

The Giant's Rib

DEDICATED TO INCREASING AWARENESS AND PROTECTION OF THE NIAGARA ESCARPMENT WORLD BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Stan Nowak, Editor

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THE GIANT'S RIB DISCOVERY CENTRE'S THIRD ANNUAL

Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



The Sunset at the Giant's Rib Summer Solstice, 2009

On June 18, a large crowd of supporters of the Giant's Rib spent an evening at Parks Canada Discovery Centre socializing and enjoying a wonderful wine and cheese reception. Canada Clean Fuels provided the wine from Vineland Estates Winery and Mickey McGuire once again supplied the exotic cheeses. Throughout the evening "The Avalon Strings" serenaded the audience with a great selection of classical music. In the auditorium the "Spirit of Nature" presented a superb film show on the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment.

The highlights of the evening were the official opening of Parks Canada's Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve Wall and the presentation of the Giant's Rib Grade 4 Curriculum Document "Rocks and Minerals" to teachers and students of the Hamilton Region District School Board.

Once more the weather co-operated, permitting the spectators to enjoy a spectacular sunset over Hamilton Harbour and the Escarpment.

With door prizes and gifts from the Silent Auction tucked under their arms, the Friends of the Giant's Rib returned home looking forward to the next Summer Solstice in 2010.

Thank you to all our sponsors and volunteers, particularly to Parks Canada, who were so involved in the organization of the evening. Thank you to our loyal supporters for their annual contributions at this event. They make it possible for the Giant's Rib to carry out its extensive programming to promote the educational components related to the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve.



The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly announces the return of fall edition of this year's annual Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series. This series, named in honour of the former General Manager of the Hamilton Conservation Authority, is dedicated to promoting the Niagara Escarpment as an internationally-recognized World Biosphere Reserve, as well as being a truly unique topographic feature of our natural and cultural heritage.

NEXT PRESENTATION: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20:

The Building of the Welland Canals - Moving ships over the Niagara Escarpment with ROBERT WILLIAMSON



Commander **Robert Williamson**, BA, B Ed, CD (Canadian Forces Decoration and clasp for almost 30 years of service to the Canadian Naval Reserve) received an Honours Degree in Geography from McMaster University in 1962. He is a retired Secondary School Principal and former Commanding Officer of Hamilton's Naval Reserve, HMCS Star. During his appointment his ship was awarded the most improved Naval Division in Canada.

Presently, he is Past Chairman of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society and Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Hamilton Division of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. He is a member of the Hamilton Historical Board and the Board of Education Archives. A major contributor to local history, he has written, co-authored or been a contributing author to 13 heritage books and prepared 40 different slide-illustrated historical talks. As a member of the Board of Education's Speaker's Bureau, he has made over 800 guest appearances locally and internationally to speak about Canadian heritage. As a guide he has conducted many

local heritage walking and bus tours and prepared the wording for seven City of Hamilton heritage plaques.

For his contribution to the research and promotion of Canadian history as well as volunteer service to his community, Bob Williamson has received numerous prestigious awards.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- Sunday, October 04: STUDYING THE WOOLLY MAMMOTH
 DR. HENDRICK POINAR – Professor and Researcher , McMaster University
- Sunday, November 8: THE HISTORY OF THE HAMILTON NATURALISTS CLUB - 90 Years of Protecting Nature
 JEN BAKER - HNC'S Program Co-ordinator for Head of the Lakes Land Trust
- Sunday, December 6: DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES - Ways to start Observing them and using them for Conservation
 BRENDA VAN RYSWYK - Natural Heritage Ecologist, Conservation Halton

All presentations will be held at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas. Park entrance fee is \$3.00 per person or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12. All presentations will be held the Sunday afternoons of the noted date, starting at 2:00 p.m. There is no charge for the lectures, but donations are always welcome and appreciated. For further information: Kenneth Hall (kenjoan75@sympatico.ca), Stan Nowak (basil.cottage@sympatico.ca).

Everyone is welcome - we look forward to seeing you !!

The Giants Rib presents

Art and Photography of the Heritage of the Niagara Escarpment

Celebrating 'the art' of the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara Escarpment featuring a new local artist every month at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre.

Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas. Saturdays and Sundays only from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Park entrance fee is now \$3.00 per person, or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12.

FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:

A collection of songbirds, waterfowl, animals, butterflies, bees, landscapes, still life and flowers featuring the art of JOHN NOVAK – Artist and Woodcarver



John Novak is a Fine Art Photographer and a Wildfowl and Bird Carver who lives in Brantford, Ontario. John's interest in carving wildfowl and songbirds initially rekindled his photography interests, which had been dormant since high-school, as a way to acquire reference material for his carvings. John's photography has grown to include nature, landscape and still life subjects. He prides himself in capturing a unique view on nature using his knowledge of wildlife and their habitats gained from his many years of study in support of his carving interests.

John is also an active member of the Brantford Arts Block, The Canadian Association for Photographic Art, and both the Brant Camera Club and the Woodstock Camera Club.

Many of John's prints have received awards in photographic competitions at the Ward World Championship Wildlife Photography Competition in Ocean City, Maryland and the Paris Ontario Fair's Photography Competition. His prints have also received many awards in both club and inter-club competitions.

John has exhibited several of his prints as part of a group show at the Windjammer Inn, Port Stanley, Ontario (2007) and the The One London Place Judge Chair's Special" show at One London Place, London, Ontario (2008).

John's prints are personally made to the highest archival standards on an Epson Professional Imaging printer using Epson UltraChrome K3™ pigment inks and acid free papers. John's images are guaranteed to last a lifetime without fading or changing in colour.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

- October: Natural Landscapes, with a concentration on the local environment
 BRANDY MOORE – Artist
- November: Hamilton's Fabulous Natural Environment
 VIC MCBURNIE – Photographer
- December: Selections from the Permanent Collection

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

Mother Nature Changes Albion Falls

Albion Falls has had a long history dating back to 1792 when a grist mill was built beside the falls forming the basis of a small community during the next century. By early 1900 the small village called Albion Mills was in decline however Albion Falls still was featured on several postcards at that time. Today Albion Falls is the most spectacular waterfall in the east end of Hamilton having year round flow and easy accessibility due to parking lots and viewing platforms nearby.

Albion Falls is a "Complex Classic Cascade" waterfall located on the Red Hill Creek. Its height is listed as 19 metres (62 ft.) and its crest width is 18 m (59 ft.). However on July 26, 2009 Mother Nature unleashed her fury with a 100 year storm event that changed Albion Falls such that the waterfall appears deeper, possibly increasing its height (yet to be measured).

To reach Albion Falls, exit the LINC/Red Hill Valley Parkway at Dartnall Rd. Turn left onto Stone Church Rd., then turn left onto Pritchard Rd., then left onto Mountain Brow Blvd. Albion Falls is located at the first bridge. Parking lots are available on the left side just before the bridge and on the right side just past the bridge.

The attached three photos depict Albion Falls:

First as it was in 1895 courtesy of the Hamilton Public Library Special Collections Dept. The water on the left side flows down the spillway coming from the mill.

Second as it was in March 2009 (prior to the storm)

Third as it is today (August 2009) after the storm.



Note the differences between photos 2 and 3 that Mother Nature created:

There are now two ledges part way up, whereas before the storm there was only one. A section of this ledge on the right side washed out to create the second lower ledge. The rock slabs from it are lying on the bottom right.

On the bottom left, all previous rocks have been washed downstream, actually making the waterfall deeper and exposing the shale (red and grey layered rock), whereas before the storm this area was a pond surrounded by large rocks and no shale was visible.

Teacher's Kit Available

The Giant's Rib is able to provide teachers of Grade 4 with a guide and resource package on "ROCKS AND MINERALS" based on the Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum.

There will be no costs to schools or teachers because this project is sponsored by TD FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION.

If you are interested or know teachers who would be interested in receiving this package, please contact Ken Hall at 905-627-1320.

Join the Friends of the Giant's Rib

Your assistance would be welcome in helping the **Giant's Rib Discovery Centre** to increase awareness and protection of the **Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve**; or you may wish only to be kept informed of upcoming GRDC activities and events.

We hope to hear from you!

For more information, please contact: Ken Hall 905-627-1320 Gord Perrault 905-648-8041

Please consider the environment.

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But please feel free to share this Newsletter electronically with others.