

The Giant's Rib

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

Stan Nowak, Editor

www.giantsrib.ca

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Giant's Rib Discovery Centre Board of Directors for 2010

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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, JANUARY 17:

The Geology of the Niagara Escarpment

with Beth Kümmling - Executive Director, Bruce Trail Conservancy



Beth Kümmling has been Executive Director of the Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) since July 2004. She started as a volunteer on the Environment Committee of the BTC in 1993, and chaired that committee for 4 years, focusing on policy review and environmental education projects. From April 2001 to July 2004 Beth served on the BTC Board of Directors. Prior to her work as the BTC's Executive Director, Beth worked for 15 years in the field of toxic chemical remediation and research. Beth holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University

of Guelph.

For more than 6 years, Beth has been conducting Geology Hikes on the Niagara Escarpment, to share her love of the Escarpment landscape and convey the need for its protection. During her presentation, Beth will provide a comprehensive and entertaining overview of the Escarpment's Geology, including slides of the beautiful Escarpment landscape, samples of the different rock strata, and stories of her geology hike adventures.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Sunday, March 7: The Vanishing Turtles of Southern Ontario
Erin Nadeau, Co-ordinator, Adopt-A-Pond Program, Toronto Zoo

Sunday, April 18: Fossils of the Niagara Escarpment
Peter Russell, Curator, Earth and Environmental Science Museum, University of Waterloo

Sunday, May 16: The Bruce Coast Lighthouses
Betty McKillop, President, Bruce County Light House Association

Sunday, June 6: The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake
Sean Liipere, Communications Officer and Species-at-Risk Technician, Bruce Peninsula National Park

****PLEASE NOTE:****

All presentations this season will be held at the PARKS CANADA DISCOVERY CENTRE, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton. The Parks Canada Discovery Centre is located one block from Parks Canada's HMCS Haida National Historic Site, on the harbour in the city of Hamilton. The Centre is wheelchair accessible. To get there, head north on James Street (towards the waterfront) and follow it until it ends at Guise Street; turn right at Guise Street, then turn left at Discovery Drive (turn at the mast).

For full directions, please visit: http://www.pc.gc.ca/canada/decouvertes-discovery/itm1-/index_E.asp

There are no parking fees, but there is a charge of \$2.90 for admission to the Discovery Centre. Refreshments will be provided during a get-together with Beth Kümmling after the presentation. Donations are welcome and appreciated.
All presentations will be held Sunday afternoons of the noted date starting at 2:00 p.m.

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 JANUARY:

Selections from 'The Post Card Collection'

Courtesy of The Dundas Museum & Archives www.dundasmuseum.ca

To celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of The Niagara Escarpment, The Giants' Rib Discovery Centre will be displaying 26 images selected from "The Post Card Collection" from the Dundas Museum & Archives, during the month of January.

The exhibit will include images of the Dundas Valley: Early Habitation/ Industrialization.

PLEASE NOTE: All monthly exhibits will still be featured at The Dundas Valley Trail Centre. There is no admission fee to view the exhibit, but donations are gratefully accepted.

For further information: Artistic Director Nancy Hauser nancyclarkehauser@gmail.com or Stan Nowak, basil.cottage@sympatico.ca

Waterfalls along the Niagara Escarpment by Joseph Hollick

Spring Falls, also known as Upper Grindstone Falls or Arnolds Falls, is located on a branch of the Grindstone Creek sometimes called Spring Creek in the Waterdown section of Hamilton. It is a Plunge type Curtain falls with a height of 6 m (20 ft.) and a potential width of 9.5 m (31 ft.) however it usually is not this wide. Spring Falls can dry up following long periods of no rain.

Spring Falls is located on private property, however it is visible from the end of a public roadway. To view Spring Falls, take Dundas St. to the community of Waterdown. Then take George St. (which is the second road east of Mill St.) to the south (escarpment side). George St. will take a 90 degree turn easterly and becomes a private roadway along this section. About 50 m further down, the private roadway turns south again as it crosses Spring Creek and Spring Falls is located under this bridge. Spring Falls should be visible from the end of the public roadway.

Today this waterfall is referred to as either Spring Falls or Upper Grindstone Falls, however there are two postcards dating back a century that refer to this as Arnolds Falls. Following is a picture of one postcard, courtesy of Sylvia Wray of the Flamborough Archives, dated 1910 showing Arnolds Falls at full flow and full width. The second photo is a current image which I captured in the late spring.



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 – at 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.

The Halton Public and Halton Separate School Boards have organized a workshop for Grade 4 teachers to review the Giants' Rib Unit of Work on Rocks and Minerals. The workshop will be held on Thursday Jan. 28th. For further details on time and place

please

contact either Ron Ballentine at 905 631 6120, x 433 or Sue Paradise at 905 632 6300.

The Rocks and Minerals Unit of Work is complimentary, thanks to a TD Friends of the Environment grant. Teachers who do not

have

a workbook may pick one up at the workshop.

Check out 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 or at kenjoan75@sympatico.ca.

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

Happy New Year!

From all of us at Board of the Giant's Rib Discovery Centre, we wish upon you all the fortunes and blessings that the New Year will offer for you and yours throughout 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.