

The Giant's Rib

Dedicated to increasing awareness and protection of
the Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve

Stan Nowak, Editor
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www.giantsrib.ca
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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 further details, Ken Hall, 905-627-1320, kenjoan75@sympatico.ca

The Giant's Rib Discovery Centre presents the Fourth Annual

Giant's Rib Summer Solstice



This is the perfect way to welcome the Summer of 2010!

Wine and Cheese Reception with Silent Auction, Art Show, Presentations, Fun with Friends - and a chance to witness a glorious sunset over the Niagara Escarpment!

Musical entertainment with Jude Johnson

Tickets are available from the GRDC [Directors](#) at \$50 each (includes a \$35.00 tax receipt) or e-mail [Stan Nowak](#).

The event runs from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Parks Canada Discovery Centre, 57 Discovery Drive, Hamilton.

Keep your calendar open!

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, May 16:

The Bruce Coast Lighthouses

with Mike Fair, Bruce Coast Lighthouse Partners



Mike Fair has been a resident of Ripley, Ontario for twenty years. Ripley is located between Kincardine and Goderich inland about 10 km from the shores of Lake Huron.

Mike has been employed by the Township of Huron-Kinloss for fifteen years as the Director of Facilities and Recreation, which includes the management of the Point Clark Lighthouse National Historic Site as a Museum (images shown here). The partnerships created through tourism have inspired all from the Bruce Coast to keep telling the stories to ensure that future generations will not just have the story, but also an interpretive site to visit.

Mike has also been an active member of the Bruce Coast Lighthouse Partners since its creation in 1999, and currently the Treasurer.

The Bruce Coast Lighthouse Partnership includes Point

Clark, Kincardine, Southampton, Bruce County Museum and Archives, Cove Island, Flower Pot, Lion's Head, and Bruce County Tourism.

Mike will tell the tale of the Bruce Coast Lighthouse Partners' past, present, future objectives of promotion, preservation, and information sharing.

www.brucecoastlighthouses.com



Upcoming presentation

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. 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 Mike Fair 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 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 the Month of May:

The Brigadoon Gang



This group, which include artists Doris Hurst and John Nugent, participated in an earlier exhibition during the month of March 2007 at the Trail Centre.

John Nugent: "About 6 years ago, an Art Class at Red Hill School closed - and one of the members asked if she could continue painting with Doris Hurst, at her home on Brigadoon Drive.

Others came as well, and soon the rec room in Doris's basement became a "once a week" art group for six artists. These have continued - throughout all seasons, holidays, illnesses, travels combined! It's a group that combine painting with art critique, latest news discussions, social comment - and full time enjoyment - not to mention coffee time - and treats!" We hope you enjoy the art of the "Brigadoon Gang", which consist of Susan Ginn, Diana Byron, Joan Harkness, Doris Hurst, John Nugent, and Jack Mattys.

Each artist will exhibit 3 - 5 paintings each, all rendered in watercolor or acrylic. All are available for purchase.

Shown: Doris Hurst, the most proficient artist in the Brigadoon Gang, is 93 years old.

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

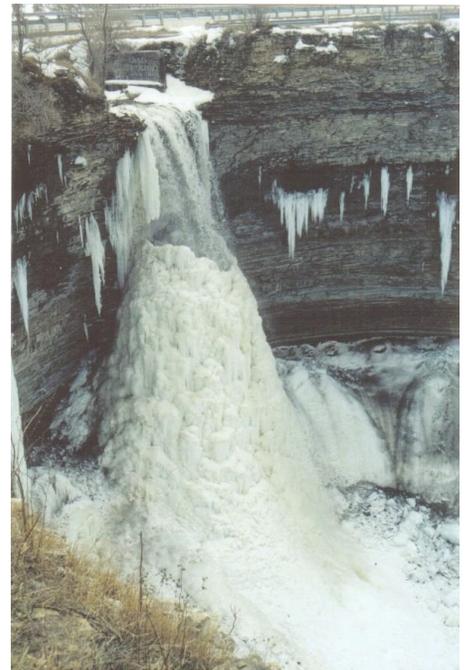
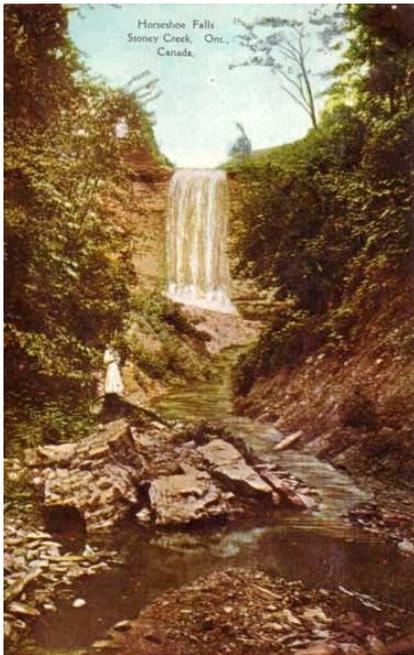
by Joseph Hollick

Devil's Punch Bowl, also known as Devil's Punchbowl Falls, Devil's Punchbowl and the Horseshoe Falls, is considered a ribbon type falls which is located on Stoney Creek in the community of Stoney Creek. It is the third highest waterfall in Hamilton with a height of 37m (121 ft.) and a width of 3m (10 ft.).

To reach the Devil's Punch Bowl from the QEW, take Centennial Parkway exit and follow this road to Ridge Road which is the first road at the top of the escarpment. Turn left onto Ridge Road and follow it to the Devil's Punch Bowl Conservation Area on the left side.

There are a number of stories as to how the Devil's Punch Bowl got its name. One story is the possibility that it was named for the home brew (devil) which was bootlegged in the surrounding woods. The punchbowl (and horseshoe) reflects the bowl-like shape of the rock formation.

A vintage postcard from 1906 (below, left) calls this waterfall the Horseshoe Falls (picture attached). What is interesting in this photo is the lady at the bottom left of the falls – she is wearing a dress to visit a waterfall



The second photo (above, middle) taken in spring 2008 shows this waterfall at full flow and gives a good comparison of this waterfall a century later.

A third photo (above, right) taken in winter 2004 shows that a cone of ice or ice volcano has formed around the waterfall as if sucking in the water and the ice is nearly 100 ft. high!

Escarpment Adventures

A New Feature... Stories from the Docents' Desk!

During my time 'on the desk' in the Museum, or when conducting a tour, I find myself drawn to the five water colour pictures in the First Gallery which show the development of the valley we all share. Scientists have had different opinions of how the valley developed. It was a Dundas born Geologist, Professor Joseph Spencer, who first recognized that the Dundas Valley was once the bed of such a river.



End-to-end!
Robert & Maureen Ellison
at the Cairn at Tobermorey

When my husband and I came to live in Dundas, the Fall of 2001, we joined the Iroquoia Bruce Trail Club and began to walk the trails. Being prairie born and bred we marveled at the many changes in elevation, the challenge of different terrain, and of climbing up or down. I still have not decided which is worse! The local hikes soon turned into a group of ten who decided to do an End-to-End of the trail from Niagara to Tobermory.

Three years later, in the fall of 2009 we arrived at the Cairn in Tobermory, shared champagne, took pictures and patted each other on the back. To this day, I still marvel at the Escarpment, and take time to watch the light change and wonder at it and as well the trees that change colour with the seasons. The next time you are to the Museum, check the wall above the Escarpment water colours...

See if *you* agree with Edward Allan Talbot!

Maureen Ellison

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.

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

The Toronto Zoo has produced a Turtle Conservation Curriculum Resource Guide for Educators. It is based on the Ontario curriculum and contains materials suitable for Grades 1 to 7. Each of the first 6 Units begins with a table describing the Science Expectations met within the Unit. To receive this curriculum resource contact **Erin Nadeau**, Adopt A Pond Co-ordinator, 361 Old Finch Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario, M1B 5K7 Tel. 416-392-5999 Fax: 416-392-4979 E-Mail: aap@toronyozoo.ca

Rocks and Minerals of the Niagara Escarpment

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.

Would you like to get a close look at the Niagara Escarpment Strata (rock layers) that formed during the geological Silurian Period? Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens Rock Chapel Sanctuary off Highway # 5 on Rock Chapel Road. There is a stairway down the Escarpment that is built close enough to the scarp face that you can touch the rock as you descend. Each layer of rock is identified and described.

If you are doing some interesting things with the “Rocks and Minerals” unit that you would like to share with other teachers, please let us know and we will include your ideas in future “Teacher’ Corners” through our regular Newsletter.

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

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But please feel free to share this newsletter with others via e-mail.