

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 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.

NEXT PRESENTATION - SUNDAY, MARCH 7:

The Vanishing Turtles of Southern Ontario

with Erin Nadeau - Co-ordinator, Adopt-A-Pond Program, Toronto Zoo

Erin Nadeau has completed a Bachelor of Science with a focus on Ecology and Evolution from the University of Western Ontario as well as Masters of Environmental Studies with a focus on conservation biology and protected areas management from York University. Her work with the Toronto Zoo's Adopt-A-Pond Wetland Conservation Programme, as both a wetland conservation biologist and more recently as the turtle stewardship and social marketing coordinator, has focused primarily on community outreach, marketing, and field research. This presentation will address the decline in Ontario's turtle populations and the recent rise in the number of "Species at Risk" turtles in the province. The decline in these animals is due to a multitude of threats including, most notably, habitat loss and road mortality. Erin will discuss how these threats relate to different species of turtle, outlining interesting and defining characteristics of each species. Information and advice will provide some simple steps that individuals can take to improve the chance of survival of these animals, including involvement in the Ontario Turtle Tally program. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions following the presentation.



UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- 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 Giant's 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 9:30 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 MARCH AND APRIL:

Ornithology - The Study of Birds

featuring the art of Robert Curry and Tom Thomas

Our upcoming art exhibition explores the illustrious birding history and diverse bird population of the Niagara Escarpment region. In 1866, the first annotated provincial bird book in Canada was published by a Hamiltonian, Thomas McIlwraith.

Our exhibit of images will depict early artifacts, noteworthy contributors, the changing manner of birding, sites, past and present.

Special thanks to **Robert Curry**, publisher of "Birds of Hamilton and Surrounding Areas", for providing the historical images and invaluable knowledge; and **Tom Thomas**, co-ordinator of The Christmas Bird Count, Naturalist, and contributor of his wonderful local bird photography.



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



Upper Sanatorium Falls, also known as **Sanatorium Falls**, is considered a complex ribbon cascade type falls which is located on a tributary of the Chedoke Creek. Its height is 9m (30 ft.) and its width is 3m (10 ft.).

To reach Upper Sanatorium Falls, take the Garth St. North exit off the LINC, then turn left onto Denlow Dr. (one block before Fennell Ave.). Denlow becomes Scenic Dr. and follow Scenic Dr. to Sanatorium Rd., turning right onto it. Follow Sanatorium Rd. to the escarpment brow and the waterfall is located at the mouth of the gorge. It should be noted that this waterfall does dry up, so the best time to view it is after a rainfall or during the winter snow melt.

Sanatorium Falls got its name from the Sanatorium Hospital which existed at the top of the escarpment in the early 1900's. From 1908 to 1931 the Brantford and Hamilton Electric Railway ran hourly service between the two cities along the route now known as the Chedoke Radial Trail. One stop along this train route was for the Sanatorium Hospital and stairs were constructed up the Niagara Escarpment beside Sanatorium Falls to reach the hospital. These stairs are visible in a vintage postcard titled "Ravine Mountain Sanatorium" which shows how Upper Sanatorium Falls existed about a century ago.

A current photo of Upper Sanatorium Falls (below, left) indicates changes such as the disappearance of these stairs, and that the creek above the falls has been enclosed into a large ugly storm sewer pipe.



A third photo (right) taken from the side, which excludes the storm sewer pipe, shows the beauty of this waterfall.



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.

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.

Looking for a guest presenter for your class? Try **Ruth Nicholson**, U.E. B.A. B. Ed., President, Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. She is a former Halton elementary school teacher and is now doing Loyalist/Pioneer educational presentations suitable for Grade 3 to Grade 7 classes. Ruth is an excellent speaker, appears in costume and brings numerous pioneer artifacts with her. There is no cost to schools for her presentations.

Ruth can be reached at [905-689-7554](tel:905-689-7554) or at ruth.nicholson@sympatico.ca

If you are interested or know teachers who would be interested in this information, please contact **Ken Hall** at [905-627-1320](tel: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

*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.*