

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor

<http://www.giantsrib.ca>

December 2009
Volume 3, Issue 9

At the 2009 Annual General meeting of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, the **Giant's Rib Discovery Centre Board of Directors for 2010** were elected and assigned their positions of responsibility for the next year.

Congratulations to all as the GRDC looks forward to another great year in 2010!

Leo DeLoyde	President & Liaison Coordinator with Affiliated Groups
William Edwards	Web-Site Administrator
Clive Freeman	Manager, Giant's Rib Facility
Nancy Clarke Hauser	Arts Program Co-ordinator
Joseph Hollick	Secretary & Co-ordinator: Niagara Escarpment Waterfalls Research, Site and Building Development
Alex Kormarinski	Chair, Educational Committee
Ernie Kuechmeister	Recognition Program Co-ordinator
Jack Lee	Field Trip Coordinator
Dr. John MacRae	Treasurer & Co-ordinator of Special Events
Stan Nowak	Publicity and Communications Director
Donald Pfeffer	Co-ordinator, Niagara Escarpment Research Projects
Barbara Rusnak	Co-ordinator, Funding Applications

Executive Director:

Kenneth Hall Co-ordinator Friends of the Giant's Rib, Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

Farewell with many thanks and sincere gratitude to outgoing Board Members:

Dr. Michael Brand Donald Muirhead Gordon Perrault

The Giant's Rib presents

The Bruce Duncan Memorial Lecture Series

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre proudly announces the next presentation of the 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.

THIS MONTH - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6:

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

Ways to start observing them and using them for Conservation
with BRENDA VAN RYSWYK - Natural Heritage Ecologist, Conservation Halton



Dragonflies and damselflies belong to the insect subgroup Odonata. These often brightly coloured, fast flying insects are well known and easily recognised. Dragonflies and damselflies are medium to large insects with body lengths ranging from 15-120 millimetres. They are often seen flying rapidly over streams and lakes, or through gardens at dusk, often following regular flight paths every day.

Damselflies and dragonflies are very similar but can be separated by looking at their wings. In dragonflies the hind wings are slightly broader than the forewings and in damselflies both wings are more or less similar size. Wings are held horizontally to the body in dragonflies and vertically in damselflies when at rest.

These are just a few of the interesting characteristics and traits that Ecologist

Brenda Van Ryswyk will discuss about these unique and wonderful insects

Chalk-fronted Corporal (Libellula julia)

(Photo: Brenda Van Ryswyk)

All presentations will be held at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre, Dundas Valley Conservation Area, 650 Governor's Road, Dundas, starting at 2:00 p.m. Park entrance fee is a \$3.00 per person, or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12. All presentations will be held Sunday afternoons of the noted date starting at 2:00 p.m.

There is no charge for the lectures, but donations are 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 a \$3.00 per person, or a maximum \$6.00 per car. No admission fee for children under 12.

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:

Selections from the Permanent Collection

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

Canterbury Falls is located on a branch of the Sulphur Creek sometimes called Canterbury Creek in the Ancaster section of Hamilton. Canterbury Falls is considered a Terraced Ribbon Cascade with a height of 9m (30 ft.) and a width of 4m (13 ft.). Normally Canterbury Falls has year round water flow.



To reach this waterfall from Hwy 403 up the Niagara Escarpment, exit at the Lincoln Alexander Parkway and stay right onto Rousseaux St. At the third set of traffic lights, turn right onto Wilson St. and proceed to the next light, turning left onto Montgomery Rd.

At the Stop sign turn right onto Old Dundas Road. Follow it around the hairpin turn until you reach a Stop sign. Proceed straight ahead onto Lions Club Road and park on the side of the gravel road just past the Stop sign. Find the Bruce Trail on the left side and follow it on foot up the escarpment (going westward) and then on top of it for a total distance of about 900 metres. Canterbury Falls is located at the second wooden bridge along this section of the Bruce Trail.

Canterbury Falls is on land once owned by the Milne family from 1819 to 1845, thus sometimes this waterfall is called Milne Falls. In 1960 the land was purchased from the Hamilton Lions Club by the current owners, the Anglican Church, which operates this land as a conference retreat and children's camp called Canterbury Hills. The actual site of the waterfall is located now on lands owned by the Hamilton Conservation Authority.

This photo of Canterbury Falls was taken during the full autumn colours from the bottom of the falls.

National Recognition for Joe Hollick!



Congratulations to **Joe Hollick** on earning the VIA Rail Canada's Volunteer of the Year Award as part of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada's 2009 National Awards for Tourism Excellence.

Joe was recently honoured for his work in locating, photographing and promoting Hamilton's waterfalls and for working to change the public's perception of Hamilton. The ceremony took place in Saint John, N. B., and was attended by 400 members of the national tourism industry.

Since 2000, Joe has located, discovered, documented and photographed all of Hamilton's waterfalls and cascades. He discovered about 30 of these waterfalls and actually named about 35 of them. Joe has also produced and distributed three posters which depict the waterfalls and promote Hamilton as the City of Waterfalls.

He also lectures, writes, conducts tours and provides information on Hamilton's waterfalls to various groups and for numerous websites and books, all to change Hamilton's image and to bring awareness of these unique natural gems. Of course, he contributes regularly to this Giant's Rib e-newsletter as well.

The National Awards for Tourism Excellence are presented by *The Globe and Mail* and were developed in 2003 by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada to recognize and foster Canadian tourism excellence. The awards allow Canada's tourism industry to recognize those people, places, organizations and events that have gone above and beyond to offer a superior tourism experience to travellers in

Canada

Joseph Hollick shows off the award he received for locating, photographing and promoting Hamilton's waterfalls.
Photo courtesy of the Dundas Star News

Teacher's Corner

The Giant's Rib has Niagara Escarpment Posters available to teachers at the Dundas Valley Trail Centre. They are suitable for mounting in your classrooms. Pick them up at the Trail Centre on any weekend. – no charge.

If you are doing any special things on rocks and minerals that you would like to share with other teachers, submit your ideas to us and we will convey them to others through our monthly newsletter.

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**.

Check out the web-site www.mineralogicalassociation.ca/poster to get a free poster on the Minerals of Canada. This poster has been designed for teachers and students exploring curricula related to rocks and minerals. With the poster you can explain several properties of minerals: luster, cleavage, colour, crystal form and iridescence.

If you are interested or know teachers who would be interested in this information, 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

Happy Holidays

From all of us at Board of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, we wish you and yours the very best of this Holiday Season,



and may all the fortunes and blessings of the New Year be upon you all in 2010!

*Please consider the environment. Don't print this newsletter unless you really need to.
But please feel free to share this newsletter with others via e-mail.*