and in the air. These spectacular places and the wildlife are illustrated in brilliant colour, bringing additional life to the story.

Hayes is appreciative of being awarded a partial grant from the city of Hamilton's City Enrichment Fund (CEF) to assist in bringing this book to fruition. "This program has been invaluable in helping this new project get off the ground." She also points out, "I'm extremely proud that this and my other book are fully written, produced and printed in Ontario."

In an interesting twist, Hayes is quick to mention that this book is a bit of an homage to the city that has seen five generations of her maternal and paternal family calling Hamilton home for over a hundred years. Many have stayed throughout their lifetime. Others went on to different regions of Ontario while some family members left Hamilton only to return, which was also the case for Hayes. She has called Hamilton or Stoney Creek her home for almost five decades.

"To have the escarpment and Lake Ontario enveloping this city and its surrounding towns is incredible. Can you imagine the treasures all of it holds?" Hayes goes on, "We just have to open our eyes to see the beauty of Nature around every corner. Our children should be given the opportunity to learn as much as possible about this region – and all of Canada, for that matter." she states emphatically. "I hope my storybooks will be part of the solution to help this happen."

For more details on the art and stories of Nature created by this artist and author including her latest storybook, visit her website at www.artscapesbyserry.ca
